

The Aikido Center of Los Angeles LLC, 940 E 2nd St. #7, Los Angeles CA 90012 Tel: (213) 687-3673 www.aikidocenterla.com



The Aikido Center of Los Angeles

道の為、世の為、人の為 合気道

The Aiki Dojo

Direct Affiliation: The Aikido World Headquarters, 17-18 Wakamatsu-cho, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, Japan
Reverend Kensho Furuya Foundation
Los Angeles Sword & Swordsmanship Society Kenshinkai

September 2007

Volume XXVI Number 9

Fall Is Here

August was another busy month. Mark Cornillez-Ty went to NYU Law for a year. The Furuya Foundation had its first board meeting since Sensei's passing. Sensei's long time friend, Karita Sensei came from Japan to visit Sensei's grave site and the dojo. The ACLA was featured in the August 27th edition of the Los Angeles Downtown News. David Ito and I were in Denver, Colorado the weekend from August 24 to August 26 for a seminar hosted by Kei Izawa, 5th Dan chief instructor of Aikikai Tanshinjuku. We had more babies and weddings. The dojo continues on.

Life would be great if everything went according to plan. Though, I believe that it is through difficult times that we learn the most about ourselves. Sensei passed the day after construction started in our new building. It had been halted ever since. Our second construction start date was July 16th. Construction of our new dojo did not happen on that date. Then a



Front of the temporary dojo and new planters built by Norm Lew
(photo by Kenneth Furuya)

new date of August 23rd was given and that did not happen. Once again we found ourselves waiting, inquiring and negotiating as to when construction will finally proceed. This was a test of patience and determination as we continue our practice in a temporary dojo with half the mat space that we are accustomed too. Through all of this, surprisingly, the dojo membership still has increased.

The training is more difficult in this small concrete space that is our temporary home for the ACLA. This temporary dojo is certainly not what

we are accustomed to practicing in. Still our students train and wait. After Labor Day, construction has finally started and that is definitely a good sign. Getting started was the biggest obstacle and now I feel that we are almost home.

I have watched our students intently over the past month and a half in our "temporary" dojo and I have seen the complete opposite of what I was expecting. Instead of students who are dejected or lethargic in their training, I have witnessed students that are highly motivated and inspiring. I have learned that it does not always matter where you practice or how ugly you think your "temporary dojo" looks. What really matters is that you have good people to train with in the dojo.

- Kenneth Masami Furuya
Chief Instructor

Karita Sensei visits Aikido Center of LA

Gary Myers, 5th Dan Iaido, Chief Instructor Los Angeles Kenshinkai
Aikido Center of Los Angeles

On August 12th, Naoji Karita Sensei, Sensei's long time friend and master sword polisher, traveled to our dojo from Japan. It was the first time Karita Sensei had visited us since Sensei's passing. Mark Ty and Ken Furuya Sensei met him and his daughter, Noriko, at LAX. After checking in at the hotel, they immediately went to Sensei's grave site at Rose Hills cemetery, where Karita Sensei paid his respects. Karita Sensei visits the dojo about four times a year, when he comes to the U.S. to attend sword conventions, and he will continue to do so.

In addition to paying his respects, Karita Sensei delivered a sword he had just polished for Dennis Long. On Sunday evening, Karita Sensei and Noriko had dinner with Mark Ty, Ken Furuya Sensei, Maria Murakawa, and Gary Myers at the Parkway Grill in Pasadena. It was a pleasant evening, where we talked about Sensei and the swords Karita Sensei had polished for him. The following day Karita Sensei helped identify some of Sensei's sword collection, before flying off to his next destination.



Naoji Karita and his daughter Noriko visiting Furuya Sensei's grave (photo by Kenneth Furuya)



Aikido Center of Los Angeles Guests

We always welcome guests, and this month we were privileged to have Michelle Cabreran visit us from Colorado.

She practiced with us for two days. They were great classes, and she is welcome back any time!



(photos by Jacob Sisk and Shaun Menashe)

Tanshinjuku Dojo Colorado Seminar



Izawa Sensei's students awaiting test results (photo by David Ito)



Furuya Sensei throwing Steve Shaw (photo by David Ito)



Izawa Sensei's students' kyu test (photo by David Ito)



Itoh Sensei demonstrating Shiho-nage with Andre Brown (photo by David Ito)



Izawa Sensei's class (photo by David Ito)

Faces in the Dojo: Paul Major

By Jacob Sisk

Paul Major is the dojo secretary who reports directly to the dojo-cho. Paul was born in Monroe, Louisiana and raised mostly in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. He is an actor particularly interested in film-making, so moving to Los Angeles was the natural choice!



Paul Major

Please tell us a little about yourself. What are your hobbies?

Movie-going, reading, writing, languages, classical guitar, spending too much time on the computer...

What skills and talent do you possess?

I can juggle... a little.

What languages do you speak?

Some German and very little Hungarian.

Please tell us something we don't know about you:

I am distantly (distantly) related to Claude Monet.

Why were you interested in studying Aikido?

I saw a demonstration when I was 17 and immediately felt that Aikido would somehow be important to me. I hadn't felt that about any martial arts I'd seen previously.

Why did you decide to join the Aikido Center of Los Angeles?

After a few years of living in Los Angeles I felt ready to seriously commit to a martial study. I carefully observed other schools but at the ACLA I was won over by the sincere and vigorous practice, the quality of the student body, and the amazingly knowledgeable Sensei.

What do you find challenging?

In Aikido I really find every aspect very challenging. Etiquette, timing, spacing, technique; pick an aspect and I can assure you I need more study.

What do you like most about Aikido and/or the Aikido Center of Los Angeles?

The people and the practice. When Kensho Furuya Sensei passed away, I feel a lot of people showed their character by continuing to train and carry on the legacy that has been left for us. I am honored and humbled to be in the company of this level of skill and dedication.

Dojo Family Events

Member Weddings

Our lovely Maria Ferrari and John Tumlin were married on June 30, 2007, in Los Altos, California.

Maria Ferrari is one of our Aikido shodans and a comedy writer for television.

We wish them much joy!



Maria Ferrari and John Tumlin at their wedding

Dojo Births

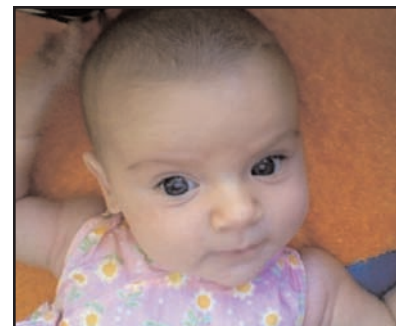
(future kid's class department)

We congratulate James and Jen Takata on the birth of their daughter Sasha Sicily Takata, who was born on September 2nd, 2007 (and weighed 8 pounds and 2 ounces!)



Sasha Sicily Takata

We also congratulate Michael and Judith Vance on the birth of their daughter Elinor Louise Vance, born July 11th, 2007, at 2:18AM.



Elinor Louise Vance

Gratefully reprinted with permission from the Los Angeles Downtown Daily News

A Master's Legacy

The Aikido Center's Very Unusual Move

by Anna Scott

On a quiet, industrial-looking block of Second Street on the eastern edge of Downtown, a sign hangs on the side door of a cracked, concrete building.

"We're open!" it reads in bright orange, curlicue letters.

Inside, a handful of men and women in loose-fitting white robes turn summersaults on blue gym mats before pairing off to take turns shoving one another to the ground.

They are not members of an underground fight club. Instead, the people gathered at 929 E. Second St. on a recent weekday evening are students of the Aikido Center of Los Angeles, a Little Tokyo fixture for 23 years.

They won't be there long, however. The school recently left its home at 940 E. Second St. and set up temporary digs across the street. They'll operate here until the end of the year, when a new home is completed two miles away at 1211 N. Main St.

While it sounds like a simple move, little is what it seems. First, the Center's new home was envisioned and shaped by a man who will never see it - the school's beloved founder, Kensho Furuya, died unexpectedly in the spring.

Additionally, the Aikido Center left its headquarters even though it had eight years remaining on the lease for approximately 2,000 square feet of ground-floor space in the red brick building (originally constructed as a sugar storage facility in the 1880s). The structure was purchased last year by a developer who wants to turn the Center, as well as 10 live-work units and two industrial spaces, into condominiums.

While similar situations have put landlords and displaced tenants at odds, the Aikido Center has ended up with a pretty sweet deal. In fact, school officials praise the developer, Barns Lofts, LLP, and its principal, Mark Borman.

"He's being very nice, very cooperative," said the Aikido Center's chief administrator, David Ito, of Borman. "We're very impressed with the way he kind of stayed true to our vision of what we want to do."

Forging an Alliance

With its move to a currently vacant, ground-floor unit next to the Los Angeles State Historic Park, the Aikido Center will gain approximately 700 square feet of floor space, a second bathroom and three new showers.

More significantly, the upgrade will cost the school very little. Barn Lofts not only found the Aikido Center's new site, but is



(l to r) Mark Ty, Kenneth Furuya and David Ito of the Aikido Center at the school's temporary space in the Arts District. The landlord of the school's former home is paying for most of its move to a new headquarters in Downtown. Photo by Gary Leonard.

also paying for its temporary space and more than 90% of the move and related construction.

Borman, who also owns two other Arts District buildings, said he respects the Aikido Center's long history in Little Tokyo. "The idea was to find another building that could also accommodate them for a long time," he said.

He has not calculated the total cost of moving the school, Borman said, because, "It's never been about the money for me. It's about doing the right thing." Particularly important, he added, was, "to preserve the aesthetic that currently exists" at the school, modeled by its founder after the spare, elegant style of a 16th century Japanese samurai mansion.

To that end, while renovations have begun in the rest of the 39,000-square-foot building to make way for 39 two-bedroom, three-story condominiums, the Aikido Center's former space remains mostly intact until it can be moved in its entirety to the new location.

A Continuing Legacy

In a bittersweet twist of fate, the new Aikido Center will now stand as a memorial to Furuya. The teacher and active Little Tokyo community member began working with Borman to envision the new dojo last year and died of a heart attack on March 6, at age 58 - the same day renovations began at 940 E. Second St.

A Pasadena native and ordained Zen priest who held a joint degree in Asian Studies from USC and Harvard University, Furuya ("Furuya Sensei" to his students) is described by friends as a fierce scholar who possessed a photographic memory, an encyclopedic knowledge of Japanese culture, more than 5,000 books and a surprisingly silly sense of humor.

A recent Aikido Center newsletter included comments made at Furuya's funeral. One, from longtime friend Dr. Helen Hsu, read,

Los Angeles Downtown Daily News Article (continued)

"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."

Furuya was as intent on imparting life skills as fighting skills, his Aikido students say.

"In addition to just the technique that Furuya Sensei tried to instill in us, he also taught us to be more considerate of other people above ourselves," said Aikido Center manager and student Mark Ty, a 27-year-old tax attorney, on a recent evening at the center. "I think he's made me a better person."

For Furuya, who began studying martial arts when he was 8 years old, the Aikido Center represented the fulfillment of a nearly lifelong dream. He opened the school's first incarnation in Hollywood in 1974, sharing a space with a gymnastics school before setting his sights on Little Tokyo 10 years later.

"He wanted to do something for the Japanese community," said Ito, "to create a school to draw in Japanese Americans and support the Japanese community."

Armed with knowledge gained during his travels to Japan in the late 1960s and early '70s, Furuya hired traditional carpenters from Kyoto to build his Downtown Los Angeles school. He worked alongside them to craft each detail, from the Japanese garden outside the entrance to its sleek interior, furnished mostly with authentic Japanese antiques.

The center was completed in 1984, and over two decades, as Furuya built up a roster of more than 70 students, he also authored a book on martial arts philosophy and several magazine articles; created a nine-part Aikido video series; founded the Los Angeles Sword and Swordsmanship Society; and served on various boards and committees in Little Tokyo, including the Los Angeles Police Department Civilian Martial Arts Advisory Board and the Greater Little Tokyo Anti-Crime Association.

In his will, Furuya, who never married and had no children, left everything he owned to a private foundation to further the study of Aikido and related arts. The new Aikido Center, his students say, will stand as both a perfect monument to and continuation of his life's passion.

"He wanted to create this school totally dedicated to teaching Aikido and other arts related to Aikido," said Kenneth Furuya, an Aikido Center teacher and Furuya Sensei's cousin. "He realized that dream."

Contact Anna Scott at anna@downtownnews.com.

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Mark Ty's Sojourner Party



Mark Ty's children's class (photo by Kenneth Furuya)



Hungry young aikidoka (photo by Kenneth Furuya)



Mark Ty's going away party (photo by Larry Armstrong)



Mark with his house-warming gift (photo by L. Armstrong)

Aikido Center of Los Angeles:

We are a not-for-profit, traditional Aikido dojo dedicated to preserve the honored values and traditions of the art. We are continually focused on maintaining the highest standards of the art in a Dojo which, itself is considered a work of art. With your continued understanding and support, we hope that you will dedicate yourself to your training, enjoying all the benefits Aikido can offer.

The Aiki Dojo Newsletter

Publisher: Michael Vance

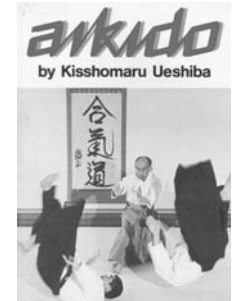
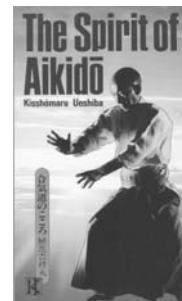
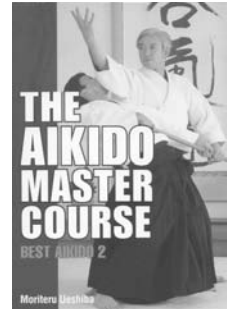
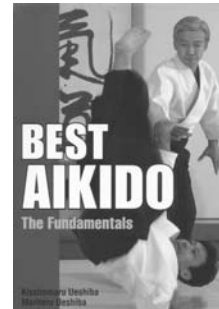
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www.aikidocenterla.com

Recommended Readings:



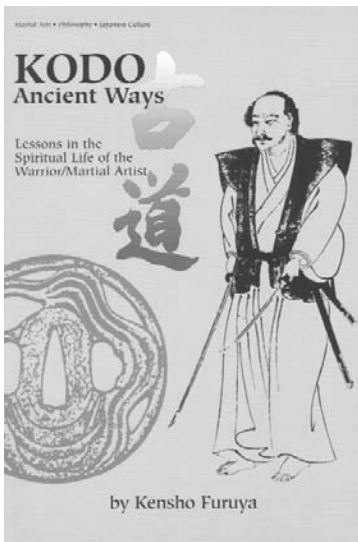
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Publications By Kensho Furuya:



Kodo: Ancient Ways: Lessons In The Spiritual Life Of the Warrior

By Kensho Furuya
\$16.95 plus tax.

Highly recommended for all students of the Dojo. Please request for your autographed copy

The Art of AIKIDO

Instructional Video Series s Now Available in a new DVD format.

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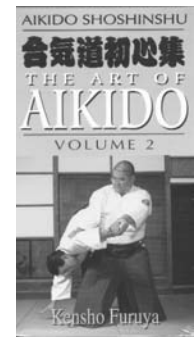
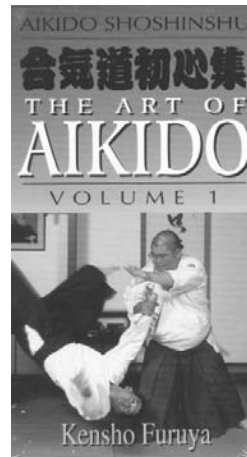
"Impressive Scope" Aikido Today,

"Exhaustive" Aikido Journal" "Best

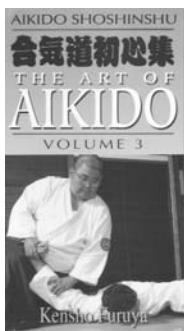
in the English language on the mar-

ket today," Budovideos.com.

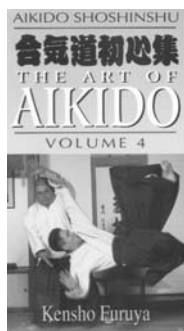
This video series is considered to be the most comprehensive and detailed instructional video on Aikido available today. Clear depiction of each technique and very detailed explanation of all of the fine points.



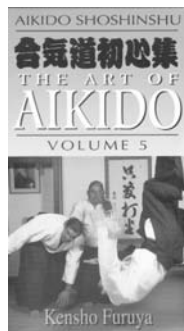
Basic Techniques
Throwing & Joint
Techniques, Ikkyo, Nikyo,
Sankyo, Yonkyo & Gokyo



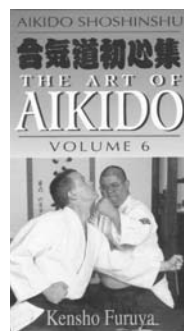
Ukemi-Breakfalling
Basics Continued
Free Style Techniques
Tenshin. Ki. Breathing.



Katatetori Ryotemochi:
Ryotetori: 2-hand.
Reigi-saho: Etiquette.
Koshinage-Hip throws.



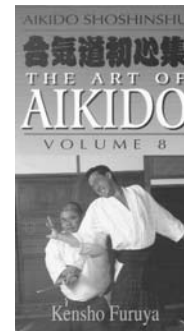
Suwari-waza. Gokyo.
Hanmi-handachi. Kokyu-
dosa. Katatori: Shoulder.
Multiple attackers.
Five-man Freestyle.



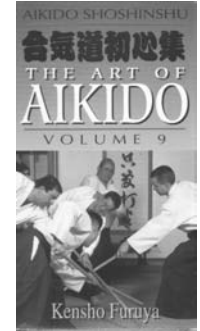
Tsuki: Strikes &
Punches
Yokomenuchi: Strikes
to the side of the head &
neck.



Shomenuchi,Ushiro
Katatetori Kubishime:
Chokes from behind.
Ushiro Ryotetori,
Ryohijitori, Ryokatatori.



Atemi-waza: Striking
Defense against kicks.
Tanto-tori: Knife
defense.Aiki-ken:
Sword Training



Jo: Basic long staff
Fundamentals.
Complete 1st Degree
Black Belt Examination

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: 7:45 - 8:30pm

Tuesdays: Open - All Levels: 6:00 - 7:00am.
Open - 6:30 - 7:30pm

Wednesdays: Fundamentals: 5:15- 6:15pm.
Open - All levels: 6:30 - 7:30pm
Aiki Weapons: 7:45 - 8:30pm

Thursdays: Open - All levels: 6:30 - 7:30am
Open - All levels: 5:15-6:15pm.
Bokken - Advanced: 6:30-7:30pm.

Fridays: Open - All levels: 6:00 - 7:00am.
Fundamentals 5:15-6:15pm.
Open - All levels: 6:30-7:30pm.

Saturdays: Open - All levels: 9:30-10:30am.
Advanced: 10:45-11:45am.

CHILDREN'S CLASSES

6 to 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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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.

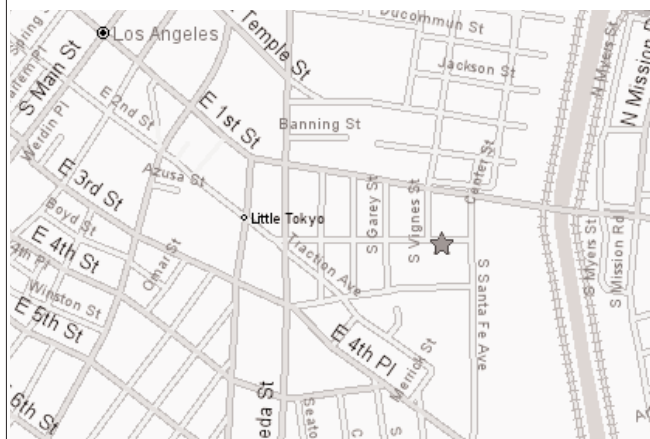
Private Classes Available.

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, money order 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 located at 940 E 2nd Street #7, Los Angeles, CA 90012. We are training temporarily across the street at 929 E 2nd Street, #107. We are convenient to most major freeways. From Alameda go east on 2nd St and make a right turn into the private lane at Vignes.



Please park on the east side of the private lane or on the street. The star on the above map is the location of our old dojo. We are temporarily across the street at 929 E 2nd Street #107. You may continue to park on the east side of the private lane or on the street.