

**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 51: November/December 2021**

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

Send submissions to the Pan-American Seiwa Kai Newsletter to:
greatlakesseiwakai@gmail.com



Chojun Miyagi, Shihan: Goju Ryu Founder

Shuji Tasaki, Shihan: Seiwakai International Founder

Seiichi Fujiwara, Shihan: Seiwakai International President

Vassie Naidoo, Shihan: Seiwakai International Vice President

Craig Vokey Pan-American Seiwakai President

Seiwakai USA:

Jim Pounds: President

Vassie Naidoo: Advisor

Seiwakai Mexico

Marco Madrid: President

Vassie Naidoo: Liaison

Appointed by Tasaki, Shihan as
the Official Representative for
Latin America

Goshukan Seiwakai Mexico

Eusebido Montes: President

Vassie Naidoo: Liaison



Goshukan Seiwakai Canada

Craig Vokey: President

Vassie Naidoo: Liaison

Shuseikan Seiwakai Canada

Michael Beardwood: President

Vassie Naidoo: Liaison

Seiwakai Canada

Peter Brown: Representative

Vassie Naidoo: Liaison

Newsletter Editor:

Mark Cramer



Kawase Hasui: *Snow at Hi Marsh, Mito*

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Seiwakai Pan American Seminar 2021

November 12, 13, and 14, 2021



Jim Pounds:

This is what happens when an organization comes together, and it's all good.

The annual Seiwakai Pan-America Training Seminar was held November 12-14 after a one-year Covid hiatus. The event was also meant to dedicate the new USA Seiwakai Honbu Dojo, now located in West Los Angeles across from UCLA.

Since Fujiwara Hanshi was not able to leave Japan to attend and to lead the training because of travel restrictions, the decision was made to hold a different type of training seminar rather than trying to duplicate Fujiwara Hanshi's style and methodology. No one teaches in his manner or with his insight so why not try another tack? What could we bring to the table?

Vassie Naidoo and Jim Pounds created the training schedule and concept, which was to include more instructors teaching different concepts – everything from individual kata for grading groups to defense against weapons by our own firearms instructor par excellence, Robert DaLessio Sensei. We also wanted to include our old friends from Eibukan Goju-Ryu who had agreed to sit on the JKF Gojukai grading panel. Takahumi (Tak) Hamabata Shihan taught an excellent session on Goju-Ryu slipping and blocking techniques, and Donny Takemoto Shihan led the Nidan breakout group in kata Seiyunchin.

One of the overriding ideas for this training was the involvement of Sensei who seldom have an opportunity to teach on a national level. We wanted them to know they are important and that there is a path forward in the organization. Cream rises and so do quality karateka! Senior instructors also taught segments, but the idea was to let others teach, with seniors available for clarification and overall quality control. This was very successful.

Everyone certainly stepped up and the buy-in was gratifying to all who attended. In total, twelve different Sensei led sessions or breakout groups, which shows the depth of Seiwakai Pan-America despite Covid preventing our Canada and Mexico members from being there. Many of them attended via Zoom, including members from Brazil and Chile. One welcome exception was Angelo Panoussis Shihan from the Orangeville, Ontario Dojo, who led a breakout session and kept us all honest when it came to proper application of jiu-jitsu locks!

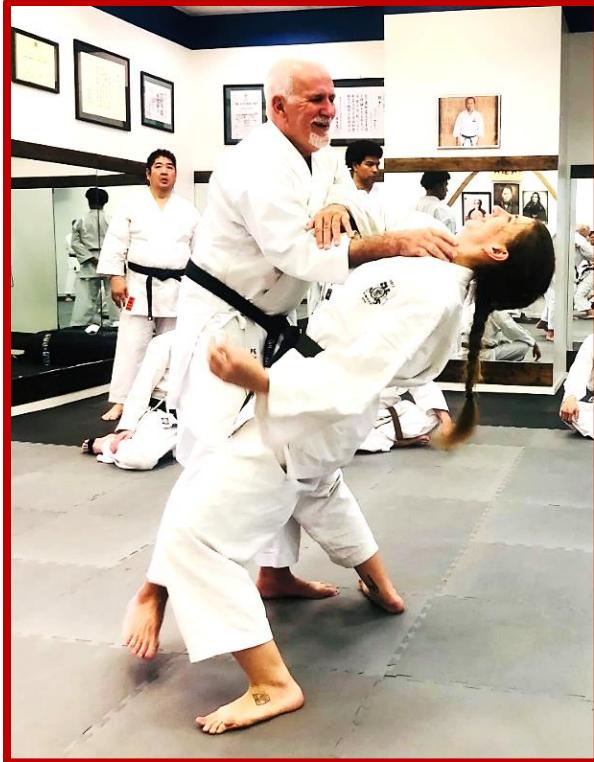
We learned much about running a three-ring circus:

- Rather than scheduling four segments in a morning or evening session, three would give us more time for greater depth.
- We need to get better at teaching Zoom and in-person participants at the same time. It is important for us to set up the teaching so Zoom participants also get to see the nuances.
- We need to schedule at least two hours between Beach training and dojo training. Traffic is much heavier in Westwood than it was in Santa Monica.
- When things don't go according to plan, the right people seem to step up and do whatever is necessary. And do it well!
- And lastly, everyone still loves beach training!

Congratulations to all instructors and participants for an enjoyable seminar and a job well done, and a particular thanks to Vassie Shihan's students who worked around the clock to get the dojo ready and to make this all happen.

Remember that this summer marks the 50th anniversary of Seiwakai International. It will be a memorable event and I hope you start making plans as you are able to attend.

Happy Thanksgiving and the start of the Holiday Season. I am thankful for this organization and to each of you.





Mark Cramer:

For the first time in two years, we were able to get together in-person and train. It was great to see everyone, renew friendships, and continue our journey on the Goju Ryu path. Hopefully we will continue to move in this direction and have many more seminars like this.

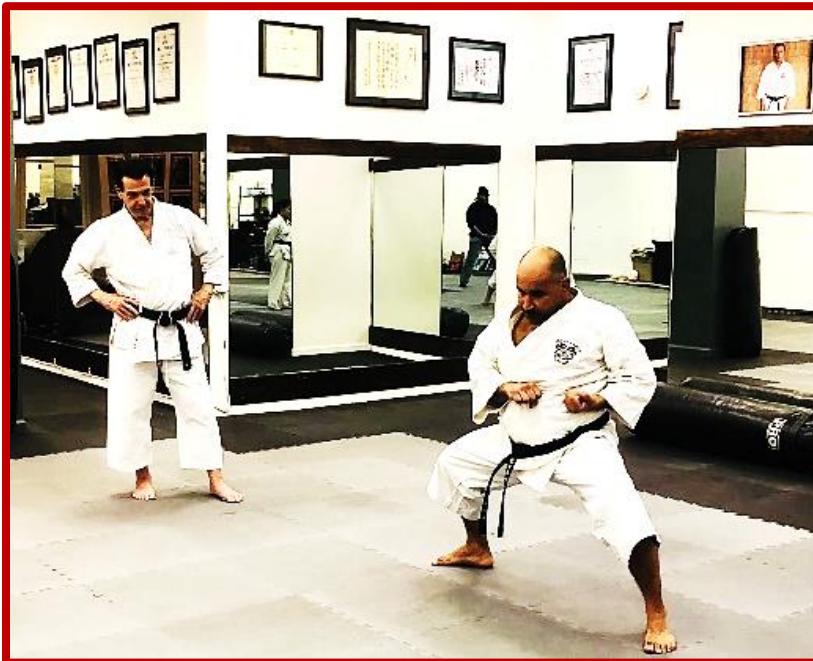
About 40 people trained in-person at least one of the sessions at the new Pan American Seiwakai Hombu Dojo in West Los Angeles, and about the same number trained with us on zoom. Members of our Seiwakai family from Brazil, Canada, Chile, and Mexico, were all present in the zoom format.

Vassie Shihan taught many of the kata including Kururunfa and Suparinpei and introduced us to some of the bunkai of Tensho Kata. Interestingly, the Tensho bunkai turned out to be an unplanned and recurring theme in many of the other sessions.

Hamabata Shihan from Goju Ryu Karatedo Ebukan and several of his students were also present and contributed to seminar with a very informative session on Goju Ryu slipping and blocking strategy. In other sessions, Jim Pounds Shihan took us through Seisan Kata and Kakie with various applications. Robert Delassio Sensei taught defense against weapons. These were all enjoyable and informative.

Angelo Panoussis Sensei came to LA from Orangeville, Ontario Canada and provided us with many insights in the seminar sessions.

Angelo Panoussis: I want to start off by saying thank you to everyone for a safe great training camp. Keeping with strict pandemic restrictions made the camp safe and very comfortable. Having been to many of these camps I have to say this was ranked one of the best. Maybe because I really missed training in a group or the excitement of a new dojo space, but I left this camp with so many details and like I call them presents to add to my practice.



I think it was also the combination of the people in the room. With Shihan Naidoo being the master host, having endless knowledge and one of the most welcoming personalities you could ever want from your Sensei, I was so pleased and honoured to be in the dojo. The room was filled with other Shihan's given the opportunity to teach at little something to the group. Very interesting how all the information from different instructors with no knowledge what the other was going to

teach tied into each other seamlessly and perfectly. All I have to say to that, is TENSHO.

They say things are going to change after this pandemic is over and if this camp is any indication of how it will, we are going to be just fine. I want to thank all the Shihan's and Sensei's for sharing the knowledge with us. Shihan James Daly for reminding me that you always need another set of eyes to watch you in order to get better. To Sempai John Dean for always being there for me and how much you do for the group in LA and the camps. To Shihan Vassie for being a leader we can all aspire to be like. Your example is precise and easy to see with no hidden corners. That gives us a clear path.

Chris Perry:

On the flight home, while reflecting on our recent Seiwa Kai seminar, it hit home how much I missed it last year. It was great to see old friends and meet other members of our Seiwa Kai family that I have not met before and glad we were able to get back to some level of normalcy. It was awesome to see the new hombu dojo. It is an incredible space and amazed at all the hard work people did in such a short time to get the place ready.

The training was fantastic. Without Fujiwara Shihan present, it was a little different format than we have had in the past. I really appreciated the other senior instructors leading different parts of the seminar. In addition to kata training, which was very detailed and in-depth, there were sessions around bunkai, defense against weapons and, of course, beach training! It was fun trying to

perform a kata while blindfolded on the beach. It is hard enough to keep your balance on just sand - the blind fold added a whole new level of difficulty! Thank you for a great experience and a big shout out and thank you for all who made it possible!

Beach training is always a favorite



The New Hombu Dojo Shomen



At the seminar banquet on Saturday November 13, the new Hombu Dojo Shomen was dedicated. It was a gift sent from Japan by Fujiwara Shahan, and it contains offerings of sake (for the divine) and salt (for purity).

At the beginning of the dedication ceremony, Vassie Shihan lit a stick of incense, let its smoke rise into his hands, and then released the smoke into the air. Burning incense is symbolic in many cultures including those of Japan, India, and Western nations. As the incense burns, its smoke rises upward toward the heavens.

The New Hombu Dojo Shomen is Dedicated at the Banquet.



Karate Canada

From Benoit Martial Arts



As the Canadian delegation comes back from a successful week at the Pan-American Championships in Uruguay, we'd like to take a moment to congratulate members of our delegation for their recent achievements.

Congratulations to Craig Vokey for being re-elected to the Pan-American Karate Federation's (PKF) directing committee as assistant treasurer and to Yaro Tarana who was reappointed to the PKF referee commission.

We'd also like to highlight the success of our referees, as Cloé Thibaudeau upgraded to Judge B kata and Judge B kumite, while Maryam Kermani upgraded to Referee B kumite. We would also like to thank all of our coaches, referees and delegates for their work and dedication during this event.

Alors que la délégation canadienne revient d'une semaine réussie aux Championnats panaméricains en Uruguay, nous aimeraisons prendre un moment pour féliciter les membres de notre délégation pour leurs récentes réalisations.

Félicitations à Craig Vokey qui a été réélu au comité directeur de la Fédération panaméricaine de karaté (PKF) en tant que trésorier adjoint et à Yaro Tarana qui a été reconduit à la commission d'arbitrage de la PKF.

Nous tenons également à souligner le succès de nos arbitres, puisque Cloé Thibaudeau a été promue juge B kata et juge B kumite, tandis que Maryam Kermani a été promue arbitre B kumite.

Nous tenons également à remercier tous nos entraîneurs, arbitres et délégués pour leur travail et leur dévouement durant cet événement.

- Craig Vokey, Head of delegation/Chef de délégation
- Pam Ross, Kata head coach and Team manager/Entraîneure-chef de kata et gérante d'équipe
- Heather Fidyk, Para-karate head coach/ Entraîneure-chef de para-karaté
- Luis Plumacher, Kumite coach/ Entraîneur de kumite
- Shaun Dhillon, Kumite coach/ Entraîneur de kumite
- Kara Lindsay-Ng, Athletic Therapist/Thérapeute sportive
- Claire Gougeon, Para support/Soutien para
- Jaroslav Tarana, Official/Officiel
- Chloé Thibaudeau, Official/Officielle
- Maryam Kermani, Official/Officielle
- Trevor Walmsley, Official/Officiel
- Thomas de Freyman, Official/Officiel



Seiwa Kai Around the Globe



Goju Ryu Karatedo Seiwa Kai International



President: Seiichi Fujiwara Hanshi



Vice President: Satoru Takahashi



Vice President: Vassie Naidoo

SEIWAKAI INTERNATIONAL CONTINENTAL DIRECTORS



Ben Mare
(Africa)



Glen Stephenson
(Oceania)



Gurmit Singh
(Europe)



Abel Figueiredo
(Europe)



Craig Vokey
(Pan America)



Eddie Liu
(Asia)



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

孫子兵法
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)

2022 Seiwakai International Seminar and Shinsa Omagari, Japan

Celebrating 50 years of Goju Ryu Karatedo Seiwakai



From Fujiwara Hanshi

To all overseas Seiwakai members

I think everyone is doing well and devoting themselves to practicing karate. We would like to inform you that the schedule has been decided as follows. It's been two years since the event, so, I'm looking forward to resuming it.

2022 Seiwakai Overseas Seminar

Dates: July 6th, 7th, and 8th

Times: 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM (including lunch break)

July 9th Rest Day

Dates: July 10th, 11th

Times: 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM (including lunch break)

Date: July 12th

Time: 12th 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM

Venue: All training is at the Omagari Daikyoku Budokan

2022 Seiwakai Shinsa

Date: July 12th, 2022,

Time: 10:00 AM

- Shodan to Godan

Time: 2:00 PM

- Rokudan to Hachidan

Venue: All events Daikyoku Budokan, Omagari

* We are planning a party from 5:00 PM after the shinsa.

2022 JKF Goju Kai Overseas Seminar, Shinsa, and Competition



Overseas Seminar

Registration

Date: July 14th, 2022,

Time: 8:00 AM

Seminar:

Date: July 14, 2022,

Time: 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM (with lunch break)

Date: July 15th

Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00

Shinsa: 1st to 5th dan and 6th to 8th dan

Date: July 15th

Times: announced the day before

Venue: Japan Karate Federation, Karate Dokaikan (Tokyo)

The JKF Goju Kai party in Tokyo will be cancelled.

2022 JKF Gojukai National Karatedo Championships



Dates: July 16-17, 2022

Time: Competition begins at 9:00 AM

Venue: Shin Budokan Yokohame, Japan

Seiwakai International Virtual Seminar

Photos from Bernie Haughey and Gurmit Singh

The Seiwakai International zoom seminar took place on Friday, October 30 and Saturday, October 31. All instruction was conducted by Fujiwara Hanshi from his Hombu Dojo in Omagari, Japan.

We are very fortunate to be able to train with our international Seiwakai family during these times. Many of us can't leave our countries, and some of us are not able to travel at all. Japan only recently announced that it was lifting some of its lockdown restrictions.

However, we are still able to train with Fujiwara Hanshi and our Seiwakai family through zoom sessions. It is not the same as training in person, but we are still learning and still feeling the comradery of being with our Seiwakai brothers and sisters.

2022 JKF Gojukai National Karatedo Championships



Dates: July 16-17, 2022

Time: Competition begins at 9:00 AM

Venue: Shin Budokan Yokohama, Japan

