



November Report

New members 3 Total number of adults training 58 Total number of teens & children training 41

Results of Getsurei Shinsa on 22nd & 23rd November

Jun-Yondan	Matt Carpenter	9th Kyu	Luke Dekkers	3Y9 step	Kaido Mori
Jun-Shodan	Tony Starkie		Christian McFarland	2Y7 step	Cameron Blake
5th Kyu	Sandra Contreras	5Y3 step	Jason Williams	2Y4 step	Mai Bui
7th Kyu	Laura Allen	4Y8 step	Sam Gray	2Y1 step	Dominic Hogan
9th Kyu	Thomas Gilbert	4Y4 step	Lawrence Monforte	S1 step	Simon Nordon

Events in December

1. Sogo Shinsa

- Training starts, Friday 6th 7:15pm~
- Steps, Friday 20th 7:15pm~
- Shinsa, Saturday 21st 1:00pm~

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

- No children's class will be held during school holidays. The last day of this year's children's class is on Thursday the 12th December. The first children's class in the New Year is on Thursday the 30th January.

3. This Month's Holiday of Adults' class

♦The dojo is closed on 25th and 26th, and is open on 27th & 28th, and is closed again between 29th – 5th of January 2014.

♦ DECEMBER & JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Coffee Break

Logo mark of our dojo

Although old students know the meaning of our logo mark as I explained in the previous newsletter, I would like to write about it again as new students ask me sometimes.

The logo mark of Yoshinkan Headquarters is designed with a picture of falcon and the Japanese letters of Aikido underneath. The falcon is not a big bird being about the same size as crow. It can fly at high speed and change direction rapidly, and it was trained to hunt hawks. It surely represented the image of Gozo Shioda's Aikido, being able to take control of big prey, though being the small moving around extremely fast. I have a special fondness for this logo mark since I am absolutely proud of Yoshinkan style that I trained whole-heartedly as a direct uchi-deshi of Master Gozo Shioda.

The logo of Yamanashi Yoshinkan run by Takeno Shihan (my senior uchi-deshi who used to be the top of Headquarters before he opened his own dojo at his hometown in Yamanashi prefecture) is interesting to me. It designed by Takeno Shihan is shaped as a diamond having “氣” in its centre. He combined the image of the family crest of Shingen Takeda from Yamanashi region who was said to be the strongest warrior at that time and “氣” (ki, spirit) from Ai-ki-do. Since Takeno Shihan always placed importance on 'fighting spirit' in his Aikido, the level of fighting spirit almost killing someone just from his spirit, and the image of Shingen being widely known as a strong and fierce samurai goes very well with the image of Takeno Shihan. It is definitely a great design to represent his dojo and his Aikido.



The reason why this beautiful logo of Takeno Shihan is interesting to me is that there is another organisation that uses this diamond shaped crest similar to his logo mark in the current society. The biggest yakuza (mafia/gang) family in Japan called Yamaguchi-gumi is the one I am talking about and most Japanese people have seen their symbol and know what it means. If you see a man walking on the street wearing a shiny diamond-shaped badge on his suit in Japan you surrender your way to him, straight away, in fear. That's how powerful this symbol is. The shadow nickname of Takeno Shihan while he was at Yoshinkan Headquarters was "Yakuza Takeno" because of his fierce character, rugged features, vigorous voice as well as powerful techniques and he was thoroughly feared by all of Yoshinkan students in Japan. It is a very interesting coincidence that he chose the design to represent his Aikido that is similar to the symbol of the most dangerous Yakuza organisation. While my understanding of 'Aikido' is a way to learn a spirit of harmony, his way of placing 'fighting spirit' in the centre of the diamond shape that we usually associate with the image of a rough and fierce manner, is simply interesting.

Well, now move on to explain about our dojo's logo mark. My master Gozo Shioda always mentioned his policy, "Aiki that is life." It means that training Aikido at the dojo is not everything but everything in daily life is the training of Aikido. Budo, the Japanese martial arts, place the most importance on attitude of the heart/mindset and therefore the state of one's mindset learnt at the dojo has to be carried on into one's daily life. The core of Aikido is about learning a spirit of harmony –without clashing or competing with anybody physically (speed, strength, timing, etc) and mentally. This philosophy can be used in our daily lives with one's partner (though it is very difficult to keep harmonised with one's wife...), children, parents, colleagues, bosses or other drivers on the roads and that is the essence of Aikido, not just being able to apply effective and strong techniques. Yet, this mindset of harmony helps you improve your Aikido skills on the mats too in return. I believe that only when what we learned at the dojo is utilised to improve one's life the training of Aikido can produce significance. With all these thoughts, I designed our dojo's logo mark to represent the concept of "Aiki that is life" – I did not decide it on my own authority but in harmony with my wife, of course.

The shape of our logo mark is a circle, the complete configuration that expresses the circular movements of Aikido and a round mind without an edgy nature. In the circle there are three elements; moon, sun and Ai-ki-do's **do** (道) in Japanese letter. The shape of crescent represents moon and it also means month in Japanese and the circle at the top represents sun and it also means day in Japanese. These two elements together describe years and time. The calligraphy of 道(do) is positioned right in the centre of the mark that expresses Aikido's 'do', Budo's 'do' and the letter has various deep meanings like; reason, truth, justice, discretion, mature judgement, mastering the path, the way of life and the way of mind. Every style of arts in Japan, not only martial arts, that has the letter '道' has a spiritual path as the core of the art. Aikido without 'do' is just a physical Aiki skill to fight but what we learn through Aikido techniques is a spiritual path to progress a sense of human maturity for one's life. So, moon and sun together representing time having 道 in the centre describe "Aiki that is life," training Aikido physically and spiritually in daily life. This is the logo mark of Brisbane Yoshinkan Dojo.

The essence of Aikido is well condensed in this phrase, "Welcome it, when it comes. Let it go, when it leaves. Harmonise it, when you are confronted." We train Aikido at the dojo regularly and keep practicing it by applying the way of harmony in daily life. This attitude is the way of life of Aikido practitioners I think and I remind it to myself constantly looking at our logo mark. I hope this article has helped you understand more about Aikido and the thought behind our dojo logo.

Osu!

Michiharu Mori