

Kanjuro Shibata XX
4220 19th Street
Boulder, Colorado 80304

New Year message

Thank you very much to everyone for all your good help last year. At my age, it is difficult for me to return in kind all the help you have given. But here is a brief New Year message.

This year, please keep your good friendships close and strong. If you feel someone straying or a friendship going off track, reach out and pull that person back close to you. Keep your connections close.

The most important expression and source of love begins at home. The love in your household, between husband and wife or your closest partner, is based on peace.

To keep your friendships healthy, it is vital not to give in to bickering or one-upmanship. Please cut this impulse.

As well, remember to be kind and gentle towards animals and other living beings. Dogs and cats and all animals have good hearts inside. Even if their hearts are small, the center is good. To think of people as being the rulers of the earth is very questionable.

This year, please think of being an even greater help to our kyudo world and the inspiration and work that was started by Trungpa Rinpoche. Take an even bigger bite this year! To keep your fists up, in a fighting stance, is not a good way to do this. This quickly leads to throwing your arms all the way up in the air, as in 'Give up!' No, please keep your fists down. This is zen style, a zen point. Whether you are practicing sitting, standing, or walking meditation, don't think of making yourselves into Olympic top students. Just go deeply inside and find there the quiet, quiet. Then, the power of Trungpa Rinpoche's blessing can be felt and expand.

Now, the Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche is almost like his father, in the sense that he has cultivated some deep practice and he is creating the space and encouragement for everyone to come back together. Whether you have a connection to Trungpa Rinpoche or the Sakyong or not, we can all join together and draw the power of the sun as a source for cleaning our inside hearts. This year, I wish you all the greatest of happiness and good health!



Kanjuro Shibata XX

March 15, 2007

KANJURO SHIBATA XX, SENSEI

TEACHING SCHEDULE – 2007

DATES	PLACE	PROGRAM	CONTACT
April 13-15	Zenko Kyudojo Boulder, Colorado	all levels	Pearl Olson pearguid@together.net (303) 444-2070
May 4-6	Gekko Kyudojo Ojai, California	all levels	Mark Garrabrant 805-415-9003 mark.garrabrant@sbcglobal.net>
June 20-25	Dorje Denma Ling Nova Scotia, Canada	all levels	Sam West samwest@eastlink.ca 902-852-3221
June 29 – July 8	Karme Choling Barnet, Vermont	29-6 all levels 6-8 Intermediate & Advanced	Karme Choling programs@karmecholing.org 802-633-2384 ext.111
July 21-22	Barako Kyudojo Gouda, Holland	all levels	Martine Bouman bouman@enter-educate.nl Day (31) 182-549445 Eve (31) 182-526199
July 29 – August 9	Dechen Choling France	29-9 Intermediate & Advanced 2-9 all levels	Max Baltin baltin@nrw-go.de (49) 2533 934130
August 17-22	Shambhala Mountain Center Red Feather Lakes, Colorado	17-19 all levels 17-26 Intermediate & Advanced	callcenter@shambhalamountain.org 1-888 STUPA-21



Zenko International

Advisor:
Sakyong Mipham, Rinpoche

Kyudo Master:
Kanjuro Shibata XX

March 17, 2006

Dear Kyudo practitioners,

What is Zenko?

Sensei recently pulled out from his papers here in his house a document he had written years ago, upon the formation of Zenko International, stating the legal requirement for membership as a dojo within Zenko. In translation, it says: “On the occasion of the formal naming of Zenko, here follows the legal criteria for membership, as well as the mutual understanding and spirit with which we come together and foster peace. The essence and inspiration for our practice is to polish the heart and body. This is the primary point and strict adherence to this view is the first criterion for membership.”

Further, for many people who have been questioning whether or not there is a connection between Shambhala and Zenko, Sensei has this reply. There is no legal, formal connection at all between Shambhala and Zenko. Kyudo is not a form of Shambhala training. Kyudo is kyudo. However, to say there is absolutely no connection is also missing the point. The point is that we should never forget our beginners’ hearts. That is an essential kyudo point. For Zenko, our beginning comes from Trungpa Rinpoche and his Shambhala teachings. This is how Zenko was born. Therefore, we never forget this origin and our gratitude to him and his teaching lineage. In this way, we offer help to Shambhala (such as offering kyudo demonstrations on appropriate occasions) and we work together with that situation. There should be an overall feeling of respect, gratitude, and support. This is the continuity of our kyudo hearts and practice. At the same time, kyudo is kyudo. For that matter, you do not have to be a Zen practitioner either. You do not have to be Buddhist. You can be Hindu or Jewish or Muslim and still practice kyudo. It is standing meditation. AND, never forget your beginners’ heart!

What is the “Zen” in “Zenko”?

There are several kanji for the word “zen” in Japanese. One of these is a prefix, meaning “all”. Another is the kanji for “zen”, as in zen meditation. Sensei strongly emphasizes that the “zen” in “Zenko” is the kanji for meditation. He also distinguishes this from the meaning of “Zen” as in a particular school of Buddhism. Although the kanji is the same, the “zen” in “Zenko” simply means “meditation” with no particular association to a school of Buddhism.

A new name for the Boulder kyudo practice hall

Shibata Sensei has renamed Ryuko Kyudojo in Boulder, Colorado. It will now be known as Zenko Kyudojo. The original name (meaning, “Dragon Tiger kyudo practice hall”) was established by Shibata Sensei and Trungpa Rinpoche when they founded the dojo together. Sensei says he feels that it is timely to rename the dojo and that Trungpa Rinpoche would agree with him if he were here now. His intention in doing so is to make it clear that there is a central point to Zenko International, emanating from the Zenko Kyudojo here in Boulder (the same property where Sensei resides) and that all of Zenko International has arisen from this source. The new web address for the Boulder dojo is: www.zenkokyudojo.org

Bringing Europe and North America together

Shibata Sensei wants to bring the North American and European organizations together. He recognizes that for legal purposes it is necessary to have different corporations in Europe and the United States. However, he feels this has fostered a feeling of distance on both sides. With the intention of bringing all his kyudo students under one umbrella, he has asked that we eliminate the name “Oko”, which means “Europe Tiger” and has been the operating umbrella for the European kyudo groups. Now, the entire international organization will be known

simply as “Zenko International”. He requests that the leaders of the European organization work with Alex Halpern, the Zenko International attorney, to find a way to accomplish this goal. More importantly, he wishes for more contact between his European and North American students to develop a greater sense of unity.

The Three Slogans

We have now been instructed to recite the slogans only in Japanese. Sensei has said that having a translation in the beginning was helpful, but (since all translation is imperfect) it is now best for people to connect with them in the original language.

International kyudo gathering 2008

Sensei would like to host a ten-day international kyudo gathering here in Boulder, Colorado in the summer of 2008. His vision is that people from all the major centers will come and many people can stay right here on the property, as well as being housed together with local kyudo students. The gathering would include a pilgrimage to the kami shrine at Shambhala Mountain Center as well as lots of practice, teachings from Sensei, and a general galvanizing of energy. Details will be forthcoming.

Sensei's house

Many, many thanks to those of you who contributed in the last two years to help with improvements to Shibata Sensei's residence, which has been in great need of repair. Particularly, thank you to Gordon and Nancy Calahan, who undertook the project of completely remodeling Sensei's kitchen, which has transformed his living environment into a place that is light, clean, and cheerful. We have also purchased him a gas fireplace for his office area, where he spends a great deal of time. That has transformed a very chilly room into the coziest room in the house. In addition, these improvements were made: his roof has been repaired to last another 5-7 years; his entryway was retiled; he has new bookshelves in his study; and several new windows with proper weatherproofing. Without your generosity, this could not have happened. So, please know that he is most grateful for this and it affects the quality of his daily life immensely.

The advisory group

Sensei has been quite firm about not formalizing a governing structure for Zenko at this point. Simone Baring-Gould is continuing, for now, as the Zenko finance officer. Alex Halpern is Sensei's legal counsel for Zenko matters. Sensei has also asked Sam West, Scott Spanbauer, Mike Smith, and Max Baltin to contribute their guidance and ideas. However, he has quite deliberately not formalized this group, given it a name, or given anyone any specific political role. So, we hope you all will be patient, understanding, and helpful, as you are able, given the many changes that have occurred within Zenko. People have stepped forward as Sensei has asked them to and we are all working hard to be helpful as best we can. Sensei's energy is strong and he is teaching with vigor. His teaching schedule for 2007 is enclosed.

Communication about Zenko programs

Once again, Sensei would like to be properly informed of any kyudo programs being planned within Zenko. This is a directive straight from him, the same as last year. In his words, “This is simply a point of good manners.” If you are planning a program, please notify Sensei through Scott Spanbauer at scott@spanbauer.com.

Membership Dues

Finally, your support for Zenko and Shibata Sensei is essential for keeping him here teaching and keeping his kyudojos strong. Please return the enclosed membership form with your contribution. We look forward to further communication and strengthening our kyudo community in the natural way of meditation.

Alex Halpern

Scott Spanbauer



Zenko International

2007 Membership Form

Please complete the form and mail it with your check or money order payable to Zenko International. You may also charge your membership and donation to MasterCard or Visa. Note that some kyudojos collect and forward these annual dues to Zenko International as a part of their monthly dues. In that case, you may still use this form to make any additional contributions, or to inform us of address changes.

Mail your form and application to:
Simone Baring-Gould
74 Hickok Trail
Ward, CO 80401

Name: _____ Dojo: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State/Province: _____

Postal Code: _____ Country: _____

E-Mail: _____

Home phone: _____ Work phone: _____

Cell/Mobile: _____

_____ Individual membership: US \$120

_____ Senior/Student: US \$75

_____ Family: US \$170

_____ Supporting membership: \$150-\$200

_____ Other tax-deductible contribution: \$ _____

We can also accept membership payment in other currencies. Please indicate currency and amount:

CDN \$ _____ Euro _____