

Samurai News from Honbu



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Aikido & Aikibujutsu

Visiting the Honbu

Issue 0043

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QUICK UPDATES	INSTRUCTORS SEMINAR GUESTBOOK	HOLLAND SEMINAR
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SENSEI'S CORNER

By Obata Toshishiro Kaiso

The Honbu Instructors seminar at the end of May went very well. We had 6 students from Illinois, and students from New York, Georgia, and Eric and Todd Sensei from Omaha (their first visit to the Honbu).

My article is in the July issue of Blackbelt Magazine, please pick up a copy if you can. We are also happy to announce that a German version of the Shinkendo book has been published. We have already published the Shinkendo book in Hungarian, and the Aikido book and dvd in French. My Aikido book, along with Shida Gozo's book have been unofficially published in Polish as well. At the end of April, I took pictures in Alabama for a Yagyu Shinkageryu section of the book, and the shinkendo part of the book. This book should be coming out in August. The issue of Blitz with my article should be coming out soon as well.

I was contacted by Russia, and may soon be going to Russia to teach a seminar. It has always been my wish that Shinkendo and Aikido spread in Russia, and we have receive contacts before, and the seminar in Russia may come soon depending on this contact.

I went to Omaha for a seminar for the first time last month. I left from



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Ontario airport directly to Omaha, so I was happy that the flight was very short. I will also be going to Quebec for the second time this June for a seminar.

All the seminars I have attended this year have had fantastic weather like California: Australia in March, Alabama in April, and Netherlands in May. However, during the Honbu seminar, I have lost to all the Illinois and Georgia students who came to Los Angeles, and there was a lot of rain, flood, and tornadoes in California.

We are currently working on book of Philosophy, and book of Kamae with Ittoken and Nitoken.

In my backyard, I have had a beehive in my tree for 20 years. My neighbor complained about the bees so I cut down the tree and got rid of the beehive. Earlier, Konstantine and Charles Jund made a support for my grapevine, and I have noticed that a bird has nested in the grapevine.

Editor's Corner

By Michael Shu

There was a long delay in getting this newsletter out to you guys, sorry. So I'm putting an update box below for whatever you guys may have missed.

As you've probably been hearing from us at the Honbu, we are putting a Shinkendo yearbook together to commemorate Obata Kaiso's 60th birthday. This book is planned to be a history of Shinkendo and its practitioners as well as a snapshot in time of the federation.

Please send all submissions to obata60th@gmail.com

Quick Updates

Around the time that Kaiso was in Omaha, Nebraska, the Honbu demonstrated at the Queen Mary village. The Queen Mary is a decommissioned ship in the same style as the Titanic which is open to the public for tourists etc. We were there for the Sushi and Sake Festival. The demo went smoothly, though the sun was scorching us.

Obata Kaiso just left for Hungary in his continual summer travel craziness. He mentioned before that the cumulative amount of hours on an airplane is enough to fill over a month of 24/7 time.

The Obata family's Chinchilla had yet another baby, which they were excited about, and the bird that nested in the grapevine (mentioned in Sensei's Corner above) actually had chicks which grew up to fly off.

The Honbu has been treated to home grown tomatoes and Japanese cucumbers straight from the Obata backyard. We sampled some of these at the July 3rd potluck (to have an early celebration of America's Independence day before the holiday weekend hit).

We'd love to hear news from you readers. Please send the articles in!

The Instructors Seminar GuestBook

Compiled by Michael Shu - Honbu Dojo

Intro from the Editor

A tradition at the Honbu Dojo is that visiting students who train at the Honbu sign this large blue guestbook. Originally designed to be a scrapbook, the thick pages allow for visitors to write messages with a Sharpie. For the Instructors Seminar held at the Honbu at the end of May, the guestbook had a lot of nice messages written inside of it. Featured in this article are the messages written along with a face to match to the name.

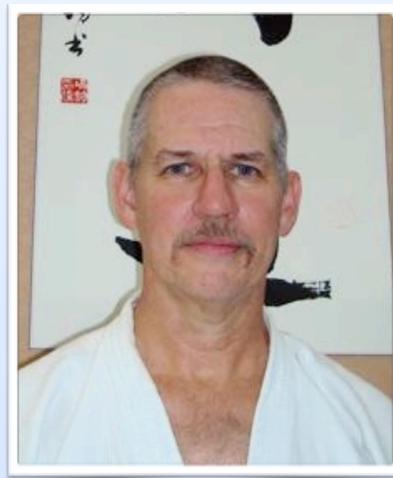


David Birdsell - Illinois

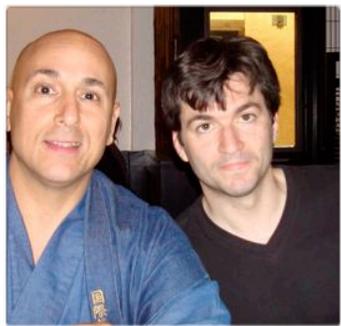
I am really happy to have the opportunity to train at the Shinkendo Honbu dojo with Obata Kaiso. It is great to participate with other Shinkendo instructors and the very founder of Shinkendo.

Stephen Butsch - Yamakaze Dojo, Illinois

It feels good to be back at Honbu for Keiko! Learning is always fun here. Thank you very much to Kaiso and his students for all their insights and patience.



David Mancuso - Modern Samurai Dojo, NY



Always a great pleasure to visit and train at the honbu dojo (in its many incarnations!). And, of course, wonderful to see Kaisei (and family). It is always an inspiring experience. Shall I find a way to spend more time on the West Coast?! Hmm...

Lou D'Agostino - Modern Samurai Dojo, NY

May is the start of summer, and also the start of the second annual instructors seminar. I continue to be blessed with the honor to be Kaisei's student and New York Shibuchō. Visiting the I.S.F honbu is always fun and a great learning opportunity. I look forward to training again soon at the Honbu.

Thank you, Obata Kaisei and Mrs. Obata.



Kristen Hedger - Ki Ken Tai Dojo, Norcross, GA

I am most happy to be able to train with everyone at Honbu. I have trained here several times and love the family spirit here. Training with different people and learning different techniques is very interesting. I have finally found an art I truly love! Thank you, Obata Kaisei and Mrs. Obata, for this opportunity.



Matthew Lynch and Michael Shu - Honbu Dojo

The “corresponding secretary” and “resident filmmaker” say hi!

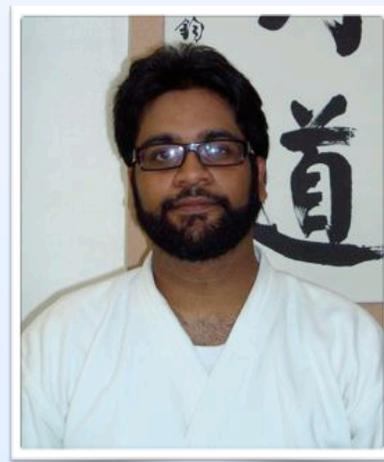


Ryan Tokerek - Iwanami Dojo, IL

A drizzly rain brought from Illinois to Los Angeles! It is exciting to be here for my first Instructors Seminar. I hope I can learn much and to bring the teaching back to Illinois. Thank you, Obata Kaiso and family, for hosting this event!

Raheem Syed - Iwanami Dojo, IL

It's great to be back at the Honbu a second time this year. Thank you, Obata Kaiso, Mrs. Obata, and Honbu students for another amazing seminar!



Eric McKilliean - Omaha Shinkendokai

I am very excited to be at Honbu. There is not substitute for training with the master. I am honored to be able to make the journey and to be able to represent Shinkendo in Omaha. The reception and friends I have received is wonderful. Thank you.

Kalila King - Atlanta

Coming to the Honbu for training is like returning home for a family reunion. Thank you, Kaiso, for all you instruction. Thank you Mrs. Obata, for the aikido lesson. I will practice. Thank you to all my partners for helping me learn. Until next training...



Todd Sha.... - Omaha

This is my first visit to the Honbu... and it has been awesome. All of the sensei are extremely helpful. I am already looking forward to my next visit.



Masaji Saito - West Covina & Orange County, CA

Thank you very much, Kaiso, Mrs. Obata and everybody who attended this seminar. I have practiced under Kaiso since the 1980s. I think I am one of the longest time students. Since then I have practiced Aikido, Toyamaryu, Ryukyu Kobuto along with Shinkendo. These arts are a part of my life and I will continue with them until my life concludes. I enjoy being at the dojo with Shinkendoka very much. Thank you all very much.



May 2008 Holland Seminar

By Fred East - Somerset Budokai, UK

From my own viewpoint the seminar was hugely important to me, meeting many old friends and making many new ones too.

Kaiso was very kind in allowing me to learn specific tachiuchi ('Shiho' in particular) and I was honoured to be able to train for some time with Martijn Sensei, Jooste Sensei, Roland Sensei and a young French student who's name escapes me and others too who gave freely of their time, being so patient at what must have appeared to be my slow learning.

The kindness shown to me during the whole time was so characteristic of the whole Shinkendo organisation and we are very lucky to have such a strong but kind leader in Obata Kaiso. The walking between dojo was interesting as we saw much of the normal Dutch life in that area of Zaandam and being a visitor, having to carry about 20 lb. of luggage was a useful warm up for the next session, especially in the unusual heat of the day. I found that carrying the weight for that time on each shoulder and trying to keep up with the youngsters made my slightly arthritic hip joints go numb and painless which

was a pleasant surprise side effect.

During Shinkendo training sensei reinforced our techniques and hammered home the importance of basic training so that it is kept up to scratch and 'in the bones', without which all the rest is useless.

I would like to say thank you Obata Kaiso, Brent Hire sensei and all the helpers and students there.

