

NEWSLETTER

No.260 April 2017

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: yoshinkan.info Facebook: facebook.com/BrisbaneYoshinkanAikido/ Twitter: twitter.com/YoshinkanAikido

March Report					
New members 0		Total number of adults training 48		Total number of children training 42	
Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 24th & 25th					
Shodan	Andrea Troncoso Salas Wikrom Tang	3rd Kyu	Louis Chatfield Duong Thai	5Y7 step	Ryan Slavin
Jun-Shodan	Kent Windress	5th Kyu	Darren Evans Avinash Premnath	3Y7 step	Murray Booth
2nd Kyu	Charles Delaporte Lily Crampton			2Y5 step	Andrew Crampton
3rd Kyu	Greg Burley	6th Kyu	Van Morris	2Y3 step	Roland Thompson
		9th Kyu	Lisa Wang	S5 step	Kerry Nicholson
Events in April					
1. Getsurei Shinsa			2. This Month's Holiday		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training starts, Thursday 20th 7:15pm~• Steps, Friday 28th 7:15pm~• Shinsa, Saturday 29th 1:00pm~			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Easter Holiday: 14th Friday – 17th Monday• Anzac Day: 25th Tuesday		

Coffee Break

Heroic tales of Master Gozo Shioda and his wish for his successors

As I mentioned in the last month newsletter, all the efforts we make at the dojo is never a waste though it may end up as “the technique to slay dragon.” All the hard training we have dedicated becomes our confidence and mental food to make our life richer and more fulfilling.

However, at a time when our Master Gozo Shioda was in his youth, about seventy years ago after World War II, it was quite different to our present time and he had lots of opportunities to use his lethal weapons. In Tokyo that time, the society was in a state of confusion and crimes were everywhere. Gozo Shioda was young and filled with strong morals, and had freshly learnt techniques from the founder of Aikido, Master Morihei Ueshiba. He was willing to try out his techniques and the age supported him.

I heard from one of my senior uchi-deshis about one of his legendary episodes. One day, Master wanted to have a real tasu-dori practice so that he went to a gambling hall run by yakuza (Japanese mafia) and yelled “Cheater!” as he turned over the gambling table. Surely, he was able to test and enjoy using his tasu-dori skills against around ten yakuza’s and he was happy to be convinced of its effectiveness.

Not only did Master challenge his skill against yakuza’s who were savage round the time but many American soldiers who were living with special privileges coming from a victory country too. There were good ones of course, but enough bad ones too, whose behaviours were rude and violent, especially towards females, and they caused lots of troubles to those innocent citizens. One day, when Master was taking the train two drunken American soldiers got on. They began to assault each passenger one by one, beating males’ heads or flicking their noses and touching women’s breasts. In

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order, they came to Master's seat and knocked off his hat. As one of the soldiers was about to press a lit cigarette on his head, he took the hand and locked the Nikajo, forcing him down to the ground instantly. The other soldier got mad looking at the scene and stretched out his hands to grab him by the collar. Master naturally locked his elbows and threw him sideways, knocking him down. All the passengers roared in delight and Master, being cheeky and playful, was very proud with a beaming smile like a little boy.

On another occasion, when he was passing by a police station a woman rushed in for help. She told the policeman she needed help as some American soldiers were attacking her friend. Regrettably, he told her that Japanese police had no power over American soldiers. On hearing that, Master offered his help to the young lady and rushed to the scene, finding three soldiers assaulting a female. He got infuriated and yelled loud at them to stop in an aggressive tone. Two men turned around and shot out to grab him in rage. He then threw the first man down with Irimi-nage and the second with Aiki-nage. As the first one getting up Master struck his face hard with Aikido atemi (I do not exactly know which atemi it was. But I think it was a body-atemi, making his body solid and hard as a body punch) and knocked him out. The second man grabbed his hand. So, Master used the grip to do another Irimi-nage and hit the man's head hard to the brick wall, and he was done, not getting up any more.

The last man saw the others being knocked out in a flash and realised this man was not just an ordinary Japanese man. So, he got himself ready in a boxing style. He threw a jab to Master's face. This time, as his jab was much faster than Master expected he missed blocking it. The jab hit his face straight. The soldier had a massive and robust built and the punch was so powerful. Master, being a small man, only just managed himself keeping up without falling. But then he saw another blow, a right hook, was coming towards his face. This time, he somehow blocked it moving in irimi angle and got his arm to apply Hiji-shime (elbow lock). The man screamed with pain and went down to the ground. This, of course, was not enough to knock him out. As he was getting up, Master did the same with the first man, attacking his face with his whole body making rigid in Aikido concentration that made him finished. The entire battle did not take more than two minutes.

Master Gozo Shioda, during the chaotic times after the war, was presented with many chances to use his techniques he earned, in real fights against the dark side of the society. He, however, said to his younger students in the later years, "Aikido no longer needs to be used in actual fighting. Rather, Aikido should remain to teach the way of harmony," instead of encouraging them to try out their learned techniques. He wished Aikido to become a means to improve people's lives through learning the way of harmony and therefore leading human society to be in peace and in harmony.

Japan held a reasonably long peaceful age called the Edo Era governed by proud samurais for as long as 260 years. Samurais never neglected their duty to keep training their sword skills though most of them never needed to use their skills in reality and they said, "The shiny-sharp/well-kept sword never pulled out of its sheath is our pride." Right, we who luckily live in a peaceful country in a peaceful age may never need to use our lethal weapons, but as Master wished, we will keep learning Aikido steadily as the means to live harmoniously for ourselves, for our family and for our world.

Osu!

Michiharu Mori