

SMAA JOURNAL



Shudokan Martial Arts Association • PO Box 6022, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-6022
<http://smaa-hq.com/> • shudokan@smaa-hq.com • 1-734-645-6441

ANNOUNCEMENTS

2017 SMAA DUES

Membership fees are due on January 1, 2017. Please be sure to pay your SMAA dues on time. You can either send a check to our headquarters or pay online at <http://www.smaa-hq.com/payments.php>. We accept Visa, MasterCard, and PayPal. This is a quick and safe way to make your annual SMAA membership payment.

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*.

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

- Karl Scott Sensei
- 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

修道館武道会

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

THE BEST OF THE SMAA JOURNAL CD-ROM

To celebrate its 15th anniversary in 2009, the SMAA created a special CD-ROM that contained a sampling of some of the best stories and articles to appear in the *SMAA Journal* since 1994. We mailed this free of charge to everyone in the SMAA as a way of showing our appreciation to our members.

Although our anniversary has past, it's still not too late to get a copy of this CD-ROM, which is packed with hard to find information about budo and koryu bujutsu. For \$8.95, plus \$3.00 shipping and handling (\$5.00 outside the USA), we'll send you *The Best of the SMAA Journal*.

Send your check or money order to the SMAA HQ. Supplies are limited to the number of CDs remaining.

SMAA YOUTUBE CHANNEL

修道館武道会

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=gq5Nika6Ge0&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

OTSUKA SOKE NEWS

In October 2016, Otsuka Yasuyuki Sensei, the current Soke of Meifu-Shinkage Ryu, traveled to Santiago, Chile and Saskatchewan, Canada, where he offered seminars in the use of shuriken (throwing darts) and the fundo kusari (a weighted chain).

He also recently led a successful Autumn Meifu-Shinkage Ryu Camp in Japan. Both Japanese and foreigners participated.



Otsuka Soke

Meifu-Shinkage Ryu is based on Katori Shinto Ryu, one of Japan's oldest forms of koryu bujutsu. Otsuka Soke is one of the highest-ranking martial artists in Japan and one of very few people in the world teaching an authentic system of shuriken-jutsu. He works with the SMAA to promote and preserve genuine Japanese budo and koryu bujutsu. He lives in Ichikawa-Shi, Chiba, Japan.



Training with the fundo kusari at Otsuka Soke's fall camp in Japan

EVANS SENSEI NEWS

John Evans Sensei, SMAA Senior Advisor, will be giving a Japanese swordsmanship demonstration at the Hyper Japan festival in England on November 26th and 27th. We hope our members in Europe will drop by this event. Visit the Hyper Japan website for more information: <http://hyperjapan.co.uk/>.

Evans Sensei practiced in Japan with two of the most senior teachers of swordsmanship in the world, Nakamura Taisaburo Sensei, founder of Nakamura



Evans Sensei

Ryu battodo, and Danzaki Tomoaki Sensei, head of the Kenshukan Dojo of Muso Shinden Ryu. At the Kenshukan, Evans Sensei studied Muso Shinden Ryu iaido and Shindo Muso Ryu jodo ("the way of the four-foot staff"). He also trained at the Kashima Shinto Ryu school of classical swordsmanship under Yoshikawa Koichiro Sensei. In 1987, his training in swordsmanship was profiled in a 30 minute NTV program in Japan entitled *Igrisujin no Musha Shugyo* ("An Englishman's Warrior Discipline").

Following his return to England in 1993, he decided to concentrate on Nakamura Ryu battodo and founded the Fudokan Dojo in London. Since Nakamura Sensei's death in 2003, Mr. Evans has continued his Nakamura Ryu training in Japan with Suzuki Kunio Sensei, eighth dan/SMAA Senior Advisor, and Sato Shimeo Sensei, ninth dan. Evans



Evans Sensei was the featured instructor at the 2009 SMAA Europe Seminar

Sensei received seventh dan in Nakamura Ryu in 2008. In addition to his high rank in Nakamura Ryu, Evans Sensei obtained rank in Muso Shinden Ryu iaido (third dan), Kashima Shinto Ryu kenjutsu (shomon certificate), Shindo Muso ryu jodo (second dan), and Kurikara ryu kenjutsu (third dan).

MARTIN SENSEI NEWS

On December 4, 2016, Paul Martin Sensei will present a lecture on the art and history of the Japanese sword at Islington Yoga in London. It starts at 12 PM, and we hope our members in the UK will



Paul Martin Sensei

drop by and listen to one of the world's leading authorities on the Nippon-to, who is an excellent swordsman as well. You can find out more about this event at <https://www.facebook.com/events/321389398230227/>.

A native of England, Martin Sensei now lives in Japan, where he has learned kendo, iaido, and several forms of ancient swordsmanship. But his main specialty is the study, history, and appraisal of the Japanese sword as an art object. He is an SMAA Senior Advisor.



Martin Sensei training in Japan

Martin Sensei has studied under top sword appraisal experts, sword smiths, and sword restorers in Japan for numerous years. He maintains a fascinating website (www.thejapanesesword.com), and he is the author of *The Japanese Sword Guide to Nyusatsu Kantei*. He has been featured on the BBC, BBC Radio 4, the History Channel, Los Angeles JATV, and Japan's NHK TV. He's also been interviewed in *Tokyo Metropolis Magazine*, *The Daily Yomiuri* newspaper, and *Asahi Weekly* in Japan.

SWENSON SENSEI NEWS

Troy Swenson Sensei, the assistant editor of the *SMAA Journal*, recently received a third-degree



Swenson Sensei practicing jujutsu

black belt from the SMAA Jujutsu Division. He has been involved in Asian martial arts since childhood, and he began to study Saigo Ryu in 2005, which focuses on jujutsu and several traditional weapons.

He lives in California, and his jujutsu second dan promotion was in 2011. He's also earned Fuku-shidoin instructor certification from the SMAA, allowing him to teach beginners in the San Francisco Bay Area. (The conferring of dan ranking in the SMAA does not equate to permission to teach; separate instructor certification is required. There are five levels of teaching accreditation: Fuku-shidoin, Shidoin, Fuku-shihan, Shihan, and So-shihan.)

SMAA dan and teaching titles are based on technical skill, teaching ability, and character development. In the case of dan grades, more emphasis is placed on technical ability. Teaching titles, which are more difficult to achieve, emphasize personal development and teaching capacity. (Teaching titles allow instructors to recommend individuals to the SMAA for ranks within one level of their own.)

The support one has given the SMAA, technical skill, the recommendations of one's seniors in the SMAA, and the contributions that one has made to the martial arts, are major considerations for promotion. The SMAA has minimum time

requirements for promotion as well. All applicants for title/rank are thoroughly examined by the SMAA Directors and Advisors.

SENNIN FOUNDATION CENTER FOR JAPANESE CULTURAL ARTS



Kids have studied jujutsu at the Sennin Foundation Center since 1981

In November, the Sennin Foundation Center for Japanese Cultural Arts will celebrate its 35th anniversary. Launched by H. E. Davey in 1981, it offers traditional classes in Japanese yoga, healing arts, martial arts, and fine arts. It's located in Albany, California, right across the bay from San Francisco. The dojo is affiliated with a number of prestigious associations including the SMAA for bujutsu, the Kokusai Nihon Yoga Renmei in Kyoto for Japanese yoga and healing arts, and the Wanto Shodo Kai for Japanese calligraphy and art.

The Sennin Foundation Center recently created a new website to promote their Japanese yoga and martial arts classes for children. You can check it out at <http://www.kids-martial-arts.info>. The Sennin Foundation Center's class for young people is one of the longest running children's martial arts programs in California.

SUINO SENSEI NEWS



The new JMAC

Nicklaus Suino Sensei, Director of the SMAA Judo Division, has finished moving into his new dojo. This is a bigger, if not better, Japanese Martial Arts Center. It's located at:

2875 Boardwalk
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
United States

Suino Sensei teaches classes in Sato Ryu Nihon jujutsu, Kodokan judo, and Muso Jikiden Eishin Ryu iaido at his new facility. Instruction for children as well as adults is available. All classes are conducted in the traditional format he learned while studying in Tokyo, and Suino Sensei periodically returns to Japan to further his training.

Suino Sensei has studied and practiced martial arts since 1968. He spent four years in Japan, learning



SMAA members practicing judo at the new JMAC



JMAC logo

from renowned martial arts masters such as Sato Shizuya Sensei, tenth dan jujutsu and ninth dan judo, and Yamaguchi Katsuo Sensei, tenth dan Muso Jikiden Eishin Ryu iaido. Since his return from Japan, he has authored several popular martial arts books, including *Budo Mind & Body*.

Mr. Suino was four times the all-Kanto sword forms champion at his rank level and represented his region in the national tournament in 1991, only the second non-Japanese ever to do so. He also studied judo under the late Walter Todd Sensei, eighth dan. Todd Sensei trained at the famed Kodokan Judo Institute in Tokyo, he was a direct student of Mifune Kyuzo Sensei (tenth dan) and Ito Kazuo Sensei (tenth dan), and he was one of the founding members of the SMAA.

Suino Sensei currently holds the SMAA title/rank of Shihan/eighth dan in iaido, Shihan/sixth dan in



Suino Sensei's students helping construct a special sprung floor for the mats in their new dojo

judo, and Fuku-shihan/fifth dan in jujutsu. He is also one of the founding members of the SMAA and one of three SMAA Primary Directors.

ABOUT THE ARTICLES IN THE SMAA JOURNAL

The *SMAA Journal* is published four times per year by our nonprofit association, and unpaid volunteers staff it. Issues are generally released on a quarterly basis, but this is dependent on a few variable factors. The chief variables have to do with how busy the volunteers are in their personal and professional lives as well as how much material is sent in to publish. Less news and fewer featured articles doesn't always make it quicker and easier to produce this publication.

First, we will often wait to finish an issue, hoping that more members send in news and original writing. We know that you enjoy reading larger issues and so do we. And so sometimes we wait.

Second, fewer submissions can also mean that articles must be created and written, while news items must be found, usually by searching online. That can take as much—or more—time as editing and formatting articles or other items contributed by members.

Have you ever wondered why you read more about some martial arts and some sensei than others in the *SMAA Journal*? The answer is simple, and it has nothing to do with favoritism. We usually edit and print what we receive from members. If we don't get a submission relating to a certain martial art or a particular teacher, you won't hear much about it or him.

Some people more frequently submit articles and news to us. Those are the people, dojo, and martial arts that you see more consistently in our publication. Simple as that.

Want to see more about you, your sensei, your dojo, and/or your martial art? That's simple to accomplish. Just send information or an article to hedavey@aol.com, and there's a good chance that you'll soon be reading your submission in the next issue of the *SMAA Journal*, and so will our members

in several different countries. They'll enjoy it, the *SMAA Journal* staff will be grateful, and it's free publicity for you, your writing, your dojo, etc.

We'd like to see a bigger and more diverse *SMAA Journal*. Will you help us accomplish that?

YOUR GUIDE TO BUDO AND KORYU BUJUTSU—PART FOUR

By H. E. Davey

IT'S GREAT THAT THE SMAA HAS TEACHERS THAT UNDERSTAND AUTHENTIC BUDO, BUT THEY SEEM TO BE IN THE MINORITY IN THE WEST TODAY. HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?

That's an important question, and it requires knowledge of how Japanese martial arts spread outside of Japan. Logically, some of the first teachers in the West were Japanese, and perhaps the first art to be taught to any great degree was "jujutsu."

Note that I put the word jujutsu in quotation marks. I'll explain why in a moment.

Most likely the first Japanese martial arts instruction outside of Japan took place quietly within expat Japanese communities in Europe, the USA, and other nations. Since it amounted to classes by and for Japanese living abroad, it was probably authentic and well understood. It was also largely invisible to the Western eye, with few exceptions. (My grandfather employed a number of folks from Japan, a few of whom practiced jujutsu privately. They became my father's teachers in the 1920's, but there was no public school.)

When Westerners think of the beginnings of martial arts instruction in the West, they often really mean the advent of public studios that freely taught non-Japanese. This started to take place in the early 1900's in Europe and the USA. For instance, Uyenishi Sadakazu and Tani Yukio were both teaching "jujutsu" in London around 1900, but they were



Jujutsu, the most ancient Japanese martial art

employees of Edward William Barton-Wright. They taught the general public in a commercial setting, and what they taught was modified for Western tastes. Plus, Uyenishi Sensei was but 20 years old when he came to the UK, so it was unlikely that he was a leading expert in Japan. Moreover, in the early 1900's in the West, the words judo and jujutsu were used almost interchangeably, causing confusion later on. In short, what was taught was often old-style judo or generic "jujutsu." It was at least altered, Westernized, and geared for mass consumption by people who weren't always highly skilled. It is this "jujutsu" that eventually spread widely outside of Japan (with only a few exceptions).

The second wave of budo immigration took place after the end of WWII. American soldiers were stationed in Japan, and once the ban on martial arts practice was lifted, they started studying budo. Most practiced judo, and after returning to the USA, they were instrumental in furthering the growth of judo



Tom Kosslow Sensei, SMAA Senior Advisor and Wado Ryu karate-do seventh dan

among non-Japanese in the 1950's. Later in the 1960's, another wave of military men brought karate-do from Japan and Okinawa back to their hometowns. Many eventually were thought of as budo pioneers, and several ultimately claimed high ranks. They also brought with them, despite their best intentions, distortions and misunderstandings that are still perpetuated today.

They were military men, so they taught classes as if military recruits populated them. But their students were not always soldiers, and the Western military isn't representative of Japanese bushi culture.

They indicated karate-do was superior to boxing, because boxing used only two hands, while karate-do used hands, feet, elbows, knees, etc. But budo is not a sport like boxing, budoka aren't fighters like boxers, and the history, culture, mentality, aesthetics, and philosophy of budo is different from boxing.

They elevated the shodan, the famed "black belt," to near mythic status, when shodan actually means,

"beginning grade," in Japanese. This happened because most of these folks were in Japan for a short time: often a couple of years or less. In such a brief period, the best rank they could get was shodan and sometimes not even that. Naturally they wanted to have authority, so the black belt became the ultimate symbol of mastery; and back in the day, not everyone told their students that varying degrees of black belt exist. Over time though, martial arts fans figured this out.

They, therefore, eventually created numerous associations (especially in karate-do) that had limited ties to Japan, and quite a few of these Western pioneers didn't return to Japan for further training. As the head of these associations, they eventually acquired higher black belt degrees, but not from bona fide associations in Japan and not due to receiving more advanced training. Seriously check into the backgrounds of several near legendary Western martial arts pioneers, and you'll find folks that never advanced to higher rank through their Japanese teachers, couldn't effectively converse with authorities in Japan, and created instruction based on mistaken and overly romantic ideas about budo. Then they sanctioned each other's ranks and activities, and their students eventually became well-known champions (but not in Japan), action movie stars, and semi-legendary masters. And this all started with a few GIs, with a couple years of training, in arts they had slight previous knowledge of, and who had little ability to understand instruction in Japanese. And a bunch of their Japanese sensei—in Japan and the West—couldn't speak English well nor did they relate well to Western cultures. Miscommunication? You bet!

I could go on, but this is easy to summarize. Because most Western people that brought budo to their homelands had no prior familiarity with budo, they equated it to what they knew: Western combat sports and Western philosophy. They often didn't speak Japanese, so they could only copy movements, often without fully understanding what they were copying. They couldn't read original



Stephen Fabian Sensei is a Director for the SMAA Jujutsu Division and a Hontai Yoshin Ryu jujutsu expert.

source material relating to their art nor understand lectures, so they taught something focused almost exclusively on combat and physical fitness, when budo is much more than this. And that's how we got here.

This isn't the gospel of Western budo history, but it is accurate in many—if not all—cases. Certainly this is also an abbreviated and far from comprehensive summary of budo in the West. Not every martial art was mentioned, I focused on problem areas, and numerous exceptions to what I've written exist. Let's look at a couple of exceptional martial arts pioneers in the West.

One such person was Victor Davey, my father, who grew up with my grandfather's Japanese employees. He started practicing jujutsu with them in 1926. Later, he encountered a handful of public schools of jujutsu—not all of which were authentic—and he practiced with these teachers as well. Using introductions from his Japanese teachers, he met Asian sensei offering Kodokan judo, which he simultaneously trained in. He was often the only non-Japanese student.

When WWII broke out, he enlisted and eventually ended up in Japan as a captain in the U.S. army. He was among the first American army personnel to

land in Japan. Because he was an officer, and due to his association with the Office of Strategic Services (OSS), he received an intensive course in Japanese prior to his deployment to Japan. This was in addition to a prior facility with the language.

He arrived in Japan armed with around 20 years of training in Japanese martial arts. While there, he continued to practice judo, and he quickly met Saigo Kenji Sensei, who was teaching his own form of jujutsu, with an emphasis on aiki (“union with the ki of the universe”) and the integration of classical weaponry and unarmed techniques. My dad stayed for several years, longer than most GIs, and he practiced with Saigo Sensei until his death. Upon returning home, he continued his association with leading budoka from Japan and their Western students. He started teaching me when I was five, and later introduced me to experts like Fukuda Sensei in judo and Maruyama Koretoshi Sensei, ninth dan and the founder of Yuishinkai aikido. He remained active in budo throughout his life, earning teaching certification in judo, aikido, and more than one system of jujutsu . . . all from well-known governing bodies in Japan.

After he'd been in Japan for some time, he encountered a young enlisted man named Walter



Nicklaus Suino Sensei, Director of the SMAA Judo Division and sixth dan

Todd, who came to the Kodokan Judo Institute. My dad trained at the Kodokan upon its reopening (after the lifting of the ban on budo), and he was surprised to see another American arrive. Unlike my father, Todd Sensei had no budo background, but he was very motivated, learning to speak Japanese and visiting every dojo he could find. With the help of his Japanese girlfriend (and later wife), he trained at the Kodokan with top teachers, and he studied Wado Ryu karate-do under its founder. Unlike my dad, he didn't stay in Japan, but his job with the military allowed him to regularly return to Japan for extended stays.

In the 1950's, he was part of a U. S. Strategic Air Command (SAC) group that brought an assembly of legendary budo sensei from Japan to America. They included Tomiki Kenji Sensei of aikido and judo, Obata Isao Sensei of Shotokan karate-do, along with important teachers of judo as well as other arts. Todd Sensei was also part of an ongoing SAC combatives course at the Kodokan, which employed several senior martial arts experts, from varying disciplines, including Kotani Sumiyuki Sensei (judo 10th dan). The late Todd Sensei received high ranks in judo, aikido, and karate-do from well-established federations in Japan, and he started one of the longest running commercial dojo in the U.S. (We met in the 1980's through a Tokyo-based budo group, and I reconnected Todd Sensei with my dad. In 1994, Todd Sensei and I joined other budoka in founding the SMAA.)

Why is this significant? It's important because both gentlemen stayed in Japan for much longer than a few months; they had time to really learn their arts. They spoke Japanese and actually understood their teachers; they did more than merely copy. And they maintained a lifelong association with senior instructors in Japan, receiving high ranks from recognized Japanese federations, rather than via self-promotion or trading of promotions. In short, they truly understood what they were doing on a level commensurate with experts in Japan, and these



Otsuka Yasuyuki Soke is an SMAA official in Japan

Asian teachers treated them as peers. They were exceptions to my above summary of budo in the West, and they were exceptional people. While they were in the minority, they also weren't the only Western instructors of real budo.

Finally, by the 1980's Japanese martial arts were so popular in the West that the students and "grand-students" of early Western budo forerunners found their way to Japan. And they, like my father before them, often discovered that what they'd seen represented as budo in their countries didn't closely match what they found in Japan. But unlike lots of the early pioneers in the West, they weren't stationed there, stumbling upon budo. They specifically went to Japan to study budo, with the intention of staying for quite awhile, sometimes armed with a university degree in Japanese studies. Nicklaus Suino Sensei, a Director for the SMAA Iaido Division and eighth dan, is one such person, who traveled to Japan specifically to study budo and not for a few months. Another example is SMAA Senior Advisor Mark Colby, who moved to Asia permanently, living in Chiba now for over 30 years, while winning important judo championships in



Suzuki Kunio Sensei is a member of the SMAA Board of Advisors and among the highest ranking budo teachers in Japan

Japan. They're typical of Western leaders in the SMAA, people who deeply understand budo in all its dimensions.

THIS SOUNDS FASCINATING. HOW DO I BECOME PART OF AUTHENTIC BUDO OR KORYU BUJUTSU?

Well, reading through all of this is a great start. SMAA leaders also frequently recommend the books of Donn Draeger Sensei, especially *Classic Bujutsu*, *Classic Budo*, and *Modern Bujutsu & Budo*. In fact, several close students of the late, great Draeger Sensei are SMAA officials. Likewise, we encourage everyone to read the works of SMAA official Dave Lowry, along with his column in *Black Belt*. And Suino Sensei has authored some fantastic books on budo.

But to get ongoing budo/koryu bujutsu information, join the SMAA and read our quarterly *SMAA Journal*. Bottom-line: educate yourself to able to sift through the hype, misinformation, and sensationalism to find real budo. It isn't always in the limelight, frequently residing in the serenity of shadows, but we can help you find the real deal.

Associate membership confers almost all the benefits of regular membership, minus the awarding

of rank. Annual dues in our nonprofit association are nominal, the membership certificate is attractive, the journal is packed with information you won't find in mainstream martial arts magazines, and the member discounts allow you to study inexpensively with some of the best teachers in the world. Seminars are offered in the U.S. and other nations.

Our teachers are willing to answer your questions via e-mail, and they'll help you evaluate prospective dojo and sensei. We can also help you connect with teachers in Japan, most commonly for modern budo. Admittance into koryu bujutsu dojo in Japan is harder, but we have within the SMAA one of the world's largest gatherings of koryu practitioners. SMAA members and officials practice Hontai Yoshin Ryu, Takeuchi Ryu, Masaki Ryu, Kobori Ryu, Yagyu Shinkage Ryu, Shindo Muso Ryu, Ono-ha Itto Ryu, Kashima Shinto Ryu, Owari Kan Ryu, Tenjin Shinyo Ryu, and other ancient forms of bujutsu. We can help you make koryu connections as well.

It is possible to earn kyu and dan ranks, along with teaching certification, through the SMAA; our activities are recognized by leading martial arts experts from Japan and by Omi Koji, a prominent member of the Japanese government. People in numerous different nations have discovered the benefits of SMAA membership, and you can as well at www.smaa-hq.com.

Make a positive and life-altering decision; join the SMAA today and discover the amazing world of genuine Japanese budo and koryu bujutsu.

About the Author: H. E. Davey is one of the founding members of the Shudokan Martial Arts Association, a Director for the SMAA Jujutsu Division, and the Director of the Sennin Foundation Center for Japanese Cultural Arts. With several decades of training, in Japan and the USA, he has earned an eighth-degree black belt and the title of Shihan from the SMAA. One of three SMAA Primary Directors, he specializes in a form of Japanese jujutsu that also

**Shudokan Martial Arts
Association**

PO Box 6022
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-6022

Phone:

1-734-645-6441

E-Mail:

shudokan@smaa-hq.com

includes various weapon systems. On several occasions he has presented demonstrations in Tokyo, he is the author of multiple books on Japanese culture, traditional arts, and forms of meditation. You can check out his writing at www.michipublishing.com.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

<http://smaa-hq.com>

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