

# 羅府合氣道学院古屋道場



# AIKIDO CENTER OF LOS ANGELES NEWSLETTER

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**SEASONS GREETINGS!**  
From the Aikido Center of Los Angeles



ALCA members at our Bonen Kai Party on November 22, 1992. Good portions of delicious food and friendship. Thirty-seven students and guests.



One of our biggest parties. Raffle prizes and recent promotions were also awarded. Mr. Gary Myers was awarded 4th Dan in Iaido & Battodo from Japan

## Kenshinkai Promotions

The following members have been promoted by the L. A. Branch of the Zen Nippon Battodo Federation in examinations in August and October of this year.

Mr. Gary Myers to 4th Dan  
Mr. Ken Watanabe to 2nd Dan  
Mr. Jeffrey Wheeler to 2nd Dan

Mr. Richard Eloriagga to 2nd Dan  
Mr. Steven Lehocky to 2nd Dan  
Mr. Brian Kanegawa to 2nd Dan

## Greetings of the Season

*Wishing all of our students, members and friends throughout the country and the world the very best of the Holiday Season with good health and much happiness.*

Aikido Center of Los Angeles  
Los Angeles Branch - All Japan Battodo Iaido Fed.  
Chief Instructor: Kensho Furuya

**LETTERS:**

From Marian Castinado, Executive Publisher of Martial Arts Training Magazine:

*... We had a meeting today and I was told that M. A. Training is continuing to climb in sales at a steady rate. I feel certain that your Ancient Ways column is a significant part of that growth, and thank you once again for your talented work.*

From the Japanese Village Plaza ref: "Exhibition of Traditional Japanese Martial Arts:"

*... The Plaza was very honored and privileged to have a dojo of your calibre and recognition to bring prestige and authority to this exhibition. I am deeply grateful for your immense generosity; I commend you for your dedication and commitment to your art. Again, please accept my thanks.*

From Mr. Heinz Beck, Cologne, Germany:

*... In addition, I wish to convey to you my warmest admiration and respect for your columns in the Martial Arts Magazine. I have been subscribing for about two years now and have always found food for new thought. Indeed, I have taken the liberty of circulating your articles amongst my pupils in Ju-Jitsu as I believe we have much to learn about the meaning of humility. For these reasons I would like to ask your permission to visit your school and if possible participate in your training when I am in Los Angeles. . . .*

**News Item:**

Sensei's "Ancient Way" columns will be quoted in an Australian martial arts magazine.

**Tea Ceremony School**

Saturdays from 2:00pm.

Sundays from 12:00 noon.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Instructor: Madame Sokyo Arai  
Sado Edo Senke Fuhaku-kai**

Interested students, please inquire to Arai Sensei during class hours in the dojo. Monthly honorarium is \$35.00. Class size is limited.

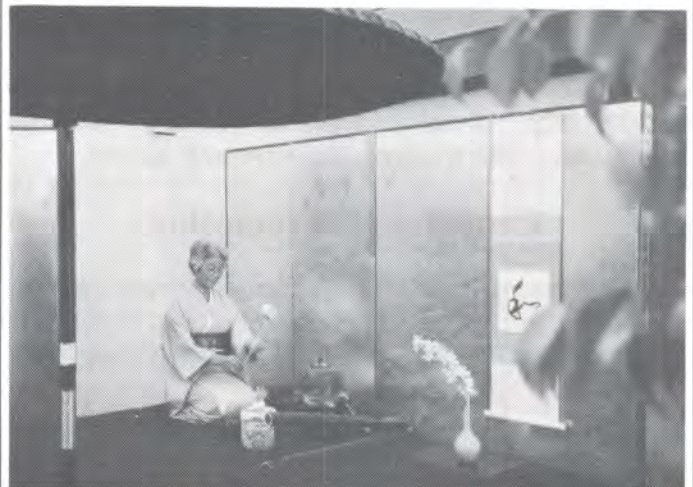
**Promotions  
as of  
NOVEMBER 22, 1992**

**4th Kyu  
Bach Le  
Dharshan Balasingam  
Diana Dietrich**

**5th Kyu  
George Bufford  
Rey Espina**

**6th Kyu  
Cheryl Lew  
John Vargas  
Brett Parks  
Marc Fawar  
Anthony Camargo**

*Please take care of your promotion and certificate fees at your earliest possible convenience to expedite promotion processing. Thank you for your kind attention in this matter.*



On October 31st & November 1st, Arai Sensei and students presented a demonstration of the tea ceremony at the Hotel New Otani during the popular East West Orchid Show.



Students at this year's Japanese Village Plaza's Martial Arts Exhibition on September 26, 1992.

## Sensei's Message:

### AN UNWANTED COMPLIMENT

I am not sure if this problem exists in other dojos (I think in only a very few) but it is definitely prevalent in ours. It is becoming a really bothersome and annoying matter to the degree that I feel it is necessary to say a few words regarding this.

I am very proud of my students. They are humble and disciplined; they work hard and naturally become very skillful in Aikido. I don't take much credit for this. I think it is the energy and character of the students combined with the wisdom of O-sensei's teaching. My job, I believe, is to create the environment and atmosphere where these two elements can come together positively and creatively. I feel I am only a caretaker or transmitter of the Aikido teachings. Our dojo is not a business. The main purpose of Aikido is to develop the individual to his fullest potential through Aikido. It is not to make money. Finances are only part of the reality of the dojo's existence to pay the rent, keep the lights on and the water running. It is not why we practice but it is important because it allows us to practice and continue our training.

When Aikidoists from other dojos, other martial artists or guests come to our dojo, they are always very impressed with the skill and discipline of the students and the dojo always receives only the very highest praise. Several years ago, one famous teacher visiting from Japan complimented me by saying, "I wish I could take your dojo and your students back with me to Japan." I thanked him politely for such a wonderful compliment which is just the problem which plagues

this dojo. Everyone wants to carry off my dojo and/or, at least, all my students. Of course the dojo is much too big and heavy to carry off. Even if this teacher from Japan did, and got it to through U. S. Customs, he could never get it on the airplane. And besides, if he did carry off my dojo, I am sure he would get a very testy letter from my landlord who has a peculiar aversion to people walking off with sections and even small parts of his buildings.

With my students, it is a much different problem. They are not so heavy and cumbersome and, with all of them equipped with a fairly strong and healthy set of legs, with both left and right feet no less they are very easy to carry off.

On a more serious note, everyone is welcome to our dojo to practice Aikido and only practice Aikido. I do not appreciate people entering our dojo under the pretext of training, and taking advantage of the opportunity to solicit our students for their own schools. I do not appreciate people coming into our dojo bringing in their own personal politics and business interests. Some people call this "business." Some people consider this a "compliment" to the high level of our dojo. I am not interested in either other people's business or compliments. In our very commercial world of today, taking another's students or soliciting students of another dojo is "not wrong but not right either." But in the martial arts tradition, however, it is very clearly considered wrong. It is unethical. It contradicts everything one is trying to understand through martial arts. In feudal days in Japan, this crime was paid for with the death penalty because of its seriousness.

I dare to go so far as to say that a martial artist who calls himself a teacher yet solicits students of other dojos is clearly not a teacher but a business-person profiting on the name of martial arts or Aikido and its tradition and teaching to make a fast buck. This disqualifies him as a teacher or a leader of the martial arts.

This type of activity is not permitted in our dojo and, if discovered, should be reported immediately to the Sensei. It disrupts practice, it causes students to lose morale, it confuses students to the point where they lose their concentrated effort to train. Usually, new students are victimized because they lack of knowledge of the goings-on in the dojo. I think it is also unethical to take advantage of a new student's lack of knowledge.

Continued:

### An Unwanted Compliment continued:

It has reached an unfortunate point where one must look at each incoming student from another dojo with an eye of suspicion. This is very wrong but an tragic side-effect of this unfortunate practice of solicitation.

In early days, it was necessary to have your teacher's permission to visit another dojo. In addition, it was necessary to have a "letter of introduction" from your teacher to the teacher you wish to visit or train under. I think this is a very good practice which should be reinstated again. When a student visits with a letter of introduction or even a "word" from his teacher, I know exactly what the circumstances are and can welcome the student with open arms feeling confident that his purpose in the dojo is to train and learn.

If a student comes with a letter of introduction, he realizes he is now under the eyes to two teachers, his own and the visiting teacher, and naturally observes his conduct more correctly and seriously. Generally, students with bad intentions never let their teacher know they are going someplace else.

Nowadays, students feel that they can go anywhere they please without saying anything. They never realize what other people are thinking. His home teacher may think, "Why is it necessary for him to sneak off to another dojo? What is his complaint?" The teacher he is visiting may think, "He must be a spy," or "What is he up to or what is his teacher up to?" People do bad things although when I was young I never heard of going to another dojo and soliciting students. Because suspicions are naturally aroused in this day and age, one must make one's intentions and actions very clear to everyone.

Today, there are unfortunately many different organizations with different loyalties or orientations and many of these organizations do not get along well with each other. It is very inconvenient when a student freely bounces from one place to another without any consideration at all to the feelings of the teacher or his home dojo or his parent affiliation. Some time ago, a student from another dojo was trying to solicit students for his own school. All he accomplished was shaming himself and his teachers and his parent organization. No one will ever forget this.

Because there are people who join dojos for the purpose of soliciting students or other personal interests, it is important that your own purpose is not confused or misinterpreted when visiting another dojo.

There are many legitimate reasons for changing dojos. One moves, one's job changes, one's work schedule changes, etc. First, advise your teacher that you wish to change dojos. Ask your teacher to recommend a good dojo to practice in where you will be. Ask your teacher to contact that teacher or request a letter of introduction.

Students and members of the Aikido Center of Los Angeles should practice in dojos under the affiliation of the United States Aikido Federation under the Aikido World Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan. My students should only practice in dojos affiliated with and under the direction of the Grandmaster Kisshomaru Ueshiba, the legitimate successor to the Founder of Aikido.

Practicing in other non-affiliated dojos, or "styles," or dojos who do not follow the teachings or regulations of the Aikido World Headquarters is definitely not encouraged.

In our society, we talk about "freedom, freedom," and many people think this means that we have *carte blanche* in everything we do. I believe we have the freedom to reach our fullest individual potential, materially and spiritually, but not at the cost of others or our environment. In Japanese, we call this *giri-ninjo*, where duty and loyalty must be balanced with our personal desires.

We don't have the right to interfere with other dojos in soliciting students or promoting one's personal politics. At the same time, we can avoid such problems if we observe the proper etiquette and code of conduct of our Aikido tradition. Without this, we can never realize a world of trust, peace and harmony.

I will be glad to write a letter of introduction if you wish to practice at another dojo while visiting another area or moving to another city or state. I also wish to reserve the right to recommend the best possible to practice in. The bottomline is that I wish everyone to receive the best instruction possible and to continue to support the enrich the true heritage and tradition of Aikido under the late Founder, Grandmaster Morihei Ueshiba and the current Doshu Kisshomaru Ueshiba.

Thank you for your best cooperation and attention in this matter.

*Kensho Furuya*  
*Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

## Annual Membership Fees

In order to help with running the dojo, we will be converting our initial membership into an annual membership for the dojo. The initial membership fee when joining the dojo is \$25.00. Members are asked to contribute a \$15.00 annual membership each year after the first year of joining beginning with January 1, 1993.

Thank you for your kind understanding and cooperation in this matter.

*Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

## Successful Year End Party "Thank You!"

Many, many thanks for a great "Bonon-kai" Forget the Old Year Party. Everyone brought lotsa great food and had a great time. Thirty-seven members and guests got together which is one of our biggest parties to date. Highlights were our dojo photo, a raffle with many fun prizes given away and the presentation of recent promotions and awards.

Let's all forget the tough times of the past old year and welcome the New Year and a New Beginning. Wishing much good health success for our Dojo!



Kenny Furuya during one of his more energetic moments!

Far from the truth, Kenny is taking a breather during his busy training schedule averaging four to five hours of practice every day. One of our great assets in the dojo, Kenny received Shodan 1st Degree Black Belt in September of this year. Keep up the good work!

## Support the Dojo Newsletter

Tell your friends about our ACLA dojo newsletter, anyone can subscribe for a \$25.00 a year subscription. Funds go towards printing and shipping costs.

## Announcements:

We will be planning for our 1993 New Year's Party on January 17, 1993 from 11:00am. Everyone is welcome. We need volunteers and helpers.

The New York Aikikai under Yamada Sensei is moving to a new and bigger Dojo. They are asking financial support by the purchase of their dojo T-shirt for \$15.50. Please help!



Arai Sensei with (L to R) Gary Myers, Ken Watanabe, Mitsuko Yoshimoto and Kenny Furuya. Hotel New Otani on Nov. 1st.



Gary Myers during a recent trip to Japan leaving a famous martial arts dojo. Not! Here, caught leaving the notorious Shinjukuya Hotel in a very disreputable area in a very disreputable neighborhood in Tokyo.

Gary Myers will be opening a Japanese antique store, Yoshino, in "Old Town" Pasadena in December.

## Dojo Schedules

Please read the dojo schedules very carefully to keep up to date on dojo events. Also, please remember we are listing separate schedules for our Aikido, our Kenshinkai Iaido group and our Tea Ceremony Class.

Myers received 4th Dan in Battodo at Year End Party.



Sekiguchi Tomei Sensei and his Jikishin Ryu Iaido group visited the dojo earlier this year.

## **Dojo Training Schedule**

### **Beginning Open Classes**

Mondays thru Fridays  
7:00am - 8:00am  
8:00am - 9:00am  
6:15pm - 7:15pm

Mondays-Wednesdays-Thursdays  
7:30pm - 8:30pm

Saturday Mornings  
10:15am - 11:15am

Sunday Mornings  
9:45am - 10:45am

### **Advanced Classes 2nd Kyu & Up**

Please bring jo, bokken and tanto.

Tuesdays  
7:30pm - 8:30pm

Saturdays  
11:30am - 12:30pm

## **Children's Classes**

Sunday Mornings  
8:30am - 9:30am

Mondays-Wednesdays-Fridays  
4:30pm - 5:30pm  
(Separate Fee)

## **Ki Exercise & Breathing Class**

Tuesdays  
1:00pm - 1:30pm  
(Separate Fee)

### **Kenshin Kai**

L. A. Branch Zen Nippon Battodo  
Iaido Renmei

Wednesdays  
8:45pm - 9:45pm

Saturdays  
9:00am - 10:00am

Sundays  
7:30am - 8:30am

No practice on December 26th, 27th and 29th.

December 4th: Sword Study Class

December 19th: Intensive 6:30am - 8:30am