

NEWSLETTER

No.304 December 2020

AIKIDO YOSHINKAN BRISBANE DOJO

Dojo: <http://yoshinkan.info> Facebook: <http://bit.ly/dojojb>

November Report

New members 6 Total number of adults training 57 Total number of children training 39

Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 27th & 28th November

Jun-Shodan	Tfer Newsome	7th Kyu	Charlie Pitt	7th Kyu	Lucia Coney
Jun-3rd Kyu	Portia Woolley		Isabella Coney		Bayden Grawert
4th Kyu	Bernadith Woolley		Anthony Diakos-Masters	8th Kyu	Charlotte Sargent
6th Kyu	Samuel Baptist Perry Mader		Ava Linaker-Bates Mahlia Grawert Nathaniel Spehar	5Y5 step	Kaido Mori
				2Y10 step	Duong Thai

Events in December

1. Sogo Shinsa

- Training starts, Friday 4th 7:15pm~
- Steps, Friday 18th 7:15pm~
- Shinsa, Saturday 19th 1:00pm~

2. Children's Class Holiday through X'mas and New Year's Day

- No children's class during school holidays.
- The last day of this year's children's class is on Thursday the 10th December. The first children's class in the New Year is on Thursday the 28th January 2021.

3. This Month's Holiday of Adults' class

♦Dojo is closed from 24th to 28th, and is open on 29th & 30th, and closed again from 31st December to 3rd of January 2021.

♦DECEMBER & JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Coffee Break

Harmony works

The other day, I heard some noise coming from outside when I sat down at the counter after the second class. Someone was yelling loud. It was not an unusual thing for us as we have some troubled people living in the area. I thought someone was either drunk or on drugs and I did not worry.

But then I thought of our students going home and meeting this person outside. As I was concerned, a female student came out of the changing room, being ready to leave the dojo. So, I went out with her telling her that there was a man yelling outside. We found a young man standing in the middle of Ferry Road yelling threateningly to people at Lumber Punks (axe throwing). I had no idea what he was shouting with my poor English, but he looked certainly violent. We passed through him and reached Montague Road and I made sure that the female student went home safely.

I came down Ferry Road footpath and stopped to see him closely in front of Lumber Punks. He was not sober obviously; who knows what he had taken/consumed but he could have been dangerous for someone. So, I decided to be his company. I walked towards him with a big smile on my face saying, "What happened?" He must have got a surprise seeing a man in a martial art suit with a black belt coming closer to him, yet he saw no hostility from me. He stopped yelling and stared at me.

NEWSLETTER

I am an Aikido-ka, as you know, and I had no intention of attacking him but to harmonise with his movements, always reminding myself of the Aikido principle, "Welcome it when it comes, let it go when it leaves and harmonise it when you are confronted." I remember that I heard a story from a producer of martial arts video company in Japan about Master Masutatsu Oyama of Kyokushin Karate. He said to the producer, "This is Kyokushin!," and showed finger push ups and bent a coin between his thumb and forefinger. I suppose that he meant that Kyokushin was about its absolute power to crush an opponent. I wondered how Kyokushin Karate would deal with this yelling man. Is the power of punching and kicking the only means to deal with trouble in attacking martial arts like Karate?

Well, I walked closer to him while talking to him in a friendly manner and he looked confused with my approach. If I had showed a fighting pose, he would have been alarmed. Although I was ready to avoid any attacks if he got violent, observing his movements carefully, I had no trouble putting my arm around his shoulder as he was motionless. Once I got my arm around his shoulder, I could simply turn him around to unbalance his body (like Shomen Irimi-nage 2 movement) if he were to go berserk. You know, just turning is enough from an Aikido perspective and there is no need of punches or kicks, it's very peaceful!

Maybe he was far too flustered to understand what was happening, he was just quiet. So, I talked to him quietly, "Ok, we go home." Since I believed he was from a unit next to the dojo where many troubled people live, I began leading him down the Ferry Road footpath. As we arrived in front of the unit he said, "My home is not this way." Obviously, my assumption was wrong, and we turned around and headed towards Montague Road. When we reached the front of Lumber Punks where it all started, he told me he was going home by himself. As he got away from me, he said, "Thank you Master," and gave me a Kung Fu style bow. He looked calm enough. I watched him walk off, saying "Good night," and turned around to come home. That was when I saw all the guests and staff of Lumber Punks gathered at their parking area out of the building, watching me. They were keen to see what was going to happen when I approached him, maybe they expected a great fighting show. I must have made them very disappointed!

Perhaps, you too, the readers of this article might have become disappointed that I had no chance of using Kote-gaeshi or Irimi-zuki or whatever. You know, Master Gozo Shioda told us that the ultimate Aikido technique was becoming friends with someone who came to kill you. This time, I was pleased with myself that I got one step closer to the ultimate level of Aikido, even though there was nothing flashy. I was quite self-satisfied because I know what I did about 25 years ago. It was at the old dojo on Fish Lane. I was resting in the office one day and heard a sound of watering on the office wall outside. I went out and saw a homeless man peeing on it! I got angry instantly and kicked his butt. I know, I was so far from being a real Aikido-ka. I have grown a lot since then!

2020 is nearly done. I am looking forward to progressing and growing steadily as an Aikido-ka through the New Year.

OSU!

Michiharu Mori