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Maui Ki-Aikido

Spring 2003

www.mauikiaikido.org

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Master Koichi Tohei throws Shinichi Suzuki Sensei in a photo taken in the old Maui dojo.



Shinichi Tohei Sensei, the future of Ki-Aikido!

Aikido Hawaii 2003 and Master Koichi Tohei Coming Soon

There's a growing sense of excitement in the Shunshinkan Dojo as Maui Ki-Aikido prepares for the first visit of Master Koichi Tohei to Maui since 1993, and for hosting "Aikido Hawaii 2003," in June, 2003.

Shinichi Tohei Sensei will teach the Hawaii Ki Federation-sponsored seminar, which will be held between June 24 and 29 on Maui. Shinichi Sensei led wonderful seminars on Maui in 2001 and on Oahu in 2002, and HKF members state-wide are delighted to be able to train with him again this summer.

The seminar is being held to commemorate the 50th anniversary this year of Aikido in Hawaii, the United States and other "Western" countries. It was in 1953 that Koichi Tohei Sensei first visited the islands, stopping on Maui to demonstrate for the police and meeting the man who would become one of his greatest students and most ardent proponents of Ki Aikido: Maui's Head Instructor Shinichi Suzuki Sensei, who always says, "The thing that most impressed me about Tohei Sensei, when I first met him, was his eyes. I had never met a man so young, and yet so completely calm."

Master Tohei will preside over the banquet on Saturday, June 28, which will be a joyful celebration of the past 50 years of Aikido and of the development of the entire Aikido family of dojos, instructors and students throughout Hawaii and the world.

"We expect to welcome students from many countries at the seminar," stated Christopher Curtis Sensei, Chief Instructor of Hawaii Ki Federation and seminar chairman. "This is a golden opportunity to meet Master Tohei for the first time or be reunited with him, and to train with his son, Shinichi Tohei Sensei, who has emerged as a great teacher, following in his father's footsteps."

Registration forms and the schedule for the seminar are posted on the websites of both Hawaii Ki Federation (www.hawaiiiki.org) and Maui Ki-Aikido (www.mauikiaikido.org). Registration will continue to be accepted until the seminar. A hotel group rate form can also be downloaded from either of the websites. Reserving by early May is advisable.

Iwao Tamura Sensei Passes

Iwao Tamura Sensei, 9th dan, teacher and great friend to many Hawaii Ki Federation students and teachers through the years, passed away quietly in his home on Friday, April 4, 2003. Tamura Sensei's life was a great gift to all who knew him. His memory will be cherished.

After 3 years of Hawaii Ki Federation

After 3 years of leadership under the direction of Christopher Curtis Sensei, the Hawaii Ki Federation (HKF) has taken shape as a cohesive statewide training body and organization. The Dan and Ki testing criteria have been standardized, so that each Hawaii dojo follows the requirements of our founding teacher in Japan, Master Koichi Tohei, as administered in the state by Curtis Sensei.

All head instructors are encouraged to attend the four HKF seminars each year and go to Japan to train with Master Tohei during World Camp as often as possible. Curtis Sensei continues to emphasize the necessity of breathing, misogi, and otomo practice. The 8 suburi, developed by Soshu Koichi Tohei Sensei and Shinichi Suzuki Sensei, Curtis Sensei's teacher on Maui, have become a standard practice of swordsmanship in Hawaii. Curtis Sensei has been teaching these throughout the state for several years and is now being assisted by Eric Nonaka Sensei, president of HKF, to emphasize this aspect of sword practice statewide.

The strong leadership of Curtis Sensei and his effect statewide on students and upon the Hawaii Ki Federation organization became obvious once again during our 2003 HKF Oahu Seminar at Naluai Sensei's Lokahi dojo. The teaching was deep and refined, the group was harmonious, the training was joyful on the mat, and we had enjoyable social activities. Curtis Sensei administered Shoden tests to Charles Hudson and Stephen Orot, Nidan tests to Charles Hudson (Maui Shunshinkan Dojo), Steven Orot, and Rae Drismala (both of Oahu's Central YMCA Dojo), and a Sandan test to Roy Uyehara (also of the Central YMCA Dojo). The students all passed the tests, reflecting the quality instruction from their teachers under the direction of Curtis Sensei.

As we gear up in Hawaii to be hosts to Master Koichi Tohei and the world in June 2003, we are reminded of our gratitude to our teachers and the great opportunity the universe has given us to be a part of this extraordinary activity. Please come join us on Maui at the Shunshinkan Dojo as the Hawaii Ki Federation hosts the 50th Anniversary of Aikido in the West.



Curtis Sensei demonstrates a ki-test on Amy Gowans while Lloyd Miyashiro, Head Instructor of Kapa'a Dojo, Kauai, looks on.

Steven Orot, of Central YMCA Dojo, throws Morten Dithmer, of Maui Ki-Aikido, during the recent HKF Oahu seminar at the Lokahi Ki-Aikido Dojo.

Otomo Opportunity To Be Awarded

Applications are available now from all HKF head instructors for the first Otomo Opportunity that will award a free trip to World Camp in Japan this coming fall to the HKF student who will accompany Chief Instructor Christopher Curtis Sensei as his otomo. Men and women students over the age of 18 from any HKF dojo are eligible to apply.

The art of otomo is a very important aspect of Aikido training. Serving as otomo offers us the opportunity to learn to let go of self-awareness and self-concern, for an otomo must be completely "in the moment" and fully aware of the sensei's needs. To anticipate every possible requirement of the sensei and fulfill it before he/she can begin to ask is a task that can only be accomplished when "Ki is extending."

Completed applications forms should be submitted by June 30, 2003 to:

Christopher Curtis Sensei, Chief Instructor
Hawaii Ki Federation - P.O. Box 724 - Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

"Book of Days" Commemorates Aikido History

Maui Ki-Aikido has published a keepsake book of days that chronicles the birth, evolution and development of Aikido on Maui and in Hawaii. It is filled with historic photographs of the founding teachers and their students down through the past 50 years. Historic facts about Aikido in Japan and Hawaii also pepper the pages of this perpetual calendar and picture book. It has been published in 2003 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Aikido in Hawaii and the West and includes portraits and candid photographs of Master Koichi Tohei, Shinichi Tohei Sensei, O Sensei, Shinichi Suzuki Sensei, and many other teachers and students.

Available at "Aikido Hawaii 2003" seminar or see mail order form on back page.

First Taigi Competition in Hawaii to be held in March, 2004

The first ever Taigi competition in the state of Hawaii will be held at the Shunshinkan Dojo on Maui in March of 2004. Hawaii students are already beginning to choose their partners and get serious about preparing, for there is a very attractive goal to work for: a free trip to Japan. The overall, gold medal-winning pair will receive from Hawaii Ki Federation free airfare and seminar tuition to compete in the July 2004 International Taigi competition at Ki Society World Headquarters in Tochigi-ken, Japan.

All pairs will perform Kitei Taigi, and in addition, one sentaku (selected) taigi from these taigi series: 1, 2, 6, 9 or 13. Additionally, the following weapons sentaku taigi have been chosen by Tohei Sensei: 21, 22, 23, 24, plus Kengi 1 and 2 and Jogi 1 and 2. To compete for the first place and the gold medal, partners must perform both weaponless and weapon taigis and both Kengi and Jogi 1 and 2.

However, partner pairs who are not winners or who are not going for the gold are also eligible to compete in Japan in July.

Hawaii Ki Federation Chief Instructor Christopher Curtis Sensei explained, "The in-state taigi competition will be an excellent opportunity for self-improvement, as well as a great training ground for the competition in Japan. I encourage students on all islands to make a commitment and begin training now, for a year is not too long to prepare for this important event."

Bokken Suburi Video - Training Aid with Christopher Curtis Sensei

A new video is now available from Maui Ki-Aikido showing the 8 Bokken Suburi, 10 repetitive bokken cutting exercises, Kengi 1 & 2 and Jogi 1 & 2. These suburi have been developed by both Soshu Koichi Tohei Sensei and Shinichi Suzuki Sensei over the past 50 years. After many requests, this video has finally been completed, and is available in VHS or DVD format. To order, please fill out the form below and fax or mail it to:

Maui Ki-Aikido - P.O. Box 724 - Wailuku, HI 96793 - Ph Fax (808) 244-5165

For more information on other training aids available through Maui Ki-Aikido and/or Hawaii Ki Federation, please email us at: holamaui@maui.net or visit our web sites:

www.mauikiaikido.org

www.hawaiiiki.org

Name: _____

Number of Copies VHS format @\$20 each: _____

Number of Copies DVD format @\$25 each: _____

Priority Shipping USA & Territories @\$3.85 per 1 VHS or 2 DVDs

Priority Shipping International @\$9.00 per 1 VHS or 2 DVDs

Total amount enclosed: _____

Check enclosed

Visa or Mastercard

Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Ship To: _____

email contact: _____

phone/fax: _____

News From Our Children's Program

Upcoming Tests

Over 60 children and teens are working on their next promotional tests to be held between April 27 and May 2, 2003. For the children's test on Sunday, April 27, because of the large number of students testing, we will have all those going for 10th and 9th kyu to come from 8:00 to 9:30 am, and those testing for 8th through 6th kyu to begin at 10 am.

A Scholarship

A full scholarship for Maui Ki-Aikido youth to attend the public seminar portion of "Aikido Hawaii 2003" is being offered this year. Eligibility requirements include having served as a volunteer teacher's assistant in one or more of the children's classes. We have almost half a dozen young teaching assistants qualifying to apply for this year's scholarship. Maui Ki-Aikido is always seeking more young assistants among our advanced youth to help out in our growing children's classes. They are models for the younger children, and helping teach develops their confidence and Ki.

Recycling Gi and Belts

The children's classes solicit donations of color belts after promotions and of outgrown gi (uniforms) at any time. The belts are given to other children, and the gi are passed along for a small donation to the dojo. Adult-size gi are also gratefully accepted. If you have a gi or belt that you no longer need, please consider adding it to our recycling program. If you need a gi, ask about available sizes. Thank you, as always, for your wonderful support.



Curtis Sensei's seminar and class transcripts are available on Maui Ki-Aikido's Web page:

www.mauikiaikido.org

The Story of Maui's First Aikido Dojo

For the full story, **A History of The Start of Aikido on Maui and the Building of the Original Maui Dojo** by Mele Stokesberry, from a 1993 interview with Shinichi Suzuki Sensei, Takeo L. (Larry) Shishido and Isamu (Sam) Takaki, see **www.mauikiaikido.org**, publications, Maui Dojo History.

... Maui's Aikido clubs, training in gyms and church halls all over the island, knew of a two-room nurse's cottage available for moving from the old Puunene Hospital. Suzuki Sensei remembers, "We bought it for five hundred bucks."

At 2 o'clock on an April morning in 1960, the cottage was moving slowing up Hospital Road and the State highway, with Aikido students riding on the roof, ready to lift "all the wires in Kahului town." Suzuki Sensei recalls, "We got stuck at Waialeale and Kaohu, but we pushed the utility lines, all of us, and moved the truck slowly, to get this building over here."

Bringing the dojo building to its new site was just the beginning of 8 months of volunteer labor, weekends and holidays, for many people. Suzuki Sensei laughed when he recounted incidents which they teased each other about for years, like the time he fell through the ceiling and was hanging from the rafters, and when Masao Shoji nailed a brace to thin air instead of to the post, which then fell down. "There were lots of stories. We had plenty of fun."



The old Maui dojo, on the site of the present Shunshinkan Dojo, was demolished in 1999.

A "Book of Days" commemorating Aikido history

To order the keepsake book of days that chronicles the birth, evolution and development of Aikido, with rare photos of the founders, please fill out the form below and fax or mail it to us.

Maui Ki-Aikido
P.O. Box 724
Wailuku, HI 96793
Ph Fax (808) 244-5165

Name: _____

Number of Copies @\$20 (\$15 for HKF members) _____

Shipping USA & Territories 1 to 2 books @\$4.00 Shipping International 1 to 2 books @\$9.00

Total amount enclosed: _____

Check enclosed Visa or Mastercard

Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Ship To: _____

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