

芳弓会

Hogen

The Newsletter of Zenko International
April 2002

Building A Stronger Zenko

"Out of the blue" in 1999 Shibata Sensei XX contacted me in Canada to request that I move to Boulder. He asked me to live and work with him in creating a fresh start for his Kyudo organization to begin the New Millennium. With his help and that of others we began by creating the legal entity of Zenko International through filing a name change and revised articles of incorporation for the existing Ryuko Dojo, a 501-C3 non-profit educational organization, set up when Sensei moved to Boulder in the 1980s. Zenko means "All Tigers" and includes all of Shibata Sensei's Kyudo groups numbering approximately 38 throughout North America and Europe.

Since January of 2000 we have made steady progress in realizing Sensei's vision of a strong Kyudo organization that would support the various needs of his international students. In

see page 2



Sensei, attended by Sam, shoots at the Dedication of the Great Stupa, Rocky Mountain Shambhala Center, August 18, 2001.

Second International Horse Archery Festival

Ft. Dodge, September 2001
by Kay and Jaap Koppedrayer

This year as last, Sensei's travels took him to the heartland of America, to an old frontier town, Ft. Dodge, in the center of Iowa. For the past two years, the fairgrounds just outside this city have been the site of an International Horse Archery Festival. An incorporated non-profit educational organization runs the festival, which promotes appreciation of the traditional forms of archery worldwide and brings a greater awareness of the many cultural traditions involved. Horseback archery has been showcased at the festival, as have standing archery traditions from different parts of Asia, Africa, Europe and Native North America.

Because Jaap and Kay Koppedrayer helped organize the festival, Sensei was asked and agreed to bless the Festival with opening and closing ceremonies.

The Kyudo community is like family, and several of Sensei's students lent a hand. Sensei, Sam West and Donald Reilly were able to travel to the festival thanks to the generosity of Gordon and Nancy Callahan, who rented an RV to travel from Boulder and back.
see page 3

Zenko from page1

January of 2001 a number of Sensei's students gathered in Boulder for an organizational meeting from which a list of projects were identified and seven members of a new Kyudo Council were selected. The members are Max Baltin, Jim Boorstein, Ellen Maines, Heike Mitze, Vivi Spicer, Marion Taylor, and Sam West. This group met in Boulder on February 15-17 of this year to refine the organization and its goals.

Thus far wonderful

progress has been made in the areas of finance and record keeping, filing of previous tax reports, development of membership, database and communications, creation of this newsletter, establishing archival research and recording, upgrading instructor training, completion of practice manuals, and distribution of the new Kyudo brochure. In addition to this, the fresh energy has inspired new

Kyudo groups to blossom and old ones to find new strength and inspiration.

Everyone is invited to contribute to continued progress and the realization of Sensei's vision. Becoming a member of Zenko International, which pays Shibata Sensei's salary, is a great way to begin this new year.

Sam West
Head Instructor



On the lakefront in Chicago, Fuko student Pat Benjamin takes First Shot of the New Year, Feb 13th at sunrise. Photograph by Michael Chicetti.

Zenko online services available

To find out how to subscribe to and use the Zenko list, send a message containing the phrase "info zenko" (without quotes) to majordomo@indra.com. You'll receive an explanatory message within a few minutes.

While I have your attention—I'm overjoyed to receive your updates to the Zenko database. If you are a dojo head instructor or administrative contact, I can provide you with a member list that you can

inspect for accuracy, omissions, dues status, etc. If a few more dojos that haven't yet given me current membership lists would report in, I could print out and send you all a handy global directory of Zenko members. I'm also happy to print out mailing labels for programs you may be planning. If I can be of assistance, send e-mail, or just call me at 303/956-1112.

Scott Spanbauer. scott@indra.com

Horse from page1

Don and Sally Symanski came, as did Sean Pearson, Tom Delahanty, and Trinidad Campbell.

In addition to the opening and closing ceremonies, there were daily demonstrations of Kyudo and talks scheduled over the four days of the festival. For reasons related to his health, Sensei asked different students to do the opening and closing ceremonies and the daily demonstrations. Sam performed the closing ceremony, Jaap the opening, Sean, Jaap, Tom the demonstrations. As well, Gordon gave several demonstrations of rapid-fire shooting, *toshiya*, the form of shooting developed during the Tokugawa period for competitions held at the Sanjusangendo temple in Kyoto.

An especially poignant moment occurred just before the closing ceremonies on Sunday. Mike One Star of the Lakota Nation was giving the last talk of the afternoon. As he was talking, he turned to Sensei, who was sitting in the audience, and spoke about how Sensei reminded him of his father. He then took from his belt a knife that his youngest daughter had given him for Father's Day and presented it to Sensei, who in turn presented Mike with his walking stick. There wasn't a dry eye in the auditorium as this exchange took place. After Mike concluded his talk with a prayer song, Sensei was moved to sing his song recalling the flight of geese, dispersing, grouping and regrouping, flying away, only to return again next year.

A prayer, a thanksgiving, offerings in the traditional forms of archery, good feelings, farewells and returns.



Authors Jaap and Kay.

Dojos fom page 4

Washington, DC, our shooting had a very open-heart feeling. You could sense the genuine heart of sadness in us," said a practitioner from New Hampshire.

Gainesville, FL: Gainesville Kyudo group practices in Doug Morin's Bonsai Garden on Saturday mornings.

New York City: Jim Boorstein writes: "Toko Kyudojo New York City held a very well attended 40-day ceremony after the sad events of September 11th. We built a shrine, sat, offered incense, shot (with a special form), shared thoughts and poetry, ate, drank and enjoyed each other. It was sad, good and powerful." He notes that this has been the strongest period ever for the dojo with the number of members and level of practice increased.

Germany: Following our activities at Expo 2000, a Kyudo-Center was formed in Schaumburg near Hannover. This group consists of 13 very active members and is growing further. Kyudo-Center Schaumburg-Hannover is organized by Hartmut Wilkens, a long time student of Shibata Sensei. The group meets regularly on Thursdays.

Send your news and stories for Hogen to Dawn Matthews at dawnslight@aol.com. Send any digitized photos or graphics to Gator at dpmorin@directvinternet.com, please remember to identify your pics. Thanks, we hope you enjoy this revival of Hogen! Let us know if you have ideas for our next issue coming this October.

Your ego becomes the target.



From left: Lucy Halverson, Jim Boorstein, and Marion Taylor demonstrate three person Reisha at Karmê Chöling, Summer 2001.

News from the Dojos

Philadelphia: A Japan Festival Kyudo demonstration is being given by Shoko Kyudojo at Longwood Gardens in Philadelphia, reports Eric Laufe. They are looking forward to a program with Sensei and purchased a net for long distance shooting and framed Sensei's "Shoko" calligraphy.

Pittsford, NY: Shinko Kyudojo has a youth student
page 4

program as part of an after-school care program taught by Sean Pearson. Find out more from him at tao@rochester.rr.com

Santa Fe, NM: Jinko Kyudojo in Santa Fe moved from a roller rink to a Martial Arts Academy.

Long Island: Long Island dojo moved its practice to a boathouse on the water. "It's

very meditative," says Larry Bacrilman.

Washington, DC: After a lapse of over ten years, Miyako has been invited by the Japan-America Society to participate in the Cherry Blossom Festival for three events.

30 March, Miyako will demonstrated Kyudo at the Japan Bowl held for high school students from 46 states to demonstrate their skill in Japanese language at the Capitol Hilton. While parents, siblings and friends of participants wait for their favorite competitor to perform, all things Japanese will be demonstrated as an adjunct event. Miyako will give demonstrations, answer questions and show the National Geographic video called "Master Archer."

6 April, following the Cherry Blossom parade, Miyako will offer a demonstration of the three person Reisha form.

At a third event Miyako will also offer a demonstration of the three person Reisha form at the Tidal Basin where the cherry trees given to the United States by Japan are planted.

The Miyako October program with Sensei started with rain but it turned to beautiful open sky weather for shooting. Sensei said shooting in the fall was good because the sky is so open. Many people came from many different states. "Being with many practitioners from New York City and
see dojos page 3

VISIT To Japan

Max Baltin Shuko Kyudojo
Muenster, Germany.

Shuko Kyudojo was growing a bit in last year. Now we have 12 regular practitioners. Last spring we had an intensive program with Kanjuro Shibata XXI that attracted people from our region and two of them joined our dojo. We practice weekly on Saturdays and at least 4 times a year have practice days and weekend programs. Our plan for next year is to establish a possibility for regular long-distance practice.

One of the highlights of 2001, beside the program in Dechen Choeling with Kanjuro Shibata XX, Sensei and Sam West was the autumn trip to Japan with 28 European Kyudo practitioners. What a wonderful opportunity to see



this fascinating culture under the guidance of Kanjuro Shibata XX and his family. They all contributed a lot to make the stay a real highlight of Kyudo experience. We visited some shrines and temples that have been connected with Kyudo for hundreds of years, including the Sanjusangendo, we all know

*Top: Shrine in Kyoto.
Lower left: Heian-shrine,
Japanese garden. Below:
Yumi in Shibata's home.*

from the photo of Sensei. We practiced in different dojos in Kyoto and surrounding area. We enjoyed the hospitality of Japanese people. Especially the food is "sugoi." We all agreed, we never experienced a cuisine that is so delicious. So many things could be said but I couldn't describe the special atmosphere that is so different and relaxed compared with western temperaments. We all learned a lot about Kyudo and manners and I personally am sure, it wasn't the last time being in Japan.



SHIBATA SENSEI XX TEACHING SCHEDULE 2002

May 15-21	Ojai, CA: <u>Gekko Kyudojo</u>	Evening presentation May 16 Open program May 17-19
May 30-June 3	Montreal, Quebec: <u>Suiko Kyudojo</u>	Evening presentation May 31 Open program June 1-2
June 11-25	Karmê Chöling, VT: <u>Seiko Kyudojo</u>	Instructor Training June 13-16 Intermediate/Adv. June 17-19 Beginners program June 20-23
July 29-Aug. 12	Dechen Choling, Fr: <u>Oko Kyudo</u>	Instructor Training July 31-Aug. 3 Open program August 4-10
August 16-18	Bern, Switzerland	Open program
August 23-25	Vienna, Austria: <u>Gako Kyudojo</u>	Open program
September 5-8	Ft. Dodge, IA:	Horseback Archery program
Sept. 27-29	Halifax, Nova Scotia: <u>Kozan Kyudojo</u>	Open program
October 4-6	Boston, MA: <u>Biyako Kyudo</u>	Open program
Oct. 24-28	Boulder, CO: <u>Ryuko Kyudojo</u>	Instructor Training October 24-26 Open program October 27-28

Please register early for Instructor Training Intensives.

Please visit www.Zenko.org for contact information regarding programs.

*A cicada shell;
it sang itself
utterly away.*

—Basho