



### The Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai

- A Gathering of the Shorinjiryu Family
- Largest Group of Shorinjiryu Practitioners Worldwide
- Exchanging, Knowledge, Spirit & Friendship

# Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai Shorinjiryu Shimbun

## What the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai Represents by Des Paroz, Renshi

The expressed purpose of the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai is to foster harmonious relations between and among the various schools of the Shorinjiryu Karate style of Shinan Kori Hisataka (1907-1988). To this end, the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai has established a forum by which the various schools of Shorinjiryu can come together to share ideas, techniques, competition, philosophies and friendship; to recognize, to support, to validate and to issue gradings; to establish a common ranking system of titles, kyu and dan grades, yet maintain the principle of noninterference within each individual school.

Shinan Hisataka's karate was punctuated by uniqueness in technique and practice, and by a philosophical approach that involved teaching each person as an individual, selecting techniques and training methods that best suited that individual.

This has resulted in a phenomenon where there are many great practitioners of our style who have been practicing for very many years, but where few schools have access to the complete teachings of the founder. The

Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai came into existence as recognition of the need for the many independent schools practicing Shorinjiryu Karatedo to have a venue to share information and understanding about the karate of Shinan Kori Hisataka. In this way, each school can gain a deeper understanding of the style, as envisaged by the founder.

The success of the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai can be seen in the regular exchange of information between schools, at various seminars, tournaments and other exchanges. Some notable examples include:

20 Annual International Tournaments (Shorinjiryu Shinzen Shiai) with regular participation from students from the USA, Canada, Australia, India and other countries

Exchange training between the Shorinjiryu Kenryukan school (New York) and the Shorinjiryu Shindo Budo Kai school (Canada)

A visit to Shorinjiryu Karatedo Australia by the founder and president, Hanshi Myron Lubitsch

Three visits by members of Shorinjiryu Karatedo Australia to the US to train in the dojos

of Kaicho Watanabe (Shorinjiryu Kenyukai Watanabe-Ha, Baltimore), Hanshi Myron Lubitsch (Shorinjiryu Kenryukan, New York) and Shihan Dan Hayes (Shorinjiryu Kenkukai, New York), as well as to participate in the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Shiai.

Annual exchange training events between the Shorinjiryu Kenryukan and Shorinjiryu Kenkukai schools in New York State.

A visit to Australia by Kaicho Watanabe (Honorary Technical Advisor), and Shihan Hayes (uke and instructor) to further pass on the techniques of the founder.

The Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai counts among its senior members some of the longest training Shorinjiryu karateka in the world today. These include:

**Kaicho Shunji Watanabe**, Hanshi 9th Dan, senior student of Shinan Kori Hisataka, founder of the Shorinjiryu Kenyukai Watanabe-Ha school, and a practitioner of the style for more than 50 years. Kaicho Watanabe is Honorary Technical Adviser to the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai

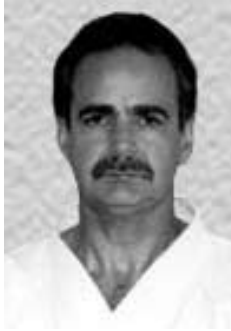
**Hanshi Myron Lubitsch**, 9th Dan, President & Co-Founder of the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai,

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## From the Desk of the President

by Myron M. Lubitsch, Hanshi



A question has been brought forward regarding Shorinjiryu and Koshiki. Allow me to put forward some of my thoughts on that topic and, hopefully, to clarify my opinion of what I

consider the schism of Koshiki from Shorinjiryu and to clarify the Kyokai membership policy. When I began my path of love of Shorinjiryu close to four decades ago, there was only the school commonly known as Shorinjiryu Kenkokan Karate – the Kenkokan school of Shorinjiryu style of karate. Our founder, Kori Hisataka, Shinan continued a practice of using body armor in the training of his students that was used by other systems prior World War II. The seniors of today are well aware of the severe training sessions using the do more commonly known as the chest/stomach armor used in kendo. They are also very much aware of the brutal nature of tournaments using that unyielding piece of equipment--I recall the broken fingers, toes, and other broken bones. We do not have to talk about the contact allowed to the groin. But, that was the way we trained and participated in tournaments. There is a report that the men or headgear used in Kendo was also used in training of Shorinjiryu. However, I do not recall ever using that headgear in North America. One side story relates about one particular student who had his nerves cut in his knuckles so he could hit the chest plate without pain-- true dedication. Clearly,

training and tournaments emphasized the use of body armor and was an experience.

When Shinan, handed the reigns of authority to his son there appeared to be discontent among the other instructors. The inevitable took place, the splintering of the Kenkokan School into numerous independent schools, each of which continued to practice the Shorinjiryu karate of Kori Hisataka. A number of attempts to unify were made but none succeeded. Masayuki Hisataka, Hanshi had lost a very large base and it appears that he sought to create a new base elsewhere.

In the late 1970s, the “Super Safe” equipment was developed and ultimately manufactured by Winning. Hisataka, Hanshi attempted to introduce the “Super Safe” equipment to the WUKO (World Union of Karate Organizations) but for reasons totally not known, he left the organization. Interestingly, that organization developed its own equipment for its own use. The use of the “Super Safe” equipment was a welcomed invention as the old style Kendo gear proved to a bit too much to handle. The demographics of many of the dojos were changing, changes in equipment was needed. A bit of trivia, the logo for the new equipment appears to be a take off of the Superman logo.

In 1980, the 1st Koshiki tournament took place in Japan. Originally, Koshiki was to be an avenue for a new method of tournament participation and management. I must state at this point that many of my colleagues and I considered the whole concept of Koshiki was a natural progression of

Shorinjiryu. We were using armor all along albeit the kendo type. So, to many of us Koshiki was only known as “the fighting arm of Shorinjiryu.” The addition of multiple scoring made sense although there are some within the Shorinjiryu schools who hold to the older one-strike one-kill theory ikken-kissatsu (a concept that does not have its origin in karate). The question of head strikes also brings up another question, but that will be dealt with at a latter time, I know that there are many among the leadership of many Shorinjiryu schools who have very strong viewpoints about this topic.

While sitting in the living room of Masayuki Hisataka, Hanshi in 1985 in Chiba, Japan, I was given the assignment of assisting him in revising the rules for the International Koshiki Karate Federation which became the World Koshiki Karate and finally, the World Koshiki Karatedo. The original rules were gleaned from the best of older more established organizations that had no relationship to Shorinjiryu. I believe that the translation was made in Canada or Australia and sent to Japan for review. I could be mistaken about that. There were copies of rules from at least two organizations. I recall a conversation where the scoring of an Ippon to the head was to be included but I prevailed in my argument against such an action. I was to be the promotional director and as such became a letter writing secretary for him. Dutifully, I carried out his directives, attended six plus classes at four different dojos, accompanied him to meetings, etc. At one

## From the Desk of the Vice President

by Dan Hayes, Shihan



I intend to put forth some questions as a friend, peer, and concerned teacher. What are our senior instructors teaching our Mudansha? Does rank have more privilege than responsibility?

How do your actions (or lack of action) affect the entire organization? Why am I asking these questions? Let us review certain events that have happened over the past few years.

I have asked at various events where a certain student is. The reply is always, "He is at college and it is too far for him to travel." He is in college in New York. My students regularly travel from New York

. I have a student in college in Connecticut. He travels. Why is it okay for this particular student?

A senior Yudansha has car problems and is unable to make the clinic. By the following (testing) day, he has still not been able to make arrangements to come. Why is everyone else expected to attend?

A senior Yudansha who is local to the Hombu Dojo, and knew of the date for the clinic and testing, is unable to arrange time off to attend either day. He is able, however, to attend the banquet in the evening and socialize. Why should I expect my students to take off work or re-arrange their schedules when they see a senior student behaving in this way?

I show up to a major tournament to find that few (or even no) students from a certain dojo are in attendance. Why is nobody there? They didn't want to come or had other plans. All of the hard work of putting together a tournament for their benefit, and **they didn't want to come?**

Who taught them this behavior? Who do we confront? As a good friend used to say, "when you point a finger at someone, there are three more pointing back at you." How do our actions affect the entire organization? Let us think before we decide to take on a rank (or title) of the responsibilities that it implies. Think of the hundreds of students, as well as Hanshi, who depend on us and who

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## From the Desk of the President

by Myron M. Lubitsch, Hanshi

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such meeting, a discussion of vertical vs. horizontal fist techniques took place (one of Hanshi's students translated the proceeding). There was the concern of fairness of judging due to the difference in hand placement and this in addition to the striking area of the roundhouse. I began to see an emerging pattern.

I diverge. At training, it was odd that the Renshu kumite series were no longer taught, that Sanchin kata was unknown, and the emphasis was on Koshiki. At one trip to a small village, Hisataka, Hanshi, wanted to build a karate college. The college was to be Shorinjiryu in scope however the chief instructor was to be an American yet not of Shorinjiryu lineage. When I asked

about that, the response was "I will make him Shorinjiryu."

At first gradings for referees and judges were issued based upon special training. However, from being the fighting arm of Shorinjiryu, surreptitiously grading diplomas were issued to competitors, striped uniforms, two half points awarded for kicks to the head—an inducement to the Taekwondo competitors--eventually kata were added. Koshiki Karate added the suffix do and became Koshiki Karatedo--a new system was being created regardless of the pronouncement regarding Koshiki's being only a "competition system."

Koshiki diplomas issued to non-Shorinjiryu practitioners clearly sported the Shorinjiryu logo or mark. Conversely, Shorinjiryu diplomas were

issued with the Koshiki logo. Today, any style can be a member in the WKK but can they say that they are of Shorinjiryu origin? I think not and I believe would not say so themselves. In fact, there are a number of independent Koshiki organizations both within and without Japan. Many Shorinjiryu schools today pick and chose what they consider the best of Koshiki yet disavow themselves from the whole package thereby maintaining the concept of the "fighting arm."

Shorinjiryu may have spawned Koshiki but each is no longer one in the same and each has parted ways. As the syllogism goes, All Shorinjiryu practitioners are Koshiki but not all Koshiki practitioners are Shorinjiryu.

## What the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai Represents

by Des Paroz, Renshi

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and founder and head instructor of the Shorinjiryu Kenryukan school

**Kyoshi John Mirrione, Sr.**, 8th Dan, Co-Founder of the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai, and head of the Shorinjiryu Kenkoku school

**Kyoshi Michel Lauin**, 8th Dan, founder and head of the Shorinjiryu Shindo Budo Kai school

**Hanshi Brian Aarons**, 8th Dan, co-head of the Shorinjiryu Kudaka school in Canada

**Hanshi Doug Roberts**, 8th Dan, co-head of the Shorinjiryu Kudaka school in Canada

**Shihan Dan Hayes**, 7th Dan, Senior Vice President of the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai, and head of the Shorinjiryu Kenkoku school, 7th Dan and Saiko Komon (Chief Advisor) to the Watanabe Ha Federation

**Shihan Carlos Figueroa, Jr.**, 6th Dan head of the Shorinjiryu Kenryukai

**Shihan Manny Hawthorne**, 7th Dan head of the Shorinjiryu Kenshin school

**Shihan Jeff Henderson**, 6th Dan, head of the International Budo Institute

**Shihan Jim Griffin**, 6th Dan, Joint Chief Instructor of the Shorinjiryu Karatedo Australia school\*

**Renshi Pete Hiltz**, 6th Dan, head of Morning Star school

**Shihan Max Estens**, 5th Dan, Joint Chief Instructor of the Shorinjiryu Karatedo Australia school \*

Apart from the prestigious annual Shorinjiryu Shinzen Shiai tournament, the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai headquarters also hosts regular regional tournaments throughout the year. In the spirit of open exchange, member black belts are not charged for participa-

tion in such events. Similarly, various seminars and clinics are held by at the headquarters of the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai, and offered without charge to members.

The Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai aims to be a source of sharing among the entire Shorinjiryu community. Our website includes links to Shorinjiryu schools and profiles of Shorinjiryu practitioners who are members and non-members of the organization. Our aim is to build knowledge of the style of Shorinjiryu, not just the members of the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai.

The Kyokai is open to practitioners of Shorinjiryu as formulated by Shinan Kori (Kudaka) Hisataka with proper documentation and application review. Membership shall not be denied due to race, national origin, gender, religion or age.

## Sunshine News & Congratulations

*Congratulations to all those who received promotions:*

### Seventh Dan

Shihan Dan Hayes,  
Watanabe-ha Federation

### Junior Black Belt

Dan Yu  
Kenkoku

### Recommended for Shodan

Henry Chicaiza  
Kenryukan  
Jason Berenbach  
Kenryukan  
Marc Riley  
Kenryukan

## From the Desk of the Vice President

by Dan Hayes, Shihan

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earnestly look to us for leadership and as role models.

I have a teenaged student who works two jobs so that he can come to class and go to events. I have adult students who arrange their time off from work and their family schedules around karate events. I have a student who regularly uses up his sick

time to attend events when he cannot get time off. I can go on and on. Why do they do it. The answer is simple; **because I do.** My students come because they know of the dates a year in advance and they plan accordingly. They come because they respect what they do and those who teach them.

So what do I tell them when others do not come? How do I answer them when they look for senior Yudansha and do not see them? Where are we headed, and why? Te hon o shimesu. Having a title is like being a parent. Privileged to have the responsibility. So when you next don your kurobi...please realize that my students learn from you also.

## A Letter & the Response

by Manny Hawthorne, Shihan

Hello Hanshi,

*For the Shimbun, if you like, your choice, I thought I would forward the bellow letter and response I made to a former student of mine, back in Montreal . The letter the theme, the intent, is what makes teaching all worth it in the end...having a positive impact on the life of another person! This is what I believe is the root - fundamental meaning for our teaching Karatedo, as first set out by Kaiso Hisataka.*

*Note: forwarded message is as follows.*

*Shihan Manny Hawthorne*

Good day Sensei Hawthorne,

First of all, a big hi and a big hug to you and all your family, and congratulations on your forth child ! (you just had your first son when you were teaching me, time flies fast)

Secondly, a huge THANK YOU for all the help you have given me in the past, when I was actively training. Your teachings are a big part of my consciousness.

It has been a very long time since we've contacted, and hope that you are able to help me find what I am trying to achieve. I have reached a point in my life where I feel the need to "reach a balance" and go "back to my roots", and would like to (re)start training in Shorinjiryu Kenshin Karatedo.

The original motive to my training was to help my anger and hyperactive behaviour (my parents subscribed me to your class for that particular reason, I've just learned that recently !!) not a really good motive but as a kid , I didn't know any better i guess hehe

What made me stay was the successes i've had, the balance and self-confidence that practicing this "un-masterable

sport" (perfection is by definition, an ideal goal and impossible to achieve - well, I see it this way) brought me. (this feeling grew over the years, of course, at 7-8 years old, its the karate kid effect taking over)

What made me quit , was a combination of lack of transportation to the Rosemère school, and that teenage rebellion we all seem to pass through in our lives. (i'm tempted to call it stupid laziness in my case).

What makes me want to start training again, is the peace, discipline, reaching for a goal, pushing myself further and further every time to barely try to achieve perfection. Sorry I can't really describe that feeling I have any better than this, I am not the best writer hehe.

I am getting a bit confused as I am looking for information about dojos in the Montréal area, for it appears the style has "splintered" (sorry about the term, English is still a second language for me hehe) into different styles & philosophies.

When I was active, I was studying under the Shorinjiryu Kenkokan Karatedo, then at some point we "switched" into Shorinjiryu Kenshin Karatedo. When it happened, I don't believe that I fully understood why it happened and the implications of such a move, as I was very young at the time. However, this seems to complicate things in regards of finding a Sensei and Dojo in my area that is teaching the style I was trained in.

As I search the internet for websites with Montréal area Dojos, I come across some styles that seem new to me (of course, being inactive for that

many years does not help me at all to see the "big picture", it adds more to my confusion hehe).

Here are the ones that I found teaching in the Montréal area.

- **Sensei Jeffrey**

**Henderson**, of the Kibukai Dojo @ McGill University , teaching Shorinjiryu Kentokukan Karatedo (if I understand correctly, this school follows the ways of Shinan Wayne Donovan).

- **Sensei Mark Filippelli**, of the Seishinkan Dojo @ the Tri-Star gym, also teaching Shorinjiryu Kentokukan Karatedo.

- **Shihan Shigeru Ishino**, of the Dojo Genbukan Shorinjiryu Karatedo. (style distinction completely unknown to me)

- **Sensei Carol Thind**, of the Shindokai Dojo @ St. Raymond's school, teaching Shorinjiryu Kentokukan Karatedo (website not working ☹)

It seems I cannot find a school teaching Shorinjiryu Kenshin Karatedo in my area (which seems to me a bit odd)

Some of the websites also have many dead links, thus complicating my search a little.

What happened with the Rosemère School when you and your family moved to Ontario ? , did anyone take the school over ? (I can't seem to find anything)

If my memory serves me well, Sensei Norman Wener is studying and teaching Shorinjiryu Kenshin Karatedo, but I can't seem to find his school.

I was hoping that you might be able to help me in my findings... am I missing schools in the Montréal area ? or do

## A Letter & the Response

by Manny Hawthorne, Shihan

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you you think it would be appropriate to contact Sensei Wener

directly (through e-mail, the only mean to contact him that I have found in all the web-pages) to ask if I could start training with him .. (assuming he would be interested and/or available of course).

Of course, I am perfectly aware that I will be starting as a white belt student (I don't feel I have the right to my old rank - as I have been inactive for 15years).

Domo arrigato gozaimassu/ in advance for your time and precious advice Sensei !

Best wishes for your family, students and yourself ;-)

Sincerely,

**Yves de Montgaillard**

### The Response

A big hello to you Yves!

Thank you for writing and trusting in my ability to help you (many questions!). Straight off the top, I must comment on your grasp of the English language and ability to write so fluently (fantasique! I wish my talents were half as good!!!).

I will give you my slant on the splint erring, my suggestions, and try to answer all your questions re: the dojos and sensei in Montreal .

The splintering is and was inevitable; It happens in every style and in every form of organization. The problems created from this process are ego-man made, i.e. from people not moving on - accepting reality, and holding on to personal grudges. As I see it, if the teaching fundamentals (philosophical & physical) were properly learned and remain the same,

as descending from Shorinjiryu Kaiso Kori Hisataka, then the only difference would be in the delivery. Teaching emphasis and / or preference doesn't necessarily mean better. One school / affiliate may teach a different interpretation of a kata, or choose Koshiki Shiai over the traditional Shorinjiryu Shiai, or stress Bunkai, or whatever.... But the true teachings of Shorinjiryu Karatedo, as originating from Kaiso Kori Hisataka will always be fundamentally and distinctly, identifiable. A punch is a punch, a kick is a kick, and a person's character is woven from the dedication and hard work committed to learning.

My suggestions would be to visit the various schools you mentioned (and there are many others), introduce yourself, express your desires & ambitions, and of course ask a lot of questions. Mention my name, if you like, I have no quarrels with anyone, though it won't get you any discounts! As for your rank and belt level, you are not a white belt (though you may feel like it), you received your junior Black Belt (if I'm not mistaking?), that certainly holds some degree of merit. However, if you choose to wear a white belt, and start at the bottom, let fellow classmates know about your previous training - rank. I might also suggest you visit some Judo, Kendo, or Aikido schools, again, the difference will only be, or should only be, in the delivery.

1- **Norman Wener** is still teaching in Montreal , Hudson I believe(?). Yes, he would be the first person I would suggest you contact (he will remember you).

2 - **Jeff Henderson, Mark Filippelli, Carol Thind** are all from the Kentokukan school (Shinan Wayne Donovan) following the same teachings and philosophies. Shinan Donovan was, as you know, my Sensei, and I would have no reservations in recommending him and / or his affiliated schools. Depending on where you live, I would suggest you contact Shinan Wayne Donovan directly, and ask for his advise (you can of course mention my name). BTW I'm sure he will remember you!

3 - **Shigeru Ishino** is again, the same exact style! Shihan Ishino taught at the Hakudokan dojo on Henry Bourassa in Montreal North during the seventies; he was a former student of Kaiso Hisataka and came to Canada at the request of both Kaiso and Masayuki Hisataka. I would of course recommend contacting him and training under his guidance.

Do you remember Dr. Rachel Chartrand, who trained with us at the Rosemere dojo? She trains with Shihan Ishino, and is a fifth dan I believe; she will most certainly remember you!

I hope this helps, and be sure to keep in touch. Please give my regards and warm wishes to your family.

**Shihan Manny Hawthorne**

## A New Direction

*The following letter was read to the assembled at the last Watanabe-ha tournament in Maryland. It should prove extremely interesting, informative and proves the work of the Shinzen Kyokai principles of cooperation. We wish the Australians many many more years of great practice as they embark on their new path.*

### **Message on Behalf of Shorinjiryu Kenyukai Watanabe-Ha Australia**

Having been established in the late 1970's, there is a small but dedicated and enthusiastic group of people in Australia who attempt to learn and practice Shorinjiryu Karatedo as envisioned by the founder, Kaiso Kori Hisataka.

Initially a part of the original Shorinjiryu federation, this group of people - who came to be known as Shorinjiryu Karatedo Australia - became independent in the mid 1990s. Continuing to practice earnestly, we tried our best to follow the teachings of our founder.

In the early part of the 21st century, Shorinjiryu Karatedo Australia became a member of the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai, an organisation we are proud to be part of. Through this membership, we came to realise that we were not as

isolated as we thought, and also that the karate we had been practicing was "new karate", which had evolved into a sporting focus, and was far from the functional effectiveness and beautiful simplicity of the "old karate" of Kaiso Kori Hisataka. It was also through our membership of the Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai that we came to meet many individuals who have a love for the original style, and we realised that our future path was to step back to old karate.

In this process, we were fortunate to become close with people like Hanshi Watanabe, Hanshi Myron, Shihan Dan, Shihan Page and Shihan Vincent. Each of these people have welcomed us to their dojo, and have also honoured us by visiting our shores and guiding us.

We were captivated by the beauty of the old karate expressed by Hanshi Watanabe, and were humbled when he invited us to become his students and members of his organisation. Having eagerly accepted this invitation, we are now setting about the process of learning the old ways, making our karate bigger and evolving much of our training. There is a long and challenging road ahead of us in this quest, and we are fortunate to have

the guidance of an inspiring group of senior practitioners of Shorinjiryu who continue to practice and polish the full teachings of the founder.

With many of our senior people having more than 20 years of practice of this style, some more than 25, it is a fact that most of us feel that it is only in the past few years we have come to glimpse true Shorinjiryu Karate.

The members of Shorinjiryu Kenyukai Watanabe-Ha Australia are proud to be a part of the Shorinjiryu Kenyukai Watanabe-Ha Federation, and we make this small presentation to Hanshi Watanabe as a token of our esteem and appreciation for his dedication of more than 51 years to Shorinjiryu, and for the future path we have working with him.

**Jim Griffin, Shihan**  
Joint Chief Instructor

**Max Estens, Shihan**  
Joint Chief Instructor

**Des Paroz, Renshi**  
President

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**Shorinjiryu Shinzen Kyokai**  
**Shorinjiryu Shimbu**

**Summer 2007**

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