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The Aikido Center of Los Angeles LLC  
道の為、世の為、人の為 合気道  
The Aiki Dojo

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International Aikido Kodokai, Rev. Kensho Furuya Foundation  
Los Angeles Sword & Swordsmanship Society Kenshinkai  
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## Reverend Kensho Furuya

1948 - 2007

*Each spring I come here to Become One  
with the blossoming flowers,  
My body thus has become just so many memories.*

*Hidden away under the leaves,  
One flower still remains ...*

**Reverend Kensho Furuya passed away the evening of March 6, 2007 while teaching class. The following speeches were given at the funeral.**



## Opening Remarks

**Gary Myers**

*5th Dan Iaido, Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

Good evening everyone. We are here this evening to pay our last respects to Rev. Kensho Daniel Masami Furuya. Our condolences go out to the Furuya family. I want to thank everyone attending this evening especially those folks who traveled from out of town to get here. I would also like to thank all the sensei and the Los Angeles and Little Tokyo community leaders for being here. Furuya Sensei would certainly feel honored by your presence tonight.

I have had the honor and privilege to be one of Furuya Sensei's students for almost 22 years. In that time I've seen Sensei accomplish many things. With those accomplishments there are many descriptors: Scholar, priest, martial arts master, author, designer, sword expert and connoisseur, community activist, and cultural archivist. But above all, he was a truly great teacher. Teaching was not only the love of his life; it was his life. He often said that all he was doing was passing on what he learned from his teachers in the most direct manner he could. And while he taught us Aikido, Iaido, and Japanese culture, he also taught us life lessons and how to be a better people. Sensei believed that everyone had the capacity to learn and better themselves. He asked more of us than we sometimes asked of ourselves and made sure we questioned why we didn't. He was uncompromising in his principles of teaching. How I miss the sound of his voice yelling at us in Iaido class.

Sensei's TV appearances certainly made him well known to the public. But it was his instructional videos, his book *Kodo* and his use of the internet that made him world famous. What amazes me is that he accomplished most of this in the confines of the dojo, yet he has a following throughout the world. Although he took occasional trips to the Bay area, he admitted that he didn't travel well. Whenever he went on a trip he immediately missed the dojo. I experienced this first hand when we went to Japan. The first several days in Tokyo were not pleasant for him and the person who arranged our accommodations booked a single room for us to share to save on expenses. I can report that he was a sound sleeper and a loud snorer, so I didn't get much sleep those first few days. His mood changed as we traveled from Tokyo to Kyoto and we had separate rooms so I slept better and Sensei loved his time in Kyoto. But even there he was planning how he could bring back this experience to the dojo and his students. Sensei was impressed by the small gardens spaces that he saw in Kyoto. The result was the entry garden to the dojo that was featured in the West Magazine of the LA Times some months ago.

We are saddened by Sensei's sudden death and our challenge as his students is to carry on his legacy and teaching tradition. And although he is gone, we are happy to undertake this challenge by the fact that his teachings and memory live on inside each of us. Thank you.

# Eulogy

## Dr. Helen Hsu

My name is Helen and I'm here to represent the Hsu family, who have known and loved Sensei Furuya for more than 20 (30) years of blessed friendship, and all of us who had the privilege to know Sensei's complexities personally.

I'm humbled to stand before you and try to do any justice to Sensei's legacy.

Initially, our lives came together because of martial arts, where Sensei's renowned reputation and quality writing speak for themselves. But beyond his credentials and great accomplishments, he became a family member to us. When I told my Dad the sad news of Sensei's passing, he was incredibly sad. Everywhere my Father or Sensei went, anywhere in the world, they would think of one another and send packages across the oceans: books, tea, calligraphy supplies - recently Sensei even sent European cheeses all the way to Taipei. Together they would lament the compromises in quality of martial arts these days, to a depth only they could truly understand. My father's latest book has just been published, with a very special dedication to Sensei Furuya, for years of sincere encouragement and countless hours of careful editing and enthusiasm. My father sends his deepest regrets to miss this service as he is caring for my fragile grandmother in Taiwan.

When I told my mother of Sensei's passing, she said, (sigh): "*See jie you sao luh ee guy tuh bieh ren zhong luh*". Or : The world has lost another of these special kinds of people. Indeed.

When I told my brother, he said, "wow, that is really sad" and we agreed that Sensei was like a really fun and Japanese version of our father, if one can imagine such a thing!

A friend once said that it is technically incorrect for me to refer to him as "Sensei". After all, I was never accepted as a dojo student. I have never focused and trained my way up the Dan ranks. But over the years he taught a great deal through thoughtful example. When I moved to Los Angeles for college in 1992, and for graduate training in 2000, I lived under the protection of an "L.A. Dad" at the dojo.

Sensei gave me the Daruma which resided on my desk for 5 years-until I could color in that last black eye, at the completion of my Doctoral degree. When I opened my own practice, a beautiful Japanese scroll was the first gift to arrive and bless the therapeutic spacem, much like the 3 exquisitely beautiful scrolls he donated to my non-profit Asian Community mental health services- where he was happy to learn his scrolls had set off a series of heated bidding wars at the charity auction.

I've taken a few quotes from Sensei's e-mail correspondence with me, that seem quite relevant today. Early this year, Jan. 1, 2007 to be exact, he was extending his support to me regarding my grandmother's ill health. He wrote:



*Dr. Helen Hsu, speaking Sensei's eulogy*



*Once a priest was invited to conduct the funeral service for a family, and the head of the family invited him to write something to console all of the family members. He wrote, "Grandpa dies, Father dies, Child dies." When everyone saw this, they were enraged at the priest for writing something so awful and horrible but the priest explained, "this follows the natural order of things so it is really a "blessing" that our lives go as it should.*

*It is only too sad when this order is altered or changed. . .*

How does one convey the complexities of a man so firmly in many worlds? An old fashioned brow beating teacher, the funny man who would cover his mouth and giggle, who was the same man who could knock you over with a disapproving look? Sensei was a man who could diligently study calligraphy or tea ceremony for hours, and then go out for lamb risotto and crack up over really awful kung fu movies. He reported to me how funny it was that he and his Aikido students celebrated Chinese New Year at Canter's Jewish deli. He took us out for the most elegant dinners but was also comfortable at Aunt Kizzy's Back Porch where they added him to their wall of celebrities.

Furuya Sensei could be prone to blunt words and sharp criticisms, yet was still a big softy in his heart; who would fret, and worry, and make plans, and buy gifts for people... even while complaining about them. He would be so thrilled at all the wonderful and fascinating people here this evening, who best represent all the diverse ways he touched and influenced lives literally all over the world. And like an authentic Aikido master, he did this without force.

I hope Sensei's stubborn dedication to preserve the integrity of Aikido, and of Little Tokyo, will live on and flourish in us all. On Jan 27th, 2007, He wrote me:

*As long as you love your work - keep working! Despite the fact that I will never be a "success" in the common usage of this word, I love my work, and I will continue to work my head off until I bite the dust.*

We are saddened to lose the companionship and guidance of this generous soul. But I am glad Sensei Furuya is free from all the stress and suffering of this life, and it is in the natural order of things, that I, that we can be here to mourn him. I am deeply grateful that he was able to pass his last moments surrounded by the art and the students he cherished, in the beautiful dojo he built.

Thank You.



*Reverend Kojima giving the sermon at Furuya Sensei's funeral*

# Personal History

*Read by James Doi, 5th Dan Aikido, 4th Dan Iaido, Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

Daniel Masami Furuya was born in Pasadena, California, on April 25, 1948, as the only son of Ted and Kimiye Furuya. At the age of eight Furuya Sensei started his martial arts training. At fourteen he received the rank of shodan (first degree black belt) in Aikido. Upon graduating from John Muir High School in Altadena, Furuya Sensei then went to attend the University of Southern California and Harvard University where he received his degrees in Asian Studies and Eastern Religions. In 1968 while at Harvard University, he studied under the notable Aikido teacher, Mitsunari Kanai Sensei of the New England Aikikai in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Furuya Sensei traveled to the Aikikai Foundation Hombu Dojo, the world headquarters of Aikido in Tokyo, Japan to study under Doshu Kisshomaru Ueshiba, the son of the founder of Aikido, Morihei Ueshiba known throughout the world as O'Sensei. After returning to the United States, and continuing his training, Furuya Sensei opened his first dojo in Hollywood in 1974. At the time he shared the dojo space jointly with a gymnastics school. Furuya Sensei dreamed of opening a dojo that strictly focused on teaching Aikido classes seven days a week. In 1984, he realized his dream by establishing the Aikido Center of Los Angeles in Little Tokyo.

In 1989, Daniel Furuya was ordained as a Zen priest under the Most Reverend Bishop Kenko Yamashita of the North American Headquarters of Soto Zen Buddhism, Zenshuji Temple and received the name of Kensho. In 1991, along with Bishop Kenko Yamashita, Reverend Kensho Furuya spoke before the United Nations on the subject of world peace. In 1992, he established the Los Angeles Japanese Sword Society. Furuya Sensei was awarded the rank of 6th dan (6th degree black belt) from the Aikido World Headquarters.

In 1994, he authored the acclaimed nine volume video series, *The Art of Aikido*. He wrote *Kodo: Ancient Ways*, one of the most comprehensive and well-read books on martial arts philosophy published in 1996. He wrote numerous magazine articles and frequently appeared on television programs speaking on the subjects of martial arts, Eastern studies, and Eastern philosophy.

Furuya Sensei, throughout his lifetime, has also achieved the rank of 6th dan Kyoshi in Muso Shinden Ryu Iaido. In over 50 years of training and teaching, he taught thousands of students and Aikido teachers. The Aikido Center of Los Angeles now has a dozen branches operating throughout the world. He was actively involved in the Little Tokyo community. Throughout the years he served on various board, and committees; such as the Japanese Sword Society of the United States, Southern California Sword Society, Southern California Yamanashi Prefectural Association, Da Camera Society of Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles Police Department Civilian Martial Arts Advisory Board, Greater Little Tokyo Anti-Crime Association, and others.

In his later years, Furuya Sensei often humbly referred to himself as a "stepping stone" for his students down their paths of Aikido. The week before, students noticed that Furuya Sensei was unusually happy. On March 6, 2007, while teaching, at the Aikido Center of Los Angeles, in the presence of his students, he passed away laughing. May he rest in peace.



# Words of Appreciation

**Kenneth Masami Furuya**

*4th Dan Aikido, 4th Dan Iaido, Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

Every time we had a community event or demonstration Sensei would want us to take a headcount. I think I'm in trouble because there are too many of you to count. Although Sensei was an only child and he never married, he still had quite a large extended family. He often joked with me that his students were his children and that he worried about each and every one of them. So on behalf of his family and students at the Aikido Center of Los Angeles I wish to thank you for your generosity in giving kind monetary expressions, the floral pieces, offering incense/flowers, eulogies, sermon given by Bishop Akiba and Reverend Kojima, and for the people who participated in the funeral services.



*Pillow Service for Sensei, March 7, 2007*

I would also like to thank the following organizations and individuals:

Aikikai World Headquarters, Zenshuji Soto Mission, Little Tokyo Public Safety Association for providing security, Brian Kito of Fugetsu Do, Darrel Garibay of Mega Toys for using their parking lot, Francis Yokota our caterer, Carol Tanita for being Carol, right now she is getting an award from a community organization so she can't be here but she was a great help to the dojo in the past week. I don't know what I would have done without her. James Takata for the multimedia presentation that will be viewed at the reception and Kaoru Tamura for her Japanese translation, thank you also to anyone that I may have forgotten. Again, thank you very much.



*Priests from other local temples chanting at Furuya Sensei's funeral*

## Closing Remarks

**Mark Cornillez-Ty**

*3rd Dan Aikido, 5th Dan Iaido, Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

Thank you very much to everyone that attended Sensei's funeral. I'm sure he would have been surprised and very happy with how many people came to pay their respects.

Many of us knew Sensei for quite a long time. Some of us knew him for years, and others shorter than that. But regardless of how long each of us knew him, I'm sure we all feel that he's made a tremendous difference in our lives.

I knew Sensei for almost 14 years. When I started Aikido, I was really just a kid. Over the years, he taught me far more than excellent Aikido and Iaido. He gave me the strength to make it through difficult times, and taught me how to be a better, more thoughtful, and caring person.

Sensei devoted his life to Aikido and the martial arts. Sensei's dream was to build a dojo where one could practice Aikido every day. He often told me stories of how he would have to rush from one dojo to the next, even driving as far down as San Diego, just to be able to practice daily. He made countless sacrifices to build our dojo.

I don't think even he realized how successful he was. He brought up many good students, and built a dojo that people throughout the world admire.

I think the best way we can repay Sensei and keep his spirit alive is to continue to strive for excellence in our respective martial arts. I'm sure that's what he would have wanted. Sensei often felt that people took their training for granted, treating the martial arts like a mere hobby. For Sensei, training was a part of daily life, and it was life itself. I know most of us can never match the same devotion Sensei showed. That's impossible. But, we can at least make a serious commitment to our training. That, I feel, is the best way we can honor his memory.

For us, the members of the Aikido Center of Los Angeles, this also means working together now, to build the new dojo, and in the future, to support one another and maintain the strength of the dojo.

Thank you Sensei. We will always remember you, and your dream *will* live on.



*Flowers from Sensei's funeral in the dojo*



# An End of An Era

*Sifu Adam Hsu, Director Traditional Wushu Association*

In early March of this year, I received a phone call from the Aikido Center of Los Angeles. That it was 6:00pm, Taipei time, struck me as strange because that meant in Los Angeles it would be around 3:00am. Though this fact should have put me on alert, the news that my old, dear friend Furuya Sensei suddenly passed away was a huge shock. It was like taking a major blow while in a totally unguarded state.

Though I had to somehow accept the news, for quite awhile I just didn't know how. Then other people called to inform me and reality could not be denied.

I would like to start with February 14, Valentine's Day. My latest English-language book, *Lone Sword Against the Cold Cold Sky*, had just come out. Furuya Sensei contacted me, very excited, very happy. He phoned, emailed, ordered copies of the book, notified his students and martial arts friends in and outside of Los Angeles and told other mutual acquaintances. Even before February 14th, my little book had been the focus of tons of correspondence between us—we exchanged more letters, phone calls and emails than at any other time in our thirty-plus years of friendship.

At the time, I attributed all this to the book itself. Sensei had pushed and squeezed me to get it done. He also helped in practical, specific ways: he read through the entire manuscript and returned it with precise, detailed edits and major suggestions, which we implemented with gratitude. Preoccupied with the pressures of daily life, my thoughts and perceptions didn't expand much beyond our business at hand. Now, looking back, this was the very last time our friendship could connect in this way.

Always along with our specific communications, he expressed his biggest hope and request: "When will you be in Los Angeles?" Of course, he talked about helping me to do a book signing in his dojo, or maybe hosting a party to meet with all our old martial arts friends. Or could I perhaps conduct another workshop for his students? But underneath all of this, I had the clear feeling that aside from specific plans, he was reaching for something very simple and valuable: We just needed to get together, see each other and chat face-to-face in the way of friends, about this and that, about martial arts, culture, society, friends, the joys and frustrations of our work, and about people we love and care deeply for. It'd been much too long.

It's so sad to think that now this won't happen. I've been in Taiwan for about ten years. Early on, I could still manage time to travel. But my



*Furuya Sensei and Sifu Adam Hsu*





*Sifu Adam Hsu, Furuya Sensei and Naoji Karita Sensei  
June, 1991*

situation shifted in ways that keep me from leaving. I have been taking care of my elderly, sick mother. I have obligations to Echo Publishing Company to write a series of books. I also have a close engagement with the Cloud Gate Dance Theater, a group that not only produces world-class performances but also runs many dance schools for youth throughout Taiwan. I train the dancers in traditional wushu so they can move in the rooted, traditional Chinese manner. For their schools, they asked me to create and implement a new traditional wushu program to teach their young students real and correct kung fu—a happy responsibility that unfortunately requires my continued presence.

Alas, though I've been forced to postpone my long-overdue trip to the U.S., Furuya Sensei was not able to wait. It's so difficult to comprehend, as I sit here holding this new book, which is filled with my old articles written and published from the 1980's and 90's on—the exact period of time that marks our friendship.

Sometime after I just moved to the U.S., I met Furuya Sensei at my first performance in Oakland, CA. We sat side-by-side and demonstrated on stage

and so began my relationship with this unique individual. Thumbing through my book has brought flashbacks and tons of old memories that really have not been easy to face. Since we met, so many things have happened and knowing him was a major part of my life. In the areas of martial arts careers and just living life, we did many things together. A while ago, Furuya Sensei phoned me to talk about a pleasant reunion he'd just had with a group of old martial arts friends. He laughed as he told me how they always used to chat about new techniques, how to make a punch faster, stronger kicks, a new weapon learned. Now, he said, the information they shared related to blood pressure, good physicians, and joint supplements. He was chuckling and I was laughing too—we all admit that we're old. And then, not too long ago, after the book came out, one of his many calls in the morning, Taipei time, came through: "Hello! Did I wake you up? What time is it there? Oh, is it too early? I'm sorry!" He was very excited. He told me he was rearranging things in his office and, "Hey, I found some old pictures of us—you and me—from back then, when our hair was still black!" Of course, we had a good laugh. Our hair, just like leaves, should change color. We tend to forget, but it's totally natural and the leaves finally will fall.

Sensei Kensho Furuya was born, raised and received his formal education in America. He has a degree from USC (University of Southern California) and I remember teasing him once that he graduated from the University for Spoiled Children. Of course this joke didn't originate with me but still we had a good laugh.

As I know, his ability in the Japanese language—both writing and speech--was much better than many people now living in Japan who are, like him, of the post-war generation. In martial arts circles, he's even better. He absorbed every bit of nutrition from his martial arts training—not just technique and practice of Aikido and

Iaido, but also the depth of thought and action that comes with these ancient, traditional arts. He built his own character, personality, and style.

He studied Buddhism and eventually qualified as a Japanese Buddhist monk. He served in the church for quite some time. He also practiced the Japanese tea ceremony and Chinese calligraphy. He was a well-rounded, educated gentleman.

Some people felt his attunement to the customs, ancient traditions and legacy of his culture made him an anachronism in modern times. But he loved it. He lived, taught and shared his heritage with others in the most modern city in the world, Los Angeles. I would say he faced his surroundings, fought very hard and took his hits with honor and courage. He did not allow modern society and its negative pressures to knock him off his path. He refused to surrender, to compromise his heritage, to leave tradition. I would say he struggled in a gentle way but in fact, very hard. His dream was not to create a huge personal success but rather to help people, the younger generation and society regain a much-needed balance.

But the sad truth has always been that he worried this could be a losing battle. This was a depressing thought and he had no easy place to release his sorrow. Instead, he assumed a happy face, was nice to people and continued to work hard on his basic purpose. At the same time, unfortunately, this took a toll on his health.

For a time, as a young man, he worked as an officer in a bank. One day a young Chinese gentleman walked in to ask for a loan. We all know banks like to deal with rich people. As the joke goes, banks are like this: If it's a sunny, fine day, the bank will happily loan you an umbrella. But in a storm, the bank is not going to loan you, someone in real need, an umbrella. Anyway, this young Chinese gentleman, who wanted a loan to publish a martial arts magazine, was lucky to be interviewed by Furuya Sensei. The rest is history. The loan was approved a new star was born: Inside Kung Fu magazine.

Later, Sensei quit the bank to work with Inside Kung Fu as a book editor for their publishing division. I mentioned his abilities in the Japanese language. Well, his English is good too. In this year's New Year issue of the Newsletter, he had one or two little poems, very well written. He's a good writer and poet. And of course he wrote a martial arts column called Kodo, Ancient Ways, later published in book form. It's thoughtful, serious, pointed; yet with moments of humor--just the way he was. It's very well written and widely read. I highly recommend it to all my students too because he talks about Spirit, the Way, the philosophy of martial arts. I remember sitting in our favorite traditional Chinese teahouse on the outskirts of San Francisco's Chinatown, the Imperial Tea Court, listening to him lament, in a semi-humorous tone, problems relating to the book's title. Some bookstores stocked it in the music section, mistaking "Kodo" for the traditional Japanese string instrument, the "Koto."

He also shot a series of videotapes on Aikido. I would love to see it converted to DVD with new sections added on his life, activities, dojo, and interviews of and about him, perhaps footage from his memorial service, to give people some feeling for this great person. This videotape still sells in U.S. and Europe and many aikido practitioners use it. It's a major reference and I think it's time to do something more with it.

Of course Sensei has published the Aikido Center of Los Angeles Newsletter for years. It wasn't intended to just serve himself and his own dojo but to support all dojos in the U.S. He also connected with Japan. Every year several Japanese Aikido masters would be invited to visit the U.S. to promote the art. You can see how sincerely and seriously Sensei worked just from the information in his newsletter.

Some time after leaving his banking job, Sensei started his first dojo, located in Hollywood. When he decided to move to Little Tokyo, the biggest Japan town in the world outside of Japan, he hired traditional carpenters from Kyoto. He himself worked with them learned their craft and literally built the dojo with his own hands,

nail by nail, one pull on the saw after another. The Los Angeles department of history and culture should designate this dojo as a historical landmark, to be preserved forever.

Every year, Nisei week, has been a big event in Little Tokyo. Furuya Sensei and his students always supported this event with their time and effort. I hope that this year they will do something to honor and appreciate the memory of this good friend.

Furuya Sensei committed his time and efforts to support what he valued. He loved what he did. He wasn't motivated by profit or fame or just fun. He felt he did what should be done. He did everything with sincerity, with passion, with his heart. Yes, he tortured himself with worry and was overworked and overburdened. Within him, dedication mingled with disappointment. Certainly, he was long overdue for some R&R. So although feelings of sadness surround me, so heavy, dense and intense, I am glad that his final moments were in his beloved dojo, laughing with his loyal students. For a soldier, the best place to die is on the battlefield and, even better, with a smile on his face.

What more can I say? He's taken the big step into his new journey. I like to think that he decided to transform himself into a little angel, keeping an eye on us from above, guiding us as he always did, and hopefully protecting us as well. And now, rested and relaxed, removed from the grinding pressures of life in our society, I hope he can also help us move through the grief of losing such a well-educated gentleman, martial artist, good person and true friend. His passing marks the end of an era.



*Sifu Adam Hsu, Dr. Helen Hsu and Furuya Sensei*



**David Nobuhiro Ito**

*4th Dan, Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

Welcome to this special edition of the Newsletter which is dedicated to the memory of Reverend Kensho Furuya.

I would like to take this time to thank everyone who helped make Furuya Sensei's funeral a great success. I definitely think that Sensei would be pleased with how everyone worked tirelessly and selflessly together. It was a very stressful and busy time and we were bombarded with many details and requests crammed up against time constraints. I am grateful to everybody who kindly and thoughtfully put themselves aside for the greater good. Tasteful restraint is a hallmark of true character. It shows how well you are trained and Furuya Sensei would be proud.

Shortly after Sensei passed away, I realized something while having dinner with Jacob Sisk. It had to do with the very first chapter in Sensei's book *Kodo* about the Mastery of Training. I have often read this chapter over and over again. I always wondered about "mastery"... and what it means to be a teacher. Jacob asked me about how Aikido has affected my life. It was interesting because after giving many examples, I realized that they were in fact more about what Sensei has taught me than what Aikido has taught me. I was in the midst of telling Jacob about a quote in a trade journal I had read about training high-level athletes, "you fail to the level of your preparation"... when I understood what Sensei had been trying to teach me all of these years about training. It was that you are only as good as the training and how much you prepare yourself. A story will truly illustrate the Sensei's idea of training. Once I took Sensei to meet a woman who wanted her swords appraised. She brought them out and one by one Sensei inspected them. After carefully looking at each sword and taking them apart, he commented on each one. He said that one is counterfeit, one has a possible forged signature and commented on each sword's value. She was appalled at not only the possible forgeries, but the prices were way too low. Now at this point Sensei did everything by eye without any books. She stormed off and brought back the papers for each sword. Sure enough, Sensei was spot on with each sword. I was floored. I couldn't believe it. How did he know it? He told me that he had never seen these swords before. On the way home I asked him how he knew so much about each sword. His was a one word answer, "Training"... The training has to do with not only what you do and the amount of time you spend preparing yourself, but who you choose as your teacher too. Now that he is gone, I now realize how childish I had acted and I wish that I had those times back when I was just a student. Now that I venture out on my own, I only have the memories of my teacher and the lessons I learned as his student. He taught me the greatest lessons in life and I am the person I am today only because of having been his student. One of the quotes from an internet posting from Sensei was, "If you happen to find the right dojo and teacher in your Life, you are considered blessed." I truly consider myself blessed.



*Sensei and sword*

**Santiago Garcia Almaraz**

*3rd Dan, Kodokai  
Salamanca, Spain*

To begin an article to speak of the memory of Sensei Furuya, is very difficult to try to condense what I feel. What I have experienced in these 10 years of contact with Sensei for me is not possible to summarize in a few words.

I will try to share anyways. My first contact with Sensei was in the summer of 97 and since then until now I have tried to visit him every year to him to spend days in his dojo training and enjoying his company, experience and advice. Almost always when I speak when I knew Sensei, I say that the first time that I knew him, was through an article in a magazine that is published in my country, called Cinturon Negro in October of 1996. By that time, I had been practicing Aikido for about 4 years and finished obtaining my black belt in Aikido which I felt was mediocre. Since my desire to learn Aikido was great inside of me I felt that I needed a true Sensei. Today I would like to share with all of you this interview in which the words of Sensei Furuya captivated me to the point to make the suitcases and fly from my Salamanca city (Spain) to Los Angeles right to the other side of the planet with the only intention that to know, the practice and power to be a student of this "so special SEN-SEI".

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**Paul Major**

*1st Kyu, Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

On March 6, 2007, my sensei passed away.

Jacob Sisk, on the Yahoo! Aikido-Iaido-KODO email list, has already written about Sensei and the night in question with more eloquence than I can muster. I tend to agree that the evening was strange. Sensei was happy and, yes, I'd say a bit urgent. He really wanted to speak with his students – tell stories and jokes like he loved to do.

Sensei was at times very demanding, exasperated, and precise, but this quality came from a real love of his students and a desire to teach them exactly what he had come to know and was still learning. He had a relentless will to learn, study, and pass on what he knew. He was warm and funny, and I loved listening to his many stories. I was equally touched by his devotion and loyalty to the old teachers that he had learned from. I suspect they knew how excellent a student they had in Furuya Sensei, and a part of me likes to think they're training together now.

There were many other qualities I admired in Sensei. Though I would never have embarrassed him by saying it to his face, I was in awe of his technique. His timing, spacing, and movement seemed to completely justify the understanding that Aikido is not about brute force or pure physical strength.

Sensei was also not much for flaunting what he could do, which I feel is a testament to his character. He only occasionally displayed "advanced" techniques and weapons. He focused on the fundamentals most days, believing that these were the most important to study. In seeing and feeling his technique I came to believe that this must be true, and when this realization occurred I ceased finding basic techniques boring or repetitive at all.

What many people may not realize is that several of Furuya Sensei's senior students could have schools in their own right – they chose to stay and study under Sensei. This is also a revealing of his character.

The relationship between a student and their sensei is complicated and unique. In some ways Sensei was like a relative, and though I only began to know him over the short time of a couple of years, I have an affection for him that is similar, and my mourning for him is like losing someone in my family.

I wish that I had better articulation of these feelings I have about my experiences training under Sensei. Some things are beyond my limited ability to write.

Finally, I think Sensei would be proud to see how well his senior students have come together and are working to insure that his legacy lives on.

**James Doi**

5th Dan Aikido, 4th Dan Iaido  
Aikido Center of Los Angeles

*Killing bees with a bokken*

Fururya Sensei wrote:

*"I am an Aikido teacher here in downtown LA and have been supporting the Artists' District for over 20 years. Above all, I consider myself an artist, although I work with individuals rather [than] paint or wood or other materials. My space is considered a "work of art," and I teach Aikido as an "art of everyday living." In Aikido philosophy, Life is considered an "art" form which must be refined and become an appreciation of beauty... so I consider myself an artist here in our community, as unusual as it might seem to others. "*

Sensei posted this comment to the LA Metro Arts District Google group last year.

During a Budo studies class some time ago, Fururya Sensei was talking about Onisaburo Deguchi, leader of the Omoto Kyo religion. He said that Deguchi saw "life as a work of art". Sensei said that he liked that idea very much and that he tried to live his life like that. I was startled by that idea but once he said it, it made perfect sense.

Sensei's students were the media for his art. His art was not only martial arts, but it is also the teaching of martial arts. I was

stuck with an absurd image of all his students as bonsai trees. Students as works of art that are trained to grow into forms and shapes guided by copper wire, plants that are carefully pruned and trimmed.

As Kojima Sensei points out during his memorial sermon, we all will die, it is inevitable. Life is short and it will end. The real point is what we do with the time we have.

For about the last year or so, sensei kept saying "you better learn this now, because I could be killed by a bus tomorrow and then where would you be?"

Unlike bonsai trees or statues or paintings, and like it or not, sensei's students share responsibility for the quality and beauty of his art. Our Aikido or our Iaido and the conduct of our lives are now and forever his art.

After Sensei's funeral, a former student came up to me and asked if he really died in the dojo laughing the way that Jacob described it in his internet posting. It really sounded like an urban legend to him. I had to agree that, on the face of it, it sounded improbable.

Even though I was at the dojo the night of his death, deep down, I have trouble accepting the reality of his death. Everything was too sudden, too much of an object lesson on Life, Death and Existence. It was unbelievable

and impossible. In a horrible way, it was magnificent art.

As Gary said at Sensei' funeral, Sensei could make you achieve things that you did not think you could do. He would push, scare, and teach you unbelievable things that you did not even think were possible. That is what he did, as a teacher, he showed you beautiful art and taught you what you thought was impossible. As an artist, he shaped the student to be able to see the beauty of the art and do the impossible.

As Jacob wrote, Sensei's last joke was " if you can kill all the bees in his house with a bokken, you will immediately received sandan".

---

*the record plays, the music stops,*

*spinning 'round the realm of birth and death,*

*no precepts in High Fidelity, even in a thousand births,*

*just the eternal tune, beyond the stylus and the groove. . . .*

Fururya Sensei,  
February 28, 2007



**Jim Bassett**

*1st Kyu, Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

Dear fellow members of the Aikido Center of Los Angeles, former students of Sensei, and friends of the Dojo everywhere,

I join with you in mourning a great role model, teacher, mentor, and student, a person who has fulfilled many roles for many people, always at the highest standard, Sensei Kensho Furuya. When I think of my classmates, I feel a deep sadness. I was a relative newcomer, only having studied under Sensei for 6 years. Others at ACLA measure their time with Sensei in decades, still others in months. I want to express my deepest empathy for you all, and for all students touched by Sensei's teaching. It is to the Dojo that I have looked these past weeks to find others who can recognize the particular emptiness that I feel.

In my greatest moment of despair, a friend reminded me that in my time with Sensei, I have had the teaching of a lifetime. How does one carry this forward?

For me it begins with acknowledging the gift of being his student and his role in my life. When I found out that he had passed away, I felt an almost immediate shift in my life - a shift of responsibility towards me of all that I had asked of him, all of the questions, all of the guidance.

In a very tangible form, the timing of Sensei's passing is concurrent with a major change at the Dojo, the moving of the Dojo. A responsibility he had always asked of us, but remained primarily his, "make this Dojo yours", has a more present and poignant sense now. In his way of generosity, he is allowing his students to take that responsibility on in a very direct way.

*"the great ones always speak from the other side"*

- Leonard Michaels

Sensei mattered. In a world characterized in part by ephemeral relationships, guarded conversations, and questionable agendas, Sensei's direct and straightforward manner left little room for ambiguity. His person was as sincere as his teaching profound. Of all the teachings that echo in my mind, today I hear him saying, "Catch the subtle!". To what does this not apply?

These past weeks have been marked by relative highs and lows. Relative high when I am absorbed in my work, then taken away to relative lows when Aikido, Sensei, or the Dojo comes to mind. Though in the moment it makes me sad, it has foregrounded the awareness that Aikido, Sensei, and the Dojo come to mind frequently in my daily life. This frequency is, in another form, the challenge to live to some higher standard.

*"In tenkan, move in closely!"*

**Kay Sera**

*1st Dan, Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

I just want to express my love, affection and appreciation for Sensei. I find it hard to believe that he is really gone physically. I was so saddened and heartbroken when I heard the news and even more so while attending class at the dojo in the ensuing days. I really commend the senior students who are now teaching class. I think it's a great tribute to Sensei that the level of instruction is so high. Although my aikido practice was not as regular as I would have liked, I have learned so much and as I think about Sensei, I realize what a great teacher he was. As he has expressed in many e-mail posts, it's really hard losing a teacher, especially one you still have so much to learn from.

I so much miss his presence, his incredible teaching, the clicking away at the typewriter upstairs with the TV blaring, his sarcastic sense of humor, his scoldings, and his infectious joy when he would throw up his hands after demonstrating a technique saying, " O.K., now practice!" Always brought a smile to my heart.

### Leonard Manoukian

*2nd Kyu, Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

Since Sensei's passing, I've tried to solidify his memory in my mind. What he looked like never posed a problem; I have pictures. What he was is a different question. As he was my teacher, I decided to recall that which he taught me. He taught me to treat each encounter as if it were going to be the first, and last, encounter. (Ichgo- Ichie) He taught me that everything begins and ends with etiquette, not hollow gestures and formality, but sincere respect. I remembered once, when he was observing me and my considerably weaker Uke, and when I was being overly cautious with him, Sensei looked away and said, almost under his breath "Leonard, don't discriminate." I remembered the time that he muttered just loud enough for me to hear "the ordinary horse runs faster at the crack of the whip, the excellent horse run fast at the sight of the shadow of the whip. Do you understand, Leonard?" I didn't and I don't. That does not seem to matter because someday day I will, with enough practice.

What I do know is that you can miss someone even when he is with you at all times. What I know is that I do not mourn for him, he is in a better place. What I hope is that all he did was not in vain. What I can say is that I will do everything to ensure that it is not.

### Karla Mancía

*Veracruz, Mexico*

I am not an Aikido practitioner, instead I am the mother of two little boys (7 and 10) who are learning this beautiful art with sempai Magallanes in the dojo in Veracruz, México.

I Would like to tell you that AIKIDO has inspired me, through the little things I learn watching the practice, listening all the small and great things my kids get to grab as a memory from the stories their sempai tells them and lately from all the messages, different feelings, anecdotes and sadness from Sensei Furuya's passing away.

I never had the opportunity to meet him, I was hoping my family would have done that this coming April in the Seminar, but I also felt a great loss, like all of you.

Those wonderful values you all talk about, the kindness he showed every day, the interest he had in his students and in the people who wanted to talk to

him, the happiness that was shared in a daily basis, the wise advice when someone needed it, the big concern for the well being of others, and most of all the great passion he felt and shared with you all.

He was a MASTER IN PRACTICE not only in Aikido but in life and you have to remember that always.

Those attributes are the ones that my children are learning from their sempais, Sensei Furuya passed them onto you and you are sharing them with your students, families, friends and sometimes with people you don't get to know personally but that get touched by this learning.

So I want to share with you this Celebration of Life of Sensei Furuya, because he is still present in many ways, and he left a great legacy that must be honored by passing it on to others, Don't lose it make good use of it. Wherever Sensei is I am sure he is enjoying every practice and waiting anxiously for the next one.



Angel Mario and Jose Luis Alvarez  
Students of sempai Magallanes in Veracruz, Mexico.

**Eckhardt Hemkemeier**

*4th Dan, Aikido Dojo Seishinkan*

I was at the Aikido Center of Los Angeles for four days in 2000, Before I searched on the Internet for where to go in the states, because I was on a concert tour. I am a member of the North German Radio Symphony Orchestra and we were going to New York the week after.

I made contact to Furuya Sensei and immediately came an answer. I would always be welcome, just come, was the answer. I went downtown, where I was stopped by a police-car. "Why are you walking alone in downtown Los Angeles?" was the question. "Oh, I answered, in Germany we do many things by walking, so now I will walk to the ACLA in Little Tokyo." The policeman said that it was about 2 miles to walk and that I should take a taxi, but I didn't. In the night, on the way back, I understood him. In the days afterwards, always a member of ACLA brought me back to the hotel. Sensei welcomed me and taught a wonderful class and the students that you see in the picture practiced with me very nicely. Everyday we went to some place for dinner and I enjoyed so much practicing and talking.

Sensei asked me to teach the last hour of my visit, and I was very surprised. It was lovely to have such partners in keiko. Thanks again fo that.

Since that time, Sensei and I talked more and more. He taught me about history, philosophy and more. At last, we spoke about swords and he wanted to help me to find a reasonable one.

I will never forget him, and never forget the wonderful time with him and the Aikidoka. I hope, I can visit ACLA in the future once more. Further I hope that we will keep in touch, to support Aikido for the world and to help to change it for a better present and future.

Best regards from the Seishinkan Dojo in Hamburg, Germany.



*Sensei and Eckhardt Hemkemeier in the Aikido Center of Los Angeles in the year 2000.*

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**Shaun Menashe**

*6th Kyu, Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

I wish I knew how to begin this piece. I have no true wisdom to impart or words to inspire. I have only been at the dojo for 4 months and I was truly fortunate to have known Sensei as more than a teacher in such a short time. This is my chance to say goodbye to someone I held so very dear.

Sensei would remark about a person's integrity and trustworthiness... to trust someone so much as to say "I know he will save my life." I wanted so desperately to be this type of person but on that Tuesday I was not there when he needed me the most.

Just as I am a student of Aikido, I am also a student of life. In both these regards I hope to practice hard and make Sensei proud. I am so thankful for our dojo, our family of students, and our Aikido and I am happy to support Sensei's dream in any way I can. As a student, I can offer no less.



**Jason Perna,**  
*1st Dan, Aikido of Center City*  
Philadelphia, PA

It is not my intention to point out all of Sensei's wonderful qualities in this essay. I could easily fill the entire newsletter. Instead, I would just like to talk a little bit about my personal relationship with Sensei. The very first thing I ever discussed with Sensei was the idea of leaving my first dojo. I had fallen into a bad place with my teacher and I complained to Sensei about my situation. He was very fair-handed in his advice, being very careful not to judge when he did not have my teacher's side of the story. I thought I had an open and shut case, a slam dunk, I was right and my teacher was mean and that was all there was to it! I wrote to him several times trying to get him to justify my leaving but in the end he mostly stayed out of it. A few weeks later I made the difficult decision to leave my teacher and I wrote Sensei to tell him. I did not expect to get the lecture about students being dissatisfied and just running down the road to another dojo, but that is what I got! You all know the lecture I mean.

Even though I didn't get the response I was looking for I somehow decided that since I had opened a dialogue with Sensei I now had the right to ask him every stupid question I could think of regarding martial arts. To which I received the lecture about just pressing a few buttons

and thinking we can know everything there is to know. You all know the lecture I mean.

In a way, I think my stupid questions over the years helped Sensei to formulate these lectures in the first place! I suppose this has been my contribution to the group. I often thought that if Sensei were to publish "Kodo2" there should be a chapter called, "Stupid questions from Jason." Of course we know Sensei would never call anyone stupid, and he always did his best to answer whatever ridiculous nonsense I sent him.

Over the years something strange happened, I started to get it just a little bit. I stopped asking so many questions and started listening instead. In the last few years Sensei commented that I may be making some small progress. I can't tell you what that meant to me. To have insulted his intellect so many times and yet he still stuck with me with such patience. To put up with me for so long was indeed an act of love. I still have a long way to go!

I think in his death I have discovered his final lesson to me. I would always come home expecting to find some wisdom from Sensei each new day. When there was no more, I realized that I had taken many lessons for granted. He has taught me that it is time to step up, and carry out what I was taught without expecting further instruction. A few years ago I saw the Dali Lama speak in person. I couldn't wait to get home and write to Sensei. He wrote me back and told

me that it is a great honor to hear the words of the Dali Lama and that now I have an extra duty to do as I was taught. In his death he has reaffirmed this lesson. I now have a duty to load his teachings on my back and carry them with me. And if I am so blessed to someday teach this beautiful art, I must try to pass them along to the future generations of Aikido. This is how Sensei will live forever.

I will miss you Sensei. I will miss your thoughts, and your lessons, and your wit and humor and even the silly poems we would share from time to time. Thank you for never giving up on me. I hope that someday I will become the student you hoped I could be. I will remember you always.

**Roberto Magallanes Molina**  
*Veracruz Aikikai Mexico*

During one of my trips to judge Canine Agility Sport for American Kennel Club in February 2002 I looked for an Aikido dojo to practice in and meet new friends.

After looking on the internet in Los Angeles, I chose to visit the ACLA because of its beautiful antique style dojo, and because of Sensei. That was the first time I met Furuya Sensei.

After traveling from Pomona to downtown and taking a one hour class I was honored by Sensei because he came down from his quarters to welcome me and chat with me for a while. We talked about my Aikido organization. I was teaching at the Navy School at the time and a new relation between teacher and student began.

Next year I asked Sensei what would I have to do to join his organization, since I was not happy with mine and he immediately answer me accepting us as his affiliated branch like some others in Mexico and throughout the world prior to ours.

In 2004 the ACLA celebrated its 30th anniversary and we traveled to Los Angeles to attend, it was amazing and beautiful. It is hard to describe my feelings and emotion to have been there and to be honored by Sensei, Yonemochi Sensei, and Sensei's other guests and students of such great

importance to Aikido.

For the next 2 years, members of my dojo including my colleague Alvaro have come to the ACLA to train at the ACLA seminars and to pay tribute at the O'Sensei memorial ceremony, to O'Sensei, and to Kanai Sensei. Sensei used to say that was good and true Aikido.

Two years ago we arrived two days early and he invited us for breakfast. We had a really good time chatting with him about Aikido, politics, Mexican food and it was joyful to watch him laugh as he always did.

This year I got my plane ticket in January in order to make sure we would be there and could not imagine or think that Furuya Sensei would not be there in person teaching but that he would be on the tokonoma with O'Sensei and Kanai Sensei. It was shocking news to know that he has passed away so suddenly and unexpectedly.

He was a great teacher, guide and friend. He gave us an scroll that says SHINOBU or SHINOGI; Words that he new I need in life. I will certainly miss him, "Words from Sensei" are not empty since some how he still writes for us every day teaching and guiding our mortals lives. My tears right now will not let me write anymore, GOD BLESS HIM.



*Sensei throwing Ken Watanabe*



### **Ze'ev Erlich**

*Israeli Aikido Association  
(Aikikai)*

#### **A Great Teacher And a Friend**

In 1991 my student lent me a book. It was "Kodo Ancient Ways: Lessons in the Spiritual Life of the Warrior/Martial Artist". After reading this amazing book, I became curious about the author. A quick search on the internet and yeah, I found Sensei's web site. Typical of Sensei, he replied to my e-mail on that day. I thanked him for the interesting book and exchanged some greetings with him. A bit later, Sensei agreed to be interviewed to my Aikido Magazine here in Israel in the Hebrew language. His answers were so interesting...

Little by little we got to know each other and he always cared about my dojo and about me. I really don't know why. Some kind of friendship which is beyond distances and cultural gap. Sensei gave my dojo several calligraphy scrolls with wise and beautiful Zen sayings. From time to time we used to talk over the telephone and I used to send him a good tea from

Japan when I went there. Sensei also loved the Israeli wine and Israeli dried fruit I used to send him for his birthday and for the new year.

The last time we spoke, it was on new years day 2007. I know how lonely one can feel on such a day so it was important for me to call him and to talk for a long time. Sensei invited me to LA to participate in the memorial seminar this April. He told me that when I arrive to LA, he will pay my air-ticket and my stay there... He promised me that we will talk and talk all day and all night. Unfortunately I missed this precious chance. I feel so sad for it.

I promise to visit Aikido Center of Los Angeles this year or next year. I promise to do my best to help supporting your dojo and to support this Yahoo group in every possible way. Sensei was the only teacher who really personally cared about me. I always knew that I can ask him anything and I always did so... I just never ever thought that he will pass away so young... There were so many tears in my eyes for many days after he passed away.

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#### **Brett Rushworth**

*3rd Kyu, Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

In gratitude of Furuya Sensei's numerous teachings of Aikido, and the art of everyday life, I would like to share one of his daily messages.

*"We think we are free but we don't think freely being so easily influenced by others and so easily deluded by ourselves. We think we are free but we can't move freely, always having to think about left hand, right hand, moving front or back, turning or moving forward..."*

*What this means is that true freedom requires practice and training... we train ourselves to be a free thinker, independent and responsible. We teach ourselves to move freely all through our Aikido practice."*

Furuya Sensei

This lesson like the many, many daily teachings of Sensei will be missed and reflected upon many times over. In the week following his passing I was out for an evening walk, trying to clear my head and to make sense of the tremendous feeling of loss to all he left behind. When I looked up and noticed the sliver of the new moon in the sky I couldn't help thinking about Sensei and all that was important to him. I noticed the clouds moving across the moon and the cool night air and I remembered a favorite calligraphy scroll of his and the aesthetic ideal that he lived by. Seifu Meigetsu: "The pure cool breeze against the bright moon..." one of the many daily messages I had saved and greatly appreciated. Now this is his great freedom, and everywhere we look we can see Sensei.

Thank You,  
Brett Rushworth





Yonemochi Sensei and Furuya Sensei at the 2006 ACLA O'Sensei Memorial Seminar

**Bill Allen**

*2nd Dan, Aikido Center of Los Angeles*

Furuya Sensei's last moments and the following days are still so fresh in my mind that it is difficult to write something that does not seem trivial. Maybe that is OK. Sensei always paid attention to every detail, so perhaps trivial is just a word that comes from the "calculating mind" that he frequently warned us about. Indeed, some days it seemed like I could not even wiggle my toe without getting a reprimand or a correction. Oddly enough, sometimes on the very same days, Sensei would say something like, "It is not about having the best technique or throwing properly. There is more to it."

A day or two before he passed away, Sensei was telling me about Yonemochi Sensei, and how Yonemochi Sensei remembered him because Furuya Sensei was the only

person in Los Angeles who could throw Yonemochi Sensei from ryotemochi kokyunage. I had heard that story many times, but this time Sensei added, "I had just come back from Hombu dojo at that time, and I was sooooo strong. Actually, I was kind of a monster. I was monstrous." Then he chuckled a little, cocked his head to one side a bit, and looked me in the eye in his particular way to make sure that I had gotten the point.

A while back, Sensei asked me what I thought was the hardest thing about Aikido. Not joking, I answered, "Washing down." He stared at me for a second, then he said, "you're getting better," and he walked away. I believe that martial arts, particularly Aikido, was Sensei's stepping stone to his own humanity. He once said, "When I was a young man, I didn't know what my teachers were saying to me. The only reason I practiced Aikido so hard was to get better at

Aikido. That's only enough to get you started." When I look back at all of his instruction, verbal, non-verbal, on the mat or in the car, he was always teaching us to connect to our own humanity. That is why there is more to Aikido than throwing properly. Anybody can break a bamboo stalk, but it takes more attention and more sensitivity to water and nourish the plant and help it to grow. If you have no regard for the living world around you, your spirit will starve. What difference does it make then how good your Aikido is?

---

*tiny tea leaves give their life,  
for my pleasure, as I sip this brew,  
played out in a teacup,  
held to my lips,  
how my own life is sipped away. .*

*fields groan from the cold winds and  
locusts,  
who can stop their devastating path?  
only the gentle spring breeze in the  
coming months,  
and the warm sun above the farmers'  
heads. . . .*

Furuya Sensei, February 28, 2007

# Aikido TRAINING SCHEDULE

**Sundays:** Children's Class: 9:00-10:00am.  
Open - All Levels: 10:15-11:15am.

**Mondays:** Fundamentals: 5:15-6:15pm.  
Open - All levels: 6:30-7:30pm.  
Aiki Weapons: 7:30 - 8:15pm

**Tuesdays:** Open - All Levels: 6:30-7:30pm.

**Wednesdays:** Fundamentals: 5:15- 6:15pm.  
Open - All Levels : 6:30-7:30pm  
Aiki Weapons: 7:30 - 8:15pm

**Thursdays:** Fundamentals 5:15-6:15pm  
Bokken 6:30 - 7:30pm

**Fridays:** Fundamentals 5:15-6:15pm.  
Open - All levels: 6:30-7:30pm.

**Saturdays:** Open-Intermediate: 9:30-  
10:30am. Beginning: 10:30-11:30pm.

## CHILDREN'S CLASSES

5 - 16 yrs old

**Sunday Mornings 9:00 -10:00am**

*Sign-up anytime for on-going classes.*

*We are directly affiliated with:*

### AIKIDO WORLD HEADQUARTERS

Aikido So-Hombu Dojo - Aikikai

17-18 Wakamatsu-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN

*We are committed to the study and practice of the teachings of the Founder of Aikido, Morihei Ueshiba and his legitimate successors, Kisshomaru Ueshiba and the present Moriteru Ueshiba Doshu.*

## Aikido Center of Los Angeles

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Email: aikidocenterla@gmail.com

**www.aikidocenterla.com**

# Iaido TRAINING SCHEDULE

## TRADITIONAL JAPANESE IAIDO SWORDSMANSHIP

**Saturdays:** 7:15-8:15am Beginning.  
8:15-9:15am Intermediate-Advanced.

**Sundays:** 7:45am-8:45am.

**Thursdays:** 6:30-7:30pm (Bokken).

*No Classes on the last weekend of the month.*

**Private Classes Available.**

## No Appointment Necessary To Join:

You are welcome to visit us anytime during our Open and Beginning Classes. Signing up for classes is very easy and only takes a few minutes. We accept personal checks, MO and cash. Please bring valid ID such as your driver's license and the name of your insurance company. Welcome!

## Finding Our Dojo:

*We are endeavoring to maintain the highest standards of training while preserving the True Spirit of Aikido. We hope you will appreciate our efforts and undertake your training with devoted and committed energy. Your efforts, we believe, will be greatly rewarded. We welcome you to an ancient and profound art. We welcome you to our Dojo. Everyone, beginners and active Aikido students alike, are cordially welcome to join our training. Thank you.*



We are convenient to most major freeways. Enter private lane at Vignes and 2nd Streets. We are one block west of Santa Fe Ave. and several blocks east of Alameda in Little Tokyo. The **Easiest Way:** From Alameda go east on 1st St and make right turn at Vignes. Do not turn on 2nd St. but go straight into the private lane. Look for the garden.

## Affiliated Branch Dojos

**Aikido Kodokai**  
Salamanca, Spain  
Santiago Garcia Almaraz

**Hacienda La Puente Aikikai**  
La Puente, California  
Tom Williams

**Wyoming Aikikai**  
Sheridan, Wyoming  
Tom McIntrye

**Bahamas Aikikai**  
Grand Freeport, Bahamas  
Seymour Clay

**Jalisco Aikikai**  
Jalisco, Mexico  
Eric Jaracho

**Aikido of Guadalajara**  
Guadalajara, Mexico  
Raul Blackaller

**Aikido of Puerto Vallarta**  
Puerto Vallarta, Mexico  
Eric Jaracho, Raffi Badalian

**Association D'Aikido Pour Demain**  
Paris, France  
Cyril Danan

**Aikikan**  
Rehovot, Israel  
Ze'ev Erlich

**Valladolid Aikido Dojo**  
Valladolid, Spain  
Felix Ares

**Veracruz Aikido Dojo**  
Vera Cruz, Mexico  
Dr. Roberto Magallanes  
Dr. Alvaro R. Hernández Meza

**Marco Giuseppe Marangoni**  
Monza, Italy

**Four Seasons Dojo**  
Granbury, Texas  
Mike Schmidt

**Littleton Aikikai**  
Littleton, Colorado  
Steven Shaw

**Brugos Kodokai**  
Brugos, Spain  
Under Santiago Almaraz

**Aikido Tanguma**  
Joaquin Tanguma  
2nd Dan Aikido  
Monterey N.L. Mexico

## Our Good Friends In Aikido:

**Tanshinjuku Dojo**  
Boulder, Colorado  
Kei Izawa Sensei, 5th Dan

**Chushinkan Dojo**  
Buena Park, CA.  
James Nakayama Sensei,  
6th Dan

**Aikido Ai**  
Whittier, CA.  
Frank McGouirk Sensei,  
6th Dan

**Tekko Juku Dojo**  
New England  
Yasumasa Itoh Sensei,  
6th Dan

## Aiki Dojo Newsletter

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## The Kensho Furuya Foundation:

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Mr. David Ito - Vice-President

Mr. Gary Myers - Secretary

Mr. Bill Allen - Treasurer

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Mr. Michael Vance - Publishing

The Furuya Foundation is dedicated to preserving the Dojo and its continued operation maintaining the highest standards of practice and the work of Furuya Sensei in research and education in Aikido, the traditional Japanese sword & related arts.



