

**PAN-AMERICAN GOJU RYU KARATEDO  
SEIWA KAI NEWSLETTER**

**全米剛柔流空手道  
誠和会社内報**

**Dedicated to Traditional Goju Ryu Karatedo  
ISSUE 21: November/December 2016**

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Ohara Shoson: *Hawk on Snow-covered Branch*

## Seiwa Kai Seminar in Santa Monica, California November 4, 5, and 6, 2016



About 120 people from five countries participated in the three-day seminar. Throughout the seminar, Fujiwara Shihan explained the intricacies of each kata and always related these fine points to the bunkai applications. He gave us some partner drills for bunkai techniques that are found in several of our kata, and emphasized that we should apply these principals in our kumite. Although these techniques are applied slightly differently in the various kata, they all contain the same principle of using a minimum amount of force to receive a maximum strength attack. This is part of the Ju aspect of Goju Ryu.





We are all grateful to the Goju Ryu Karatedo Eibu Kan for their continued support and to Kay Sakaue who provided fantastic translations of Fujiwara Shihan's detailed explanations.



## Young Students Demonstrate Their Abilities



On Saturday afternoon, we were treated to a kata demonstration performed by students with disabilities. With Mallica (Naidoo) Cooper as their Sensei, these young students demonstrated some impressive abilities. The demo was both inspiring and heartwarming, and it was obvious to all that the young students were proud of their accomplishments.





On Sunday, there was a JKF Goju Kai Shinsa in the morning and a Seiwa Kai Shinsa in the afternoon. In between the morning and afternoon Shinsa, we had another two hours of fantastic training with Fujiwara Shihan.



Vassie Shihan commented on the seminar and Shinsa: “This was a great seminar and shinsa. I thank everyone for their support, and congratulate everyone who successfully graded.”

## Vassie Naidoo Hachidan: A Teacher of Teachers



At Saturday's banquet, Vassie Naidoo Shihan, received his certificate for Hachidan from Seiichi Fujiwara, President and Chief Instructor of Goju Ryu Karatedo Seiwa Kai International. Congratulations to Vassie Shihan from each and every Seiwa Kai member.

This makes Vassie Shihan one of only seven people worldwide to have a Seiwa Kai Hachidan, and he is one of only two non-Japanese to have earned this Karatedo ranking. It must be noted that in the Seiwa Kai, a Hachidan is the highest level that anyone can test for. The testing for all of Vassie Shihan dan-grades have taken place in Japan, and the testing for this highest-level dan-grade was conducted this past July in Omagari, Japan during a six-day period.

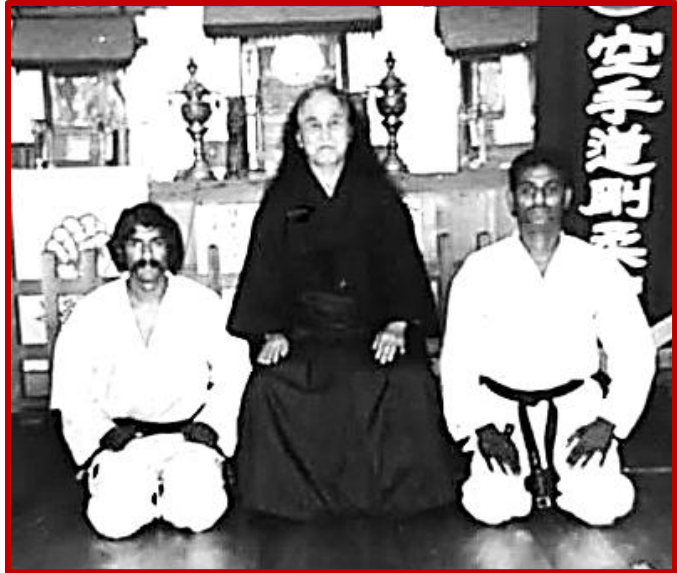
Vassie Shihan is President and Chief Instructor for the Pan-American Goju Ryu Karatedo Seiwa Kai. He regularly teaches in his Santa Monica dojo, and he also teaches extensively throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Some of his students have grades of Godan through Nanadan making him a teacher of teachers.

Vassie Shihan began his karate training in South Africa in 1964 when the country's Apartheid policies were strictly enforced. People of white European ethnicity, Indian heritage, and black African backgrounds all had separate facilities, schools, and accommodations. Vassie Shihan, who is of Indian heritage, boldly hosted the county's first multi-racial karate tournament in 1975. Mr.



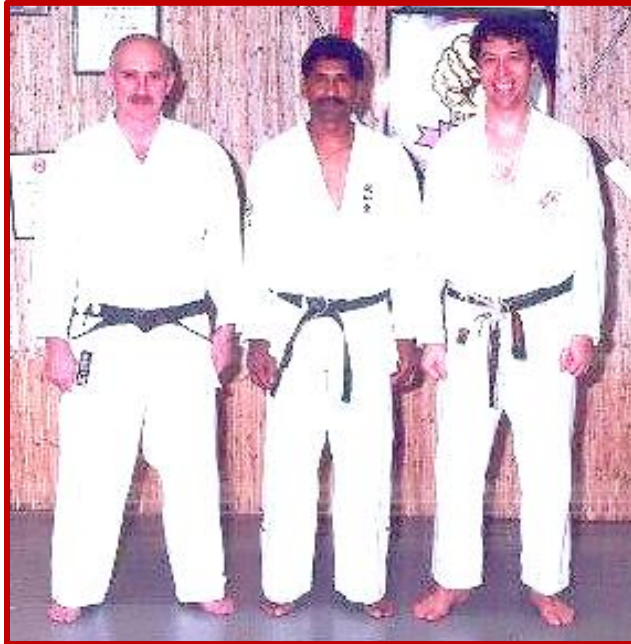
Gogen Yamaguchi, Vassie Naidoo's instructor in Japan at that time, once told him: "In Goju Ryu Karatedo, there is no segregation" and Vassie set the example in a nation known for its segregation.

**Right: Vassie Shihan with Yamaguchi Hanshi**



Because of the continued policy of discrimination in South Africa, Vassie Shihan left and arrived in Santa Monica in 1981. Here he opened a family business, the Pacific Palisades Bakery which was later renamed the Garden Café. Along with operating the bakery, Vassie Shihan continued to train in Goju Ryu Karate. He gradually attracted students, and in 1988 he opened a dojo on 14<sup>th</sup> Street in Santa Monica. As more and more students began to train in his dojo, he had to find a larger facility, and he opened a new dojo on Pico and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street which now serves as the headquarters for the Pan-American Goju Ryu Karatedo Seiwa Kai organization.

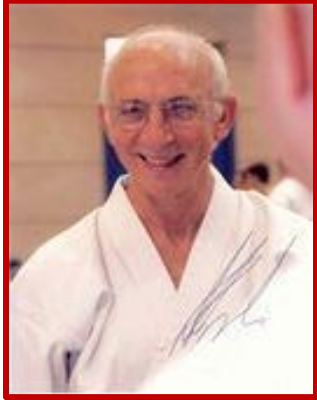
**Below: Shihans Leo, Vassie, and Des at the 14<sup>th</sup> St. Dojo  
Photo Courtesy of Des Tuck**



After 25 years of baking, teaching karate, and traveling to instruct others, Vassie Shihan decided to sell the bakery and devote all his efforts into teaching karate. Today, he teaches full-time at the Pico Blvd. dojo, and at Seven Arrows Elementary School in Pacific Palisades where he has been as an instructor since the school opened seventeen years ago.

Every year, Vassie Shihan travels to Japan to train with his instructors there. Then he returns to Santa Monica to teach others in the United States, Canada, and Mexico the proper ways of Japanese Goju Ryu Karatedo Seiwa Kai.

## **A Very Special Congratulation to Vassie Shihan From Leo Lipinski Shihan:**



CONGRATULATIONS to Vassie Naidoo Sensei. Vassie has been awarded his 8th Dan by Seiichi Fujiwara Hanshi.

Vassie has been very involved in developing USA Seiwakai and has also made large contributions to Mexico and Canada. I have personally known Vassie since 1970 and he has been a consistent support for many people including me.

Vassie came on board with Seiwakai in the early 1990's and was a member of the very first seminar in Omagari and Ibaraki when we only had 6 people in the training group. Nowadays we sometimes have 85 in attendance in Japan and Vassie has helped this to happen.

Seiwakai does not hand out 8th Dans. Vassie worked extremely hard for this on a physical level, not only organizationally by going through 6 days of intensive training to prove his technical ability to Fujiwara Hanshi. Again, well done Vassie. Best wishes from all in Seiwakai International.

# Santa Monica: A Seminar Full of Firsts

By Emily Mata



*Editor's note – The following article was written by an eleventh-grade high school student who attended her first Seiwa Kai Seminar with Fujiwara Shihan. Needless to say, she was impressed and inspired. She is now considering the feasibility of training in Japan in the summer of 2017.*

Going to the Santa Monica seminars on November 4th, 5th, and 6th was an experience full of firsts. I got to fly in an airplane for the first time. I got to meet many people for the first time that I had only heard things about (and yes, they were good things). I visited California for the first time. I tested JKF Goju-Kai for the first time. I went in the ocean for the first time. I got to meet Fujiwara Shihan for the first time. All of these experiences added up to be an incredible trip and learning experience overall. The depth of insight I gained even after just one hour of training was invaluable, and I look forward to every future opportunity there is to have another experience like this.

On Friday, the session was focused on Gekisai katas and Saifa kata. In the Gekisai katas, there were few nuances to be memorized, but there were many new centers of focus, In Saifa, there were various corrections to be made and committed to memory.

I learned more than just nuances in our katas, new self-defense techniques, and new ways to look at Goju-Ryu Karatedo in general. I learned that the Seiwa-Kai is family, through both good and bad times, and that it's seminars like this that help one to realize it. The connection through Goju-Ryu karate that we all share brings us together, for the betterment of our karate, ourselves, and the world around us.

## Seiwa Kai Mexico By Sabina Madrid



With great success and living up to our Seiwa Kai name in an atmosphere of peace and harmony, we hosted our eleventh technical training seminar taught by Vassie Naidoo, Kyoshi. This was done with a celebration of his recent 8th Dan Goju Ryu Karatedo Seiwa Kai. Only seven people in the world have an eighth Dan Seiwa Kai. Five are Japanese, and the other one is the representative of Seiwa Kai in Europe, Leo Lipinski, Kyoshi.

With the assistance of a historic 60 dan-grades training and a total of about 120 practitioners, it was a total honor to receive Vassie Naidoo Kyoshi and his great teaching. Additionally, we are grateful for the special visit of Shihan Don Carmelo Gutierrez President of the association of karate in the state of Jalisco. We are grateful to all of the leaders of Seiwa Kai Mexico





Infinite thanks also to the instructors who were kind enough to join us. OSS! See you next year!

# Quality Control

By Jim Pounds



We're witnessing a shifting emphasis on quality control in Seiwakai. This shift is by design and is a bit different than how many organizations attempt to improve quality. In this respect, I think Fujiwara Hanshi is quite innovative and I believe we are already seeing the benefits.

Most organizations attempt to improve quality by bringing up the lowest echelons – the “troops”, if you will. This is the duty of every Sensei in Seiwakai in their home dojos. Fujiwara Hanshi, because he has limited time with his international yudansha ranks, has taken a 180-degree approach by targeting our improvement from the top down. Not too long ago he made it clear that *everyone* trains. No more instructors simply observing or acting as self-appointed assistants, prowling the training floor while not actually training hard themselves. Hanshi has made it clear that you can't properly teach if you can't properly do, and we all know he holds himself to that exacting standard.

How many times have you seen out-of-shape instructors expounding about how students should be doing karate yet either cannot do, or do not actually understand what it is they're teaching? And how many instructors are simply resting on the laurels of their glory days while allowing their own knowledge and the quality of their students to stagnate?

Fujiwara Hanshi shifted the emphasis to a top-down training method, by requiring 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> dans be on the front row, setting the example by sweating with everyone else, enduring the pain and discomfort of hard hours of training despite age and injuries, and being singled out and corrected if necessary. When we are expected to lead by example it seems that everyone's karate rapidly improves. We seniors are like everyone else. We're particularly motivated to look good. If we're competent our students are likely to be competent as well because we can walk the walk and not just talk the talk. When instructors learn experientially they pass on Goju-Ryu more authentically and effectively. In addition, the leaders become tougher, more disciplined, and in better shape so their students are inspired by good example and not from rote.

There is an interesting Zen saying that seems applicable to experiential training:

*“One may talk about water but the mouth will not become wet.”*

Yep. Our teaching is more authentic when we know by doing rather than by theory or observation. We are better able to hold the space with our energy because we expend energy. And it's all about energetics. I am reassured when I watch Fujiwara Hanshi demonstrate his deep knowledge and work ethic again and again. It motivates me to emulate these traits so I can motivate my students to emulate mine. He doesn't teach anything he cannot do or does not deeply understand and that's

why our quality is constantly improving -- he leads by example and requires the same of his senior instructors.

Like anyone, I don't like being called out and held accountable when I don't understand and then don't perform well. To be able to stay humble, be teachable, and swallow our pride is essential for growth. If the cup is full nothing else can be added. If nothing can be added how can we ever grow as practitioners or more importantly, as teachers?

This system of developing quality from the top down puts us out in the skinny branches and outside of our comfort zones just like beginners. That's where real growth occurs -- not from stasis. Diamonds do not develop without extreme pressure. As uncomfortable as I feel at times I welcome the pressure. That pressure is meant to help us achieve excellence.

I'm reminded of Peter Urban's three rules for a dojo:

- 1) *All start at the bottom*
- 2) *Everyone works*
- 3) *Nothing is free*

We might add a fourth:

- 4) *Seniors! Front row!*

# Sanchin Shime: The Original Practice and Intent

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As we all know, Sanchin Shime is practiced in the Seiwa Kai, the JKF Goju Kai, and the overwhelming majority of every traditional Japanese and Okinawan Goju Ryu organizations. It involves everything from gentle touching and subtle pushing, to vigorous striking particularly of the shoulders and the lats (latissimi dorsi).

A couple of years ago, the purpose of this practice was challenged by a friend of mine who is an instructor in an American karate organization. He asserted that Sanchin Shime, which includes the vigorous striking of the shoulders and the lats is far removed from the original practice and intent of Chojun Miyagi. Without a doubt, this was a direct challenge to the authenticity and validity of the Sanchin Shime done by Mr. Fujiwara and most other traditional Goju Ryu instructors. My friend further asserted that this type of Sanchin Shime serves no Karatedo purpose. He contended that it is only a recent development which is done to impressing an audience, and to give people bruises which are then displayed like karate merit badges. However, when I inquired about the sources that led him to these conclusions, he was vague and illusive.

**Below: Sanchin Kanji Three Battles**



Every good researcher knows that identifying and citing one's sources is an absolute necessity so that others can scrutinize the research for accuracy. Every good researcher also knows that getting as close to the original source as possible is indispensable for anyone investigating history. Additionally, corroborating one source with another independent source is of extreme importance when attempting to track down the historical truth. Let's see what the research tells us about the original practice and intent of Sanchin Shime.

## The Research

It is logical for us to start our research by going directly to the founder of Goju Ryu Karatedo, Chojun Miyagi, but it must be noted that very little of Miyagi Sensei's research and writings survives today. Virtually all of it was destroyed in the allied bombing of Okinawa near the end of the Second World War.[i] However, Miyagi Sensei gave a speech following a Karatedo demonstration in Osaka, Japan on January 28, 1936, and copy of this speech survived the war. Although his writings were the basis of what he said, the English translation of the speech was simplified due to the complexity of both the concepts which were presented and the language which was used.[ii] Consequently, it may be difficult to base any concrete conclusions on it.

With this in mind, we should still consider what Miyagi Sensei told his audience on that day. In the speech, Miyagi Sensei tells us that the kihongata of "Sanchin, Tensho, and Naifanchi [from



Shorin Ryu based styles] are fundamental Kata. The aim of practicing these is to develop good posture and form, correct breathing methods, and correct harmonization of breath with the movements. Moreover, the *kihohgata* teach how to focus energy correctly and in harmony with our movement. This in turn promotes a strong spirit and physique and develops *budo* power of ki.”[iii] Whereas he mentions the purpose of all kihongata including Sanchin and Tensho, Miyagi Sensei does not mention any of the training methods such as Sanchin Shime which are used to teach the aforementioned principles. It is unfortunate that no direct discussion of Sanchin Shime by Miyagi Sensei is available to us. However, we know the principles that he found important, and we can confidently infer that he passed his training methods to his senior students.

Let us now turn to one of Miyagi Sensei’s direct and most senior students, Eiichi Miyazato Sensei. It is important to note that both Morio Higaonna and Eiichi Miyazato confirm that upon the death of Miyagi Sensei, Miyazato Sensei was appointed to continue the teaching at Miyagi Sensei’s dojo.[iv] and [v] Consequently, this makes him an excellent source as an expert on the teachings of Miyagi Sensei and his original practice and intent of Sanchin Shime as a training method.

Miyazato Sensei described the original intent of Sanchin Shime: “By striking the shoulders strongly a practitioner is able to focus their strength in their Tanden, and you know whether or not the strength is distributed throughout the whole body.”[vi] Consequently, we can see from Miyagi’s senior student and successor that the original practice of Sanchin Shime included the vigorous striking of the shoulders and was a training method designed to teach students to focus their power in their Tanden.

**Below: Chojun Miyagi Sensei Conducting Sanchin Shime**

Moreover, Miyazato Sensei specifically states that Miyagi Sensei deplored any type of public spectacle of Karatedo which was designed to impress an audience. This would of course be true of the public performance of Sanchin Shime: “Chojun Miyagi Sensei strongly prohibited such performances. The techniques we have today have been passed down through the ages by our ancestors who have stood in ‘real places of battle’, experiencing life and death situations, and have developed and improved techniques to survive. These techniques, with which we are entrusted, stand upon these long traditions.”[vii]

Consequently, it is clear that Sanchin Shime is neither a recent development nor a public performance. Instead, it is part of an ancient tradition developed by those who have stood in “real places of battle.”



Next, let’s turn to Morio Higaonna Sensei. It must be noted that Morio Higaonna’s teacher, An’ichi Miyagi was a direct student of Chojun Miyagi[viii], and this makes him a very good source regarding the original practice and intent of Sanchin Shime. It is also confirmed by Morio Higaonna that Sanchin Shime is part of an ancient tradition. As we all know, Miyagi Sensei’s teacher was Kanryo Higaonna, and his teacher in Fuzhou, China was Ryu Ruy Ko.[ix] We are

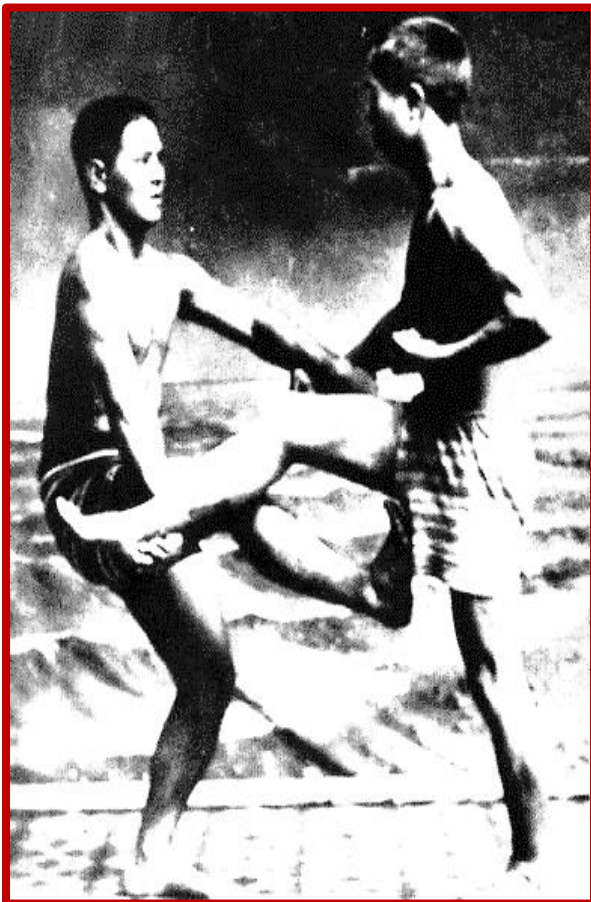
told; “Ryu Ryu Ko’s instruction was extremely severe, especially Shime.”[x] Consequently, we now know that strong Sanchin Shime can be traced back to the Chinese martial arts tradition of Fuzhou, China.

We are also told that Kanryo Higaonna continued this tradition of Sanchin Shime upon his return to Okinawa. Morio Higaonna continues: “An’ichi Sensei told me that Chojun Miyagi practiced Sanchin repeatedly, but would not take the normal three steps forward as in the formal kata. Instead, he continued stepping forward from one end of the room to the other, while Kanryo Sensei repeatedly struck his shoulders and other areas of the body. From this constant *shime* training Miyagi’s shoulders became... calloused.”[xi] We also know that the vigorous striking of the shoulders was part of Kanryo Higaonna’s instruction.

## Independent Corroboration

In order to independently verify that Kanryo Higaonna Sensei taught Sanchin Shime which was similar to the Sanchin Shime of Miyagi Sensei, one needs to research another senior student of Kanryo Sensei to see if they taught Sanchin Shime in a similar fashion. In this manner, we will know that it was not a development unique to Miyagi Sensei and Goju Ryu but instead come from Kanryo Higaonna Sensei.

**Below: A young Chojun Miyagi (left) and Juhatsu Kyoda (right) training together**



Kanryo Sensei’s most senior student was Juhatsu Kyoda Sensei. He was a year older than Miyagi Sensei and he began his training with Higaonna Sensei a year earlier. Consequently, he was a senior student to Chojun Miyagi in both age and time-in-training.[xii] After the second World War, Kyoda Sensei established his own style of Karatedo and named it Tou’on Ryu which literally means Higaonna’s Style.[xiii] This indicates that he had a deep devotion to his teacher, Kanryo Higaonna. If he was devoted to his teacher, and if his teacher used Sanchin Shime, we definitely should find this practice in Tou’on Ryu.

Whereas there was a good deal of information on the internet stating that Kyoda included Sanchin Shime in Tou’on Ryu, I was not satisfied with the quality of this research since I found this information in Wikipedia, website articles, and blogs. All of these sources lack the credibility that any good researcher should be looking for. In order to get the most credible information, I wrote to Mario McKenna. He is a well-known martial arts researcher, author, and practitioner of both

Goju Ryu and Tou’on Ryu. I asked McKenna Sensei: “I understand that you train in both Goju

Ryu and Tou'on Ryu. Can you tell me if Kyoda Sensei's teachings included Sanchin Shime and the striking of the body that is similar to the practice of Goju Ryu?"

Mario McKenna Sensei responded: "...sanchin shime is practiced in Tou'on-ryu but I should add it was never done in an extreme manner... Kyoda sensei would use shime to check his students sanchin kata. They focused mainly on the shoulders and lats [latissimi dorsi] as this is important in 'kotsukake' [proper skeletal alignment]; and on the turns, for maintaining balance."

Since Sanchin Shime with the striking of the shoulders and lats is found in both Goju Ryu and Tou'on Ryu, there can be no doubt that Higaonna Sensei included this type of Sanchin Shime in his teachings. The only point that seems to be debatable is the extreme to which some instructors take the striking during Sanchi Shime.

## Conclusions

It is clear what the research tells us about the original intent and practice of Sanchin Shime. It is an ancient tradition which can be traced back to China and which was developed by those who stood in "real places of battle." It is not done as a performance for an audience. Instead, it is a training method designed to teach the practitioner to focus their strength in their Tanden, to distribute that strength throughout their whole body, and to properly align their skeletal structure. This is a tradition that was passed from Ryu Ryu Ko to Kanryo Higaonna Sensei. He then passed it on to both Miyagi Sensei and Kyoda Sensei who in turn taught it to their students in Goju Ryu and Tou'on Ryu.

This is the same tradition which continues within the Seiwa Kai. Consequently, Fujiwara Sensei is preserving its original intent when he conducts Sanchin Shime on us. Additionally, Sanchin Shime is a teaching method which is done at Seiwa Kai seminars where there is virtually no audience. Consequently, it is never a performance or public spectacle.



Above: Seiichi Fujiwara Sensei Conducting Sanchin Shime

Research can only be scrutinized for accuracy when one's sources are cited. Moreover, only good research which is close to the original source and which is independently corroborated can preserve the historical truth. The lack of this type of research, the failure to identify and cite one's sources, and the omission of independently corroborated information leads to a misrepresentation of the facts and to the propagation of false beliefs. In this case, it also leads to the improper practice of Karatedo.

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- [iii] Higaonna, Morio: *The History of Karate*: page 88
- [iv] Higaonna, Morio: *The History of Karate*: page 143
- [v] Miyazato Eiichi: *Okinawan Den Goju Ryu Karate-do*: page 167
- [vi] Miyazato Eiichi: *Okinawan Den Goju Ryu Karate-do*: page 74
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- [x] Higaonna, Morio: *The History of Karate*: page 16
- [xi] Higaonna, Morio: *The History of Karate*: page 38
- [xii] McKenna, Mario: *Dragon Times*: Vol. 17 page 9
- [xiii] McKenna, Mario: *Dragon Times*: Vol. 17 page 10

## McKenna, Mario, Email Conversation October 9, 2016

Email: [greatlakesseiwakai@gmail.com](mailto:greatlakesseiwakai@gmail.com) Message:

Dear Mr. McKenna,

I trust that all is well with you, and that you are enjoying pleasant weather in BC.

My name is Mark Cramer, and I have been training in Karatedo for 46 years and 43 of those years have been in Goju Ryu. I am a member of Seiwa Kai and the JKF Goju Kai, and I am doing a bit of research on Sanchin Shime for our Pan-American Seiwa Kai Newsletter.

I understand that you train in both Goju Ryu and To'on Ryu. Can you tell me if Kyoda Sensei's teachings included Sanchin Shime and the striking of the body that is similar to the practice of Goju Ryu?

Sincerely,  
Mark Cramer

M McKenna [kowakandojo@gmail.com](mailto:kowakandojo@gmail.com)

Good morning Mr. Cramer:

Thank you for your email and the kind comment. Fall has started in Vancouver so, there are few sunny days lately, but this long weekend seems to be a mixed blessing so I am not complaining.

To answer your question, yes sanchin shime is practiced in Tou'on-ryu but I should add it was never done in an extreme manner; unlike some of the modern Goju-ryu schools. Those schools tend to treat shime as 'iron shirt' training and only focus on that to the exclusion of its other benefits.

Turning to Kyoda sensei, Kanazaki sensei stated to me on many occasions that Kyoda sensei would use shime to check his students sanchin kata. They focused mainly on the shoulders and lats as this is important in 'kotsukake'; and on the turns, for maintaining balance.

Kind regards,  
Mario

## Seiwa Kai Around the Globe



## Seiwa Kai Goju Ryu Karatedo International

### Seiwa Kai England TKF Nationals



# 2016 TKF NATIONALS CLUB / COUNTRY RANKING

RANK	CLUB	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
1	KAIZEN RYU KARATE	11	9	12
2	BULGARIA—SHINDOJO	5	2	1
3	HUNGARY - LEO KARATE DO SE	2	3	
4	SEITOU RYU KARATE	2	2	
5	SHODOKAN	2	1	1
6	OXFORD KARATE ACADEMY	1	2	8
7	ITALY - SEIWAKAI SARDINIA	1	2	
8	FIRST DOJO	1	1	1
9	PHOENIX KARATE	1		6
10	EAGLE EYE WU'CHI KWON DO	1		1
11	WINDRUSH KARATE		2	1
	THE KARATE CENTRE		2	1
12	HEMAL KARATE ACADEMY		1	
13	THE NETHERLANDS			5
14	HOTARU KARATE			2
15	EAST LONDON SCHOOL of KARATE			
	SENSHI RYUU			

Congratulations to all of the participants who competed at last weekend (November 4, 5, and 6) TKF (Seiwakai England) National Championships in London.

Thank you to all the club coaches and head of countries, spectators, parents, volunteers, officials and sponsors who all helped make this year's Nationals a success.

We would also like to thank De Photo, High Life Pictures, Rose Eclarinal, St John's Ambulance,

BBR TV (Bulgarian TV) and the Bulgarian London Newspaper for attending and covering the event.

Special thanks to Ondrej Citenyi who flew into to London to be Chief Referee and finally to both Seiichi Fujiwara Hanshi and Leo Lipinski Shihan for their continued support.



## A Glimpse into the Past

By Leo Lipinski



I recently saw [a] picture on Facebook. (Posted by Peter McGuire – in fact I already have this courtesy of Gogen sensei's book) At the time this was taken Tasaki sensei was the senior assistant at the Honbu dojo of the Zen Nippon Karatedo Gojukai. In fact, from my interview with Tasaki sensei, Gogen Yamaguchi had stopped teaching regular classes in the late 50's although many foreigners claim to have been "direct students" of the late Gogen sensei.

*Editor's Note: The photo below is not the photo posted by Peter McGuire and discussed in the essay. The photo below is from much later, the early 1970's. I tried and was unable to locate the photo described by Leo Shihan. Unfortunately, it had been removed from Facebook. However, Leo Shihan is familiar with the photo below and knows many of the people in it. Leo Shihan explains: "Tasaki sensei stands next to Gogen sensei on the one side and Goshi is on the other side. In the same row is Takahashi. Below includes Kaijo (he and I tested 3rd dan the same night under Gogen sensei. This was July 1970. In the same row at the end is Machida.)"*

I personally joined All Japan Karatedo Gojukai (later IKGA) in 1967 via Hong Kong and then in Japan in 1968. In all my years representing them in South Africa and until I left IKGA in 1987, I never saw Gogen sensei teach.

The actual teachers and assistants were Tasaki sensei and after him Goshi sensei. Sakamoto – then a junior in the early 70's became one of

the next assistants. By the early 70's the famous Takahashi Akio had gone from the headquarters dojo to practice exclusively with Tasaki sensei in Oshiage.





I have a fair understanding of some of the history but not all.

I received my 4th dan from Yamaguchi sensei in November 1973 and on the panel, were Gogen sensei, Tasaki Shuji and some others. I do not remember if Goshi sensei was on the actual panel. If memory serves me, I think there were other more senior members. I graded with Japanese students the same as I did for my 3rd dan years earlier.

At this time I met Paul Starling who had come to train at the college from Australia. I was training at that time with Kikuchi sensei – graded to 5th dan a couple of months before my 4th dan test and Wakako Yamaguchi – younger sister of Goshi – I trained very briefly at the college--it was a great concept that stopped very soon after (lasting only a few years)

Dr Kono had been the sponsor for the College, so I believe – his business was Seiwa Industries. He was a close friend of Tasaki sensei and when Tasaki sensei went with JKF GOJUKAI in mid-70's (Maybe as early as 1974) Dr Kono and the sponsorship followed him.

Many Japanese senseis rely on external sponsorships that come from friendships, business relationships, and often parents of children in training.

We forget how important the parents are in the karate life of their children. Fortunately, many appreciate the value that karate has in our academic life and probably in our work-life too.

# **SEIWAKAI EUROPE AND ENGLAND SEMINAR OCTOBER 2016: By Leo Lipinski**



Over a period of 4 days Fujiwara Hanshi and Takahashi Hanshi came to London to teach our annual European seminar.

Saturday afternoon was concluded from 5:30pm – 7:45 pm with Seiwakai testing from 1st Dan to 6th Dan.

The Testing panel consisted of Fujiwara 8th Dan Hanshi and Takahashi 8th Dan Hanshi as well as Leo Lipinski 8th Dan Hanshi , Rasto Mraz 7th Dan Kyoshi and Paul Coleman 7th Dan Kyoshi.

22 persons participated in the testing with Jamie Edmonds achieving his 6th Dan after a good general kata performance as well as a very high level of kumite showing his skills. We have very high expectations in England that Kumite is part of the grading above 5th dan. This must never be lost. I was pleased to see a general array of techniques that were not sports related including kingeri.

Sunday night was almost a repeat for the JKF GOJUKAI EUROPE REGIONAL TESTING but for fewer participants with people taking r examination from 1st to 5th Dan. We had 7 persons on the grading panel Fujiwara Hanshi, Takahashi Hanshi, Leo Lipinski Kyoshi, Rasto Mraz Kyoshi, Paul Coleman Kyoshi, and 2 additional examiners Abel Figueredo Kyoshi and Gila Pal Renshi.

## Seiwa Kai Goshukan South Africa By Gary Mahnke



Goshukan ReachOut proudly sponsored 3 top athletes, Adeb Fillies, Wongalethu Fandreki and Liam Meyer, to travel to Bloemfontein and train under the great 3 Times WKF all style World Champion, Haldun Alagas, WKF World medalist, Bahattin Kantaz and Turkish coach Sait Ucan. The knowledge they have gained training under these kumite masters, will greatly help them reach their dreams in the international tournament arena.



## **Seiwa Kai Russia**

### **An Upcoming Event: A Tournament in Honor of Saint Nicholas of Japan By Vasily Zyukalin**



16 ФЕВРАЛЯ (3 ФЕВРАЛЯ СТ. СТ.) – ДЕНЬ ПАМЯТИ СВЯТОГО РАВНОАПОСТОЛЬНОГО НИКОЛАЯ (КАСАТКИНА), ПРОСВЕТИТЕЛЯ ЯПОНИИ

FEBRUARY 16 (3 FEBRUARY ST ST.) - DAY MEMORY Saints Nikolay (Kasatkin), educator JAPAN