



# AIKIDO CENTER OF LOS ANGELES NEWSLETTER

940 E. Second Street #7  
Los Angeles, California  
90012  
(213) 687-3673

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August 1, 1991

## Dojo Schedule for August

August 3rd. Sensei will give talk to the Jr. Young Buddhists Association at Zenshuji during their annual conference.

August 4th. Lecture on Miyamoto Musashi The Swordsman. 2:00pm - 4:30pm. Public invited.

August 10th - 11th. Battodo Seminar and Black Belt Examination. Hataya Sensei.

August 11th. Aikido and Battodo Demonstration at the Japanese Village Plaza. 1:00pm.

The month of August will be extremely busy for Sensei and the dojo because of many guests from Japan. We ask for everyone's support and cooperation during this month. Hataya Sensei and his group of students totaling ten members will be in LA from August 8th through the 15th. Mr. Mawatari and his family will be in town from August 14th through the 17th. Omino Sensei will be in town August 14th and 15th. Our dojo has a very good reputation in Japan and it is important that we show our hospitality to the many people who want to visit our school.

### The Life of Miyamoto Musashi His Life and Art: Fact and Fiction

On August 4th, Sensei will be giving a lecture on the 17th century swordsman, Miyamoto Musashi. Everyone is welcome to attend. There is a donation of \$10.00 per person. This is the second lecture in the ACLA Japan Cultural Lecture Series.

Miyamoto Musashi is one of the most well known swordsmen in feudal Japan. He is known for writing the "Book of Five Rings" and developing the Niten Ichi Ryu or Two Sword Style of swordsmanship.

## PROMOTIONS

As of July 15, 1991.

1st Kyu

Lorraine Rowan

2nd Kyu

John White

3rd Kyu

Leo Mora  
Ann Enomoto  
Jim Hemsath  
Rick Parents

4th Kyu

Abel Perez  
Andy Kissel  
Dan Wong

5th Kyu

George Machkalov

6th Kyu

Dean Hess  
Mark Hess  
Mark Shprintz  
Carol Bender  
Alex Asahi Kizu

As of July 20, 1991

1st Kyu

David Schweizer

Continued on Page 2.

Page 2.

**PROMOTIONS** continued.

2nd Kyu

James Sims  
Jean-Francois d'Entremont  
Norm Lew

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

July 9, 1991

Marc S. Lurie  
Huntington Beach, Calif.

"I recently read your "Ancient Ways" column in the July issue of Martial Arts Training magazine. Writing to the author of a martial arts column is not something I have ever done before, but the clarity of your column and it's emphasis on traditional martial arts values greatly impressed me.

I would very much like to know how I might obtain copies of your previous columns. I really found your column both insightful and inspirational. In fact they are the reason I have just subscribed to the magazine.

. . . . Any words of advice that you might care to offer would be greatly appreciated."

June 13, 1991

Michael T. Alexanian  
East Lansing, MI.

"I am writing to express my thanks for the wisdom you share in your column in Martial Arts Training. Your recent contribution "Making Our True Selves" is invaluable and gave me a whole new outlook on my approach to my particular discipline. So many of us who are involved in Martial Arts lose sight of the fact that attitude is much more crucial than we think it is. Also, your most recent article about the meaning of rank couldn't have come at a better time for me. I am testing this Saturday . . . .

I will look forward to reading future "Ancient

Ways" columns in Martial Arts Training and, I know, will be taught and enlightened by each and every one."

July 3, 1991

Christopher Cheung  
USS Oldendorf DD972  
San Francisco, Calif.

"I am interested in learning Aikido. I recently purchased the July 1991 issue of M. A. Training, my first issue. I read Reverend Kensho Furuya's article, "What does a Black Belt Really Mean?", and found it to be very inspiring. This was also the first time I have heard of the Reverend Kensho Furuya or of his writings. I noticed your advertisement and that prompted me to write for more information."

Spc. Roger Gomez  
Operation Desert Storm

"I am sorry for my delay in thanking you. I pray this letter finds you in the best of health and calmness in happiness. I want to thank you & those working with you for taking the time from your schedule to write, I will definitely visit (attend if I may) your dojo when the war is over. I am not just saying this because of my situation but for a burning desire to understand reality and see the simple. I received your newsletter and distributed them among the other soldiers. On my behalf and the soldiers, Thank you."

**Congratulations!**

*Nora Kate Ashley, 8 lbs. 2 oz., born to Mr. and Mrs. Blake Ashley on June 18, 1991.*

**Newsletter Subscriptions**

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Page 3.

### The Teacher

"It is a strange thing, the energy of great teachers. We do not know much about it yet, and there is still a great deal to be found out. It seems not to be purely physical, or mainly physical, in origin. Comparatively frail people command it, and so do people who take very little thought for their health. But it undoubtedly can have physical expressions and effects. Another point about it is that it does not often seem to flourish, or even to exist, when its possessors are alone: meditating, writing, in prison, on journeys. It rises to its full force and seems to renew itself and refresh itself, as if it were powered by Niagara, when its possessor is surrounded by a number of other people - not a random crowd, as in a railway station, but people who are being taught by him, receiving something from him. Some of those who command it say that its strength depends largely not on themselves, but on the others, the men and women around, the listeners, the watchers, the pupils."

From "The Art of Teaching," Gilbert Highet. 1950. Pages 208-209.

### Many Thanks

Thanks to the members to participated in the Aikido and Iaido Demonstration at the West Covina Community Center on July 6, 1991.

Mitsuko Yoshimoto, Yasushi Matsuki, Richard Elorriaga, William Gillespie, James Doi, Ken Watanabe, Mark Moore. (Iaido) Gary Myers, Steven LeHockey, Jeffrey Wheeler, Richard Elorriaga, Ken Watanabe and Brian Kanegawa.

Again, thanks to all the members to participated in the Zenshuji Obon Carnival Demonstration on July 14, 1991.

Ken Watanabe, Mitsuko Yoshimoto, Yasushi Matsuki, Richard Elorriaga, William Gillespie, James Doi, Mark Moore, Curtis Westfall, Ismael Araujo. (Iaido) Gary Myers, Steven LeHockey, Jeffrey Wheeler and Richard Elorriaga.

Thank you for all of your help. It is greatly appreciated. Both demonstrations were a big success and very well received.

### WHAT IS SPIRITUAL TRAINING?

This is the title of the upcoming Ancient Ways column in Martial Arts Training. Please get your copy when it comes out.

### membership drive

We are having a Membership Drive during the month of August. Invite a friend to join the dojo or call up someone who hasn't been to practice for a while. If one friend joins, you will receive one free uniform. If three friends join, you get one month of classes free. This is only during the month of August. Let's try to build up our membership. Thank you.

*Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

### Dojo Equipment

We have a shipment of sword bags from Japan. These are padded bags with a striped design and are very nice. One type is for blades in shirasaya (plain scabbards) or bokken; these are \$20.00 each. The wider bags hold a fully mounted sword and they are \$25.00 each. They protect the sword or bokken from scratches or damage.

We are also taking orders for bokken (wooden training swords). Please see Sensei.

### Training Schedule Changes

We will not hold a Children's Class on Saturdays. The old schedule remains the same: Sundays from 8:00am to 9:00am.

Students are welcome to attend our Tuesday and Thursday afternoon classes from 1:00pm to 2:00pm.

We would like to get a count of how many members would like a morning class once or twice a week. Please see Sensei.

Page 4.

## Yours and Mine

*The following sermon was given at the Zenshuji Obon Carnival Memorial Service on July 13th & 14th by Reverend Hakujin Kuroyanagi.*

One Saturday afternoon, I played basketball with a friend of mine who happened to be quite young. It was an old basketball with a leak and soon it became flat and didn't bounce well at all. I pulled out the hand pump and began to pump it up with air when my young friend asked, "What happens to the air in the pump? Won't you use it all up?"

I smiled and said, "See this hole at the back of the pump? No matter how much air I use, air will always come in through this tiny hole. I can pump air forever. There is no limit to how much air I can use with this pump of mine."

He looked at me cocking his head to the side with a kind of puzzled expression on his face. I knew he didn't quite understand the concept yet.

I think he only knew about air that comes in pressurized cans used for filling up bicycle tires and basketballs. They look like cans of hair spray and most of them can only be once or twice before they are completely used up and have to be thrown away.

I tried to explain that my old-fashioned hand pump is quite different from these modern cans that hold only a certain, limited amount of air under pressure. Where these cans are useless after the air is gone, my hand pump uses the air around us and that air is in infinite supply.

This is one of the basic ideas in Zen Buddhism. Our consciousness always tries to determine, "This is mine and that is yours." And, by doing this, we close the door to the world around us. By creating these little barriers, divisions and pockets for ourselves, our world becomes smaller and smaller. We cannot share a larger world of joy and sorrow where we can continue to grow and mature.

By limiting ourselves, we become much like these pressurized cans of air which are soon used up. We grab at everything saying, "This is mine and that is mine!" Very quickly, we have exhausted ourselves and the situation becomes worse and worse.

Although I imagine that the Buddha never used a hand pump to fill up a basketball, I am sure that he taught us to become something like the hand pump which is never exhausted. He said, "All existence is non-self." In other words, the air inside and outside of the hand pump is the same. There is no difference. There is no discrimination. Like the hand pump, our lives must be connected with all the bliss of nature, air, water, food, everything. . . This is the reality of our lives enjoying the oneness of the universe.

And yet, our brain function continues its dualistic thought of "mine, mine, mine" or "me, me, me." Just like the spray can. The air inside is different from the air outside of the can and is soon used up and becomes useless. We should become more like the hand pump which makes no distinction of the air it uses and uses air freely and infinitely.

**Lun-yu: "Learning without thought is insidious; thought without learning is dangerous."**

### **Dojo Initiates:**

## **JAPAN CULTURAL LECTURE SERIES**

On July 7, 1991, the dojo held its first lecture in its Japan Cultural Lecture Series. The subject was "Early Iron Sword Guards: The Concept of Beauty of the Samurai." About thirty people attended and the lecture was well received and considered a big success.

Sensei initiated this series through the requests of many students and people from outside the dojo who are interested in Japanese culture and Sensei's knowledge. The lecture series hopes to provide a cultural, artistic and historical background for students of the dojo as well as providing a cultural program for the general public. Everyone is invited.

Upcoming lectures will be: "Wazamono: The Curious Custom of Testing Japanese Swords," and "The Life and Training of the Samurai Warrior."

On August 4th, the lecture will be on "Miyamoto Musashi: Swordsman - His Life and Art: Fact and Fiction."

**Remember: Please remember our Annual Membership Drive for August. Bring a friend to the dojo for practice during the summer months.**