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Wadokan News is a Zen Judo monthly e-mail news service. If you have any announcements for the Zen Judo community, please e-mail them to hcavalca@richmond.edu and we'll pass them along. If you wish to include others in this service, just send us their e-mail address and they'll be put on the list.

American Zen Judo is starting an e-mail news service. It's called Wadokan News. If you have any announcements to share with American or British Zen Judo clubs, please e-mail them to hcaivalca@richmond.edu and we'll pass them along. If you wish to include others in this service, just send us their e-mail address and we'll include them in our list.

WADOKAN NEWS August 2000 COLLECTING ZEN JUDO MEMORIES This issue of the Wadokan News starts a new feature. We are interested in collecting memories of the Zen Judo family. Most families have family albums and stories that they share. Together these memories help the new members learn important things about family life, about what it was like in the beginning and to discover virtues, values and gifts from the past. I asked Sensei Mike Healy to share with us his own memories of Zen Judo in Germany. Anyone else who has memories from the past 25 years of Zen Judo, memories of Mac, of training at Love Lane, of people that meant a lot for the Zen Judo family should feel free to send them to me. Please share your memories with us. Those memories shouldn't die with you alone. They should form a common heritage for all of us Zen Judoka. ZEN JUDO: THE GERMAN EXPERIENCE

By Mike Healy, 4th Dan; mike.healy@tjrp.net Imagine the situation. Having tried a variety of martial arts and found that the way in which they were taught did not align with your philosophy or understanding of what the martial arts should be about one day you discover a style which reflects both. Not only you but all of your family become so involved in this that you practice five times a week and, when not practicing, discuss and consider Judo. The consequence, for me, was that two years later I was a first Kyu with wife son and daughter who were 2nd Kyu and a second daughter who was, despite health problems, 3rd Kyu. Now at this time I was serving in the British Army and soldiers get posted. I was posted from England to Northern Germany. On arrival at my new unit it soon became apparent that: a) no one in the British community was practicing Judo in the way that we wished to (though I commend some of the better Deutsche Judo Bund clubs to anyone in a similar situation), and b) that none of us wished to stop. What were we to do? I contacted my first Sensei, Brian Bagot, and asked if it would be permissible for me to start a club in Osnabruck, Germany. He spoke to Mac and the next thing I knew was that I had been granted honorary Dan grade status and the club was started. We were almost overwhelmed by our success. We quickly rose to close to 40 members and, despite people being posted away, managed to maintain that level of membership for close to four years. Of course the day had to arrive when I would be posted back to the UK. Then fate took a hand. I was in the process of setting up a committee (sorry Mac) to take over the running of the club when a man recently posted to the garrison turned up at a training session and asked if he and his family could train with us. I asked his background and he said that he was a, if memory serves, 3rd Dan British Judo Association (BJA) member with refereeing and teaching experience. I stated that they were welcome but should understand that we took a different approach. Part way through the first session he suddenly asked what our syllabus had to do with Kyu Shin Do Judo. It transpired that the man in question, one Andrew Millard whose name will be more than a little familiar to you, had trained at the same club as Mac McCarthy, was in fact training there when Mac was awarded his 1st Dan, and had risen to 1st Kyu prior to joining the Army at which time he had little choice but to move to the BJA. During the next few months Andy and I, along with a number of other Members of my club visited Mac at a training session in Portsmouth at which Andrew's grade in Zen Judo was confirmed and subsequently Andy took over my club when I left. Fate again took a hand. Almost as soon as I left Andrew was posted to another part of

Germany about 150 Miles away. Quite remarkably he chose to continue running the Osnabruck Club, Started another in Hohne and recruited two more clubs to train in our style. About a year later it was my great pleasure that my wife and I took Mac and Peggy McCarthy to Germany to visit the, by now, five Zen Judo Clubs in turn to train with all of them culminating in a gathering of all together in Hohne. And what has become of it all now? Well there is only a tiny British military presence in Germany now. I am not aware of any continuing Zen clubs but content myself in the knowledge that the current technical head of Zen Judo in the UK would not be involved were it not for my little Osnabruck club; and that, scattered around the world are countless individuals who have enjoyed participating in our style who otherwise would not have. If any of them read this I would love to hear from them.

PROMOTIONS AT THE INNERSTAIRWAY ZEN JUDO DOJO IN CHARLOTTESVILLE

Sensei Ed Stockwell is honored to announce that Mark Y. Smith and J. Taylor have both successfully completed their testing last Wednesday July 26th. J. Taylor has been promoted to the rank of Sankyū and has accepted his new role as a senior student in the Innerstairway Dojo. I admire his diligence and commitment to our family and his. Mark Y. Smith has been awarded the rank of NIKYU. He has been an integral part of our dojo and has made himself available to cover classes when needed. I look forward to learning more from him. To the students of the InnerStairway ZenJudo Dojo: Thank You -- this testing was a success because of your participation. This is what Judo is about. Congratulations!

FINDING OLD FRIENDS

Another new feature of the Wadokan News is our "finding old friends" section. If you had a Zen Judo friend and you lost touch with him, send us a query and we'll put it in the newsletter. Maybe someone else knows where your friend is or how to get in touch with him/her. Our first query comes from myself. Does anyone know the whereabouts (especially the e-mail address) of Sensei Adrian Norris (4th Dan)? I stumbled across a copy of the "Zen Family News," the official newsletter for the Zen Judo family back in the early 1990s, and there were two articles by Adrian. I believe he was also the Sensei of the Loddon Valley Judo Club at that time. Since he visited my club in America I'd love to get back in touch with him. Please send information to hcavalca@richmond.edu.

FUTURE TRAINING EVENTS

The Asageiko is the annual international training sponsored by the American Zen Judo family. Every year we've had the pleasure of having high ranking Zen Judoka Sensei from England to provide us with a full day or two of training for all the Zen Judo clubs in America. This year we're delighted to have Jo Winslow as our guest Sensei. All Zen Judo families are invited to the event. It will take place in Richmond, Virginia (we're hoping to hold it at the Wadokan dojo), on Saturday, 14th October. It will be an all-day event.

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