

SMAA JOURNAL



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 SMAA DUES

This is a reminder that SMAA membership fees were due on January 1, 2026. Your prompt attention to this matter is appreciated. Payments can be easily and securely made at www.smaa-hq.com.

We appreciate our members paying dues promptly. It makes life easier for the SMAA staff of volunteers, and it is representative of the type of self-discipline we are cultivating through the study of traditional Japanese martial arts.

DONATIONS & TAX DEDUCTIONS

The SMAA is a federally tax-exempt, nonprofit corporation. As such, your donations to our association are tax deductible. Send your donations, in the form of a check or money order (made out to SMAA), to our headquarters in Michigan. We'll send you a letter back acknowledging your contribution, which you can then use for tax purposes. We hope you'll support the SMAA in our goal to preserve and promote traditional budo and koryu bujutsu.

E-MAIL

Please make sure we have your correct e-mail address. Without this address, we can't e-mail you the *SMAA Journal*.

Do you have a new e-mail address? Have you sent it to hedavey@aol.com? If not, we also won't be

OBJECTIVES OF THE SMAA

1. To promote and aid in the growth of Japan's traditional arts and ways.
2. To assist the public in achieving spiritual growth and physical development through budo/bujutsu.
3. To further friendship and understanding between Asian and Western martial artists.
4. To establish goodwill and harmony among martial artists of various systems.
5. To offer Western martial artists access to legitimate budo/bujutsu organizations and teachers in Japan.
6. To give practitioners of authentic budo/bujutsu recognition for their years of devotion to these arts.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Nicklaus Suino Sensei
- H. E. Davey Sensei

Editor: H. E. Davey Sensei

Assistant Editor: Troy Swenson Sensei

Webmaster: Don Prior Sensei

General Manager: Nicklaus Suino Sensei

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able to send you SMAA publications, so please be sure to let us know if your e-mail address changes.

SMAA PATCHES

The SMAA HQ is selling official SMAA patches for your gi. They're great looking patches that embody the spirit and honor instilled in members of our group. They won't fade or bleed when you bleach them, and yet we've been able to keep the cost down. Each patch is basically a 3 ½ inch circle featuring our logo below:



Our patches were produced using state of the art digitizing and ultra-modern technology to create an accurate and attractive embroidered emblem. They feature tight stitches, sharp detail, clean lettering, and top quality craftsmanship. There's no jagged stitching, but we've still got plenty of stitches so that the background doesn't show through.

The patch should be worn on the left side of your gi jacket near your heart. SMAA policy mandates only one patch per uniform to maintain the sense of dignity associated with traditional budo.

These new patches are a great way to show your respect and enthusiasm for our group; we hope all of our members will order at least one. *And the best part is the patches are only \$5.00 (US) each!* (E-mail shudokan@smaa-hq.com about special shipping for international orders.)

To order, go to the "Payments" section of www.smaa-hq.com or send a check or money order made out to "SMAA" to:

SMAA HQ
PO Box 6022
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-6022
USA

FACEBOOK PAGE



Have you been to the SMAA Facebook page? If not, you're missing out on the latest SMAA news, features, videos, photos, and information. It's easy and safe to join Facebook, and all you need to do is click the "Like" button to become a follower of our Facebook page. This is the fastest way to get SMAA news and updates, and we hope you'll drop by <http://www.facebook.com/ShudokanMartialArtsAssociation> and check it out. Once you're on Facebook, we hope you'll share our page with your friends and help us promote the SMAA.

SMAA ONLINE PAYMENTS

Did you know you can pay for your annual dues at our website using PayPal or a major credit card? You can, and you can also pay for gi patches and promotions in the same way. This is a much faster, and in some ways more secure, means of sending money to our headquarters. We hope more of our members will make use of this feature. Just drop by <http://smaa-hq.com/payments.php> for more information.

SMAA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

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Shudokan Martial Arts Association

Want to see some great videos of SMAA teachers, officials, and members? Now you can by visiting our YouTube channel. We're Shudokan1994, because 1994 is the year the SMAA was founded.

To see video of SMAA teachers and members, go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gg5NIka6Ge0&list=PLS11_XCH8RkI868tRKZ0fdJFSeFGyNZ0o

To see video of the amazing experts that trained leading SMAA officials and teachers, go to:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcE7zBhv9Hs&list=PLS11_XCH8RkIV8liNZoXI93WI79BLe1NZ

NEW SMAA ONLINE LIBRARY

We're always trying to offer more benefits to go along with your SMAA membership. So, be sure to drop by www.smaa-hq.com and check out the new SMAA Online Library. We're in the process of gradually adding back issues of the *SMAA Journal* to our website.

HYPERLINKS

Since we live in the age of the Internet, we're trying to make the *SMAA Journal* more interactive. Look for words in blue and underlined. These are hyperlinks.

Click on them, and you'll connect to websites that can give you information about topics mentioned in this and future issues. Have fun surfing the web! Just remember to come back and finish reading the rest of this issue.

JMAC 20TH ANNIVERSARY

On Friday, June 26, 2026, the Japanese Martial Arts Center officially marked its 20th anniversary, celebrating two decades of bringing authentic Japanese heritage martial arts to Michigan. Founded in June 2006 by Nicklaus Suino Sensei, the Japanese Martial Arts Center has grown from a shared vision among close friends into one of North America's



Suino Sensei, eighth dan, practicing iaido

premier centers for traditional budo. Over the past twenty years, the dojo has occupied three different locations, expanding its reach while remaining steadfast in its core mission: offering a safe, systematic environment where students can develop strength, focus, and character.

A LEGACY BORN IN JAPAN

Suino Sensei's journey began long before the Japanese Martial Arts Center opened its doors. Having practiced martial arts since 1968, he spent four defining years in Yokohama, Japan, during the late 1980s and early 1990s. There, he trained under legendary teachers, in particular the elite sword expert Yamaguchi Katsuo Sensei (10th dan Muso Jikiden Eishin Ryu iaido) and Sato Shizuya Sensei (ninth dan judo).



Suino Sensei (right) in Japan with Shimizu Shun (middle) and Jeff Hauptman (left). Shimizu Sensei is a leader in the SMAA Karate-do Division.

Upon returning to Michigan, Suino Sensei, Director of the SMAA Judo Division and Co-director of the SMAA Iaido Division, sought to establish a dojo that reflected the high ideals, impeccable credentials, and rigorous quality of traditional Japanese training. Today, the Japanese Martial Arts Center offers world-class instruction across multiple disciplines, including:

- Iaido
- Jujutsu
- Judo
- Karate-do



Suino Sensei, seventh dan, teaching traditional judo

MORE THAN TECHNIQUE: A COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

What sets the Japanese Martial Arts Center apart is its philosophy that true martial arts training is an internal crucible as much as a physical one. Under Suino Sensei's guidance, the dojo emphasizes the concept of mutual prosperity and personal growth. "The best return on your training doesn't come from just putting in the time," Suino Sensei has noted of the JMAC ethos, "it comes from striving to be your absolute best."

What's more, on a regular basis the Japanese Martial Arts Center brings leading teachers from Japan to teach martial arts like Kodokan judo, Goju Ryu karate-do, Shodokan aikido, and more. Twenty years in, the Japanese Martial Arts Center continues to prove that traditional budo is not a relic of the past, but a living, breathing vehicle for modern personal transformation.

Congratulations to Suino Sensei and members of his dojo!

OTSUKA SOKE NEWS

The first major scheduled training event of the year for Otsuka Yasuyuki Soke proceeded successfully. On March 22, 2026, he conducted the Kansai Keikokai ("Kansai Study Group"). This intensive gathering brought regional instructors together to focus on the precise body mechanics, short-power release, and blade control required for advanced bo-shurikenjutsu (spike throwing) and fundo kusarjutsu (weighted chain techniques).

On Sunday, April 5th, Otsuka Yasuyuki Soke moved his Meifu Shinkage Ryu (明府真影流) dojo. He and his students are now practicing shuriken-jutsu and related weapon arts at Yuya Dojo, a karate-do training hall located at the south exit of JR Motoyawata Station. Parallel to the relocation, he conducted specialized regional open seminars throughout April across major branches, including



Otsuka Soke throwing bo-shuriken

targeted training events in Osaka and an outdoor intensive at Gotemba City in Shizuoka Prefecture.

Otsuka Soke, a leading member of the SMAA Board of Advisors, lives and teaches in Ichikawa City, Chiba



Otsuka Soke holding bo-shuriken

Prefecture, Japan (located just east of Tokyo). He serves as the current headmaster of Meifu Shinkage Ryu, overseeing the system's global operations. While he resides in Chiba, the central training hubs and official headquarters (Honbu Dojo) for the Meifu Shinkage Ryu operate across both the Tokyo area (frequently utilizing training venues like the Edogawa Ward Cultural Center and the Ichikawa City Labor Welfare Center) and Osaka.

Meifu Shinkage Ryu is a classical martial arts system founded by Someya Chikatoshi Soke, a practitioner



Otsuka Soke preparing to throw multiple bo-shuriken

who refined the ancestral shurikenjutsu (blade-throwing) methods of the ancient Tenshin Shoden Katori Shinto Ryu. Rather than relying on standard battlefield length or grand physical motions, Someya Soke developed a systematic approach that prioritized shorter, faster, and highly concealed releases. Otsuka Soke, operates as both a teacher and a dedicated researcher, preserving Someya Soke's traditional throwing arts that might otherwise face extinction.

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We're on the Web!

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While primarily famous for its bo-shurikenjutsu—the art of throwing thin, 16-centimeter iron spikes with a specialized palm-and-wrist release—the school's curriculum is anchored in the broader study of kakushi buki ("hidden or concealed weaponry"). Beyond the throwing spikes, students train in fundo kusarijutsu, which utilizes a short, weighted chain roughly 72 to 76 centimeters in length to entangle or strike opponents, alongside sokenjutsu close-quarters blade tactics and tojutsu heiyowaza (coordinating hidden weapons seamlessly alongside a drawn sword). This unique combination of stealth, physics, and precise combative spatial awareness has fostered an international community, transforming a once-secretive martial art into a highly technical, non-competitive discipline studied worldwide.

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