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会報 武徳

## Dai Nippon Butoku Kai International Division

*Newsletter, Volume 7 - WBS 2023 Special Edition*

### Message from DNBK Honbu



Butokuden - Kyoto, Japan

入魂 Nyukon in Japanese language means Pouring Soul and Spirit, and that was exactly what all DNBK members of fifteen nations, five hundred warriors did so beautifully at the last 6<sup>th</sup> WBS. It has been a long, hard, patient waiting until we were finally able to assemble together in Butokuden for celebration of glorious traditions of DNBK. Enbu Taikai in Seiryuden was impressive as ever. Hono Enbu dedication in the renowned Ise Jingu was absolutely majestic and truly spiritual beyond words.

Opening ceremony of WBS was another great moment of meeting the Princess Akiko while the prestigious honors were presented to the international members. Honbu and ID demonstrations in Butokuden were stunningly energetic with high spirit and powerful dynamics of classical Budo. They showed the highest pride and revered honor in the historic Butokuden.



## Hanshi Hamada...*continued*

Above all, DNBK camaraderie sharing the joy and happiness of being the true Samurai way with noble aim to serve for goodness of the humanity through Budo was the superlative accomplishments in the historic platform of the World Butoku Sai. It was the relentless fire and Ki-energy of showing the unconquerable will and resolve despite the global pandemic for several years. 6<sup>th</sup> WBS will be remembered as one of the finest chapters of DNBK history in modern times.

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to all participants and supporters in the last WBS held in Japan. However, the future is always at stake, thus, we will move forward to face the next challenge in the vigorous enthusiasm and determination toward 2025 WBS.



Ise Jingu Ujibashi Sunrise



Fire Soul in Sword Making



2023 6<sup>th</sup> WBS - Ise Jingu, Naiku Sanshuden Official Group Photo



Hanshi Hamada...continued



2023 6<sup>th</sup> WBS - Butokuden Official Group Photo

Time is rapidly fleeting and every opportunity becomes so precious in our lives. All trainees of DNBK as shown and reported in this DNBK ID E-News have been outstanding role models of the finest Budo tradition in the world. With our great hopes and prayers, let us realize once again such great moment to share true spirit of the

Dai Nippon Butoku Kai in Kyoto Japan in 2025. Meanwhile, we pray all our DNBK ID members will remain healthy and be fulfilled with optimal happiness in life.

Tesshin Hamada  
DNBK Honbu  
Kyoto, Japan



2023 WBS Butoku World Peace Award



# News from Members Around the World

*All articles presented are countries and cities  
in alphabetical order.*

## Kevin Walsh, Kyoshi - Representative of Australia

### *The Australian Shibu World Butoku Sai Experience*

After years of postponement due to the COVID pandemic, it was finally announced that the 6<sup>th</sup> World Butoku Sai would be held in 2023. This was great news to lift our spirits. Due to peoples changed circumstances some members could no longer attend while new students were keen to fill their place. Our final attendance was 13 participants and 1 companion.

We had many training sessions preparing for the WBS. We trained for Jujutsu, Karate, Judo, and Iaido, plus Ise Jingu preparation. Everyone put in 100% effort to attend the many sessions and improve their skills.

One of the major highlights of the WBS was Kevin and Leanne having the privilege to present our style of Rishinkan Jujutsu at Ise Jingu. This was a priceless experience that will always be remembered.

I had promised our team a “life changing experience”. We wish to give a big thank you to Hanshi Hamada and his dedicated team. Due to them, my optimistic promise was delivered in full, and everyone had an amazing experience. Let’s see what surprises WBS 2025 has in store for us.



2023 WBS Australian Delegation



# Franz Knafl, Kyoshi - Coordinator of Austria

## *Shobukai Austria*



Shobukai Austria 2023 WBS Team Delegation

All members of the Austrian DNBK ID team that took part in the 2023 WBS in Kyoto would like to thank you again for the successful organization of this great international Budo event.

After three long years of Covid restrictions, the 2023 WBS represented the turning point for a better future.

Due to legal improvements associated with the gradual ending of Covid restrictions, we have expanded our training units since March 2023. We try to recruit new members for our Nihon Jujutsu courses.

In our Shobukai Dojo, we have Jujutsu courses every Wednesday from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm and every Saturday from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm continuously throughout the year.

The Wednesday courses are led by DNBK Yondan holders Wolfgang Pehamberger and Michael Rundel. The Saturday courses are led by Franz Knafl, Shichidan, and Johann Damoser, Yondan Jujutsu.

In addition, we run Jujutsu courses at Vienna University Sports Center every semester on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



Jujutsu Training



Jujutsu Training



## Ken Tallack, Hanshi - Kingston, Canada

### *Tallack Martial Arts*

In March, Canada sent 24 delegates to the World Butoku Sai. Each one of those who went reported life-changing impacts from the journey.

The events at the Taisho Butokuden where team members performed, the trip to the Ise Jingu where we saw the Shrine and performed Kata in the sacred space; our down-time exploring the city of Kyoto, the Flag Ceremony honouring Franco Girimonte, and the main events at the Butokuden produced memories to last a lifetime.

Observing as four of our Canadians members, Richard Mark, Alain Faucher, Robert Davis and Sylvain Berthiaume were recognized as Hanshi was the culmination of many years' effort building the DNBK ID across our country.

Each one of us felt the joy of reconnecting with old friends after too many years apart. Spending time with Hanshi Payne, Hanshi Long, Hanshi Mahan, Kyoshi Pete Steinbeck, and others was personally very meaningful for me.

On a personal note, watching as my son Robert Tallack was recognized as Kyoshi of Karatedo was an incredibly emotional and beautiful experience for me. To share that experience with my Budo family was a true privilege and honour.

Our group had thought long and hard about how we could reflect some of the gratitude we felt to Hanshi Hamada and the Virginia Bushin Kan members. A very special coat was created for Hanshi Hamada, one suitable for Canadian Winters at their worst and presented by Hanshi Richard Mark. A small donation to the Norfolk Food Bank in the name of the Bushin Kan Members was our way to show gratitude for all their efforts on our behalf.

As it takes a village to raise a child, it takes the DNBK to develop Budo across the world. We were lucky to experience this journey, thank you.

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>, we held our Second Annual Summer Training Camp. Organized by Renshi Kyle Cochrane, Dominic Picard and their team. It was well organized and ran very well.

Friday evening Hanshi Louise Chevalier led a training session focused on proper warm up techniques and what we call "disguised repetition" a fun way to practice many things.

Many of the participants then walked across the road to enjoy a view of the moon reflected upon Lake Ontario before walking to the nearby pub for a social gathering.

On Saturday, we gathered for a day of seminar training led by our Master Instructors in a variety of disciplines. From 9:30 am till 4:30 pm we trained, shared and had a nice lunch that kept us going till the end of training at 4:30 pm.

Afterwards, I led a brief meeting with DNBK Leaders where we discussed 2025 WBS preparations. Everyone was excited and is looking forward to this event.

A formal banquet occupied the evening hours, with awards for various leaders, including our new Xochi Rivera Memorial Award presented by her mother to Jennifer Ecclestone. It was an emotional event. Live music followed, and people enjoyed the great food, great music, and fantastic company.



## Tallack...continued

On Sunday morning at 7 a.m., training was held across the street in Lake Ontario Park.

Tia Bankosky and her sister Tiffany led the group with an explanation of the First Nation Spirit Circle. We listened, learned, and meditated then moved on for training at the waterfront.

Breakfast was provided at the venue, and by 9:30 a.m., we were back on the gym floor for another round of seminars.

The afternoon was reserved for DNBK members only. Hanshi Davis performed Iai kata for our Harai no Gi.

Individuals wishing to be recognized with a rank or title performed Kata or Waza for the assembled

board of Hanshi and Kyoshi and were recommended to apply for their desired certification.

Next, we had each Dojo demonstrate their discipline with dignity, formality, and attention to protocol.

A moment of silence for recently deceased friends and fellow Budo-ka was held.

The posthumous Memorial Certificate of Renshi for Franco Girimonte was presented to family members Hanshi Christopher and Kyoshi Charles Diliberto. It was an emotional moment, where you could have heard a pin drop as the group held their positions out of respect for our fallen comrade.



Summer Training Festival



Summer Training Festival



## **Sachil Singh, Renshi - Canada**

### ***Tallack Martial Arts - 2023 WBS Trip Coordinator***

The 2023 WBS was a memorable event for me on many levels. As the trip coordinator for all Canadians, I enjoyed roles that others did not experience in the same way. For example, from a planning perspective, I benefited greatly from getting to know my fellow Canadians on a deeper level as the unique demands of preparing for the trip brought us closer together and forged new friendships. In this process, the DNBK allowed me to truly appreciate how budo serves as an anchor that grounds people from different walks of life, and connects us despite our differences. I appreciated this on a wider scale through the various memorable

events that the DNBK organized for us: despite the international differences of DNBK ID members, the organization is the anchor that facilitates the bonds that we enjoy with others from around the world.

More than budo, the 2023 WBS showed me the value of new relationships. Because of budo, the DNBK showed me how long-lasting relationships are sustained.

I write on behalf of the Canadian contingent in expressing our great anticipation of the 2025 WBS!



## **Richard Mark, Kyoshi - Victoria BC, Canada**

### ***Shaolin Tzu Martial Arts Academy***

#### **Reflection: By Nolen Lah, Jon Michiel, Viet Dung Le**

Greetings to all, we hope this addition to the newsletter finds you all in good spirits and well-being. Our dojo has enjoyed a healthy start to the year with strong rekindling of spirits after the pandemic. Since the postponement of the 2020 World Butoku Sai, we had been anticipating attending the 2023 World Butoku Sai in April to demonstrate our Karatedo and Okinawa Kobudo with Budo spirit. From the Shaolin Tzu Martial Arts Academy in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, we had 9 practitioners that travelled to this Butoku Sai. For four in our group, it was the first time experiencing this epic event and witnessing the strength, unity, and grandeur of the DNBK ID. The venues were spectacular, and the arrangements and protocols

were executed with focus and attention. The martial arts demonstrated at this event in the legendary Butokuden, was of the highest calibre and the applause that followed each demonstration was very inspiring.

We were deeply grateful for the opportunity to visit Seiryuden, our first stop on this extraordinary event. From the outside, we were captivated by the breathtaking beauty of this impressive structure. Stepping inside, we were instantly enveloped in the profound spirit that resonated throughout the building. Seiryuden is more than a place; it is a sanctuary where we could visit the Ao Fudo, a masterpiece and national treasure, as well as fully immerse ourselves in the rich culture and indomitable spirit of Kyoto. Sitting within Seiryuden, we witnessed mesmerising



## Lah, Michiel, and Dung Le...continued

performances by great masters, their artistry merging with the temple's sanctity. Particularly profound for our first-time attendees, the performers' unwavering dedication inspired us to embrace martial arts with passion and diligence, reminding us of its true essence.

Visiting the historic and magnificent Ise Jingu was one of the most significant experiences and opportunities of the event. From the Temizu cleansing ritual at the Isuzu River, to the ancient and mystical Mikagura ceremony, to the first time ever International Division Hono Enbu, and the prayer dedication to the sacred treasure, Mirror of Yatta, in the Kodaijingu sacred ground, these were cultural experiences of unparalleled nature and significance which could not be experienced anywhere else and so we hold the deepest respect and gratitude for such a monumental opportunity. The sequence of events calmly, yet powerfully invoked our spirit's awareness and we each received special inspirational insights into Japanese traditional culture and the spirit of Budo. The World

Butoku Sai was an incredible opportunity to present kata and watch our fellow martial artists. Having the chance to perform in the Butokuden and feel the energy of such a significant building to classical martial arts, was deeply impactful. Knowing that many of the great past martial artists had performed there was an added detail to cherish. Our group thoroughly enjoyed watching our fellow practitioners from around the world demonstrate their exceptional techniques and forms with intensity, focus, and energy. It is encouraging to see that the preservation of classical martial arts, virtues, and traditions are being practised at the highest level.

The CIRT was another epic and impressive event - one of many that we were fortunate to attend this year. The International Division shared and demonstrated their martial arts with the highest level of spirit and effort, resulting in an inspiring and strong experience for all those in attendance. The poise, control, beauty, honor, and respect of every practitioner was on full display. The CIRT was a powerful and very meaningful event for our group and one that we will never forget.



Butokuden Group Photo



**Mark...continued**

**Richard Mark, Kyoshi: Kagami Biraki in Victoria BC, Canada**

We held our Kagami Biraki on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at the Shaolin Tzu Martial Arts Academy dojo in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Our group trained together with great spirits as the New Year of 2023 brought a sense of renewal and hope. The formal DNBK ID message from Hanshi Hamada was read to the group at the start of the training.

The training session was about 2 hours. Hundreds of punches, blocks and kicks were performed. The workout consisted of strong basic techniques

(kihon) and sharing strong spirit in kata, ippon kumite, and other technical material. The training content was not the focus of Kagami Biraki, rather, the action of demonstrating and practicing strong energy was the true purpose. Raising the spirit of the entire dojo community was the goal.

After the workout portion, a shodo lecture on an aspect of karatedo philosophy was delivered by Kyoshi Mark, setting an inspirational message for the rest of the year for students to help them achieve goals, define objectives, or otherwise enhance their personal philosophical outlook on the new year.



2023 Kagami Biraki Training



# Herbert Aroca, Kyoshi - Representative of Chile

## *Okinawa Uechi Ryu Dojo*

As a dojo, we continue to train regularly to keep our spirits high as we follow the path of Budo. I arranged a private seminar in my dojo where I taught techniques of Karate and Aikijujitsu.

I am currently beginning the preparations for 2025 WBS in Kyoto, Japan and enthusiastically wait for additional information.



Aikijujitsu Demonstration



Okinawa Uechi Ryu Dojo Group Photo





## Hubert Thomas, Hanshi - Representative of France

### *Kishin Ryu Dojo*

The members of Kishin Ryu who were present at the 2023 World Butoku Sai in Kyoto join me in expressing the honor and the pleasure of taking part in this event.

The previous six months were mostly dedicated to the preparation of our participation in WBS 2023. We are looking forward for the next WBS and I hope many of us will be back in 2025.

In addition to the usual dojo activities and workshops, two main events took place during these first six months of the year.

At the beginning of 2023, we conducted a demonstration with the members of Kishin Ryu at the Kagami Biraki of the French Federation of Aikido of the state.

Then, on June 17, I presented on behalf of President Hanshi Hamada and the Honbu Board the rank of Kyoshi 7th Dan to Mr. Francis Hebles. A presentation ceremony was held along with a tea ceremony.

It is a great honor and a pleasure to be a member of Dai Nippon Butoku Kai and to be able to keep the traditions of classical Japanese Aikido alive and strong, thus uplifting the individual and society.

The members of the International Kishin Ryu Aikido Dojo join me in wishing excellent health to you and all of DNBK Honbu. In addition, we thank the secretariat of the DNBK ID for their action.





# Codruta Rechesan, Renshi - Representative of Romania

## *Bushi Shindo Dojo*



2023 Kagami Biraki Group Photo

We started the year 2023 with Kagami Biraki Event. Bushi Shindo Dojo members continued with an intense Budo activity: trainings, seminars, intensive courses, and competitions in our Dojo or those organized by other Budo clubs, both in and outside of Romania in Jiu-jitsu, Judo, and Kendo disciplines.

In March 2023, we had the honor of having our Sensei, Hanshi Takao Kitano in Romania, again after so long of a period of restrictions caused by Covid 19.

We are grateful that we had the privilege to practice and learn new Shinden Ryu Jiu-jitsu Waza and Skills.



Group Photo with Hanshi Kitano



March Training



## Rechesan...continued

In April 2023 we visited Japan for the much-anticipated historical event of the 6<sup>th</sup> World Butoku Sai and 61<sup>st</sup> Japan Butoku Sai, the 128 anniversary of Dai Nippon Butoku Kai, the Comemorative International Rensei Taikai, the Ise Jingu Hono Enbu Taikai, Seiryuden Enbu, the DNBK ID Leaders Conference in Kyoto, and many other great activities organized with passion and dedication by the DNBK and DNBK ID team.

We had an amazing experience in every moment of our visit, with many interesting and unique moments spent with the Budo community of Japan and the world.

Our JiuJutsu and Kendo demonstration team was made up of youth and seniors. Members included: Rechesan Codruța-Ioana, Giunca Cristina Maria, Cioanta Medriana Elena, Tarcza-Zarug Carla

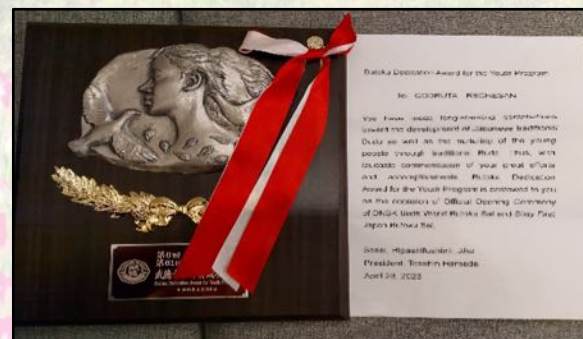
Mariana, Bajnoczi Nora, Chertes Parick, Bârsan Tudor, Belean Loredana, Belean Adrian Francisc, Belean Gloria Mariana, Brândus Ana Vera, Recheșan Rares, and Cioanta Alegra.

At Ise Jingu Hono Enbu Taikai, Rechesan Codruța and Medriana Cioanta had the big honour and privilege of demonstrating Shinden Ryu Jujutsu in Sanshuden.

Several members attended the Leaders Conference. After the Official Opening of Butoku Sai at the Westin Miyako Hotel Mizuho no Ma Hall, Rechesan Codruta had the great honour of receiving the Butoku Dedication Award for Youth Programs from Sosai Higashifushimi Jiko.



Bushi Shindo Dojo Delegation at Seiryuden



Dedication Award for Youth Programs



*Rechesan...continued*



6<sup>th</sup> World Butokusai Opening Ceremony



2023 WBS Team Romania

6<sup>th</sup> World Butoku Sai and 61<sup>st</sup> Japan Butoku Sai and Commemorative International Rensei Taikai where our team members demonstrated Shinden Ryu Jiu-jutsu and Nihon Kendo Kata was an amazing experience.

A part of our team had a meeting with Senator Leonard Azamfirei, member of Romanian Japanese Committee in the Romanian Parliament, with a discussion about Martial Arts and our travel to Japan.

All the information was appreciated by Senator Azamfirei and he expressed his support for our team and for future projects.

Our team would like to express our gratitude to Hanshi Hamada and all the organizational team members from DNBK and DNBK ID for our impressive experience in Japan at the 2023 WBS. The members already miss Japan, and are all looking forward to attending the next DNBK event in 2025.



Meeting with Romanian Senator Azamfirei



# Mike Selvey, Kyoshi - Coordinator of UK Shibu

## *Tsunami Yodokan Dojo*

In January of this year the Tsunami Yodokan Dojo (London, UK) celebrated Kagami Biraki.

The last 2 years have been very difficult with the restrictions regarding Covid-19, still to this day in London, the virus is having an impact on everyday life let alone on our training regime, but we will continue in whatever form we can.

Our Club members are very aware of the Kagami Biraki celebration as we strive to maintain traditional Japanese standards and practices in our Dojo. All training sessions include a discussion of the philosophical underpinnings of Budo, so all were well versed in the traditions of Kagami Biraki.

The Kamiza was decorated, and the traditional Four Cuts were performed by a senior student during Mokuso.

The members threw themselves into the training session with great enthusiasm and energy, and a strenuous effort was made to work our way through our entire syllabus - which included katas relating to katana wakazashi and Jo, Kobudo practice in addition to our Iaido, and Iaijutsu forms.

Our senior students managed to accomplish the task and still had some time left to encourage newer members to manage as much of the syllabus as time allowed. Everyone maintained the cheerful demeanor expected of a Budo practitioner, and all felt by the end of the session that we had welcomed the New Year in a fitting manner.

We wish all DNBK ID members and their families health, happiness, and hope to meet you in person again.



2023 Kagami Biraki Training





## Selvey...continued

### 2023 WBS Training Preparation:



Outdoor Training

Our normal training and extra training sessions to work on our WBS demonstrations went very well. I am pleased to say, 2 grading sessions through the year showed our students had been seriously working on Keiko in their own time as well as training at the Dojo. Tsunami Yodokan was indeed most privileged to be involved in the amazing WBS 2023 in the ancient Butokuden in Kyoto. We are 13 students from the UK who have been anticipating this trip since 2019 and the thought that the event would eventually happen helped us through the worst of the pandemic.

We arrived in Japan a week before WBS and travelled around seeing some of the most beautiful places and people in the world.

The week of WBS was unforgettable with ceremonies in many wonderful historic places. We found our visit to Ise and the cleansing ceremony in the sacred Isuzu River to be a very emotional and powerful time.

The organization of such an event must have been vast but was perfectly run. It was a joy to be part of this special event. Sharing our demonstrations and watching other Dojos from around the world in breathtaking surroundings such as the Butokuden is something that will always be cherished and remembered.

The whole event we talk about regularly with those who were unable to attend and hope that they will in turn get the chance to experience a future WBS in this wonderful country.

After Japan, I met the Honourable Elliot Colburn, our local member of Parliament, and presented him with the two programs that Hanshi Hamada kindly sent to me for him. He was very happy with the gift and was very interested in my report on the events in Japan that we were honoured to be part of.



Mike Selvey, Kyoshi and  
Elliot Colburn,  
Member of Parliament

He asked me to thank Hanshi Hamada and to wish him well. He would be interested in keeping up with future events held by DNBK ID as he says, it is a wonderful organization and indeed it must be an honour to be part of.



Tsunami Yodokan Dojo Delegation at Seiryuden



## Roger Payne, Hanshi - Representative of United Kingdom

### Tenshin Kan Dojo UK (The Mid Sussex Martial Arts School)



2022 DNBK UK ShibuTakai Group Photo

On Saturday, October 23, 2022, we held our DNBK ID UK, Shibu Taikai at the Chanctonbury Leisure Centre, Spierbridge Road, Storrington, UK with formal authorization from Honbu in line with required protocol.

In planning, hosting, and leading this event as DNBK ID UK Representative, I tried very hard, both in advance and on the day, to include all DNBK ID UK Coordinators and Certificated Dojo Cho in all aspects of the prior planning to include, date, location, programme and content, plus inviting each present on the day to lead and or assist with individual sessions. During practice of both Harai no Gi and Osame no Gi, listening and sharing all input received before and after led to the successful event.

The last Shibu Taikai took place in 2018 and was suspended until now due to Covid restrictions in the UK. This was the first Official DNBK ID UK Shibu Taikai in 4 years. We will seek permission for the next after WBS 2023.

This year as Hanshi Kluger was in the UK that week, and as the DNBK ID Representative of Israel, he was invited to attend and accepted.

The purpose of this event was to provide an opportunity for the DNBK ID UK Shibu Representative, Coordinators, Dojo Cho, Certificated and General Members to meet and practice together.

The programme included: Opening and welcoming remarks, national anthems of United Kingdom and Japan, silent prayer for peace, pledge of the participants made in Japanese, and a reading of a letter from Hanshi Hamada.

After the traditional Harai no Gi, training commenced for several hours with a lunch break. At the end of the programme, Osame no Gi was conducted followed by a spirited Banzai from the participants. The event was concluded with a presentation of certificates and official thanks to Hanshi Hamada, Shihan Baylor and team, all participants, coordinators, instructors, and Dojo Cho present.



## Payne..continued

After the event, an analysis was conducted of the planned impact v. comparison of actual event.

Some of the post-event feedback received included: Thank you all. It was a pleasure to share and work together. Thank you, Hanshi Roger Payne, for the homelike hospitality and the friendship. It is all most appreciated. Thank you, all representatives, Shibu Cho, Dojocho, and all participants. Union of our spirit is the real strength of us all.

Many thanks for bringing back UK Shibu after two missing years. My students and I enjoyed the day. The best thing being is seeing friends we have not seen for a long time. As medical adviser on the day, I am pleased to say there were no incidents whatsoever.

I was so pleased to attend the DNBK ID UK Shibu Taikai on Saturday 22nd October 2022. It was great

to see so many students in attendance and see friends again. The dedication and passion of the instructors shone throughout the Seminar. As an Aikidoka, it was great to practice and share our discipline with other students from assorted styles and disciplines. I too had the opportunity to learn and practice Karate with such clear instruction and coaching.

This was my first such event, as I had felt that my skills would be inadequate in my early years of training. I realize that this was quite wrong and will encourage newer starters to join with the next. The instructors and their assistants were helpful and encouraging and shared their knowledge happily with all those who were unsure. I came with three members of my Iaido family and left feeling that I had many more. So, thank you, and I hope to see you at the next.



Chanctory Sports and Leisure Centre, West Sussex, England, UK



# **Robert Burgermeister, Kyoshi, So-Shihan - Representative of International Seishinkan Karate Union (ISKU)**

## ***Zoom Meeting***

The International Seishinkai Karate Union (ISKU) held a Zoom meeting on Saturday, June 24, 2023. Members from USA, North and South Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asian countries were in attendance. ISKU branch leaders each presented a 5-minute presentation on specific topics.

Topics of discussion included debriefing on: Diploma ISKU and DNBK, 2023 April World Butoku Sai in Kyoto, Japan, DNBK Newsletter, and Greece tournaments.

Briefing included: ISKU Seminar in Oklahoma (August 25-27), India Dojo renovation, new website, and French Africa update.

The next ISKU Zoom meeting will take place in December 2023.

A big thank you to Charles Wallace from Oklahoma for hosting the zoom meeting.



Heian Jingu, Hono Enbu Taikai Venue, Photo by O'Hargan

# **Herbert J. Weiner, Renshi - San Francisco, California, USA**

## ***Washinkan Dojo***

To our sad regret, Washinkan Dojo is now closed.

Renshi Weiner is in assisted living and Renshi Geeter practices on his own.

Both of us are pleased and proud to be members of DNBK and wish to keep our membership.

We, including Hanshi Shockey and the late Hanshi Lok, greatly appreciate the acceptance and

opportunities of DNBK to participate in the organization and its events, such as the World Butoku Sai.

Our best to DNBK, its leaders, and members.

Should you wish to communicate with Renshi Weiner, his new address is: 1 Avalon Ave. San Francisco, California 94112.

Herbert J. Weiner



# Doug Gellman - Charlottesville, Virginia, USA

## *Charlottesville Budokan*

### **Submitted by Erick DeSimone: Reawakening**

With the pandemic behind us and no longer having to wear masks during our Iaijutsu classes, now that we are back inside our dojo at the Charlottesville Budokan, we have returned to following the full curriculum for our classes. We are grateful for our training with one another and the opportunity to push each other to improve our skills.

In May, we participated in an annual outdoor presentation for the local community at a village fair, bringing awareness of our dojo, studies, and dedication to budo disciplines. We were hopeful that our presentation might attract new students to help energize our combined energies as we strive to hand down our discipline's teachings to future generations. At our spring annual dojo awards ceremony, Senpai Gellman awarded personally, a hand-engraved bokken to the student of the year.

We had a Iaido cutting seminar last fall outside our dojo. We were able to apply a different

measurement to our training to see if our cuts in the air during our waza at the dojo could be applied to cutting tatami mats when they are presented before us. We were all very supportive and proud of each other as we all were able to make several accurate and well-placed slices.

We strive to apply all our teachings to our everyday lives and in our connections with those outside the dojo. We learn that it is ok to make mistakes, and that with continued dedication, we can overcome our personal challenges, grow within ourselves, and for those around us. We learn so much by watching and training with each other. We also, acknowledge that we have so much more to learn. We recognize that our connections within the dojo and our extended DNBK family make us stronger, and better people as we navigate the world around us.

We look forward to instruction at upcoming seminars in our region to further our training and to connect with other practitioners within our organization. We look forward to seeing some of you at those events!



Outdoor Demonstration



Charlottesville Budokan Dojo Group Photo



# Ron Davis, Kyoshi - Griffin, Georgia, USA

## *Yuushikan Budo*

### **Thoughts on Japan Butoku Sai:**

This trip to Japan was extremely special to me and affected me on many different levels. This trip was my first time bringing just my dojo and not being part of another group. I am sure that, like many others who train and teach traditional budo, you have developed a special bond with your students, a bond not unlike a family. On this trip two of my students attended with me, and it meant so much to me to see the experience through their eyes.

From the honor being able to present at the Seiryuden in front of Ao Fudo Myoo, to observe the beautiful scenery from this moving location, to being able to practice, and to present our Budo in the Butokuden, traveling to Ise Jingu, feeling the calm spirit as we could listen to the breeze run through the trees, and the true honor of being surprised by being promoted in the Butokuden - I have no words to express that feeling.

Seiryuden Temple, Group Photo

Watching my students meet so many others from different countries who practice different arts, but who all have a love for Budo, watching them make new friendships and see them making plans on meeting again on the next trip to Japan - this ensures that my love for the art of Budo will live on through the next generation.

There are many, many other reasons why this trip was so special to me but being able to share this experience with my two students meant the world to me. I am so glad we were able to make this trip and we look forward to returning in 2025.

My sincere thanks go out to everyone who worked so hard for so long to make this trip happen and run so well.





# Barbara Dometrich, Meiyo Hanshi - United States of America

## Midwest Division DNBK

### The United States Chito-kai Summary for 2022-2023

The United States Chito-kai has been very busy these past few months. Last August, some of our members traveled to Clarksburg, West Virginia to help with a demonstration for our local school in Bridgeport. While there, we helped with the installation of a museum exhibit showcasing Hanshi William Dometrich and Meiyo Hanshi Barbara Dometrich. The museum is the Clarksburg History Museum, and it honors those from the area with success stories.



Clarksburg History Museum, Hanshi William Dometrich Dedication

The end of August proved exciting for a few of our students who had not been in competition. A tournament was held in Chicago (Windy City

Tournament) by a close Shotokan friend of the U.S. Chito-kai, Sensei Gonzalez. The night before the tournament was educational with many seminars given by various ranking Shotokan instructors and by Kyoshi Sherry Dometrich Schmidt who taught her father's kata: Chokusen dachi-no-waza, and tehodoki some of Hanshi Dometrich's favorites. These students participated in a Shotokan tournament and did very well.

The following is an excerpt from an article written by a student who attended the tournament in Chicago.

Submitted by: John Paul McEwan

### "FIRSTS"

*"In the beginner's mind there are many possibilities, but in the expert's, there are few."*  
(Shunryo Suzuki)



Windy City Karate Tournament, Chicago



## **Dometrich/McEwan...continued**

From the first night that my son Israel and I entered the Hombu, we have been on a journey of "firsts" together. Life is full of firsts and our training in Chito-Ryu has been no different. For almost 4 years, my son and I have been side by side growing as karateka and growing closer to each other as father and son. Now, not only do I get the opportunity to train with him, but I also get to train with my 2 daughters as well. Together, we have endured the arduous training at the Hombu and stayed the course even when we were training from home for months via Zoom during the pandemic. It seems that our Chito-Ryu curriculum is excellent at producing "firsts" not only as a way of building perseverance, but also as a way of maintaining shoshin or "beginner's mind." Some time in my first year of training, I think Sensei Matt Cowherd introduced me to the concept of shoshin and it has been with me ever since. This idea is that we should keep the mental posture of a beginner bleeds over into everything new that we attempt. It helps to foster a sense of genuine humility and joy in everything. Trying new things becomes easier and less anxious.

Several months ago, Renshi Don Schmidt encouraged my son and I to compete in the Windy City Karate Tournament in Chicago. I was very anxious about entering a karate tournament in Chicago. Neither my son nor I had any concept of how it would be organized, the scale of the tournament, or the general skill level of the other competitors. About a week before the tournament my son and I were driving home one night from the dojo and he asked, "Dad, do you think it's going to be like the All-Valley Tournament in the movie, The Karate Kid?" Suffice it to say that it was nothing like fighting Cobra Kai, but it was a very worthwhile "first" to conquer together with my son. Together we were both beginners again. We were no longer

brown belts. We would only be ranked by the quality of our training in competition with others. It was great!

The tournament was running behind schedule by more than 2 hours when our competition numbers were called for team kata. Fortunately, we were able to watch several other teams bow in and run their kata before we were called to step out on the deck. Our team quickly adjusted to the changes and by the time Yoseikan Dojo was called up, we had corrected many of the awkward parts to the bow-in. From the moment I announced "Seisan" the room felt like everyone stopped what they were doing, to watch our kata. It was awesome! I was so proud of our training and our dojo. I felt so grateful to be a beginner again competing in our first tournament. In the end we managed to come in second in team kata. We came in second to a team of black belts that were 10-20 years our senior.

Following team kata, Israel, Pat, and I competed individually in kata. Again, it was thrilling to bow in and announce "Seisan" and make the room quiet. In a room full of Shotokan karateka, it was a great opportunity to display the beauty of our style. Several times that day karateka from other dojo located in St. Louis, Madison, Wisconsin, and Chicago came to ask me about our dojo or to say something encouraging! There was remarkable respect in the room. Israel and I both came in second in individual kata. Another incredibly proud moment was watching my son excel and do his best at something we both love so much!

I want to be sure to thank Okusan, Kyoshi Sherry Schmidt, and Renshi Don Schmidt for coming to Chicago to coach us! I also want to thank them for training us so well! It was great to feel like a beginner again! Thank you for all your sacrifice and hard work to pass the Chito-Ryu legacy on to us!



## Dometrich...continued

### October National Testing

The U.S.C.K. annual October National Testing seminar and banquet found us in new venues this past year. The new venues worked out well. Many of the visiting students enjoyed being able to get together again and to learn from one another. The emphasis in the seminar was on basics. We are excited to continue this tradition again this October. We used this time to honor Dr. Chitose, our style's founder and to recognize those students who have worked hard for their promotion.



US Chito Ryo National Seminar - October 2022

### 2023 Kagami Biraki

Kagami Biraki took place the first Saturday in January with a few students who enjoyed the comradery and education. Various instructors from the DNBK were in attendance and shared with everyone their knowledge of their martial art.



2023 Kagami Biraki

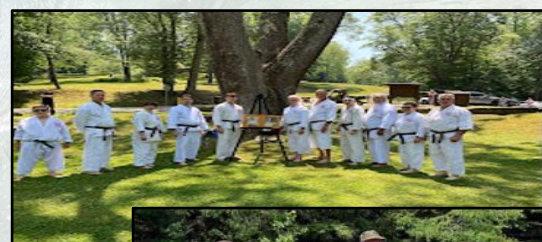
March blew in like a lion with the annual seminar to honor Hanshi Dometrich. We once again came together to share our knowledge and passion for Chito-ryu. Basics are always emphasized, especially stances, and self-defense. Hanshi would often state that basics are essential for all technique and to KISS (Keep It Simple Stupid).



2023 March Memorial

The annual Audra State Park campout and seminar took place in June. Students traveled to Audra State Park, West Virginia to campout in 40-degree weather (at night) and to work out near the beautiful but very cold mountain rocky river. Other than cold nights, the weather was perfect for camping and for training.

While out in the field, the hours went by quickly because of having been focused on basics, empi and the application of empi in self-defense.



Audra State Park seminar



# **Bushin Kan - United States of America**

## ***The World Butoku Sai Voices from Bushin Kan***

### **Bruce Myers, Jr.**

On the beautiful morning of April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023, we gathered for the Hono Enbu dedication in the historic Seiryuden (Taisho Butokuden). Among contemporaries from all over the world, we walked the same grounds as Emperor Kanmu did when he moved the capital of Japan to Kyoto. Gazing out upon the gorgeous vista of the city of Kyoto paled in comparison to the feeling of standing within the same hall as the Ao Fudo Myooh, the silk painting which is said to burn away material desires was truly overwhelming in its ferocity. As we sat within a place of such significant history, we couldn't help but be humbled by the dedications of our colleagues. From the solidest stances to the gentlest ukemi, their love of their chosen art forms was showcased for all to feel. Observing their fierce and enduring spirit as they performed, many with little or no sleep from the late arrival the day before, was inspiring. It set a precedent that we all aspired to surpass at each opportunity throughout the entire World Butoku Sai. These succinct dedications, these slight offerings of martial skill, were one small part that added with many others throughout the week to make the entire mission a truly astounding success.

### **Pete Steinbeck**

The inaugural visit to Ise Jingu provided WBS participants with a truly unique opportunity to experience and participate in rituals and ceremonies at the holiest shrine in all of Japan, which is dedicated to the Spirit of the Sun Goddess Amaterasu. Upon arrival, the Honbu and DNBK ID members participated in the formal Temizu cleansing ritual at the edge of the Isuzugawa River, then viewed song and dance at the Kaguraden, which served as

offerings to the Imperial Family and to a healthy harvest. The attendees were also witness to and participants in the first foreign demonstration of martial arts ever held at Ise. Upon conclusion, the ceremonial prayer to Amaterasu was solemnly performed within the confines of the Main Sanctuary where the Holy Mirror (commemorating Amaterasu-Omikami) is enshrined before quietly departing with indelible memories of the sites, the sounds of nature, and the tranquil and serene feelings that Ise evoked.

### **William Moore**

The 2023 World Butoku Sai was the perfect encapsulation and concentration of the deep spirit brought forth by the events of the preceding days. The Opening Ceremony with the presence of Princess Akiko established an unbreakable foundation for the WBS. The bold and inspirational words of Her Royal Highness forged a single unity of purpose between martial arts demonstrated at the WBS and the efforts to bring peace to a world in turmoil. Her Royal Highness made clear the unique role of Hanshi Hamada in creating this opportunity and challenge and the importance of unwavering lifelong dedication of participants to this cause.

### **Lorraine Heilman**

After our visit to the Ise Jingu, Hanshi Hamada reminded us that every mistake is simply another gate to be crossed. While that was heartening to hear, it spurred us to try to achieve our best in the upcoming WBS. After training so hard through 2018 to 2020 and the disappointment of the



## ***Bushin Kan...continued***

cancellation of the event because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we all did our best to train through the months and years of isolation until finally we could train again together. On April 29th, the day that the World Butoku Sai finally arrived, our hearts were filled with joy as we walked together as a team to the Butokuden. Being part of this amazing group of martial artists from around the world as we received the blessing at Heian Jingu to start the day helped to still the nervous anticipation for the day. We watched Hanshi Hamada as he moved through Harai no Gi and felt the power that he generated as it filled the Butokuden, transforming our anticipation into reality at long last. I hope that we will always have more gates to enter and more opportunities to strive for perfection.

During lunch, seeing the joy on everyone's faces as we ate together in the Budo Center felt like all the waiting was worth it. So many people were saying this was the best trip ever.

In the afternoon, the opportunity to observe the Japanese masters and their students was also an opportunity to reflect back on what we ourselves had accomplished through the mirror of seeing others from across the world continuing to honor the ideals that we hold so close to our hearts. Hanshi Hamada's powerful Iaido at the Osama no Gi was awesome to see and left us with such a strong reminder of why the World Butoku Sai is so important an event for coming together and striving to do our very best.

### **Maria Miller**

By the time we made it to the CIRT, our bodies and minds were completely fatigued; our feet swollen and blisters on soles, muscles shook and ached, and our minds only had the success of this last effort in it. The day was a blur of watching all of us fight through our own struggles and come out the other side successful. An edifying series of scenes to behold. The ending, standing in the fading light of Butokuden, wiping the sweat of our efforts off the

floor and touching the ancient beams one last time before our departure to our homes, was a strange, peaceful ache, a perfect ending to each of our personal battles.

### **Stephen C. Mahan**

On behalf of all Bushin Kan participants, by every measure, the 2023 World Butoku Sai was an overwhelming success. The echoes of that success provided a living testament to the strong mutual respect, trust, and support – Kizuna – that binds us together. The sheer joy of joining with the illustrious DNBK leaders, teachers, members, and spirits of those departed to the next world remains deeply etched upon our hearts.

Although our time together was fleeting, we certainly witnessed the demonstration of remarkable skills that continue to inspire us in our lifelong Budo journey. Beyond witnessing those skills, however, we were inspired daily by the sheer determination and perseverance of our fellow DNBK trainees who overcame many obstacles and hardships, including COVID, so that they might share their art with each other and with the world. We are extremely grateful for the inspiration we received, and for the unprecedented cultural, spiritual and martial opportunities provided to all participants through the care and effort of DNBK Honbu. In that spirit of gratitude, we pledge our continued effort in support of the Butoku virtues exemplified in our fellow warriors of DNBK.





## ***Bushin Kan Dojo News***

**Keith Rossmiller, Kyoshi  
Bushin Kan Dojo of Lexington  
Lexington, Kentucky, USA**

The Bushin Kan (BK) Dojo of Lexington remained active in 2022 with in-person Budo training. In partnership with Lexington Parks & Recreation, the BK Dojo of Lexington held 4 classes per week at 2 different locations in Lexington throughout the spring and fall training sessions. The classes included 2 beginner classes, an intermediate student class, and an adult class. Select student also had the opportunity to participate in Bushin Kan virtual Budo Clinics and seminars throughout the year and really enjoyed these unique training events.

The BK Dojo of Lexington held an end of session showcase in December. During the showcase each Karate class was given the opportunity to demonstrate techniques they learned throughout the session for family and friends.

The BK Dojo of Lexington will begin Budo training during the spring Karate session starting in February 2023. We will send one representative from the Dojo to Japan with our fellow Bushin Kan colleagues for the upcoming WBS. We are also looking forward to participating in the 40th Anniversary Kensho Kai in July.



BK Dojo of Lexington Group Photo

**George Lymbouris, Hanshi  
The Bayside Recreation Center Dojo  
Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA**

The Karate Do Bayside Dojo has been in existence since 2017. It is part of The Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation Centers and offers Classical Japanese Martial Arts programs. We have a steady enrollment of students with an average of twenty students per our six-week sessions. Students range from the age of eight and nine to late teens in high school to a sprinkling of adults. The diversity in ages offers opportunities for older students to help in the instruction of the younger ones, and for younger students to have an opportunity to be introduced to dojo etiquette and discipline exemplified by the older ones. Such a synergy makes for a united, healthy, and well-integrated dojo that all can mature, grow, and learn together.

The backbone of our dojo is the adult black belts who share their skill and experience in their instruction to the students. Shihan Dai Steven Downs is the mainstay of the dojo. Not only is his knowledge and experience invaluable, but his desire to pass these rare skills to the students is paramount to the long-term success of this dojo. We are also very fortunate to have two Karatedo Yudansha who volunteer with their skill set in instructing: Senpai Steven Emmanuel and Senpai Joey Flores.



The Bayside Recreation Center Dojo



## ***Bushin Kan Dojo News***

### **Lymbouris...continued**

Their ability to connect and relate to the rest of the dojo members plays an integral role in building a stable, safe place for the younger students in which to train.

Throughout the life of this dojo, including its rebuilding phase after the Covid-19 shutdown in 2020, many changes have taken place in the make-up of the dojo student body, as many students had not returned from the pre-Covid days. Regardless of this setback, we have survived and prospered. The current dojo make-up revolves around four older teen brown belts. Their teamwork, sharing of skills, and support for each other has placed them at the center in the rebuilding of the Bayside Dojo. They are led by Kari-Shodan Rakil Boone with his steady guidance and nurturing presence; Ni-Kyu Michael Rothwell with his raw Ki energy and perseverance; Ni-Kyu Jeremy Chamoly with his effort and dedication; and by Ni-Kyu Navaeh Hutchings with her grace, natural skills, and steadfastness. These four brown belts attended the just completed 40<sup>th</sup> Kensho Kai held in July at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia and led by Hanshi Hamada. Based on their feedback, they enjoyed this event immensely. Having the opportunity to be part of a larger brown belt gathering of peers, they were inspired by the challenge and Budo spirit to which they were exposed. On their return to the dojo, these four students brought back with them this spirit of excellence, giving all of us a glimpse into an expected brighter and rewarding dojo future.

We are proud and honored to be affiliated with the rest of the family of Bushin Kan dojos and moreover, we are humbled to be affiliated with the admired traditions of DNBK ID.

### **Chris Backus**

#### **Kempsville Recreation Center Dojo Virginia Beach, USA**

On February 28, 2023, Kempsville Dojo was given the once in a lifetime opportunity to see President Biden speak in person at Kempsville Recreation Center, Virginia Beach.

The invitation came on short notice and we were limited to a small number, so unfortunately not all Kempsville Dojo members were able to attend. Attendees included several yudansha, youth members, and their chaperones.

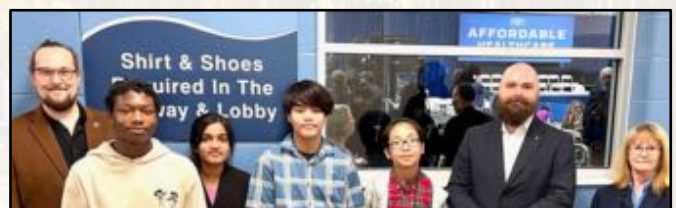
Some of our students were incredibly lucky enough to shake the president's hand.

Additionally, the room we train in was used as the staging area for President Biden and his staff, so we can now say that the president has set foot in our dojo.

Of course, none of this would have been possible if not for the dojo. We are grateful for all the opportunities and experiences that our training continues to provide.



President Biden's Visit



Chris Backus and Betty Martin, Kempsville Recreation Dojo leaders and its members during President Biden's Visit



## Appreciations

We wish to express our deep gratitude to the following DNBK representatives, coordinators, and dojo leaders for their contributions to this 2023 WBS special edition: Herbert Aroca, Chris Backus, Robert Burgermeister, Ron Davis, Barbara Dometrich, Larry King, Franz Knafl, Eric DeSimone, Doug Gelman, Hubert Thomas, Lorraine Heilman, Nolen Lah,

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## From the Office of DNBK International Division

### 2023 - 2025 Future Events Calendar by Honbu and DNBK ID

#### Fall and Spring Newsletter Issue:

**Please Note:** *As a standard policy, please do not send photographs of social functions. If photos are to be included, please adhere to the DNBK protocol and etiquette with feet together, hands at sides or on knees. Be mindful of the background and clutter on your photographs.*

#### Future Dates:

October - January - Annual dues and certification submission

2024 January 15 - Annual Dues Deadline

2025 April 24 - May 1 - 7<sup>th</sup> WBS (information forthcoming)

Please contact DNBK ID Office if you have any questions: [dnbkidkokusaibu2065@dnbk.org](mailto:dnbkidkokusaibu2065@dnbk.org)

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