

NEWSLETTER



No. 179 July 2010

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: <http://yoshinkan.info>

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June Report

New members 6

Total number of adults training 67

Total number of children training 49

Results of Sogo Shinsa on 26th June

Nidan	Ryan Slavin	5th Kyu	Simon Horn	3Y12 step	Matt Carpenter
Shodan	Mark Davies	7th Kyu	Steve McKewin	3Y4 step	Greg Dickenson
	Julian Ladd		Lindsay Crawford	2Y11 step	Francis Hollingworth
	Marek Coleman		Peter Nilsson		Lawrence Monforte
Jun-Shodan	Oliver Bradshaw		Sergey Kinchin	2Y9 step	Mark Coleman
2nd Kyu	Peter Hills	9th Kyu	Jason Hilder	2Y8 step	Murray Davis
	Jocelyn Fergusson		Cameron Blake	2Y6 step	Dennies Delos Santos
3rd Kyu	Brenton Bills		Keegan Beauchamp		Kaido Mori
Jun-3rd Kyu	Silverio Panganilo	5Y10 step	Emmanuel Economidis	S3 step	Murray Booth
		4Y10 step	Lee Stemm	S2 step	Choi, Sukchul
				S1 step	Adrian Stuart

Events in July

1. Getsurei Shinsa

- Training starts, Friday 16th 7:15pm~
- Steps, Friday 23rd 7:15pm~
- Shinsa, Saturday 24th 1:00pm~

2. This Month's Holiday

- Dojo's Holiday 26th Monday

A bit of knowledge for Aikido

15th Annual Demonstration

Since we have finished the June Sogo Shinsa, now we are going to start to train for our 15th annual demonstration scheduled in August. The demo is our dojo's exciting festival that comes only once a year. Who will win the trophies, what kind of demonstrations are our senior black belts are going to display? I am looking forward to watching every student's aikido so much.

Though I can encourage our dojo's students to enjoy the demo now, the annual demonstration at the Headquarters for uchi-deshi's was pure tension for the whole day and that gave us a sense of crisis more than anything. For instance, my senior uchi-deshi called Chida Sensei always renewed his will and placed it in his desk drawer just before the demo. Because he had a terrible experience once where he lost his memory during the demo from smashing his head too many times on the hard Japanese tatami mats while being uke for Master Gozo Shioda. By the time he got himself back it was after the demo and during the dinner party while he was drinking (though he did not become unconscious and he kept working, he was not sane at all). Since this experience he made sure to renew his will for his family.

The first time I took part in the Headquarters' demo as an uchi-deshi was in the year 1987 when I was twenty-one years old. Graduating Senshusei course (uchi-deshi candidates and riot policemen course) in the previous year I was so proud of myself to be participating in the demo as a professional Aikido practitioner. I invited my father with excitement! He came up to Tokyo at the right time for his work from our country town, to see me. I prepared for him the best audience seat at the demo stadium. I wanted him to recognise how hard I had been training and disciplining myself for the past two years since I left home.

My body size was pretty tall and wide for a Japanese male and I stood out quite well among other short men. Therefore, senior uchi-deshis loved using me as their uke, knowing that throwing me around made them look all the better. It was my pride and honour to be chosen for many of my senior Sensei's uke as the first-year uchi-deshi.



I left for the big city, Tokyo, from my country town to become an uchi-deshi at the Aikido dojo and it was hard enough just to find the Headquarters of any Aikido dojo, not knowing right and left at all in the big city. I managed to reach Yoshinkan Aikido Headquarters by chance and joined in as a general student to start with. I applied to be an uchi-deshi and they put me in the 22nd Senshusei course as an uchi-deshi candidate and observed my will, attitude and ability closely. As I had no other plan than becoming a professional Aikido-ka I was desperate to be accepted as an uchi-deshi and that made me train seriously hard. I kept a concern about if I was good enough to be an uchi-deshi all the year through my hard training everyday, but in the end I was taken with other three uchi-deshis – all males, one from Japan, one from England and one from Israel. In the following year, I found myself being asked to be uke for our senior Sensei's the most among other uchi-deshis. I was very proud of this regardless of how hard it could be.

The demonstration began and I took my ukes skilfully and with agility one after another showing all the effort I had made in the past two years, in front of my father. The climax of the day for me was taking the uke of Takeno Sensei's jiyu-waza. There was an episode of a young English uchi-deshi who was chosen to be Takeno Sensei's uke a few years before and his overpowering terror made him escape from a window of the uchi-deshi room the night before the demo day. The pinnacle of Yoshinkan Aikido was Master Gozo Shioda, of course and Takeno Sensei was positioned as the second in the style. So, I was prepared and fully spirited to face to him. The very first technique that I have never forgotten was Sokumen Irimi-nage (side-body throw.) As I went to grab his wrist I was blown away over sideways like I was a mannequin and I had no chance of using my ukemi skill at all. The way I was smashed on my side proved that I was not a professional Aikido-ka yet and I was just desperate to keep making a dash at him straight after getting up each time. I kept being smashed like a wet towel being thrown and when I received an Irimi-zuki the vision went upside-down seeing a distorted ceiling, and smashed the back of my head quite badly. I barely got up once more and dashed at him. Repeating the same results I managed to keep getting up on my feet to the end fulfilling my duty.

At some other day after the demo, I heard from an old student that it was a usual event that Takeno Sensei smashed a new uchi-deshi violently treating him like a rag and the general students enjoyed judging his potential and qualities for his future uchi-deshi life. If one was knocked down from slamming his head too badly, then the all the students assessed the man with a low mark believing he would not survive. Then I realised the fact that the students were laughing in glee as if they were watching an entertaining show while I was desperate to keep my consciousness and sanity. How mean was that?!

Anyway back to the demonstration day, though I struggled with Takeno Sensei's uke I achieved all of my duties in taking uke for my senior Sensei's rough techniques mostly well enough. I was confident and I went to see my father expecting a compliment on my two years' hard work. What he said was very simple, "You, so weak." It was a moment of feeling that all my efforts of two years came to naught, devastating. I realised that for those people who do not know Aikido but other martial arts that are displayed in a fighting style, my state of being smashed only but never smashing back appeared to be extremely weak. Well, they do not know that uke's job in Aikido is simply sacrificing one's body to focus on receiving any techniques repeatedly but uke is not allowed to fight back. The demonstration day left me a very bitter feeling in the end. (Poor me!)

For your information, that is why our dojo has a demo program of Rezoku-waza competition for white belts to demonstrate some throws, so they can show their impressive figures to their families and friends.

This year marks our dojo's 15th anniversary and I wish everyone to develop your skills more to have a brilliant demonstration day, to make sure that you will not receive a word of "You, so weak" from anybody.

OSU!

Michiharu Mori