

American Ju-Jitsu Association News Letter September, 2000



EDITORIAL

Who Cleans Your Dojo?

By PROF. GEORGE KIRBY

Who cleans your dojo? Who cleans your mats? Is it the students? Is it a custodian? Or is it something you've never thought about?

Cleaning the dojo is an important function in martial arts training. Yes, "cleanliness" is next to "holiness" in some mindsets. Most parents also wish their kids would be neater & cleaner, but that's something that will hopefully straighten itself out (pardon the pun) in adulthood. It could also be said that cleaning the dojo helps students to learn to follow directions and do menial tasks to build their character.

If you think that any of these reasons are justification for cleaning the dojo you've misplaced your obi. "Who cleans the dojo" is not just about cleanliness but it is about character as well. Many students and sensei believe that menial tasks should be left to the lower ranked students; it's part of their initiation into the martial arts. After all, upper ranks also have more important things to do such as teach, organize activities, remember more techniques, learn how to be authoritative – all the important things in life.

"Who cleans the dojo?" is about character and impression. It is the recognition that the cleanliness of the dojo (and the proper learning of your art) is the responsibility of everyone in the dojo. It is the recognition that if anything seems out of place or needs cleaning it should be cleaned by the person who discovers the problem.

"Who cleans the dojo?" is about character and impression.

Yes, there are times when an upper rank may tell a lower rank to "clean up his mess". However, it would make a more positive impression if you helped the lower ranked student resolve the problem rather than just chastising him/her. By helping others we help ourselves. This builds self-respect, respect for others and character. This, in and of itself, is part of "Who cleans the dojo?"

"Who cleans my dojo?" I have my classes in the community service room of a local retail business. It's a large room. Unfortunately not all of the other groups who use it leave it clean or neat. Every week I usually have to put tables & chairs away and sweep the floor. Yes! Me! A 9th dan! If students arrive early they help me clean up the dojo without even asking. Then we put our mats out. I always thank them for their help because I do appreciate it. We all clean up the room after the class, leaving it cleaner than when we found it.

Customers have walked into the store & thought I was the custodian. I don't do this in my gi, so I can see their misunderstanding. I do try to help them though. It's just the decent thing to do. This really surprises new students when they show up the first night of class to see the sensei doing what they perceive to be a "menial" task. However, it also breaks down barriers because it shows that in my dojo everyone is responsible for keeping the dojo clean and no one considers it a task below them.

On rare occasion we even have "The Ancient Tao Ceremony" in which everyone who walks into the dojo is given a towel (that's where "tao" is misleading) and the mat is cleaned with a light cleaner/disinfectant. Everyone does this. Yes! Even me! A 9th dan!

Professor George Kirby, 9th Dan, is the Chairman of the AJA Board of Directors.

NATIONAL

CAMP BUDOSHIN 2000 A GREAT SUCCESS!

More than 100 participants, 18 instructors & support staff, braved the 100°F+ heat of Santa Clarita, California, to participate in Camp Budoshin 2000, jointly sponsored by the Budoshin Ju-Jitsu Yudanshakai and the Budoshin Ju-Jitsu Dojo (with schools in Burbank and Santa Clarita, CA.) The camp was held concurrently with the AJA convention held the same weekend.

Camp Budoshin continued the same format of previous years with four instructional mats going at the same time, each with a different instructor teaching different topic. This year's instructors included

- Professor Ken Penland, 10th dan Aiki Ju-Jitsu, joint locks
- Professor George Kirby, 9th dan Budoshin Ju-Jitsu, nerves and pressure points
- Sifu Harvey Kurland, self-defense aspects of Tai Chi Ch'uan
- Professor Walt Lenoir, 8th dan Ketsugo, Goshin Jitsu basics
- Professor Gene Roos, 8th dan Ju-Jitsu, who came all the way from New Orleans, Louisiana to teach combat arts
- Professor Keith Straughter, 7th dan Kajukenbo, effective close-in fighting
- Sensei Darren Levine, 6th dan Krav Maga, defensive strategies
- Sensei Darrell Sarjeant, 6th dan Kamau Ryu Ju-Jitsu, traveling from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, attack strategies
- Sensei Robert Wong, 6th dan Budoshin Ju-Jitsu, Iaido
- Sensei Ted Petit, 6th dan Shindekan Sogo Budo, hanbo techniques
- Sensei Mike Belzer, 5th dan Danzan Ryu Ju-Jitsu, realistic scenario training
- Sensei Steve Uhrig, 4th dan Tae Kwon Do, arrest & control techniques
- Sifu Elizabeth Winglee and Sifu Art Mendez, 4th & 3rd dan respectively in Kempo, stick fighting techniques
- Sensei James Paulson, 3th dan Aikido, helped students work with their attacker's ki
- Sensei Carl Mayhugh, Shodan Ju-Jitsu, LeBell finishing holds
- Linda Mayhugh (along with her husband, Carl) provided Okazaki's Long Life massage to those lucky enough to get it

Camp Budoshin was held at the City of Santa Clarita's sports complex. We were able to use a 20,000 sq. ft. building which was supposed to be air-conditioned — but wasn't. Fortunately the city provided enough fans to keep the building in the mid-80's as the outside temperature exceeded 100. On the plus side we had plenty of mat space and workout areas.

A special thanks goes to

- Trader Joe's Market (bottled water)
- Don Cuco's Restaurant (2 Sunday brunches)
- Six-Flags Magic Mountain (discount passes)
- Ken's Trading Co. (distributing fliers)
- www.MartialArtsPalace.com (T-shirt printing)
- Darren Levine (videos)
- George Kirby (books)

- and other sensei who provided product donations to the Camp.

Also a special thanks to Senseis Mark Jordan, Ron Sekulich, Marc Tucker and Tony Damigo, as well as Roy Gutierrez, the Blaney family, Jennifer Jordan, Kimo Williams, Kim Kirby, and many others who helped make the day a overwhelming success.

Camp Budoshin 2001 will be held Saturday, October 6. Several sensei have already signed up to teach. Put this date on your calendar for next year as a "must do!"

The AJA convention activities also went as planned, with an AJA Board of Director's Dinner Friday evening at Sisley's Restaurant. Minutes from the meeting may be obtained from AJA Secretaries Karen Curley & Wade Susie. Kcurley@clark.net

LOCAL

Demonstration at Mercy High School

On Friday, August 25, 2000, members of the White Marsh YMCA Dojo, under the direction of Sensei Wade Susie, Godan, gave a martial arts demonstration for 150 students at Mercy High School, Baltimore. Participants ranged in age from 8 to 52 years old. The American Ju-jitsu Association students demonstrated throwing and falling techniques as well as defenses against knives and clubs.

The audience enjoyed watching several jo staff katas in which participants fought with two jo staffs each. The finale included tamashiwara with students breaking boards by chopping, using hammer fists, and even punching in the air. Sensei Susie broke 3 concrete slabs using a heel palm and inner strength. The highlight of the night was when Sensei Susie laid on a bed of nails with a concrete block on his stomach and had one of his black belts break



White Marsh Dojo Gives Demo

the block with a sledge hammer. The demo was a great success; the audience cheered loudly.

Participants included Sensei Wade Susie, Karen Curley, Will Harris, Mark Burton, Bill Needer, Mike Levin, Mary Ellen Levin, Marisa Levin, Mary Martin, Richard Martin, Jr., and Chad Kahler.

REGIONAL

Baltimore Goings-on

By DENNIS MCCURDY

The National Martial Arts Association (NMAA) with hombu in Bath, Maine, and Chicago, Illinois, held its year 2000 annual martial art camp at the University of Maryland's Baltimore County Campus (UMBC). Camp was from Friday July 21 through Tuesday the 25th. Members of the Daitobukan Dojo trained in judo, ju-jitsu, karate, and Tai Chi. Mike and I managed to learn the sai kata of Tsuki Ken Shito Haku No Sai Sho. Ken Durand, national nage-waza champion and a superlative Judo-ka, is a member of the NMAA. I worked uchi-nage, tai-otosh and newaza (juji-gatame variations) with one of Daitobukan's young yudansha, Mark Grzanna. But, I'd rather take a fall on a tatami than on a wrestling mat. Thanks to Sensei Steve Sfekas of the UMBC Ju-Jitsu Club for help getting space at the college's brand new martial arts space.

Following martial camp, we headed for the Seibukan Clinic held at the Annandale Campus of the Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). This is the third year clinic was run. Hanshi Bill Stockey, Kokusai Shoshinkan Renmei, President of Seibukan U.S.A, hosted the event. Bill, George Parulski (Hanshi, Yama-ji and North American Director of Seibukan), Roy Hobbs (Hanshi) and Mike Sadler (Hanshi), gave clinics in karate, kobudo, iai-juts, and ju-jutsu. Working the sword off a gym floor in seiza ain't great news for the knees. Daitobukan people managed to continue using the sai, working with Hanshi Mike Sadler.

Note that Reginald Heefner took over the Anne Arundel County Community College judo and ju-jitsu program. Reg operates the Classical Budo Dojo in Waynesboro, PA. Dick Lab, who started the program, is on a two-year tour of duty to Taiwan.

Hanshi Dennis McCurdy is the Northeast Regional Director of the AJA and Sensei of the Daitobukan Dojo in Towson, Maryland.

LOCAL

Demonstration at Arlington County Fair

What do you do if you are asked to do a demonstration and no one is there to watch? For the third year in a row the Arlington YMCA Jujitsu Dojo was asked to put on a demonstration at the Arlington County Fair August 20th. In the past we had been preceded by dog shows and square dancers. This year it was to be a gymnastics group.

But the gymnastic demonstration was canceled. As we moved onto the stage to lay out our mats we realized the usual crowd was not there. In fact, the few people who were sitting in the audience were using the area as overflow for the food concessions.

How to draw a crowd? "Warm up. Practice your throws!" The mats lay on a portable raised floor. With three teams practicing throws and falls the resulting noise sounded like the building was being destroyed.

Of course the fairgoers wanted to see what was making all that racket. The bleachers were soon filled with spectators.

"Now we can begin."

Beginning first with rolling and falling, the dojo moved through demonstrations of joint locks, use of momentum, ki, and striking. Finally these were all tied together into complete Ju-jitsu techniques ending with free-style kata against one and two attackers.

When the demonstration was complete the dojo quickly removed the mats to make way for the square dancers waiting to go on next. The audience was appreciative and made almost as much noise in applause as we had with our falls.

As we passed the dancers back stage, they applauded us too, "Son, you made that look like fun!". You don't know the half of it.

Participants from the Arlington YMCA Dojo: Kate Bentley, Mary Claire Salander, Kevin Brennan, Robert Connolly, Daniel Gaul, James Gaul, Eric Johnston, Stephen Tenney, and Sensei Thomas Salander.

LOCAL

Giving Something Back

Members of the White Marsh YMCA Dojo have been doing some volunteer work at the Gribbin Center, owned by Catholic Charities, where ju-jitsu classes are being held by Sensei Wade Susie. During the day, the Gribbin Center is a workplace for mentally and developmentally challenged adults. The ju-jitsu class put in a vegetable garden and two flower gardens as well as erecting a basketball pole and net, a volleyball court, and a gazebo. All materials were donated by the White Marsh YMCA Dojo. The 8 foot diameter, 12 foot high gazebo was built by Sensei Wade Susie and Karen Curley.

Reminder

AJA membership is required of all ranked students in AJA dojos. If you are not currently an AJA member, please contact your sensei.

STREET WISE

Surviving the Attack

By PROF. GENE ROOS

While standing in line at a fast food restaurant, an individual attempted to break in front of one of my martial art students. The student stated that he was there first, and was certain that he would be served shortly.

The larger man returned to the rear of the line (behind the student). After waiting a few seconds the man started pushing on the student's back (with his shoulder). The student continued to ignore the man.

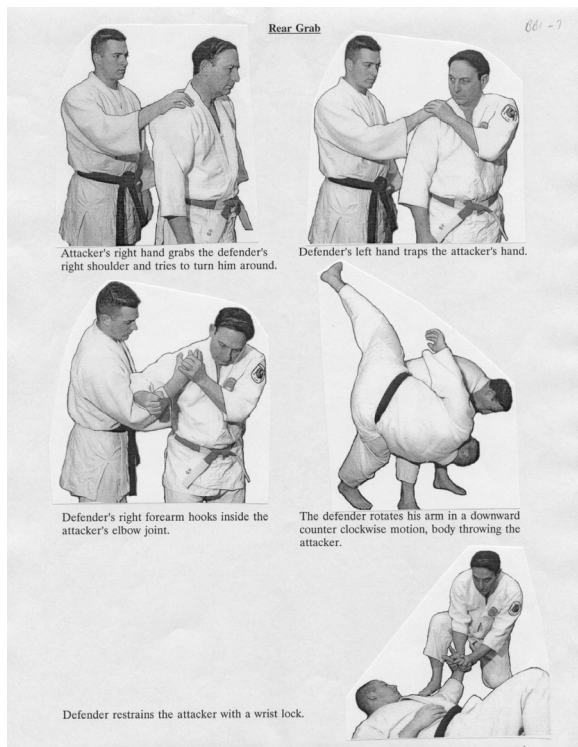


Figure 1

The subject grabbed (right hand) the student's right shoulder and started to turn him around. The student reached with his left hand, trapped the attacker's hand, placed his right forearm on the attacker's inside right arm joint (unbendable arm technique), and counter clockwise rotated his body and his arm in a downward spiral (see: Figure 1). As the attacker was falling to the ground, the defender, in order to keep him from moving, pinned the attacker with a wrist lock. Later while reviewing his actions during the incident, the student wondered if the attacker had suffered a broken wrist.

A restaurant employee telephoned the police. Upon arrival the officers started to arrest both individuals. Until an employee

reported the facts of the incident. The attacker was arrested and taken to the hospital for treatment of injuries.

The defender reported to police that he was trying to get the attacker off him and then to restrain him until they arrived.

The policeman told him (not knowing he was an assistant Jujitsu instructor) that if he would have punched or kicked the attacker while he was on the ground, he would have also been arrested.

The major criminal issue (and later civil action) is the question of when does excessive force begin in the eyes of the law. One situation is an attacker and defender with no witnesses. Another is with witnesses as in the above incident.

With the introduction of a weapon, more aggressive self defense actions may be necessary to secure the attacker and weapon. Beating an attacker after the threat has clearly ceased could probably get you arrested and later sued.

P.S. The restaurant employees gave free dinner to the defender.

Prof. Gene Roos is a Director of the AJA, 9th Dan in Jujitsu, and teaches in Metairie, Louisiana.

REGIONAL

Northeast Regional Shiai

By WADE SUSIE

On Saturday, June 24th, the Daitobukan Dojo Towson YMCA hosted the 25th Annual Northern Regional Shiai and Symposium. Organized and hosted by Shihan Dennis McCurdy, it was a great success, with competitors coming from Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania and New York. Hanshi George Parulski gave a seminar before the competition began. Plaques were awarded to winners in self-defense kata and free kumite divisions.

Sensei Wade Susie, from the White Marsh YMCA Dojo, brought a large group of competitors, including the following who won in their division:

Youth Kata: hachikyu: Kevin Needer, 3rd, Will Brandt, Jr., 1st; gedan: Chad Kahler, 3rd; chudan: John Boden, 3rd, Ian Paxton, 1st

Adult Kata: gedan: Andy Spera, Jr., 3rd, Dominick Bonvegna, 2nd, Will Lissauer, 1st; jodan: Matt Davis, 2nd, Jerry Collins, 1st; yudansha: Mark Burton, 3rd, Will Harris, 2nd, Mike Parks, 1st

Girls' Kumite: chudan: Emily Martin, 2nd, Meredith Hoffman, 1st

Boys' Kumite: gedan: Kevin Needer, 2nd, Shane Connally, 1st; chudan: Scot McCruden, 3rd, Chad Kahler, 2nd, John Boden, 1st

Women's Kumite: Karen Curley, 2nd, Alaina Wonders, 1st

Men's Kumite: gedan: Will Lissauer, 3rd, Andy Spera, Jr., 2nd, Dominick Bonvegna, 1st; chudan: Jack Mueller, 3rd, Rick Martin, Sr., 2nd; yudansha: Will Harris, 3rd

Men's Masters Kumite: Bill Needer, 3rd, Dennis Jones, 2nd, Vernon Davis, 1st

The Outstanding Youth Award went to Emily Martin.

It was definitely another successful shiai! Special thanks go to Shihan Dennis McCurdy for the work and effort he put into organizing and running it.

Renshi Wade Susie, Godan, is co-secretary of the AJA and Sensei of the White Marsh YMCA Martial Arts Dojo in Baltimore, Maryland.

COMMENTARY

Martial Arts Are Not Ennobling

By HARVEY KURLAND

Got your attention? Some of you may have a knee jerk reaction, of, "Of course martial art training makes one a better person." But does it? There are claims that martial art training makes one a better, noble, spiritual, or ethical person. If you know of any research that demonstrates that idea I would like to see it. My premise is that the arts themselves are not ennobling. How they are taught is another story.

A doctor, professor, painter, martial artist, poet, actor, accountant, etc., can be a virtuous, good and honest person or they can be an evil, unethical, or bad person. More likely they are like most of us trying to live a good life, not always succeeding. Practicing an art, studying anything really, is an amoral activity. T'ai chi is an exercise. It may make you feel better, be less stressed and think more clearly, but it does not substitute for moral or ethical training or conscience. I know several very high-level t'ai chi ch'uan, karate, and kung-fu masters who I do not want to associate with, because they have an evil side to them, i.e. "bad vibes". I prefer not to be around their "Energy". If they, the epitome of the art, are not virtuous then how can the art make one virtuous?

Football was once said to develop character, but how many pro ball players are in jail right now? Is the idea that "the sport makes you a better person", just an old saying that has no basis in fact? If it does not hold true for Western sports, then why should it be true for Asian martial arts where the idea is to learn to fight and, in the old days, kill?

I once read an article that extolled Miyamoto Musashi as a spiritual man. The author told of people praying at his shrine. Musashi was the ultimate tactician and swordsman of his culture. But the reality was that he was a sword fighter, a gunslinger of his time. He killed people for the reasons of ego or revenge. Is that noble, ethical or spiritual? Not for me.

I believe, until proven otherwise, that there is no relationship between doing an art form, being an excellent artist, scholar or athlete and character. I believe there is no relationship between being a martial artist and being a virtuous person. Training in how to fight, learning to hurt others on one hand, or to defend oneself

on the other, does not necessarily instill moral lessons. Only moral training does. Many of the martial arts at one time had (or claimed to have) some kind of supplementary ethical/moral study or emphasis, but that was secondary to the physical training. They read religious texts, philosophical works, meditated, prayed and had spiritual counseling. There was also an expectation of correct moral behavior. There was a societal expectation for their behavior. To be a good and honest person one must strive to be a good and honest person.

Action is more important than intent. If you do good deeds, for whatever reason, you are doing "good". If you do bad deeds but are thinking about or talking about being good, you are still doing evil. Your actions are important and determine who and what you are. If you lie about what you teach to fool students, try to mystify students, or just act in an unethical way, are you being an ennobling person? I have heard of masters who sexually harassed, abused or intimidate their students and others. I have seen black belt competitors threaten Judges at tournaments because they did not like their call, and none of the official did anything about it. Does that show the self-discipline we are told the arts produce? Teachers have told me gleefully about their black belts who go out looking for fights to beat people up. They like to try out their well-rehearsed techniques on the unsuspecting public. Is that ethical? There are teachers who use their students as punching bags (and the students pay for the honor?). If they want to get into a real fight they should fight someone close to their skill, make it a fair fight.

Action is more important than intent. Your actions determine who and what you are.

Less of a problem, but a real common one is that some teachers

misrepresent what they

teach. For example a teacher I knew of many years ago claimed to be a master, but it turned out he was an advanced student and was only a few lessons ahead of his students. His students were learning real kung-fu technique, but they were training with essentially a green belt claiming to be a master, but who was really a master manipulator. Other teachers claim their style is a "Secret Ancient Method", when it isn't. (A "secret method" is just a marketing gimmick.)

Another common ploy in Kung fu is that some teachers have their students hang on for years with the carrot on a stick concept of "I will teach you secrets if you stay long enough." For example one teacher told his students they had to stay with him for 10 years before he would teach them pushing hands or sword. Maybe he had a valid reason, maybe the students were really incredibly slow learners, but it sounds like the carrot on a stick idea to me. As most students can learn pushing hands after learning the basic form. There is no reason why a teacher cannot be honest about what his/her art is, and leave it at that. Are they scamming their students, or just boosting their own egos?

The shame is many people know of this type of thing going on and don't speak up about it. It is accepted, even tolerated by many real

masters. Often those who speak out are considered the bad guys, which is a shame. If we want to raise the standard, first we need standards. Maybe there needs to be an ethical board to deal with martial art teachers. Possibly the major organizations can formalize ethical standards for their members to follow. If martial art instructors are to claim the arts make students into better people, the teachers need to live up to that expectation and lead by example. If they are not interested in ethical behavior then maybe it is time to stop making those claims?

Harvey Kurland is an Exercise Physiologist and teacher of 'ai chi ch'uan, ch'i kung and pa-kua chang at the University of California Riverside and is certified (Sifu) by the Chinese Tai Chi Chuan Association. More information at www.pe.net/~rvtaichi/

NATIONAL

New AJA Website

By TONY DAMIGO

I am happy to announce that we have moved the AJA website to its new home. Yes, the AJA now has its own domain name "AmericanJujitsuAssociation.Org". Granted this is a long name but it's also one that is easily remembered.

There is much to do before the site is completed. However, I believe we're off to a good start. The site contains general information on the AJA, its membership, schools, the Board of Directors, and more. Soon we will have an on-line section for membership applications and other types of forms. All available at the click of a mouse.

Go To The Website 

<http://www.americanjujitsuassociation.org/>

The AJA is dedicated to the advancement and propagation of Jujitsu. Moreover, it is dedicated to providing a backbone for "verifiable" instructors of the art, and their training programs. The AJA website will help to promote our organization and the benefits that it has to offer the independent or dissatisfied instructor. By helping such individuals, we help our organization to grow in strength and numbers.

COMMENTARY

Japan in America—Traditional Dojo Etiquette

By BILL HUGHES

It is the year 2000, and with centuries of history behind our training, we now stand on the threshold of a new century, and wonder what

it was like to train back in "the old days". With many years now past we must come to the realization that not all traditions have been rescued from the repetitive – yet changing – motions of time. These motions are like water over a rock: slowly but surely wearing away at the rock. Through this drawn out process, sediment from the rock is stripped. That same concept can be applied to martial arts today. There are many dojos to choose from today, it is difficult to realize which ones have been "watered down" in their foundations, and which ones haven't. The original etiquette is often lost, and when you remove the etiquette from your learning you lose a very important, authentic piece of Japanese history and lifestyle. You may also lose much of what makes martial arts training "character building".

Sometimes the concept of "etiquette" is difficult for Westerners to comprehend. Since we were not trained since birth for "structure and order", what truly is etiquette may come as either a shock or an impossibility it seems, for some. Some students may find it difficult to adapt to the Dojo's rules, but there is one thing that you can never go wrong with: watching the higher ranks.

Martial Arts is, to the Japanese, the foundation of their culture; it is what governed them for so many centuries during the feudal era into modern day Japan. Etiquette in a Dojo starts from the moment you walk in to the school. Here is what we do in our dojo: you take your shoes off and put them neatly in the shoe rack provided (there are no dirty feet ever allowed in the dojo). The dojo is considered a training hall but in the traditional way—Japanese martial artists treat them as a shrine. Upon entering the dojo floor where the tatame (rice mats) are, you bow with your head straight but looking at a 45 degree angle to the floor. If the tatame are not pushed against the dojo wall, you bow again to enter on the mats in the same fashion you did just a moment ago.

All the students line up from highest rank to lowest rank (highest rank at the front left corner) and then bow into the dojo and to the shrine at the front of the dojo as a group. The teacher calls out for each rank and each rank kneels down into seiza (kneeling) each time the instructor verbally signals to them. There is a brief pause for the students to clear their mind of all outside influences and thoughts; you are here to train, not to think about who is taking your dog to the vet after class. The teacher shouts out a command to break the meditation and then all recite the Dojo Kun (creed). The head instructor stands and shouts commands to get the class to stand. Another command is called out for the students to bow to each other, the front row turns and bows to the back row. If there is a middle row they stay where they are. Then all students turn back to the front of the class and the assistant teacher calls out a command to the head instructor stating they are not worthy of instruction, but if he is so inclined they will gratefully pay attention (this will differ from dojo to dojo). All the students bow to the head instructor and they start class.

Everyone will pair up with a partner to work with. You don't pick a partner to work with unless you are of rank to make a choice of who you want to work with. Highest rank gets to pick whom they work with first, and it is just done very subtly, unlike how American

children pick each other for a game of dodge ball. Selecting your practice partner goes quickly and then class begins. After the partners are paired the highest rank again has seniority. The higher ranks face the shrine while the lower ranks face the back wall of the Dojo. Again this helps keep uniformity in everything.

By following these small rituals time and time again, the students live and breathe structure and order. Without order, the Japanese have no context as to who initiates what and when; it is all spelled out for them.

These are the basic fundamentals of proper Japanese Dojo Etiquette. They are in no way, shape or form a complete set, as that would be a small book. It is my hope that you will learn something from reading this article.

Good Luck and I wish you all the best in your training.

NATIONAL

Board of Directors' Meeting August 4, 2000

In conjunction with AJA convention and Camp Budoshin, the AJA Board of Directors (BOD) met. Here are the highlights:

The positions of Secretary and Treasurer were added to the BOD, bring the BOD size to nine. The position of Treasurer is currently held by Marc Tucker. Karen Curley and Wade Susie were approved as the new Secretaries.

George Kirby submitted his resignation as chairman of BOD effective 12/31/00. As explanation Kirby said he was getting burned out dealing with redundant problems. Kirby also said he felt that a change of leadership would be better for the AJA in the long run as the AJA should not be seen as "George Kirby's organization."

As a response to Kirby's resignation, the BOD restructured administrative and organization responsibility such that the BOD chairman will be responsible for chairing and managing the BOD and shall not involve himself in resolving any other problems, clerical matters or conflicts. These issues will be referred to other members of the BOD.

At the request of the BOD, Kirby withdrew his resignation. Robert Wong was directed to compile job descriptions for all AJA positions based on BOD and staff input. Wong will report back to the BOD with this information by the end of the year.

The 2002 AJA convention will be held on the east coast and hosted by either Dennis McCurdy (Maryland) or Tony Maynard (North Carolina). A final decision has not yet been made.

On the recommendation of Dennis McCurdy, outgoing Newsletter Editor, the BOD appointed Thomas Salander as the new editor.

NATIONAL

Training Opportunities

September 16, 2000


Sid Kelly, Gold Medalist 1999 World Masters Judo Championship, will present a Judo seminar from 1pm to 5pm at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) in Arnold, MD, Register at the door \$45.00 per person. For more information contact Dennis McCurdy:


 JMCCURDY@CVM.FDA.GOV

October 14, 2000

Professor George Kirby, the founder of Budoshin Jujitsu and Chairman of the American Jujitsu Association (AJA) will be presenting a seminar at the Arlington YMCA Jujitsu Dojo, Arlington, Virginia, 9am to 4pm. For more information contact Thomas Salander:


 salander@aol.com


 members.aol.com/koshinage

 702-525-5420

OCTOBER 21, 2000


The Chimar Academy will be hosting **Grandmaster Ernesto Presas, Sr.** in a Modern Arnis clinic at the Chimar location from 10:00 AM to about 3:00 PM. Grandmaster Ernesto Presas is the brother of Remy Presas and recently arrived from the Philippines. He is the head of the International Philippine Martial Arts federation and one of the leading proponents and inheritors of the Art. Arnis closely resembles many of the arts of jujutsu and is a strong complement to jujutsu practitioners. The location is as follows:


 Chimar Academy
9305-A Gerwig Lane
Columbia, MD 21046

 voice: 410-381-3553
FAX: 410-381-3560

November 4, 2000


Professor Harold Brosious will be presenting a seminar in Thousand Oaks, California. For more information contact Prof. Walt Lenoir:

 lenoirshihan@earthlink.net

 805-495-0362.

November 18, 2000

AJA Tournament The AJA's Fall 2000 Freestyle Kata Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, November 18, in Claremont, CA. For more information contact Tournament Coordinator Linda DellaPelle:

 909 624-0924

PROMOTIONS: MUDANSHIA**Shichikyu**

Jean French	4/20/00	Budoshin
Matthew Mulbrandon	3/30/00	Budoshin
Stephen M. Tenney	6/25/00	Budoshin

Rokyu

Felicia Ansty	12/30/99	Budoshin
Nash Ballentine	8/31/2000	Budoshin
Matt Cerrato	8/31/2000	Budoshin
Jason Clark	8/31/2000	Budoshin
Taylor Esacove	8/31/2000	Budoshin
Wes Farmer	8/31/2000	Budoshin
Helen French	7/27/00	Budoshin
Albert Janin	3/16/00	
Adrian Lab	3/16/00	

Gokyu

Elizabeth Drabant	6/25/00	Budoshin
Daniel Egbert	3/30/00	Budoshin
Daniel Gaul	3/30/00	Budoshin
Marc Kolodziejczyk	8/31/2000	Budoshin
Matthew Kolodziejczyk	8/31/2000	Budoshin
Eric Johnston	6/25/00	Budoshin

Yonkyu

Daniel Orkwis	12/16/99	Budoshin
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Sankyu

Stefan Allen	12/16/99	
Kevin Brennan	1/13/00	Budoshin
Meghan Fanin	5/10/00	
Aaron Kromer	3/16/00	Budoshin
Colin Veach	5/10/00	

Nikyu

Michael Berk	5/29/99	
Michael Jordan	12/16/99	
Cornell Williams	6/24/00	
Jeff Wynn	4/1/00	

Ichikyu

Michael Berk	5/10/00	
Jancel Conroy	4/1/00	
Michael Jordan	6/10/00	
Don Wynn	4/1/00	

PROMOTIONS: YUDANSHIA**Shodan**

David Bossel	12/7/99	
Robert Jenkins	3/11/00	Danzan Ryu
Dennis Jones	12/13/99	Budoshin
Patrick Jones	12/13/99	Budoshin
Bob Pruitt	2/25/00	
Christian Zivelonghi	5/11/00	

Nidan

Vernon Davis	12/13/99	Budoshin
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Sandan

Mark T. Beall	3/11/00	Danzan Ryu
Mark Burton	4/7/00	Budoshin
Thomas Salander	5/1/00	Budoshin

Yodan

Jerry Mueller	5/8/00	Budoshin
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Rokudan

Robert Anderson	1/1/00	
Reginald Lee Heefner	10/10/99	

Hachidan

Timothy J. Lynch	1/1/00	Danzan Ryu
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FROM THE EDITOR

Content?

The AJA Newsletter is for and *about* you. Without you, there is no AJA. Without your news, there is no newsletter. Here is what we want from you. First, tell us what you would like to see in the news letter.

Second, and more important, tell us what is going on in your dojo. Want some ideas? Try these:

Have you done a demonstration, hosted a seminar, participated in a tournament? ``

Who has been promoted? Tell us who, date, rank, and style.

Profile your dojo. Tell us who's there, what you do, what the atmosphere is like. How do you train? How do you play?


Profile your sensei or an instructor. Who are they? What is their background? How do they teach? How do they play?


Profile a student. What have they done? What have they learned? What do you learn from them?

Tell us what you think? What "Ah-ha!"s have you had? How does this practice affect your life? Why do you do it? Why do you *still* do it?

We prefer plain text (.TXT) in electronic format, either through e-mail or on floppy disk. You can also send articles for consideration through USMail or via fax.

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