

**PAN-AMERICAN GOJU RYU KARATEDO
SEIWAKAI NEWSLETTER**

**全米剛柔流空手道
誠和会社内報**

**Dedicated to Traditional Goju Ryu Karatedo
Issue 50: September/October 2021**

All issues of the Pan-American Seiwa Kai Newsletter can be found online at:
<http://www.greatlakesseiwakai.com/usa-seiwa-kai-newsletters.html>

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Kawase Hasui: *Rain by Lakeside Matsue*

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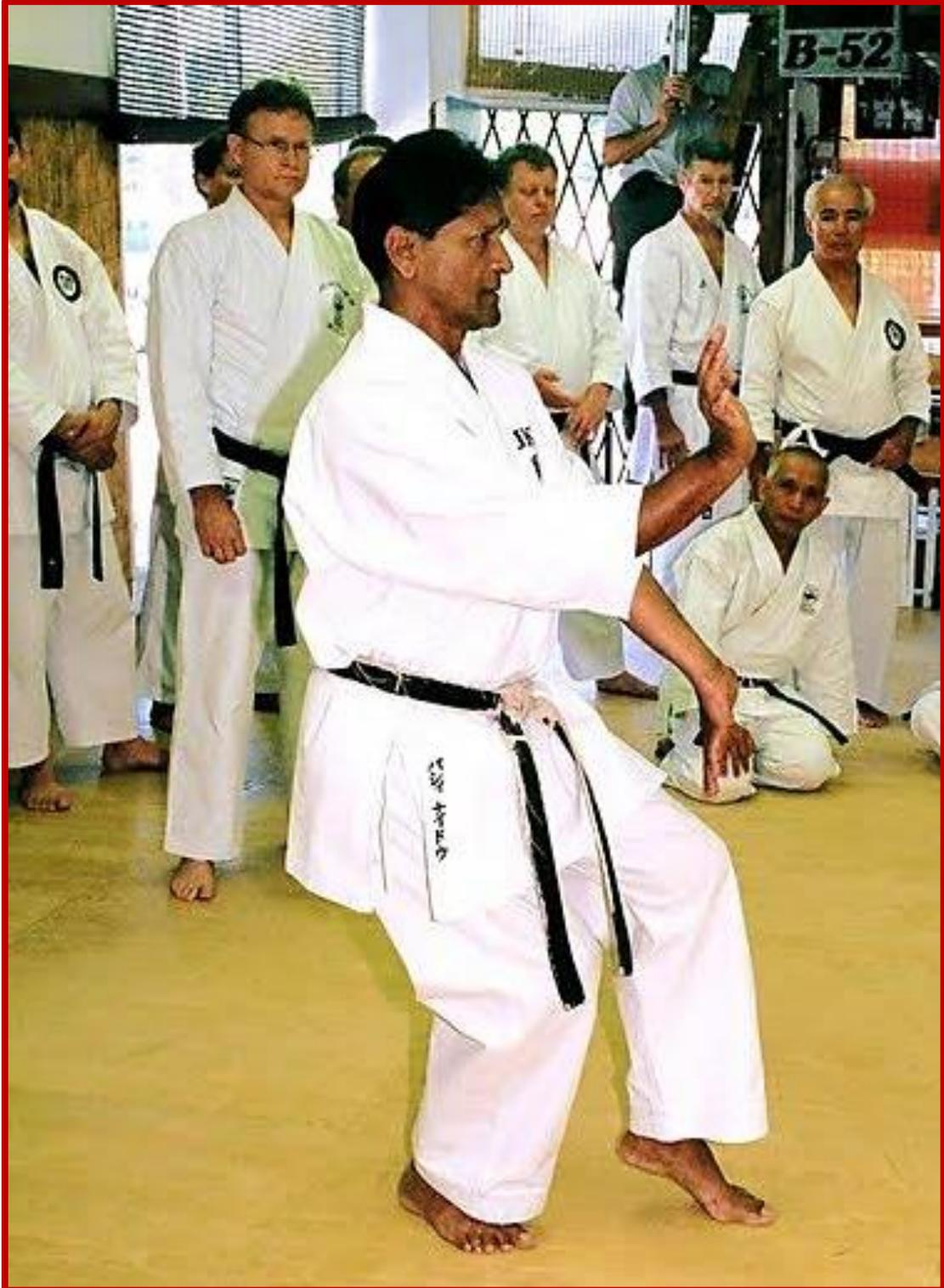
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**2021 Pan American Seiwakai Seminar and Shinsa
Taught by Vassie Naidoo 8th Dan Seiwakai
Vice President of Seiwakai International**



November 21, 13, and 14
At the NEW Hombu Dojo in LA

DATES	TIMES	LOCATION
Friday, 11/12:	6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	Honbu Dojo: 937 Westwood Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90024
Saturday, 11/13	9:30 am – Noon	Honbu Dojo for all events
	1:30 pm - 3:30 pm	Kata Instruction by rank for Shinsa (1st - 5th Dan)
	4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Seiwakai & JKF Gojukai Shinsa
	7:30 – 10:30 pm	Social Gathering. Cash Bar, bring your own takeout dinner of choice
Sunday, 11/14	9:00 am - 11:00	Beach Training @ Guard Station 26 - Santa Monica State Beach
	12:30 PM - 2:00	Honbu Dojo Advanced Training - 5th Dan and Above

NEW DOJO ADDRESS: 937 Westwood Blvd. Los Angeles CA 90024 (Across from UCLA)

It's only 15-minute drive from Santa Monica to the UCLA campus. Accommodations by either UCLA or the beach are good.

Cost: \$125 for the entire weekend. Register through Zen Planner.

[Please use this link.](#)

Due to Covid space requirements, training is limited to 60 participants. Do not procrastinate as this event will no doubt sell out quickly.

Grading applications must be submitted by your Sensei before November 1st.

YOU MUST BE VACCINATED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SEMINAR. Proof of Covid vaccination will be required upon arrival.

Zoom Training will be available at a reduced cost to those who are unable to attend in person.



Olympic Karate



The Tokyo Olympics of 2020 (2021) is the first time that sport karate has been in the Olympic Games. Unfortunately, it may be the last time since karate has not been included in the Paris Olympic Games of 2024. Sport Karate has been replaced by the “sport” of breakdancing.

Congratulations to all the Pan American Karate Olympic athletes, and a special congratulations to Ariel Torres Gutierrez, the Olympic Bronze Medalist in men’s kata. It was not an easy victory for Ariel; he had to defeat Antonio Diaz in the bronze medal round. Diaz is a superb competitor who has won the most World Karate Championships of any international athlete. Although Ariel lost to Antonio in the Pan American Championships in 2019, he defeated Diaz to win Olympic bronze.

Ariel Torres Gutierrez has his karate foundation in Goju Ryu with Robert Young Shihan in Miami Florida. Because of the nature of international kata competition, Ariel also performs Shito Ryu katas. Robert Young Shihan is a long-time Goju Ryu instructor and has attended some of the Seiwakai and JKF Goju Kai Seminars that Vassie Naidoo Shihan has sponsored.

Below left, Ariel Torres Gutierrez reacts to winning the bronze medal round
Below right, Robert Young greets Ariel at the airport as he returns home from Japan



Pan American Karate Olympians

Hamoon Derafshipour

Daniel Gaysinsky

Brian Irr

Sakura Kokumai

Tom Scott

Seiwakai Instructors' Seminar Series #2

By Emily Mata



On Saturday, August 28th, 2021, Great Lakes Seiwakai dojo held a Zoom seminar demonstrating and explaining the current WKF rules of competition. Lead by Sensei Mark Cramer, Great Lakes Seiwakai students David Hale, Emily Mata, Bryan Jansen, and Lexi McGuire, held a small mock tournament to show the rules in action.

We began with kata; showing the proper bowing sequence, explaining what katas can be used depending on belt level, going over the judging criteria, and other intricacies. Then we moved on to kumite rules, which – those of you who judge or referee know this – are much more complex. We started with basic rules, explaining the difference in the roles of the referees and the judges. Next came scoring; showing how many points different techniques are worth, and then moved on to the complicated subject of penalties. After going over the rules, we employed our guests on Zoom to do some judging for us in a kumite match (where there were only a few penalties).

The Seiwakai Instructors' Seminar was both informative and great fun to participate in, and we hope our guests feel the same. Although rules can often be a bore to learn about (especially in a 90-minute virtual seminar setting), the interactive nature of ours made it easy to remain engaged with the material. We hope to host another seminar some time!

どうもありがとうございました

The New Hombu Dojo: The Tradition Continues



The Pandemic closed the old Hombu Dojo on Pico Blvd in Sana Monica, and now a new Hombu Dojo is opening in West Los Angles near the UCLA campus. Work on the larger facility is being done by our Seiwakai family and friends. To make contributions for rent and renovation, please visit Vassie Shihan's Go Fund Me page to save the Hombu Dojo. <https://gofund.me/e6735e53>

Seiwa Kai Around the Globe



Goju Ryu Karatedo Seiwa Kai International



President: Seiichi Fujiwara Hanshi



Vice President: Satoru Takahashi



Vice President: Vassie Naidoo

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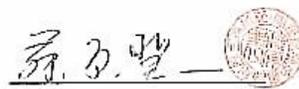
Craig Vokey
(Pan America)



Eddie Liu
(Asia)



Goju Ryu Karate-Do Seiwakai International
Member of
All Japan Karate-Do Federation
All Japan Karate-Do Federation Goju Kai



Seiichi Fujiwara (President)

“Lead them by political maneuvers, restrain them with punishments: the people will become cunning and shameless. Lead them by virtue, restrain them with ritual: they will develop a sense of shame and a sense of participation.” Confucius 孔子 (Koshi)

Mark Your Calendar!

Just in from Fujiwara Hanshi



2022 Seiwakai International Seminar & Shinsa – Omagari, Daisen, Japan

- July 6, 7, 8 – Training
- July 9 – Day off. Banquet that evening.
- July 10, 11, 12 – Training. Shinsa on the 12th.
- July 13 – Travel Day or Departure

2022 JKF Gojukai Overseas Seminar, Shinsa, and Competition – Yokohama, Japan

- July 14 & 15 – Overseas Seminar
- July 15 – Shinsa
- July 16, 17 – International Competition. Gojukai Banquet the evening of the 15th.

Further information on costs, hotels, etc. will be forthcoming.

Seiwakai International Women's Advisory Board

Photo by Timmy Singh

Article by Terri Herrera-Pounds



The Seiwakai International Women's Advisory Board (SIWAB) hosted an advanced training seminar with Fujiwara Hanshi on the weekend of August 28th and 29th (Tokyo time). This special women's seminar was coordinated with the assistance of Vassie Naidoo Shihan and was an excellent opportunity for women around the world to have an audience with Fujiwara Hanshi, and for him to work with the women of Seiwakai.

Over the course of the two days, Hanshi concentrated on the finer points of Tensho, Sanchin, Shisochin, Seisan, Seipai, and Kururunfa katas, and introduced new kihon drills.

Fujiwara Hanshi has been a great supporter of Seiwakai women, and their growth in the organization. We hope to have more opportunities for these types of trainings in the upcoming year. Women, stay informed of upcoming events by joining the SIWAB Facebook page or getting on the SIWAB mailing list at siwab2019@gmail.com

SIWAB PRESENTS
LADIES SEMINAR WITH SEIWAKAI
PRESIDENT FUJIWARA HANSHI

Sat 28 August @ 11:00 AM
Tokyo Time

Sun 29 August @ 8:00 PM
Tokyo Time

Open to female
Black Belts of all ages.
Cost: \$20 minimum donation
Link to [SIWAB GoFundMe](#) .
Email : siwab2019@gmail.com
Zoom Details will be sent to
registered karatekas

Please warm up before the seminar.
Dress neatly in karate GI.
Take water breaks only when Fujiwara Hanshi permits.
Have your mic muted and your video on with your name and country below it.

Seiwakai International Womens Advisory Board

KINNIE TAN
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EUROPE

From the Newsletter Archives: Fujiwara Seiichi President of Seiwakai Goju Ryu Karatedo

Translated by Mrs. Lisa Azuma of Santa Monica

From an October 2002 Newspaper article (Nitiniti Omagari - Akita Newspaper)



Mr. Seiichi Fujiwara Sensei was born in 1950 and has been an All-Japan National Kata and Kumite Champion. He has earned the ranks of 8th Dan JKF Gojukai, 8th Dan Seiwakai Gojuryu Karatedo, and 7th Dan Japan Karatedo Federation. Fujiwara Sensei is also a Director and Coach of the Akita Karatedo Federation Gojukai.

He serves as a senior member of the Overseas Committee for the JKF Gojukai and is President of the Seiwa Kai International Goju Ryu Karatedo Association, one of the largest Gojuryu Karatedo Associations in the world. As of 2002, he had served for 15 years as a JKF Goju Kai Overseas Director.

Currently his students number over 8,500 and in his home region, Omagari City, where he instructs students at the 7 branch dojos. He also instructs High School students at the Omagari Tachidake Gymnasium. Currently his Seiwakai Akita Omagari Dojo (the Gojuryu Karatedo Seiwakai

Honbu Dojo) is located at 18-5 Wakatake-cho, Omagari-shi, Akita-ken, Japan.

Fujiwara Seiichi age 52 (at the time this article was written in 2002) is the owner of Ohara Ryokan (traditional Japanese hotel) and has been promoted to the highest ranking of Goju Ryu Karatedo, 8th Dan. This August at the Japan Karatedo Federation Goju Kai Honbu Shinsa (promotion grading) Convention in Nagasaki, he received his 8th Dan certificate from the headquarters. Among the 15 applicants, Fujiwara was one of 2 people who passed the exam to become eligible. Until this time there have been only 2 people in their 50's who have made it to 8th Dan in Goju Ryu Karatedo. Moreover, there have been only 20 people, including Fujiwara, in all of Japan to become 8th Dan. Last year, his 7th Dan ranking was acknowledged by the Japan Karatedo Federation. (This is separate from the JKF Goju Kai and is awarder for knowledge of Karatedo rather than a specific style.) Fujiwara's pupils and peers explain "an 8th Dan in Karatedo is like a god!" as they prepare for Fujiwara's rank celebration party.

On the evening of October 29th, Fujiwara had just come back from instructing in England, Slovakia, and Australia. He travels overseas twice a year to instruct, primarily in Europe. One condition of attaining 8th Dan is that you must have been ranked 7th Dan for at least 7 years

combined experience. Fujiwara attained 7th Dan in 1995, but even if one passes the examination, one must receive a nomination from headquarters [Honbu] in order to rise to 8th Dan. In Fujiwara's case, the 11 years he spent instructing overseas was highly appraised work by Honbu.



Fujiwara Shihan instructing in Santa Monica, California, November 2012

However, even with a nomination from Honbu, the move in rank from 7th Dan to 8th Dan is not ordinary. While the examiners make their observations, one must perform the designated Kata.

The examiners must make judgments based on the skills that have been demonstrated. One must also demonstrate actual fighting skills from within the Kata and present an explanation of the skills used. Finally, the candidate must compose a thesis with the theme of, for example

"How I have personally benefited from Karatedo." Passing this examination, the first attempt is extremely rare. Normally, it takes 4 or 5 attempts at the examination before one finally attains 8th Dan. Fujiwara passed with just one attempt. Honbu said that this broke a more than ten-year record.

Fujiwara is originally from Yokote City (Akita Prefecture). He began practicing Karate at the age 17 years old when he entered Chiba Commercial College. Before that he was a track and field athlete. Knowing that there was a Karate program at the University he joined thinking that by learning grappling skills he would become stronger. With him as many as 80 companions entered the Karate program together.

The majority of the students in the program quit because of the harsh practice. Three months later there were only 10 people left. However, with the harsh practice Fujiwara not only improved but also became fixated on Karate.

Mr. Seiichi Fujiwara with his Hachi-Dan (8th Dan) certificate (2002)



After his graduation from the University, he joined a construction company in Chiba Prefecture which his Karate Sempai managed at the time. He worked there for two and a half years when the Goju Kai Hombu [headquarters] called upon him to become the coach of the University Karate Program. At that time, Mr. Seiichi Fujiwara was ranked as a 3rd Dan (Sandan).

It was around that time that Fujiwara's family moved to Omagari City from Yokote City and opened a Ryokan (Japanese style hotel) business. His parents told him: "We would like to have you help with the Ryokan", so he returned to Omagari City in the Fall of '73. Although he helped at the hotel, his Karate was not forgotten. In October of the following year, he opened a Seiwakai Dojo in Wakatake-cho and began coaching. As time passed, his Kohai [juniors and students] grew up and the single dojo expanded to 7 branch dojos including Akita-shi, Yokote-shi, Kamioka-cho and Nakasen-cho. Presently Fujiwara is exclusively in charge of the city-wide High School Karate program which he coaches at the city gymnasium [Budokan] and at the Wakatake-cho Dojo. Additionally, he focuses his attention on instructing in Europe and coaching overseas.

Fujiwara says, "the children say they would like to learn Karate so that they will not be defeated in a fight," and they join because they want to become strong. However, Karate is not learned in order to become strong in fights. Mr. Fujiwara explains: "We coach manners to children first, thoroughly and exhaustively to polish them as humans." When Karate skill is used thoughtlessly it involves danger. Gojuryu is based on the concept that "you do not strike a person and you do not get struck by a person". This is the spirit of our style's foundation. "The basis of Karate is to live in such a manner that you do not earn the hateful thinking of your partner (opponent)."

Among the elementary school students who receive Fujiwara's coaching, many of them go on to join their school's Karate teams when they enter 4th or 5th grade. Consequently, many of these children become leaders or captains of their teams. The number of pupils that Mr. Fujiwara has



Fujiwara Shihan demonstrating bunkai

raised is close to 1000. He has also been an active member of the Goju Kai Honbu 8-person steering committee for the past four years [1998]. He still puts on his white karate gi when he does Karate, goes to the dojo every day, and gets his body moving. I become uneasy if I don't put on my karate gi and move my body" says Fujiwara. With his gentle smile and his soft way of speaking, he gave no hint of being the majestic one who is loftily praised as a "god" of Karate.

Fujiwara, who was instructing overseas from the 15th to the 29th of this month [Oct. 2002], says "There are more than 7,500 Goju Kai members overseas. I spoke with the head of Europe's Headquarters [Mr. Leo Lipinski Sensei] and since we have peers all over the world, we would like to make some facility in Tokyo where these peers can come together. That is my dream for the future.

Even when he is traveling internationally, he does not worry about language. There is usually a local person who studied Karate as an exchange student and can help out translating. "Once you start learning a country's language, you get wrapped up in that country's customs and your purpose for being there then becomes compromised. So, I don't try to learn the language," laughs Fujiwara.