



SHINKI NEWS

NO. 3

神氣



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# Soke's Remarks

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**Text:** Michael Daishiro Nakajima



would like to start with a quote from the philosopher, Ferdinand Ebner:

*„There is something wonderful about encountering people in life. Such an encounter, in which someone passes or walks into your life, is never just a coincidence. One might have thoughts that one would never have thought of; and one can do things, not any worse than not having done something, or not having met someone that you wouldn't have met and experiencing that person's friendship and love.“* (Aphorismen 1931; Ebner I, 1013)

Ebner wrote this just shortly before his death. Even though he had difficulties with social contact throughout his lifetime, an intimate human encounter had obviously changed his thoughts that he had previously held.

I am purposely quoting this passage in the context of the recent debate about refugees. Many times people speak about, instead of with, the refugees. Also, we are the ones who exercise Aiki Budo. As everybody knows, the ideal of Aikido is Love and Harmony: something unifying. And also the ideal of Budo is to protect the weak.

Now our position in such a debate, at least in outline, should be very clear. I know from Berlin (Peter Saager) and Oldenswort (Duncan Underwood) that they are training with refugees. Also, we are starting with this in Oberkessach. I am convinced that many of you, like Susanne, are teaching German to refugees or trying to help in other ways.

So at first, it's not about the details of how the wave of refugees should be dealt with. But it is about the basic attitude of acceptance. It should be self-evident that we stand by those people who are in grave danger. I would like to point out that the post war-ravaged Germany had to deal with over 12 million refugees from the east. So how many refugees has the thousand-times more prosperous Germany taken in?

If somebody here says: „those were Germans back then,” then the strictly spoken, racist thinking begins. Also, as eye witnesses are stating, the people back then didn't acceptingly take in the German refugees. The people who arrived after 1989 weren't welcomed either. But in each case, Germany could take on the problem and manage to grow economically. Why should it be any different this time?

But there is one valid objection: the refugees speak different languages. This is an important point that we should focus on. For the children it shouldn't be a problem. They will learn the language very quickly if they are allowed to go to school. But we should focus on the young adults, who want to work as soon as possible. The economy needs specialized employees. But of course they have to speak our language. Many people are pointing out that the language courses are not optimal. Often times, the teachers are amateurs who aren't qualified to teach. But this will hopefully improve in time. Back in the 90's many people talked about the “Russian problem.” I realized this on my own. But who is talking about it now? It hasn't been eliminated, but their crime rate is the same as those from other nationalities, and also Germans.

The quicker we get in contact with refugees and start helping them, the quicker the problems will be solved. But a declining attitude like the ones from Alternatives for Deutschland (AfD) and Pegida [demonstrators in Dresden and the former East Germany] are poison. These people are also responsible when the integration can't be accomplished in time. This attitude shows egocentrism and fear.

## I hope that such an attitude will have no place in our growing organization of "Shinkiryu."

This would be absolutely contrary to our intention, especially those abominable utterances of some AfD spokespersons, who are expressing loudly about using guns against refugees who are trying to enter Germany.

I do also have an opinion about actions that should be undertaken to deal with and organize the refugee crisis and the so called economic migrants. But it would be out of place to write about it here. I will reserve this topic for private debates, for those who are interested. But I have to make one thing clear: I spoke with the German circumstances in mind. This doesn't mean that all the other countries have

less responsibility. On the contrary, not only are those East European countries closing their borders, but those countries are co-responsible for destabilizing the Middle East and should help. Also it was Germany who took a stance against the second war in Iraq. This Germany supports the refugees the most.

At the Dan-Seminar I quoted the Book Nehemia:

| „The joy upon the Lord is your strength“ (Neh 8, 10) .

It's true, when we find our center and unify with it, that we find happiness in life. Those who do, don't stay for themselves, but they become the strength to help with the misery of others.

In closing, I would like to quote Ferdinand Ebner again:

| „Woe to the man, who only enjoys his bright gloss, in which he experiences the world, but who doesn't think about lighting up his path in the dark.“ (Ethik und Leben, 114)

This applies as we get closer to the celebration of Easter, the mystery Pascale (the secret of the passing), in which Jesus was led through suffering and death into new life. Susanne and I wish you all the Easter blessings and peace!



# New Year's Seminar in Oberkessach

**Nakajima Sensei / 30. December 2015 till 1. January 2016**

**Text: Michael Daishiro Nakajima / Pictures: Petra Leitner**



Location: Oberkessach

**T**he turn of the year seminar takes place in Oberkessach every two years. There were 40 participants this past New Year's Seminar, and they trained joyfully and diligently. Like last time, Petra visited us. She comes from Bieringen, but is now living in Nordrhein-Westfalen. She took photos of the training, which I have been given permission to publish. I used my cell phone to take the picture of the music event.















# Commission Meeting

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**Text:** Peter Saager

**D**uring the Dan Seminar, there was, as always, a Commission meeting on February 6, 2016. Below are the transcripts written by Peter Saager and confirmed by Duncan and me.

## **Minutes of the meeting of the Examiner and Trainer Commissions**

in Waldbach on February 6, 2016 from 2:00 – 3:45 pm.

**Preliminary note:** The meetings for the Examiner and Trainer Commissions were merged.

**Participants:** Sensei, Duncan Underwood, Matthias Haass, Claudia Buder, Bernd Hubl, Georg Umlauf, Helmut Theobald, Robert Schütz, Birgit Bolk, Michael Danner, Henry K. Kowallik, Marius Trzaski, Danijel Rolli, Peter Saager (Gunnar Clausen was, unfortunately, unable to attend)

**Distribution:** various participants

### **Agenda Item 1 / Election of the Chairman (Examiner and Trainer Commissions combined), the deputy chairman, the secretary, and the treasurer.**

- Chairman / representatives of both committees voted: Duncan is confirmed. He accepted the election.
- Deputy Chairman / for the Examiner Commission (only Examiner Commission members voted): Henry is elected. He accepted the election.
- Deputy Chairman / for the Trainer Commission (only Trainer Commission members voted): Georg is selected. He accepted the election.
- Secretary / for the Examiner Commission (and during a joint meeting for the Trainer Commission): Peter is confirmed. He accepted the election.
- Treasurer for both committees: Georg is selected. He accepts the election.

**Agenda Item 2 / Trainer Commission: Report from the clubs, suggestions, and problems (organizational, difficulty in training etc.).**

Michael pointed to the upcoming youth seminar and asked for support so that as many young people can participate in the program. The invitation will be published soon.

Furthermore, Michael announced that there will be a special Kata course in Pforzheim on March 19, 2016.

**Agenda Item 3 / Discussion of the selection mode and the result of the last election (number of votes, distribution of the same, etc.)**

First, possible modifications of the framework of future elections was discussed to address the controversy:

- It could be that only one person would be the nominated candidate from each dojo. The dojos would then agree in advance and announce their nominated candidate.
- Each 5th Dan could be automatically considered as an Examiner Commission member.
- All 5th Dans are not equal to each other and, thus, 5th Dans should not be automatically considered as a member of the Examiner Commission
- Sensei would choose the candidates for both commissions. After voting, both commissions achieved a majority.

Sensei said that Budo systems do not function according to democratic rules.

According to Honbu Dojo, both the Examiner Commission and the Training Commission are required, but there are not specifics on the selection of members.

Sensei still wants to maintain some democratic participation in Shinki Rengo; as an example, as with what occurred in the recent election process. He also wants everyone to have an opportunity to participate, especially those who are not sufficiently visible to others or noticed for their work. As a compromise, Sensei sees the current process as possible, with five candidates being voted on by the Shinki Rengo members and two candidates being selected by Sensei.

For the future procedure, a query to the clubs/dojos should be addressed, in which a prior selection of a candidate from each club/dojo is made.

*(Suggested by: Sensei/Duncan)*

In order to improve the exchange, a second session of both committees should occur.



**Agenda Item 4 / Distribution of tasks – Sensei**

The background of this agenda item was to consider whether the transfer of tasks can be made to relieve Sensei of some of those responsibilities. Peter suggested that Sensei develop a list of tasks/activities required for the maintenance of the processes and the organization of Shinki Rengo in three areas. Then those core competencies that must remain with Sensei, as an example, maintaining contact with Honbu Dojo. Furthermore, the cash management must remain with Susanne. The third area, that is, the tasks that can be distributed to others were discussed and assigned:

1. Comments on the Dan exam essays: This task will take Henry the next 5 years. Henry will provide a list of the content of the essays and attachments to Duncan. Henry proposed an eventual vote on the procedure, based on the comments on the article with the other interested parties on the operation (Danijel, Bernd, Peter).
2. Reporting of passing Dan exams at Honbu dojo: Sensei will pass an initial list through Duncan and support him in contacting Honbu Dojo.
3. Preparing Commission meetings: Duncan, as before.
4. Creation of the minutes: Peter, as usual.
5. Run the Commission Treasury: George, as before.

**Agenda Item 5 / Determining the Dan Examination Seminars in 2016**

The locations are Dresden, Edingen, and Waldbach. Another site will be supplemented, as required by Sensei.

**Others**

Danijel suggested that in the future, no specific techniques are directed during the teaching units of the instructors at Waldbach, but that the techniques should be selected according to the instructor's inclination so that their own development and the visibility of the broader aspects of techniques can be put forth. However, it is a total structure of the techniques shown for the 1st through 3rd or 4th Dans that must be maintained. For the next Dan Seminar in Waldbach, Henry will coordinate the incoming ideas and forward them to Duncan for decision *(submitted by Henry)*

The Dan Seminar in Waldbach in 2017 will take place on the 1st weekend in February, 2017.

Berlin, February 20, 2016  
Peter Saager

## Soke's Announcements

### **New commission officials:**

To the new officials of both commissions I wish that you do good and inspiring work.

### **Bokuto-Ordering:**

As mentioned previously, the next order of Bokuto will be on 1 April. If you want to order one, please let me know by 31 March.

### **Higher Aikikai-Dan-Graduations:**

The Aikikai-Graduations from the 5. Dan and up (only through recommendation) only takes place once a year at Kagamibiraki (New Year's Celebration around the 10th of January). I will contact the candidates at the end of September, so they can prepare the necessary required paperwork, which I will send to Tokyo at the end of October. The decision about the candidates takes place in December at Honbu-Dojo. Of course, the general requirements for the next rank have to be fulfilled, and those who wish to be promoted, should train with me as often as possible.



# Promotions

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**22. November 2015 – 26. February 2016**

## Aikido

10. Kyu	Graf von Waldburg Zeil, Balthasar	Weiler	3. Kyu	Niederbacher, Petra	Heidelberg
10. Kyu	Imgrund, Laurence	Weiler	3. Kyu	Scheffel, Oleg	Heidelberg
10. Kyu	Buwitt, Darius	Oberkessach	3. Kyu	Weiß, Uwe	Heidelberg
10. Kyu	Margit, Mark	Pforzheim			
10. Kyu	Margit, Gergö	Pforzheim	1. Kyu	Hoffmann, Johannes	Oldenswort
10. Kyu	Schulz, Alissa	Pforzheim	1. Kyu	Praus, Sascha	Pforzheim
10. Kyu	Schulz, Lorena	Pforzheim			
			Omitted in the last Shinki-News by accident:		
9. Kyu	Speißer, Fidelis	Weiler	1. Dan	Katzer, Liane	Düsseldorf
9. Kyu	Schick, Nikolas	Weiler	1. Dan	Dettmer, Ulf	Düsseldorf
9. Kyu	Singler, Svenja	Oberkessach			
			Omitted in the last Shinki-News by accident:		
6. Kyu	Schäfer, Helena	Wiesbaden-Sonnenberg	2. Dan	Rotter, Tajalli Birgit	Heidelberg
			2. Dan	Hardy, Edme Horst	Karlsruhe
			2. Dan	Linsenmeyer, Bertram	Weiler
			Newly graduated:		
5. Kyu	Kastl, Andreas	Dresden	2. Dan	Jokisch, Stephan	Großbräschen
5. Kyu	Kulagin, Roman	Karlsruhe	2. Dan	Aden, Kristina	München
5. Kyu	Werner, Max	Leopoldshafen	2. Dan	Smentek, Martin	München
5. Kyu	Quinsz, Alexander	Bartholomä			
5. Kyu	Ahrens, Christina	Oldenswort			
5. Kyu	Jochimsen, Frank	Oldenswort			
5. Kyu	Rohatsch, Nadja	Heidenheim			
5. Kyu	Simon, Anke	Heidenheim	3. Dan	Kowallik, Gudrun	Dresden
			3. Dan	Lukas, Underwood	Oldenswort
4. Kyu	Müllich, Udo	Leopoldshafen	7. Dan	Nakajima, Michael Daishiro	Oberkessach
4. Kyu	Schneider-Badaye, Klaudia	Leopoldshafen			
4. Kyu	Jakob, Jeremias	Heidelberg			
4. Kyu	Kaden, Mario	Dresden			
4. Kyu	Bauer, Steffen	Finsterwalde			
4. Kyu	Krüger, Lisa	Cottbus			
4. Kyu	Themann, Inga	Cottbus			
4. Kyu	Perscheid, Kathrin	Weimar			
4. Kyu	Heitzler, Jörg	Edingen			
4. Kyu	Maaß, Lea	Edingen			

## Daitoryu Aiki Jujutsu

5. Kyu	Czarnetzki, Frank	Wuppertal
5. Kyu	Kaiser-Kriegbaum, Astrid	München
5. Kyu	Pohl, Selina	Rödental
5. Kyu	Hinkelmann, Janina	Rödental
5. Kyu	Linß, Marko	Rödental
5. Kyu	Triebel, Sebastian	Rödental
5. Kyu	Wild, Horst	Ulm-Schmid
5. Kyu	Jehle, Charlene	Karlsruhe
4. Kyu	Kowallik, Peter	Dresden
2. Kyu	Engel, Martin	Pforzheim
2. Kyu	Dettmer, Ulf	Düsseldorf
2. Kyu	Dachs, Jens	Edingen
1. Dan	Kasseckert, Jo	Oberkessach
2. Dan	Kowallik, Gudrun	Dresden
2. Dan	Hubl, Petra	Wiesbaden
2. Dan	Kowallik, Henry	Dresden

## Shinkiryu Aiki Budo

Hosshi	Palm, Dominik	Oberkessach
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# Seminars 2016

## Seminars with M. D. Nakajima

05.–06.03.2016	Bartholomä
15.–17.04.2016	Landau, Daitoryu (Tim Tung / M. D. Nakajima)
07. – 08.05.2016	Edingen
18. – 19.06.2016	Weimar
25. – 26.06.2016	Düsseldorf
02. – 03.07.2016	München
23. – 28.08.2016	Weiler, Sommer-Lehrgang
24.09.2016	Heidelberg
08. – 09.10.2016	Euskirchen
22. – 23.10.2016	Berlin Tomosei
12. – 13.11.2016	Dresden (may be changed to 26.–27.11.16)
19. – 20.11.2016	Leopoldshafen

## Other Seminars

27.02.2016	Edingen, Danijel Rolli, Daitoryu
12. – 13.03.2016	Oberkessach, Helmut Theobald, Itto-den Shinki Toho
19.03.2016	Pforzheim, Michael Danner, Kata-Lehrgang
11. – 12.06.2016	Oberkessach, Michael Danner, 8. Jugend-Lehrgang
25. – 30.07.2016	Duncan Underwood, Oldenswort, Sommer-Lehrgang
02. – 03.10.2016	Pforzheim, Peter Saager
<b>22.-23. 10. 2016</b>	<b>Brüssel, Doshu</b>



# Arigato gozaimasu

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## Preview of Shinki News No. 4

The next edition of Shinki News will be published in July 2016.

If you would like to contribute to Shinki-News, please submit your contribution(s) to: [shinki.news@gmail.com](mailto:shinki.news@gmail.com) and we will contact you to discuss the formalities.

Happy Easter holidays and a lot of fun and energy during training!  
Shinki News Team

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