



SHINKI NEWS

NO. 33

Contents

Shinki News No. 33 / September 2023



SHINKI NEWS

Page 3 / **Soke's Word** (M. D. Nakajima)

Page 6 / **Articles**

Page 11 / **Promotions** (June 1, – September 8, 2023)

Page 14 / **Seminars**

Page 16 / **Imprint**



Soke's Word

Text: Michael Daishiro Nakajima

Dear Shinkiryu members, dear friends,

It was a very long way until I gradually began to understand that the true, the good, and the beautiful can be found in being and acting naturally. I had to try back and forth on how to move and be. This involved both physical movement and character.

In middle school, I played baseball in the school club. I wasn't sure how to hold a bat. On TV, I saw a well-known professional player holding his bat pointed straight up to the sky while raising his right elbow parallel to the ground. I imitated that. But the result was worse than before. Because my swinging of the bat was late from this posture. For I had overlooked the fact that although the professional took this Kamae, which looked threatening to the pitcher (the ball thrower), he released it just before he was to hit the ball.

In high school, I felt I was too soft in character. One day I read how the Prussians under Bismarck were disciplined and strong. So, I wanted to be like that too. The very next day, someone at school said that I seemed gloomy and strict. I immediately saw that this was not the right way.

Yes, being natural was the keyword. And in this naturalness, I gradually discovered the true, the good, and the beautiful. This, of course, is not only in relation to myself, but also in other people.

When I was a nineteen- or twenty-year-old student, I belonged to the athletics club of my university. There was a slightly older student who I was told had a funny running style with a hollow back at the beginning. But when I joined the club, he was the second fastest distance runner there. One day I was watching his run near the Prince's Palace, where there was a circular track of about 1.6 km that we used as a training ground. There, I still saw a slight trace of hollow back in his running style, but he was not only fast, but was beautiful to watch. In the last three years he ran and ran diligently, and he ran more and more loosely without unnecessary muscle tension. As a result, his running had become faster and more beautiful.

We can say something similar with regard to Aiki-Budo. With a lot of practice, we learn to reduce the superfluous use of muscle power. This makes the technique more effective, logical, and beautiful. *What was started as a muscular martial art is transformed into the aesthetic martial art, where instead of muscular force, living Ki is at work. Naturalness is the Mu of Zen. And this Mu and Ki form the two sides of one coin, as I never tire of emphasizing.*

Remarks

Kyu Graduation Fee

As already announced in March, the graduation fee for the Kyu grades in Aikido and Daitoryu has been increased to 25.- € beginning in July. I ask the instructors to pay attention to this.

Social Fund

We now have good news that Namika's nephew has actually landed in Egypt. There, he has to start small and new to build his life. At least he doesn't have to fear torture and arrest anymore. We wish him all the best!

Unfortunately, there is no good news from Yukié (Namika's sister). She will have to look for a new apartment again. The landlord wants her and her family out of the basement apartment, which she has painstakingly furnished in a more or less homelike manner, on the strange grounds that the apartment is actually a common room for all tenants of the building. We don't know whether he was pressured into this by other residents of the house or wants to get more money from the family with this new idea. We are following the progress of the negotiations.

One very good news here is that Namika will be able to get an education at the facility where she now works. This will allow her to enter the working world, later, on a more solid basis.

Articles

Notes



André Otome-Feik is dead

by Michael Daishiro Nakajima

About three hours ago I got the news from his mother that he died today (August 30) at noon in the University Hospital of Cologne. She and her sister were with him.

He had suffered for years from a mysterious heart failure that neither the Japanese nor the German doctors could explain. Nevertheless, the rapid deterioration of his condition in recent months was unexpected.

André served the interests of the Shinkiryu for several years as an Uchideshi in the Shinkido, which I remember with gratitude, before he changed to Takeda Sensei. Even after that, he remained a member of the Shinkiryu and visited me again and again, and we were able to exchange ideas about aikido and then also about his illness.

André's death is very painful for many people, especially since he was only 48 years old. But he is now free from great suffering, which culminated in the end in his body being kept alive only by many intensive medical measures and devices.

He had great dreams for the future concerning Aikido and Ittoryu-Kenjitsu, which he was not granted to fulfill. But concerning the Ittoryu, he had earned his position as the main representative for Europe, and was also recognized and sought after by many Aikido friends. His declining strength prevented him from pursuing his intentions and put a big stop to his life dreams.

He left behind his wife Yuko, from whom he lived separately again in Germany in the last years, and a son and daughter of youthful age in Japan, where he had lived for several years. His children were granted permission to see him at his bedside a week ago, for which he, as it seemed, had once again mustered the last vital forces. Now he was allowed to go home.

Our thoughts are with his mother and his children and with all those who mourn him. We thank all those who visited him in this last time and took part in his fate, and we are with André and his surviving relatives in prayer.

With sad greetings,
Michael Daishiro Nakajima

Senpai. Gaijin. Sensei. Aniki.

by Holger Tödt

Today , August 30, 2023, our friend and longtime member, André Otome (born Feik), passed away after a long illness at the age of 48. I would like to share my words about him with you:

Andre – Senpai (Japanese for “mentor” or upperclassman who mentors an underclassman – “kohai”) Thank you for bellying up with us as a teenager and for training and laughing with us.

Andre – Gaijin (Japanese for a non-Japanese person)
Thank you for bringing us so many aspects and connections from Japan.

Andre – Sensei (Japanese for teacher)
Thank you for showing me new ways in Budo during the time of my studies in Witten after your return from Japan. Even though I rarely surrendered to these ways without protesting in the beginning; and, you certainly had easier students, you endured it with patience and our connection grew steadily.

Andre – Aniki (“older brother,” just like Oniisan in Japanese)
You went back to Japan with your family and I don't know why your heart became so sick. It was hard to see you like this and hard to bear that I could not do more than be there for you and help you through the seemingly endless tangles of a life as a patient.

You went your way with pride, humility, and a strong will to the end. Now that we had to let you go, all that remains is for me to be grateful for our time together and to pass on the gifts you gave me with an open heart to honor your memory.

Your Holli

Promotions

June 1, – September 8, 2023

Aikido

7th Kyu	Winkermann, Valentin	Leopoldshafen-JG
5th Kyu	Steinam, René	Oberkessach
5th Kyu	Rosenberger, Helen	Cottbus
3rd Kyu	Hörenz, Stefan	Dresden
3rd Kyu	Bauer, Steffen	Finsterwalde
1st Kyu	Hahnloser, Ralf	Turnverein Wössingen
1st Dan	Fries, Michael	München
1st Dan	Demachkovich, Volodymyr	München

Daitoryu

5th Kyu	Gayer, Horst	Pforzheim
5th Kyu	Kiefer, Christian	Heidelberg
4th Kyu	Dumitrescu, Luigi	Sibiu
3rd Kyu	Paetz, Matthias	Schkeuditz
2nd Kyu	Beuchle, Guenter	SG KIT
2nd Kyu	Demachkovich, Volodymyr	München
2nd Kyu	Meier, Jürgen	Edingen
1st Dan	Fischer, Heike	Wiesbaden
4th Dan	Danner, Michael	Karlsruhe
Jun-Dairi	Broll, Alexander	Landau

Shinki Toho

Shoden	Steinam, René	Oberkessach
--------	---------------	-------------

Seminars

Seminars

Sat, 16 – Sun, 17 September

Leopoldshafen: Aiki Budo Seminar

with M. D. Nakajima Soke

Tue, 3 October

Pforzheim: Aiki-Budo-Seminar

with Enzo Ermarth

Sat, 14 – Sun, 15 October

Königheim bei Tauberbischofsheim: Shinki Toho Seminar

with M. D. Nakajima Hoshu, assistiert von H. Theobald Menkyo Kaiden

Sat, 11 – Sun, 12 November

Dohna bei Dresden: Aiki-Budo-Seminar:

mit Michael Daishiro Nakajima, Shinkiryu Aiki Budo Soke

Sat, 25 – Sun, 26 November

Ulm: Aiki Budo Seminar

with M. Daishiro Nakajima Shihan

Sat, 4 – Sun, 12 May 2024

Donauschlinge: Akidolehrgang

with Petra and Bernd Hubl

Sat, 4 – Sun, 5 May 2024

Oldenswort: Aiki Budo Seminar

with M. D. Nakajima Soke

Thu, 5 – Sat, 7 June 2025

in and around Muroran: Bokuyokan Honbu 50-jähriges Jubiläum

Seminar and Feierlichkeit

Arigato gozaimasu

Preview Shinki News No. 34

The next edition of Shinki News will be published in December 2023.

If you would like to contribute to Shinki News, please submit your contribution(s) to: shinkinews@shinkiryu.de and we will contact you to discuss the formalities.

Have a nice autumn full of Ki!
Shinki News Team.

Imprint

Copyright 2023 Aikido Shinki Rengo

Realization: Lukas Underwood and Jann-Volquard Posenauer

Editing: Monika Popp

English translation: Rick Soriano, Nigel Downes

Layout and Design: Jann-Volquard Posenauer and Johannes Hoffmann

The opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the editors of Shinki News. The authors themselves are responsible for the content of the posts.

All images may be used upon the consent of the creators of Shinki News. The copyright of the images lie with the photographer(s). All persons depicted gave their approval in advance.



Lukas Underwood



Monika Popp



Rick Soriano



Nigel Downes



Johannes Hoffmann



Jann-Volquard Posenauer