

NEWSLETTER



No.161 January 2009

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Report of December					
New members		0	Total number of adults training		58
			Total number of children training		43
Results of Sogo Shinsa on 20th December					
Jun-Sandan	Sam Gray Evan Chapman	8th Kyu	Dane Dunlop Leonardo Maldonado	Kid's Shodan	Michael Austin Linda Vu
Shodan	David Shepley		Brenton Bills	2Y9 step	Aaron Stewart
1st Kyu	Kaido Mori		Murray Booth	2Y6 step	Ryan Slavin
2nd Kyu	Kris Anderson		Michael Bannah	2Y1 step	Francis Hollingworth
4th Kyu	Matthew Ryan		Justin Titmarsh	S5 step	Joseph Stuart
6th Kyu	Jiro Sumitomo Oliver Bradshaw	9th Kyu	Adrian Crosbie Roslyn Howie Junya Sato	S3 step	Adam Sawyer
				S2 step	Robert Austin Dennies Delos Santos
Events in January					
1. Getsurei Shinsa			2. Children's class		
♦Saturday, 24 th 1:00pm~			♦Children's class starts on 28 th Wednesday.		
♦Shinsa training starts from 17 th Saturday.			3. This Month's Holiday		
			♦Australia Day 26 th Monday		

2009 YEARLY PLAN

JANUARY	24th	Saturday	Getsurei Shinsa
FEBRUARY	28th	Saturday	Getsurei Shinsa
MARCH	28th	Saturday	Sogo Shinsa
	4th	Saturday	Children's grading test
APRIL	10th – 13th	4 days	Easter Holiday
	24th	Friday	Getsurei Shinsa
MAY	23rd	Saturday	Getsurei Shinsa
JUNE	27th	Saturday	Sogo Shinsa
JULY	25th	Saturday	Getsurei Shinsa
AUGUST	23rd	Sunday	14th Annual Demonstration
			No Getsurei Shinsa
SEPTEMBER	26th	Saturday	Sogo Shinsa
OCTOBER	24th	Saturday	Getsurei Shinsa
	31st	Saturday	Senshusei (Hajime) Class
NOVEMBER	21st	Saturday	Getsurei Shinsa
	28th	Saturday	Children's grading test
			Special Class & Demonstration
DECEMBER	19th	Saturday	Sogo Shinsa



A bit of knowledge for Aikido

Aikido, the way of harmony/unity

Around the time when Yoshinkan was just established, Master Gozo Shioda (Kancho Sensei) and one of his oldest students, Inoue Sensei (the previous Head of Yoshinkan), were both young. The time was still fresh after the war and the security in Japan was still quite poor, knife fights happening were everyday events.

One day among these days, on the way back from a pub Inoue Sensei got involved in a quarrel and a man took a knife out of his pocket attacking him. Inoue Sensei dodged the knife moving in a side-forward way and grabbed the attacker's other hand performing Sankajo-nage instantly as this was the technique he had just mastered. The attacker, of course, did not know *ukemi* and flew into the ditch straight on his face, instead of rolling. He lied on his stomach half in the ditch and did not get up.

Inoue Sensei was so impressed with the impact of the Sankajo-nage and left the scene heading home. But the very next morning when he got up, his brain totally clear from the effect of alcohol, he got so frightened at the possibility of the attacker's death from suffocation having his face half in the ditch. He checked the newspapers thoroughly and was relieved to find no news of a suspicious death. Yet, now he began feeling guilty for using Aikido for a silly quarrel while drunk and decided to apologise to Kancho Sensei - honestly summoning all his courage.

He expected to be scolded badly for his light-minded attitude. Yes, he was told off furiously as he expected though it was for a totally unexpected reason. After he finished explaining all the details to Kancho Sensei of how and why the incident happened. Kancho Sensei listened to his story closely and then he asked a question to Inoue Sensei. "Which hand did you lock with the Sankajo?" He replied, "It was on the empty hand side." Then, "You idiot! Why didn't you put the lock on the hand with the knife? That's dangerous! You, careless thing!!" yelled Kancho Sensei with anger. He did not worry about the moral concept as a budo-ka at all but he was so focused on practical applications of Aikido in real battles. I enjoy this episode to know what kind of person Kancho Sensei was when he was young.

When Kancho Sensei was even younger before Yoshinkan was founded during the war period, Japan was in a chaos without the police force being effective. In Tokyo downtown, it was popular for people to play *shogi* (Japanese chess) for money. It was a very simple rule; two players play a *shogi* game and the rest of other people who are watching the game bet. Once the play was involved with money *yakuzas* (Japanese mafia) were always involved as well. *Yakuzas* made sure to get plenty of money into their hands using cheating skills. A game sometimes was absolutely a fake, everyone including two players and observers who were betting were all *yakuzas* to trick an innocent man. Kancho Sensei knew the trick, but still he used to join in a group, bet some money intentionally and towards the very end of the game, he yelled "This is a cheat!" and turned over the *shogi* board. As a result many *yakuzas* crowded round him to bash him up and it was the moment of great chance to try out his *tasu-dori* skills realistically for Kancho Sensei.

So, how was the reality on the street? He later talked a lot about the amazing effectiveness of running *Irimi-zuki*'s, arm-tangled to neck *irimi*'s, *yokomen-uchi* (side strikes) on necks, any techniques that forced opponents to fall backwards were extremely dangerous and powerful.

NEWSLETTER



We, practitioners of Aikido, know how to fall backwards safely but not general people. Untrained people try to keep still avoiding falling backwards as their instinct tells them to and therefore the impact of the fall becomes even stronger adding their own force on top of the technique when they fall, causing the damage to be worse. Kancho Sensei loved looking at the scenes of people falling, just to feel the greatness of Aikido in the real world. Well, this is something we should not try out living in this modern time. I mean, we can do it as long as we are prepared to go to jail and to lose our future life...

Though our founder of Yoshinkan Aikido was such a wild and naughty young man he left these words in his later years around the time I was training under him. "Aikido does not need to be used in the real battles any more. It is great if the way of Aikido can be useful for the path of harmony." HOW MUCH CHANGE/PROGRESS DID HE MAKE?! I am so amazed by the change of what he was and what he became and it is funny for such a huge gap from the same person.

We train Aikido (the way of harmony) but not Aikijutsu (the technique of harmony). For me, the way and the technique are completely different in its meanings. What is 'the way', then? One of my favourite Japanese authors wrote, "A way is the path of approaching God. The path of approaching God through learning/mastering with our mind and body." I do appreciate these words. God he means here is not Christian God but the traditional Japanese gods, the multitudinous deities which are Nature in other words. Nature has absolute harmony in its world and never has conflicts but everything is in unison and in order. I interpret his words from the eyes of a professional Aikido-ka as "The mind that can be harmonious with anything and everything is the god's state."

When I look at the whole life of Master Gozo Shioda he learned a way called Aiki-do and mastered the path of harmony rising to the supreme world. 'The way' is possible to master only when one cultivates one's mind and body sincerely with devotion. Well, the year of 2009 is starting. I wish to cultivate my mind and body diligently to approach the world of god, aiming at the absolute harmony.

Osu!

Michiharu Mori