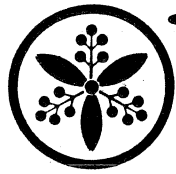


# 羅府合氣道学院古屋道場



# AIKIDO CENTER OF LOS ANGELES NEWSLETTER

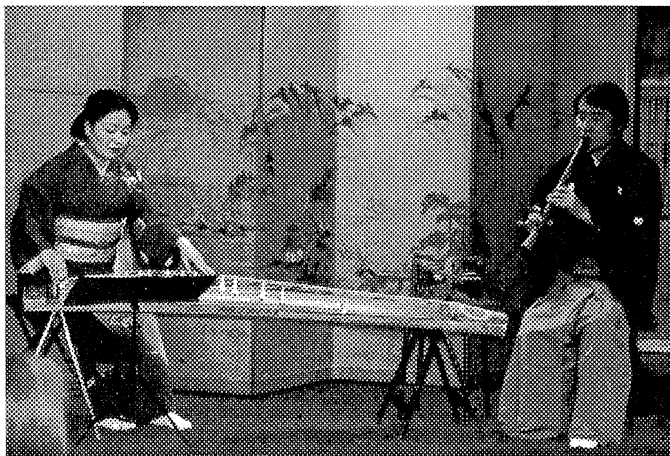
940 E. Second Street #7  
Los Angeles, California  
90012  
(213) 687-3673

The Aikido Center of Los Angeles, 940 East 2nd Street #7, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Tele: (213) 687-3673  
Affiliation: The Aikido World Headquarters, 17-18 Wakamatsu-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan  
United States Aikido Federation, Eastern Region  
Nihon Iaido Kenshinkai. Los Angeles Sword & Swordsmanship Soiety

April 1, 1996

Volume XIV. Number 4.

## Da Camera Society Concert



Well known musician and composer, Masakazu Yoshizawa, on the shakuhachi and Hiromi Hashiba on the koto, were the special guest performers at the Da Camera Society Concert. In addition, Denise Iketani, entertained the kids with masterful storytelling about Japan.

## Our New Book:

# KODO 古道

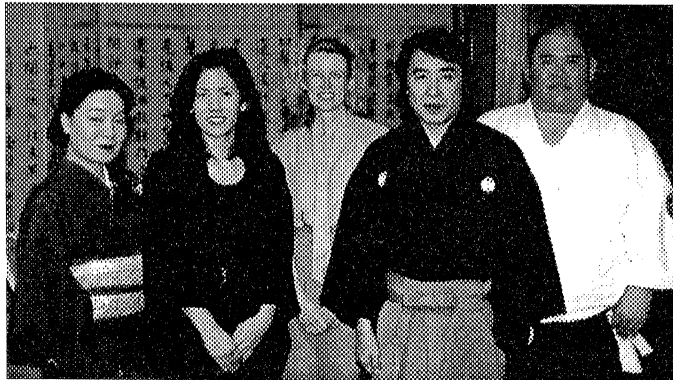
## Ancient Ways Coming Soon!

Furuya Sensei's new book, "KODO: Ancient Ways - Lessons in the Spiritual Life of the Martial Artist Warrior" is scheduled to be out this month from the publishers, Rainbow Ohara Publications of Black Belt magazine.



Two concerts were held at 1:30pm and 3:00pm on Saturday, March 16th with about 160 children and adults attending. In addition to the storytelling and Japanese classical music, the children were also amazed at being in a traditional Japanese style home. Sensei also demonstrated Aikido at the end of each performance. There was a warm, energetic response from the audience. All in all, it was a great success.

# Da Camera Society Concert



Left to right: Hiromi Hashiba Sensei, Denise Iketani, Dr. Mary Ann Bonino-Head of the Da Camera Society, Masakazu Yoshizawa Sensei and Kensho Furuya Sensei



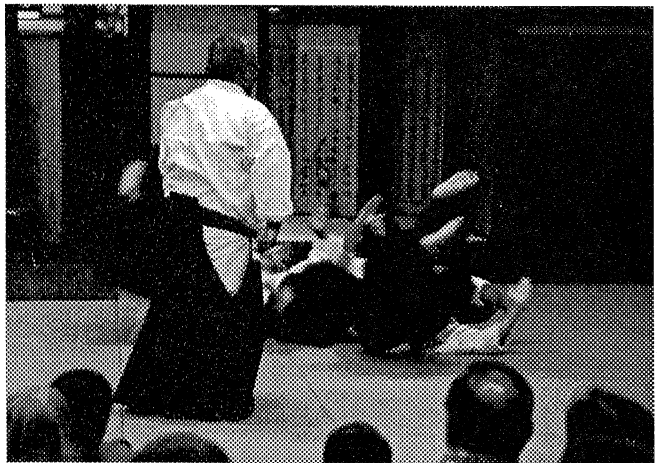
Da Camera Society staff and volunteer members of the Dojo.



Children and guests being welcome to the Dojo for the Da Camera Society Concert. The Da Camera Society presents concerts in architecturally and artistically important sites throughout the city of Los Angeles. We have been very honored that they have selected the Dojo as a historical site of LA.



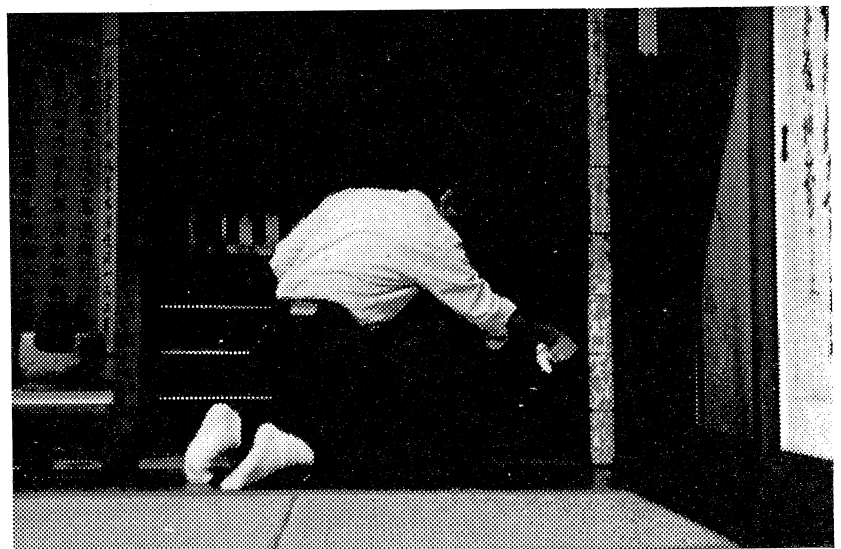
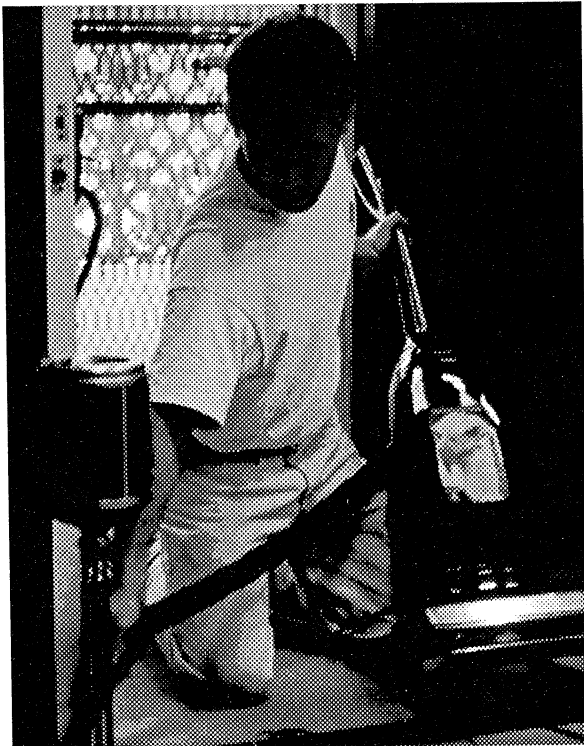
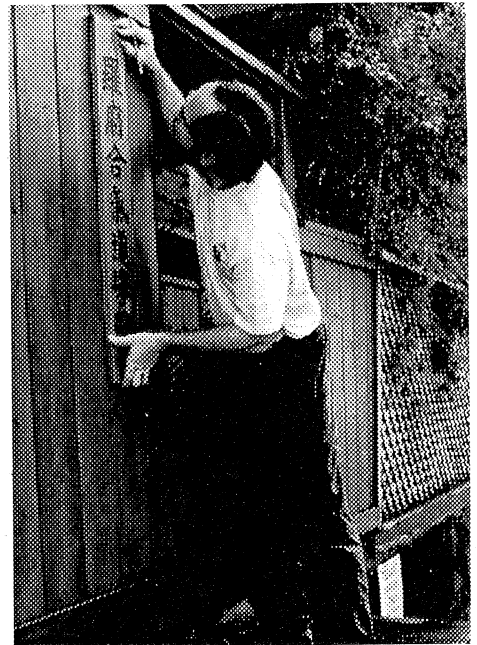
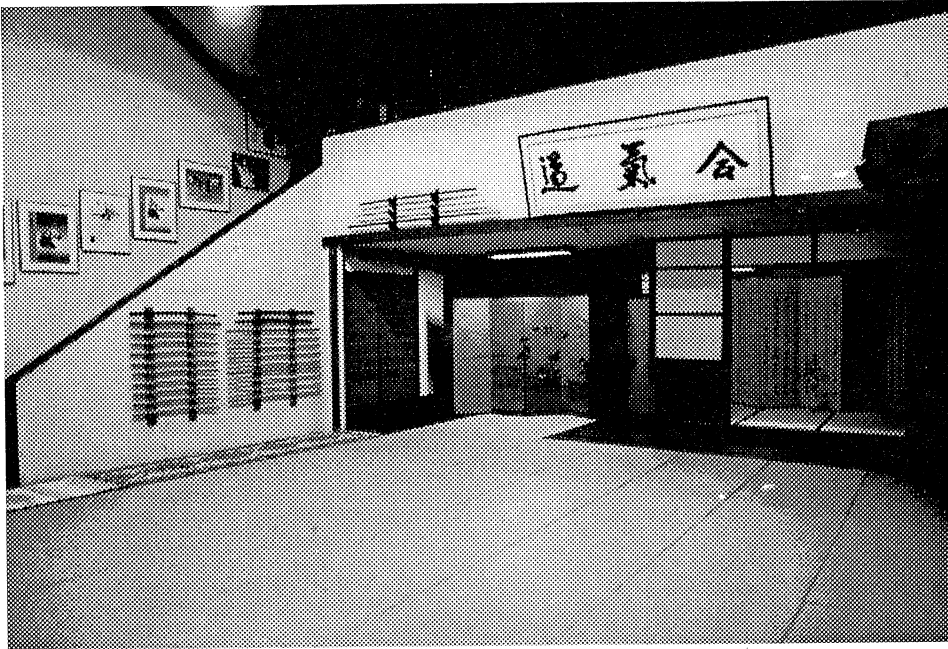
Denise Iketani relating a story to Japanese music with Yoshizawa Sensei and Hashiba Sensei.



Sensei demonstrates Aikido at the end of the concert. Uke were James Doi, Ken Watanabe, Kenny Furuya and Andy Kissel. Everyone seemed to enjoyed the Aikido demonstration - for many it was the first time to see this art. Martial arts like Aikido at a Da Camera Society concert is a first.

Below: Furuya Sensei with Joyce Wakano Chinn who is the executive manager of the Nisei Week Festival. She has been managing the Nisei Week Festival for over 21 years and is a former student of Aikido. She was a special guest of our concert on March 16th.





## TAKING CARE

Members taking care of the Dojo. Ken Watanabe takes the vacuum cleaner like a sword as in Ukigumo or "Floating Cloud" technique of the Hasegawa Eishin Ryu Iaido. James Doi exemplifies concentration and caring. David Ito, Kenny Furuya and Frances Yokota make the outside look beautiful - a fitting welcome to all of our guests and students. Andy Kissel puts up our new Dojo sign. This is Aikido as a spiritual practice which we apply to our daily lives.

## Zen Center of LA Lecture on March 9th

On March 9, 1996, Sensei presented a talk at the Zen Center in Los Angeles to about a dozen members including students from the Dojo. Sensei spoke at length about Aikido and about his experiences in Zen. The talk was extremely well received. As a matter of fact, the Zen Center called Sensei a few days later and invited him to speak again on November 2nd of this year.

## Many Thanks to the Da Camera Society

The Dojo would like to express its appreciation to Dr. Mary Ann Bonino and the staff of the Da Camera Society and volunteers in the Dojo who helped to put on a very successful children's concert on March 16th. Again, thank you for your support and efforts. Special thanks goes to Dr. Cheryl Lew who did much of the work to arrange this concert at the Dojo.

*The Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

## The Santa Monica Dojo

As of March, our Santa Monica Branch Dojo is closed. Although we tried to cope with the many differences between a traditional Dojo such as ourselves and a highly commercial operation, I believe the contradictions are too fundamental to be resolved easily. I apologize for any inconvenience that this has caused any of the students and members of our Dojo and all members at Santa Monica.

We are not such a profit oriented school and indeed we operate for the most part as a community oriented, not-for-profit, Dojo. Indeed, Jun Chong's Tae Kwon Do school is a commercial business and there is nothing wrong with this. As a matter of fact, we need to learn to work as a more financially viable group so that we are not always having money problems. But, regrettably, I am very old fashioned and despite the changing times which we call the 90's, I still believe in preserving the "ancient" traditions of the martial arts. Again, my apologies for not making the Santa Monica Dojo a success.

## O-Sensei's Memorial Service

April 26th

Zen Buddhist Service  
6:30pm

Reception  
7:30pm

Everyone is welcome to attend to offer incense in the Founder of Aikido, O'Sensei's memory.

KODO: ANCIENT WAYS  
Lessons in the Spiritual Life of  
the Warrior/Martial Artist.

Buy a copy for yourself.  
Buy a copy for a friend.  
Buy a copy for Mom & Dad.  
Buy a copy for your boss.  
Buy a copy for Sensei.



## Rev. Tetsuo Unno Honored In Pasadena.

Rev. Tetsuo Unno was honored by the Pasadena Buddhist Church for 25 years of faithful service. The reception was held on March 24, 1996 by the congregation. Many Congratulations!

Unno Sensei invites our Dojo each year to conduct a demonstration at their annual Obon celebration. He also helped to edit Sensei's new book, "Kodo." Unno Sensei's brother is Dr. Taitetsu Unno who spoke at our Dojo last year and is also the translator of Doshu Kisshomaru Ueshiba book, "The Spirit of Aikido."

## Nick Kiritz In Town

Nick Kiritz was in town again and visted our Dojo on March 15th and 18th for practice. Nick, 3rd Dan, practices at our Dojo whenever he is in town. His dojo is in Washington, D. C., and travels all over the country for his work. It was nice to see him again.

## Naoji Karita Sensei Visits Dojo April 8-10th.

Karita Sensei, the well known sword polisher from Tachikawa City, Japan, will be in town for several days to visit Sensei. Karita Sensei will be conducting the Oshigata Exhibition in Houston, Texas, this month.

Left: Ikebana flower arrangement by Mr. Noda of Nisei Florists in Little Tokyo, made especially for and donated to the Dojo for the Da Camera Society Concert.

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\$3.00 donation per issue.

\$30.00 donation for Annual Subscription.

Published by Reverend Kensho Furuya  
Aikido Center of Los Angeles  
940 East 2nd Street #7, Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 687-3673



David Ito & Raul Montolfo welcoming guests and friends to the Dojo for the Da Camera Society Concert.



## With Much Appreciation to Our Dojo Volunteers

It is with much appreciation and many thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the preparation of the Da Camera Society Concert on March 16, 1996. I really appreciate your time and energy on Friday and Saturday. The concert was a big success. A special word of thanks also goes to Dr. Cheryl Lew who did most of the arrangements and pre-planning for the event. It was, indeed, a tremendous success.

Many thanks to the following students: Dr. Cheryl Lew, Dr. James Doi, Ken Watanabe, Kenny Furuya, William Gillespie, Andy Kissel, David Ito, Frances Yokota, Delano Leslie, Raffi Badalian, Larry Armstrong, Joon Jung, Raul Montolfo.

We would also like to thank all the volunteers who helped on Friday evening, the night before and we apologize for cancelling class in preparation for this event.

Many, many thanks.

ACLA

### Many Thanks

Many thanks to Nisei Florists in the Honda Plaza for donating the beautiful ikebana arrangement for our Da Camera Society Concert. The orchids were very beautiful. Whenever you need flowers please patronize Nisei Florists and mention the Dojo's name.

**NISEI FLORISTS**  
446 E. 2nd. St. (In the Honda Plaza)  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 628-5606

*Japanese American  
Cultural & Community Center &  
Children's Day Festival Presents*

## 2nd Asian Pacific Martial Arts Festival

May 4, 1996, 10-4pm  
JACCC Plaza

Guest Masters:

Cal Kitaura Sensei  
West Covina Judo Club

Richard Kageyama Sensei  
Shotokan Karate

Sifu Harry Wong  
Internal Kung Fu-Chi Kung

Douglas Wong/Carrie Ogawa  
White Lotus Kung Fu

Masashi Shikai Sensei  
Chuo Kendo Club

Helen Nakano Sensei  
So. Calif. Naginata Fed.

Sifu Helen Chu  
Chen Taiji & Taiji Sword

Kiyoshi Yamazaki Sensei  
Ryobu Kai Karate

## MONEY & ART

There was once a struggling artist in the Dojo who was a wonderful artist. I was quite surprised how good he was when I saw his work and believed that he would truly become very successful. But, somehow, he remained a struggling artist. After a while, I noticed that he did not come to practice anymore and after a time we lost track of him. Several later years, I was quite surprised when I met him in the parking lot of Trader Joe's in Pasadena.

I had just parked my car when a beautiful Jaguar sedan pulled up along side of me. "Some people can drive such nice cars," I thought, when my student popped his head out and waved to me. I was very surprised and very happy that he had obviously achieved great success.

He invited to see his work that was on exhibition at the time. I forgot which gallery that was however but I think it was someplace in Santa Monica.

When I went to see his work, I was quite surprised again. It was defi-

I thought it was pretty "not so good." It sounds insulting to my student but even he admitting it himself. Amazed, I said, "Why did you change your style so much?" He replied, "My good work didn't sell. This is what sells. Nowadays, I only paint what my customer wants and now I am successful."

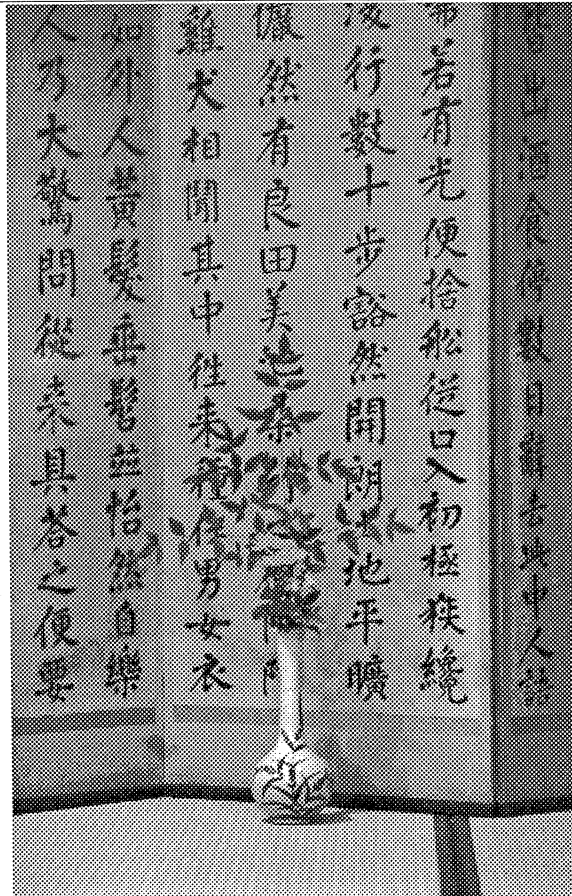
"Are you happy?" I asked.

"I am successful," he persisted. "I know it is not my best but at least I am doing well."

Nowadays, I hear this all the time as one of the basic rules of success - "give them what they want." A well known martial arts instructor (very, very successful, by the way) gave me the same advice. He advised, "Give them what they want. That's what I do and that's why I am doing so well."

This is popular nowadays. If ninjitsu is popular, do ninjitsu. If high kicks are popular, do high kicks. If ground fighting jujitsu is popular, do jujitsu.

Most of the time, people, in general, really don't know what they want. I think this is why it is so easy to sell anything you can contrive and this is why I think the general public is so easily victimized all the time. I remember one of my students was going to buy a sword and asked me to accompany him to meet someone selling several swords. Among the bunch, there was a very good sword but it happened to be in very plain, subdued mountings which is actually the proper mountings for the samurai warrior. There was another sword which was not very good at all but it had been fitted out with loud, flashy fittings just to attract someone who doesn't know anything about



swords. Although I advised him to get the better one, he went for the "flash." Later, he was very disappointed. This happens all the time even among experienced collectors. The problem is that we don't know what is good and what is bad. Ultimately, what is real and what is not real.

My friend, a sushi chef, told me this funny story. Some American people came to eat sushi and he gave them the hot wasabi which comes in a tube like tooth paste. This was a new thing from Japan at the time and he thought that they might like this new innovation. The Americans, who considered themselves experts on sushi, rejected it immediately saying, "This is not real wasabi. Who do you think we are?"

The chef replied, "What do you think real wasabi is?"

"Of course, real wasabi does not come in a tube, it comes in a can!"

My friend laughed. The "new" tube wasabi is an imitation of the "old" can wasabi which is an imitation of the "real" wasabi which is a root which tastes and looks nothing like either the can or tube wasabi!

When I was very young, my father's good friend used to visit us each year from the San Jose area of California. There were three brothers who, at the time, I thought were a little strange. Everytime, they came to L. A., they would immediately get sick for the first several days. I asked my mother why they get sick all the time and she replied, "They don't like the L. A. air and water here that's what makes them sick." "How strange," I thought, "these people are kind of weird." Several years later, when I went to San Jose and tasted natural spring water from their own well, I finally understood what they meant. I tasted "real" water for the first time.

Recently, we closed our Santa Monica Branch. Actually, it was taken over by another local school. One of the major reasons is that we are not commercial enough and we can't draw a lot of people. We don't make enough money. It is again the questions of art over money or money over art.

To maintain a strict traditional dojo, we need a strong commitment from the membership. The teaching is more individualized and more personal and therefore there are more demands on the students. In a more commercial dojo, the concentration is on the money. You pay and we give you what you want. I think people understand this more in this day and age. Of course, if you are not careful it can reach a point where you are more concerned about the money and the contract than you are about the student himself. One time, I discussed how to improve our Dojo with a very well known Yoga teacher who was very, very successful and had many schools. He discussed many payment plans and money making schemes but I saw the inherent problem where they spend most of their time collecting money from the students and dealing with Con't.

## MONEY & ART continued.

money problems and complaints. When I began to discuss some of my questions and problems with this type of financial structure of his school thinking how I might be able to use it, he confessed, "Once I get their (students') money, I don't care if I ever see them again!" Well, I certainly scratched his advice from my notebook.

We need a strong school with good instructors and good instruction making enough to cover our bills and finance seminars with good teachers from abroad. Students must decide how commercial the Dojo must be. Are we a true Dojo or a money making business. Which comes first? Making money or teaching students? Perhaps I am splitting hairs and no one understands what I am trying to do but I believe in this way: The purpose of our Dojo is to teach students Aikido but we do need to create income to cover our overhead. We do not use or solicit students or the "idea" of teaching students for the purpose of making money. Most people laugh at me but this is the way I was brought up and this is the way I know how to teach. The difficulty of the students in our Dojo is that your Sensei knows how to teach but does not know how to make money. I am a teacher first and never do I want to become a businessman although everyone is trying to force me in this direction. I consider this exploitation of the teacher.

Everyone wants to be rich and successful including me maybe me more than others. Yet, on my gravestone, I want to be known as a good Aikido teacher, not a clever and rich businessman. I suppose if my students want Aikido badly enough, they will find a way to make the Dojo run smoothly. Finally, there must be trust in the fact that I am trying to be the best teacher I possibly can. It is most probably in this respect that I suffer so much.

You can't buy Aikido and Aikido as a discipline of human values and potential is not a commodity that can be easily sold or traded. I am a dinosaur facing the glacier of changing values and materialism so prevalent in our society today. Finally, because we longer know what is real, we are fated to continually grasp at material wealth thinking that this is the end to all of our problems. Although we can achieve spiritual perfection through our enlightenment in our practice, as much money as we get, I doubt if we will ever find true happiness.

## MANY THANKS

We would like to thank Rainbow Ohara Publications, Michael James and Geri Simon for all of their support, encouragement and effort towards the realization of KODO-Ancient Ways. I would also like to thank Ken Watanabe for special illustrations drawn exclusively for the book, Cheryl Lew for archival photos and Miles Hamada of the JACCC for the cover design. Special thanks to Bishop Kenko Yamashita for the cover calligraphy, "Kodo." Again, many thanks.

## IMPORTANT DATES

April 7-9th. Karita Sensei visits Dojo.

April 20th. Iaido Intensive 6:30am

April 25th. Sensei's Birthday.

April 26th. FOUNDER'S MEMORIAL SERVICE from 6:30PM.

RECEPTION MIYAKO INN 7:30PM.

April 27th. Black Belt Intensive 6:30am.

May 4th. JACCC Children's Day Festival.  
2nd Asian Pacific Martial Arts Festival.  
JACCC Plaza. All students & Children's Class.

May 5th. JACCC Children's Day Festival.  
Japanese American Artists Performance -  
Aikido Demonstration. All black belts.

May 27th. Memorial Day Observed.  
No classes today.

July 13th. Lotus Festival in Echo Park.

July 20th. Obon Aikido Demonstration at  
the Pasadena Buddhist Church.

## NOTICE

You are cordially invited to  
attend O-Sensei's Memorial  
Service on April 26th.

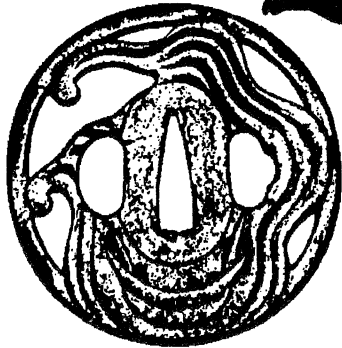


# KODO

Ancient Ways

Lessons in the  
Spiritual Life of the  
Warrior/Martial Artist

古  
道



by Kensho Furuya

# KODO

Ancient Ways

Rev. Kensho Furuya

Please place your orders now!  
\$16.95 + \$3.00 S&H  
Send remittance to the Dojo.  
Please order early!

REMINDER:  
2nd Asian Pacific  
Martial Arts Festival  
at the JACCC  
May 4, 1996

Please place  
your orders  
early for  
Sensei's new  
book.

We are having  
several book  
signing parties  
in the Dojo  
and around  
Little Tokyo.



Sensei demonstrating Aikido against multiple attackers at the Da Camera Society Concert. Uke were James Doi, Ken Watanabe, Kenny Furuya, William Gillespie & Andy Kissel. Photos of the successful event were taken by Cheryl Lew and Larry Armstrong.

## From the Omiya Dojo:

Ichizuka Sensei & his wife with their daughter and her friend visited Saipan for five days from March 16-20th and practiced Aikido at the Saipan Dojo. Their invitation was through Doshu. Below: Ichizuka Sensei writes about his last meeting with Yamaguchi Sensei before his passing. We hope that Ichizuka Sensei will come to visit us again very soon in the near future.

## New Black Belt Candidates:

Dr. Jeff Johnson  
 Rey Espino  
 Bruce Ino  
 Raul Montolfo  
 Peo Lopansri  
 Mark Ty

From the  
 OMIYA DOJO  
 NEWSLETTER

NO. 11, Vol. I-III,  
 No. 2.

Written by Isamu  
 Ichizuka Sensei,  
 6th dan, Chief  
 Instructor of the  
 Omiya Dojo.

山口 清五日師範  
 一月二十四日早朝、ご逝去され  
 ました。謹んでご冥福をお祈り申  
 上げます。  
 その二日前の二十二日(月)、  
 山口先生の稽古時間に参加してお  
 り、不調をうったえられて退場さ  
 れましたが、それが先生にお逢い  
 出来る最後になるうとは夢にも  
 思っていませんでした。  
 先生の悠揚迫らない自然体の技  
 に魅せられ、その素晴らしさに憧  
 れながらも自分では出来ないもど  
 かしさを感じ、時間ができたら毎  
 回参加したいものと思っていた矢  
 先の出来事で本心に残りです。  
 又、先生には一度大宮道場にお出  
 で頂きたいとお願ひしていたので  
 すが、それも夢となってしまうま  
 した。  
 これまで先生の稽古に参加して  
 得たものを、少しでも大宮道場の  
 稽古の中に生かせられるよう、微  
 力ながら努力したいと思ひます。  
 心から哀悼の意を表し、ご冥福  
 をお祈り申し上げます。

### COMMUNITY

## City Signs Lease of Koban Site to Little Tokyo Group

The Greater Little Tokyo  
 Anti-Crime Association  
 will rent the substitution  
 space for \$1 a year.

RAFU SHIMPO SPECIAL

Los Angeles city officials and representatives from the Greater Little Tokyo Anti-Crime Association (GLTACA) announced the signing of the lease of the koban by the city to the Little Tokyo group during a brief ceremony Friday at City Hall.

Upon the much-anticipated completion of renovation on the building to house the Little Tokyo police substation, Mayor Richard Riordan and City Councilwoman Rita Walters signed over the city-owned space to the Anti-Crime Association who will pay \$1 a year under terms of the five-year lease. Satoru Uyeda, president of the



Left to right, Yoshinori Takamine of the Greater Little Tokyo Anti-Crime Association (GLTACA), Los Angeles City Mayor Richard Riordan, City Councilwoman Rita Walters and Anti-Crime Association president Satoru Uyeda announce the signing of the koban lease during a press conference Friday at the mayor's conference room in City Hall.

Anti-Crime Association, and GLTACA vice president Yoshinori Takamine were present at yesterday's ceremony.

Located at 307 E. First St., the koban is modeled after police kiosks in Japan. It will provide offices for police officers to interview victims

and prepare reports and will also serve as the headquarters of the Anti-Crime Association's volunteer patrol members.

Bilingual staff members at the koban will provide safety and general area information to visitors of Little Tokyo.

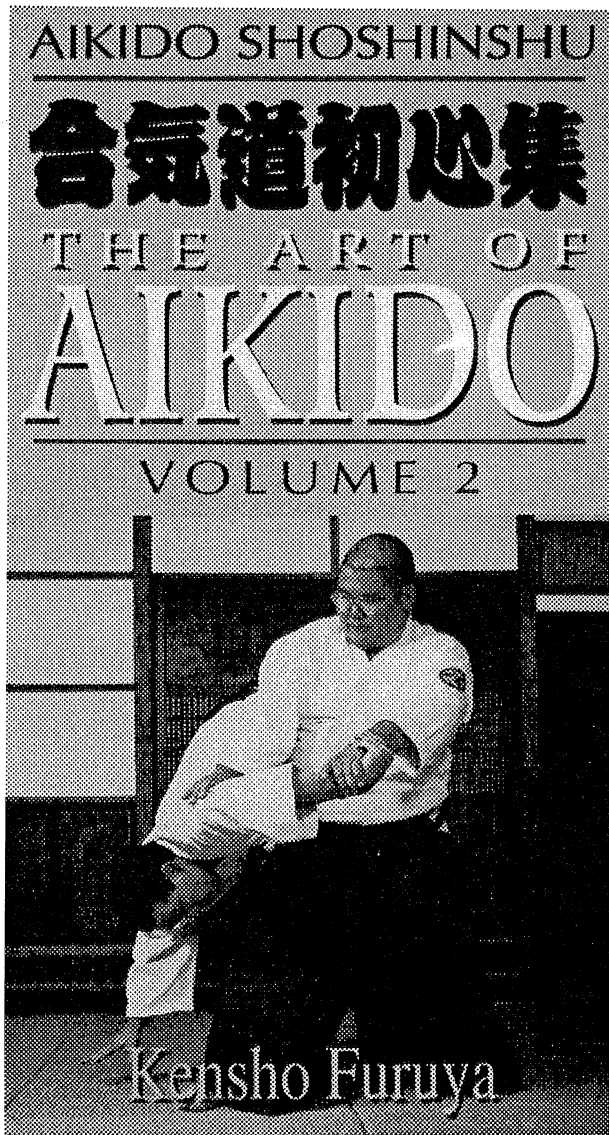
## DOJO MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We are having our Spring membership drive, please introduce your friends and family to our Dojo and encourage them to join our practice.

## NEW SCHEDULE

Please note that Morning Classes have been changed from Monday mornings to Tuesday mornings at 7:00am-8:00am.

The Iaido Introductory Class is now on Saturday mornings from 8:00am-9:00am. All beginning Iaido students are encouraged to attend this class.



## **AIKIDO SHOSHINSHU** The Art of Aikido Video Series

Comprehensive Instructional Videos  
Nine Volumes Complete

By Rev. Kensho Furuya  
Aikido 6th dan

*"Top Rated"* - Karate Illustrated  
*"Impressive Scope"* - Aikido Today  
*"Exhaustive"* - Aikido Journal

\$39.95 each + \$5.00 S&H  
Complete Set Special Price: \$300.00

Free shipping in U.S. for Complete Set Special.  
International Mail requires additional S&H  
Please allow two weeks for delivery.

For further information: please call: (213) 687-3673

## **VIDEO REVIEWS:**

"While obviously valuing technical precision, Furuya Sensei offers deeper lessons about the art on such topics as the quietness with which we should approach practice, the inspirational function of calligraphy, the importance of consistent training, and the incorporation of Aikido into one's lifestyle. There are sections on such frequently ignored topics as stretching, folding the hakama, promoting safety, overcoming fear in practice, breathing, and bowing. In my opinion the series presents a well balanced overview of Aikido. . . . This is a thoughtful and professional series of impressive scope. For those who can afford the nine volumes, the whole series would be a worthwhile investment."

**Susan Perry, Editor-in-Chief**  
**Aikido Today Magazine #44, Vol. 9, No. 6.**

"Furuya's latest project has been the production of a compre-

hensive nine-volume video series called "The Art of Aikido." The tapes cover a wide range of subjects from warm-ups, fundamental movements, basic and advanced techniques, atemi, aiki-ken and jo, defenses against kicks and knives, as well as lectures on history, etiquette and the principles of Aikido. . . . It is hard to find fault with this new video series since it has been put together in a professional way in every respect even down to the beautiful packaging with individual full-cover photos. Anyone interested in an exhaustive introduction to the subject of aikido or those studying the Aikikai style of the art will derive great benefit from these tapes."

**Stan Pranin, Editor-in-Chief**  
**Aiki Journal, April 1995 Issue.**

His lectures interspersed among the dynamic spherical motions of the art, help to clarify the spiritual and religious dimensions of this art. . . . (The videos) show glimpses of the spiritual core of martial arts for he himself combines both aspects. . . .

**Dr. Taitetsu Unno, Smith College, Eastern Religions. Trans. "The Spirit of Aikido."**

## Aikido TRAINING SCHEDULE

### BEGINNING & OPEN CLASSES

Monday thru Friday Evenings  
6:15pm-7:15pm

Monday & Thursday Evenings  
7:30pm-8:30pm

Tuesday & Thursday Mornings  
7:00am-8:00am

Saturday Mornings  
10:15am-11:15am

Sunday Mornings  
9:45am-10:45am

### ADVANCED & INSTRUCTORS' CLASSES

Wednesdays  
7:30pm-8:30pm

Saturday Mornings  
11:30am-12:30pm  
Please bring weapons.

### CHILDREN'S CLASSES

Saturday Afternoons  
12:45pm-1:45pm

Sunday Mornings  
8:30am-9:30am

## Iaido TRAINING SCHEDULE

### TRADITIONAL JAPANESE SWORDSMANSHIP

Tuesday Evenings  
7:30pm-8:30pm

Saturday Mornings  
9:00am-10:00am

Sunday Mornings  
7:30am-8:30am

### INTRODUCTORY IAIDO

Saturday Mornings  
8:00am-9:00am

## SPECIAL MONTHLY SEMINARS

### BLACK BELT & INSTRUCTORS' INTENSIVE SEMINAR

Every Last Saturday of the month  
6:30am-8:30am

Instructor's Meeting follows.

### IAIDO INTENSIVE SEMINAR

Every 3rd Saturday of the month.  
6:30am-8:30am

General meeting follows.

### BUDO & SWORD STUDY CLASS

Every 1st Monday of the month.  
7:30pm-8:30pm