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Honbu News

Fall/Winter 2004

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World Seido Karate Organization

61 West 23rd Street
New York, NY 10010

- Japan Tournament
- Children's Spirit Day
- Kaicho Honored
- South Africa Tournament
- Anniversary Tournament
- Holiday Party



Upcoming Events

January

1 Saturday
Dojo Closed - New Year's Day
2 Sunday
First day of classes
9 Sunday
Kagami Niraki - 8 a.m.
22 Saturday
Promotion: All Children;
Adult White - Adv. Yellow

February

4 Saturday
Black Belt Dinner
19 Sunday
Promotion: All Children; Adv. White
- Brown

March

9 Wednesday
Promotion: Adv. Brown
11 Friday
Promotion: Shodan - Yondan

16 Wednesday
Promotion: Adv. Brown; Jr. Black Belt
18 Friday
Promotion: Shodan - Yondan
19 Saturday
Promotion: All Children; Adv. White
- Adv. Yellow; Jr. Black Belt
20 Sunday
Women's Seminar
22 Tuesday
Promotion: Shodan - Yondan
23 Wednesday
Promotion: Adv. Brown
25 Friday
Promotion: Shodan - Yondan

Message From Kaicho

Dear Seido Family:

I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. Though 2004 was not without some hardship, I am very proud to say that the World Seido Karate Organization saw another successful year. Both domestically and overseas, Seido Karate branches are thriving.

I was very proud of Kyoshi Suzuki and his students for organizing such a wonderful tournament in Chiba Japan this past November. Even though applications were due three months in advance, over 300 students participated in the events. In the true spirit of Seido, Kyoshi Suzuki's students showed great encouragement and hospitality to all those from out-of-town. I offer my heartiest congratulations to them on a job well done.

When I returned from Japan, Seido Karate's special programs were chosen by Just One Break (JOB, Inc.) as one of its Shining Star Honorees. Originally founded in part by Eleanor Roosevelt, JOB is a charitable organization that establishes partnerships with employers to advocate inclusive workplaces for the "differently-abled." Seido was honored along with two other recipients: Trisha Meili—known to New Yorkers as the Central Park Jogger—who has fought hard to continue her career on Wall Street, and Paulie Esposito, who lost both legs in the tragic Staten Island Ferry crash. I was so proud for Seido students to be in the company of these brave people. But this could not have been possible without your support. It is a reminder that Seido Karate is not only about kicking and punching, but also about making a meaningful contribution to our community.

As you may know, this year, we will not be holding a 29th anniversary tournament, as we will instead be rigorously preparing for the 30th Anniversary International Celebration. This week of events will take place in June of 2006 and will include ceremonies, unique seminars, a tournament and a branch chief meeting. This October, we will commemorate the 29th anniversary with a ceremony and get-together.

I feel that wonderful things are in store for Seido as we head into 2005. We must begin to work together to prepare for the milestone that lies ahead, as Seido members around the world are looking forward to coming to New York to celebrate the 30th Anniversary. I encourage all of you to get involved. As we have learned from the honors over the past year, together, we can achieve great things.

I wish you all the best for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,



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Holiday Party



by Amelia Sheftall

The 2004 Holiday Party was the most abundant to date!! The food buffet overflowed with fantastic dishes like roast pork, vegetarian rice and pastas, sushi and maki made here in the dojo kitchen and loads of desserts. A great time was had by all including Santa whose enthusiastic visit was a highlight of the evening. Kaicho quieted the karate crowd just long enough to receive a special presentation from the blind program students who thanked Kaicho for all his support and care by raising money and donating a check to the Seido Juku Foundation. Then there was the added bonus of a song that was performed in Kaicho's honor again thanking him for being the inspiration for their program. The Seido children had a great time playing games and drawing pictures on the chalk board while the adults mingled and visited with old and new friends. It is always satisfying to look around the room and see so many wonderful people in one special place where we study the sincere way. Osu.



28th Anniversary Benefit Tournament

This year's Anniversary Benefit Tournament was a huge success both in our raising thousands of dollars for the FDNY and NYPD Widows and Children's Fund, SHARE and the Seido Juku Foundation and in our demonstrations of sportsmanship and karate skills. This year we reintroduced exhibitions by senior students. While we often state that karate is not all about kicking and punching, it is very invigorating and inspiring to watch the strength and beauty of very skilled, athletic karateka. After all the dedication and hard work put into the day it was very rewarding to congregate back at Honbu after the tournament to eat, talk and congratulate the competitors.

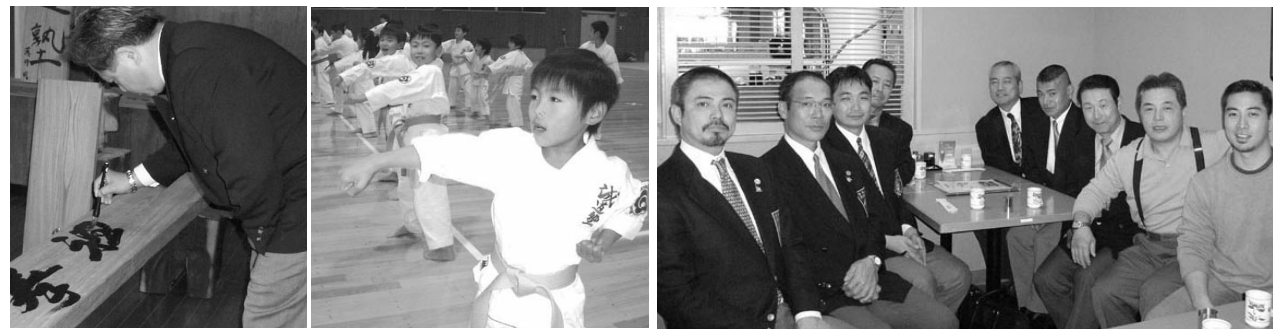


Japan Tournament



Kyoshi Suzuki and his Chiba dojo organized and hosted a tournament this past November. Though this tournament was not an international event, over 300 students from across Japan participated! Kaicho and Sensei Akira were in attendance and were very pleased with the extraordinary dedication and effort shown by all competitors and everyone who organized this wonderful event.

Kaicho and Sensei Akira also traveled to Tochigi via the bullet train. They stayed one night and attended the grand opening of Sensei Akira Usui's dojo. When they arrived, the children who train with Sensei Usui had been waiting for about an hour in the large training hall with no heat and the front door wide open to welcome Kaicho and Sensei Akira. The children then performed a boisterous training demonstration. The weather was near freezing and the students' hands and feet were so cold that Kaicho and Sensei were trying to warm them all up as they shook each of their hands. Despite the cold, everyone in the room was eager to enjoy one another's company and everyone smiled and talked for some time.



Spirit Day

by Gay Feldman

The children had a wonderful morning on 12/8/04. The annual Honbu spirit day was exactly that, a day to celebrate and enjoy each other.

I've been to many spirit days, I think 6 in all, but this year was especially wonderful because I was able to help out. I never realized how much preparation Kaicho puts into this special day. His love for the children is overwhelming and great pains were taken to make the day an event.

Kumite, Technic Shiai and Kata were set up in their own designated areas. The participants in each event, no matter how small, showed great focus, control and satisfaction for their best efforts. I was especially impressed with their self confidence as even the smallest child stood up, said their name, and performed their specialty. Sempai Greg, Sempai Homa, Sempai Angel, Sempai Amelia, Sempai Randy and Sempai Rikki who all give so much to our kids seemed to be having more fun than the kids. It's so lovely to see the warmth and true affection they have for all the children.

I am always very impressed with the way the classes are conducted, younger and older children learning together and learning from one another. This is the most positive way for children to learn. At the event, you could really see how the younger children are so inspired by their older peers and how the message of giving back has been passed down to the older students who are always present to help the little ones with joy.

The unique friendships and comradery among the children is most impressive. The day offered the whole community of students and parents an opportunity to support one another. As each child received their medal, the smiles on their faces said it all.





Kaicho was honored by Just One Break, Inc. (JOB) as someone who inspires and encourages people with disabilities to overcome the obstacles that would otherwise prevent them from realizing their dreams and career objectives. The Seido Juku Benefit Foundation was recognized as an organization that reminds us of the value of inclusiveness and the contributions being made by people with disabilities. Congratulations!



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South Africa Benefit & Memorial Tournament

by Laura Braverman

South Africa is a land of contrasts, from the modern financial center in Johannesburg to the lush countryside and beautiful coastline of Capetown; from the mansions in the Johannesburg suburbs to the shantytowns that still exist after 10 years of democracy in South Africa. From September 2-5, 2004, karateka from Honbu, Ithaca, Central Queens and the Chicago Thousand Waves dojos joined Kaicho, Shuseki Shihan Charles, Sei-Shihan Michael and Sensei Akira in South Africa to attend the S. A. Seido Karate International Benefit and Memorial Tournament in Johannesburg. The tournament was organized to celebrate the life of Sensei Leilah Said, the 20-year old daughter of South Africa Seido Branch Chief, Sei-Shihan Solly Said, who died in a car accident four years ago, and other members of the Seido family who have passed on but whose lives continue to inspire us. Besides the tournament, the weekend events included training with Kaicho, black belt seminars, a Self-Defense seminar with Kyoshi Nancy Lanoue (Chicago) and a Kumite seminar with Kyoshi Paul. We also enjoyed sightseeing trips around Johannesburg, including a visit to Soweto, the famous black township reminiscent of apartheid and the site of Nelson Mandela's childhood home.



The competition in the tournament was tough but friendly. Notably, Noriko Imai and Tenchi Hamaki took first place in their respective kata divisions while Virginia Gonzales snagged a third place finish. The competition concluded with a spirited men's black belt final between Jamaicans with Bruce McFarlane overcoming Everett Simms. The highlight of the day was the demonstration by the children of Goudpark Primary School, the tournament beneficiary.



The 750 students of Goudpark are economically disadvantaged residents of shantytowns, and the school had been rife with disciplinary problems, often involving physical violence, sometimes with weapons. Beginning in January 2004, Sei-Shihan Solly instituted a special program of weekly karate classes that has inspired the students and has made disciplinary problems infrequent occurrences. Schoolyard fighting now is no more than playful sparring. Approximately 500 of the Goudpark students came into the tournament stadium dressed in white t-shirts. They sang the South African national anthem in both English and Afrikaans, then

followed Sei-Shihan Solly's directions to move, punch or kick in synchronized motion. While most of the children exited the arena, a select few performed impressive shiai waza demonstrations, including some very acrobatic techniques.

After the tournament weekend, part of the U.S. group joined Kaicho in Capetown to celebrate the anniversary of the Capetown Dojo, led by Sensei Anver Wahab. The Capetown students gave Kaicho, Shuseki Shihan Charles, Sei-Shihan Solly and Sensei Akira a rousing welcome at the airport and were generous hosts to all of their visitors. We enjoyed a nice dinner and festivities at the Capetown Dojo. The Capetown black belts presented Sensei Anver with airfare for him to visit and train at Honbu.

