

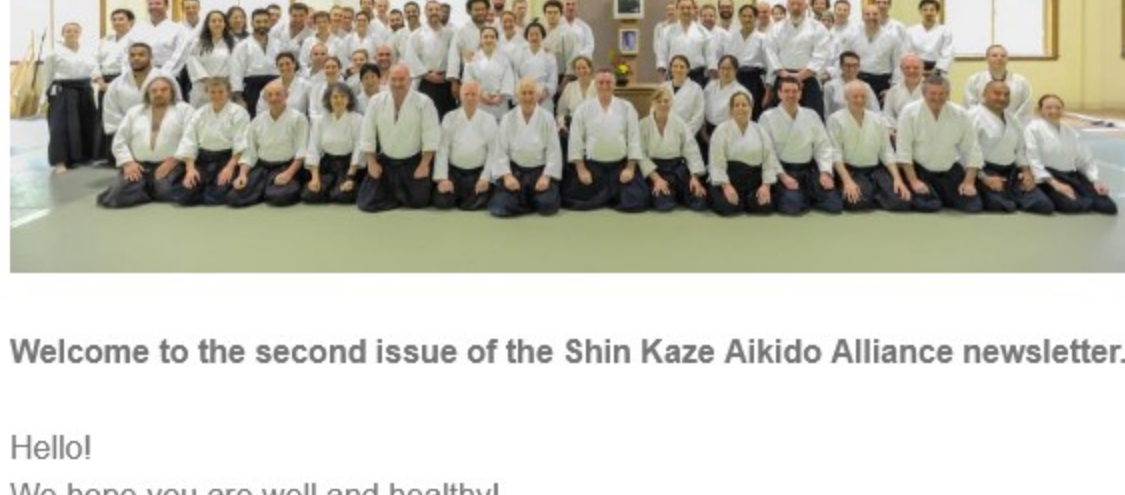


News from Shin Kaze

December 2020

Shin Kaze Aikido Alliance is an organization dedicated to the practice and development of Aikido. It aims to provide technical and administrative guidance to Aikido practitioners and to maintain standards of practice and instruction within an egalitarian and tolerant structure.

Message from the Shin Kaze Board of Directors



Welcome to the second issue of the Shin Kaze Aikido Alliance newsletter.

Hello!
We hope you are well and healthy!

Although we realize it has been a while since our first newsletter, we want to assure you we have been busy behind the scenes, putting things together in many areas while also coping with the impact of COVID-19. With all this activity we haven't published the newsletter monthly as we had intended, but we expect to have issues coming out more regularly as dojos return to a more normal operation — which we hope is very soon! For now we will be communicating with Shin Kaze members, via the newsletter or otherwise, when there is news to report rather than on a fixed schedule.

Our biggest news right now is that Shin Kaze is starting to move towards our goal of becoming an organization centered around the ideals of Aikido excellence, transparency and community.

First, our Board Advisory Council and Technical Committee Advisory Council have now had an initial meeting. Second, the chairpersons of these councils have had several regular meetings with both the Board and the Technical Committee. Last, we have started forming several of our planned committees and some committees are already doing work needed to grow Shin Kaze.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has put a brake on many activities in the Aikido world, we are steadily moving ahead with determination and focus on planning for the future and growth of Shin Kaze. We look forward to bringing together our many teachers, practitioners and legacies to forge a positive and ethical new path for Aikido.

Barbara, David, David, Bob
Directors - Shin Kaze Aikido Alliance

Help Wanted for Shin Kaze Committees

We are looking for some more volunteers to serve on two of the committees: the Ethics Committee and the Finance and Fundraising Committee.

Ethics are a fundamental value and an especially important aspect of our organization. The entire Shin Kaze membership is held to the highest standards of leadership, behavior and character. Your participation in the Ethics Committee will help us create and shape Shin Kaze's ethical landscape.

Financial planning and fundraising are important activities of the Finance and Fundraising Committee. Your participation in this committee will help Shin Kaze advance and fulfill its goals and mission.

Please let us know if you are interested in participating in these committees by asking your dojo cho to forward your name and contact information to Liese Klein at liese.klein@gmail.com.

Tell us about your dojo: The Education Committee would like for all dojos to provide a brief profile describing their dojo's history, the training path of the dojo-cho and Aikido stories of some of its members. We want to get to know our leaders and members and help preserve Shin Kaze members' Aikido history through personal stories. Please email your dojo stories to Jo Birdsong at jbirdsong@mygrande.net.

Pandemic Discussion: Would you like to get together with other Shin Kaze teachers and students to talk about your concerns and challenges for your dojo around the COVID-19 situation? We are planning a Zoom conference in English and Spanish in the new year. Let us know what topics you would like to discuss to help all of us navigate through this difficult time. Please email with comments to shinkazeaikidoalliance@gmail.com.



Jo Birdsong Appointed to the Technical Committee

We are honored to announce that Josef Birdsong, 6th Dan, Shihan, Chief Instructor of Aikido of Austin, has been appointed to the Shin Kaze Aikido Alliance Technical Committee.

Birdsong Shihan began training in 1970 under Tri Dang Sensei, 6th Dan (founder of the Vietnam Aikikai, and student of Masahilo Nakazono Sensei) in Sacramento, California. He then studied under Akira Tohei Shihan (Midwest Aikido Federation, MAF) for 26 years, was chairman of the MAF's Yudanshakai and Kenshukai programs and was a member of the MAF Technical Committee.

Birdsong Sensei founded and has served as Aikido of Austin's dojo-cho for 36 years. He has supported the start-up of numerous Aikido organizations in Texas and Louisiana. He has a Masters degree in Physical Education, and has taught Aikido, Martial Arts Conditioning, and Yoga as an adjunct faculty professor at Austin Community College for 35 years. He was a member of the USAF from its origins in 1976 and he was designated by Hombu Dojo as a Shihan in 2019.

Birdsong Shihan joined Shin Kaze Aikido Alliance in January 2020 and became a member of Shin Kaze's Technical Committee in September 2020.

Promotions

We have lots of new promotions in the pipeline for 2020, but before we announce them we wanted to catch members up on the registration at Hombu Dojo of promotions of students from Shin Kaze's founding dojos that took place in 2019.

Promoted at the Kanai Sensei Memorial Seminar in 2019

Yondan
Yelitza Cuevas, Toronto Aikikai
Eric Lavigne, Toronto Aikikai

Nidan
Joel Lemieux, Framingham Aikikai

Passed Examinations in 2019
Nidan
Andrew Manby, Framingham Aikikai
Indigo Moorhead, Framingham Aikikai

Congratulations to all on your promotions!



Dojo Profile: Venezuela Aikido Kokyu Ho Dojo

Venezuela Aikido Kokyu Ho Dojo, founded by Rafael Pacheco Sensei, yondan, is a non-profit organization whose main objective is to promote and spread the practice and teaching of Aikido.

The dojo is located in the city of Maracay in the State of Aragua, Venezuela, and has three affiliate dojos: Dojo La Barraca, Maracay; Dojo Central University of Venezuela (Dojo UCV), Maracay; and Dojo Centro Nippon Yovany Agüero Karate Do, Maracay.

Chief Instructor Rafael Pacheco Sensei is a university professor and began the practice of Aikido in 1988 with Fabio Chirinos Sensei in the city of Maracay. He continued his training under the guidance of Nelson Requena Sensei at Venezuela Aikikai and later became a member of Association Aikido Kobukan Venezuela.

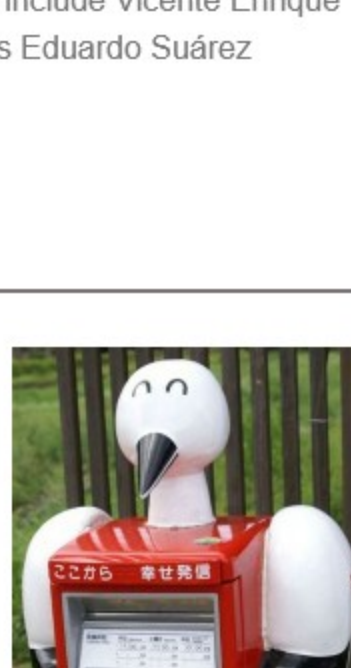
Pacheco Sensei joined Shin Kaze Aikido Alliance under the guidance of Robert Zimmermann Shihan. He has attended national and international seminars with various teachers, including Yoshimitsu Yamada Shihan, Mitsunari Kanai Shihan, Nobuyoshi Tamura Shihan, Seiichi Sugano Shihan, Robert Zimmermann Shihan, David Halprin Shihan, Peter Bernath Shihan, Donovan Waite Shihan, Masafumi Sakanashi Sensei, Juan Tolone Sensei, Severino Sales Sensei.

Venezuela Aikido Kokyu Ho Dojo assistant instructors include Vicente Enrique Maurette Martínez, sandan; Eric Tovar, nidan; and Luis Eduardo Suárez Ruffino, shodan.

Welcome to Venezuela Aikido Kokyu Ho Dojo!

Dear Dojo-cho and Supporters:

Please distribute this newsletter to your members and friends and anyone interested in the Shin Kaze Aikido Alliance. If you would like to receive this newsletter directly, click [here](#).



Donations

In these difficult times and as a nonprofit organization, Shin Kaze welcomes donations to support its programs and further its mission.

Please donate here: <http://shinkazeaikidoalliance.com/support/>

As the end of the year approaches, we'd also like to mention that we accept gifts of stock as well as bequests to help us build our Shin Kaze Aikido Alliance endowment.

Thank you for your support!



Copyright © 2020 Shin Kaze Aikido Alliance. All rights reserved.

Our Mailing Address is:
Shin Kaze Aikido Alliance
58 Ritchie Ave
Toronto, ON M6R 2J9, Canada

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.