Volume 22, number 1/2 PNKF DATEBOOK January/February 2008 Feb 23, PNKF Shinsa, Sat, Iaido 9am-12noon; Kendo 12:30-5pm, Bellevue.
Mar 1, PNKF Board, Sat, 2:20-4:30pm, Kent. 3. Mar 15, Highline Taikai, Sat, 10am, White Center Community Center. 4. Apr 19, PNKF Board, Sat, 2:30-4:30pm, Kent. 5. Apr 20, Cherry Blossom Festival (probable date). May, UW Taikai, place, date, and time not yet determined. 6. 7. May 3, PNKF Shinpan Seminar, Sat, 12noon-5pm, Kent. 8. May 17, Bellevue Junior Taikai, Sat, 9:30am-3pm. 9. Jun 7, PNKF Board, Sat, 2:30-4:30pm, Kent. 10. Jul 28/Aug 2, PNKF Junior Seminar, Mon/Sat (possible dates). Aug 9, PNKF Shinsa, Sat, Iaido 9am-12noon; Kendo 12:30-5pm, Kent.
Sep 13, PNKF Board, Sat, 2-4pm, Kent. 13. Oct 11, PNKF Shinpan Seminar, Sat, 12noon-5pm, Kent. 14. Oct 18 or 25, Tacoma Taikai, Sat, 10am-4pm, Curtis High School (possible dates). 15. Nov 1, PNKF Board, Sat, 2-4pm, Kent. Nov 15, PNKF Taikai, Sat, 9:30am, Kent.
Dec 20, Kent Taikai, Sat, report time 9am, start 9:30am, Kent. OTHER DATES 1. Feb 22/23/24, 8th Hong Kong Asian Open Kendo Championships, HK Park Sports Centre. 2. Mar 29, BCKF Senior Championship, Sat, 11am, age 16 and over, 1st Dan and above, Steveston Community Center. Apr 4/5/6, 20th Cleveland Taikai, special guest Kendo Hanshi 8th Dan Kakehashi Masaharu. Apr 26/27, 12th Annual Harvard Invitational Shoryuhai Intercollegiate Taikai. 3. 4. 5. May 2/3/4, London Cup Kendo Taikai, Fri/Sat/Sun, London, UK. 6. May 10, Vancouver Taikai, Sat. Jun 5/6/7/8, AUSKF Iaido Seminar, Championships, and Shinsa, hosted by John Prough Sensei, 7. Japanese Swordsmanship Society Dojo, Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania. Jul 3/4/5, AUSKF Kendo Championships, Las Vegas. 8. 9. 2009, 14WKC, São Paulo, Brazil. OBUKAN ROSE FESTIVAL TAIKAI - June 9, 2007, Jackson Middle School, Portland Men's 4 Dan and Up Men's 1-3 Dan 1st place - B. Imanishi, Cascade 1st place - G. Suzaka, Seattle 2nd place - J. Hancock, Obukan 2nd place - G. Takano, Everett 3rd place - J. Scherer, Cascade 3rd place - J. Marsten, Highline Women's Dan Junior Team 1st place - E. Marsten, Highline 2nd place - J. Chen, Sno-King 1st place - Spokane 2nd place - Bellevue Men's Kyu Women's Kyu 1st place - S. Jolly, Kent 1st place - J. Akahoshi, Obukan 2nd place - N. Grimes, Sno-King 2nd place - S. Day, Kent 3rd place - J. Lamb, Spokane 3rd place - W. Sinclair, Spokane 3rd place - H. Iba, Bellevue 3rd place - M. Osako, Obukan Juniors 13-15 Years Juniors 10-12 Years 1st place - P. Yoon, Cascade 1st place - S. Cresse, Kent 2nd place - D. Sinclair, Spokane 2nd place - C. Marsten, Kent 3rd place - G. Burgess, Bellevue 3rd place - T. Iba, Bellevue 3rd place - D. Keen, Bellevue 3rd place - S. Hattori, Obukan Juniors 9 Years and Under Senior Team 1st place - T. Marsten, Kent 1st place - Cascade 2nd place - W. Monahan, Obukan 2nd place - Highline 3rd place - J. Hunt, Obukan 3rd place - C. Walcott, Obukan 3rd place - Spokane 3rd place - Obukan

3rd INTERCOLLEGIATE KENDO TOURNAMENT - January 19, 2008, London, OntarioBasic Skill Team MatchAdvanced Team Match

lst place - Western Ontario A 2nd place - Western Ontario B 3rd place - Western Ontario C 3rd place - Toronto A	lst place - Western Ontario A 2nd place - Toronto A 3rd place - York 3rd place - Waterloo A
Women's Open 1st place - M. Ma, Guelph 2nd place - T. Ichikawa, York 3rd place - K. Funahashi, Toronto 3rd place - M. Land, Toronto	Men's Open 1st place - K. Lee, Waterloo 2nd place - E. Jung, Toronto 3rd place - A. Reynolds, Toronto 3rd place - R. Yasumura, Waterloo
46th ANNUAL STEVESTON KENDO TOURNAMENT - February 9, 2008, McMath High School	
10 Years and Under	11 to 13 Years
1st place - J. Tubajon, Steveston	1st place - K. Knecht, Renfrew
2nd place - Yu Okada, Hawai'i	2nd place – Ja Tubajon, Steveston
3rd place - T. Samkange, Bellevue	3rd place - S. Cresse, Kent
3rd place - C. Kim, Renfrew	3rd place - C. Marsten, Kent
14 to 15 Years	Junior Team
lst place - B. Fukutomi, Hawai'i	1st place - Kent
2nd place - C. Mills, Kent	2nd place - Hawai'i
3rd place - P. Yoon, Cascade	3rd place - NCKF
3rd place - R. Murao, Steveston	3rd place - Steveston
Non-Degree 0-4 Kyu	Non-Degree 1-3 Kyu
1st place - YK Kwon, Central	lst place – Ad Eitoku, NCKF
2nd place - M. Chang, Central	2nd place - A. Choe, SCKF
3rd place - HL Ko, Steveston	3rd place - P. Cresse, Kent
3rd place - J. Clark, Sunrise	3rd place - T. Kumagai, NCKF
Tedies 1 Dep and Under	Tedies 2 Dep and Mana
Ladies 1 Dan and Under	Ladies 2 Dan and Above
1st place - L. Murao, Steveston	1st place - A. Takado, Spokane
2nd place - H. Yamada, Vancouver	2nd place - S. Choi, SCKF
3rd place - N. Grimes, Sno-King	3rd place - M. Taguchi, Renfrew
3rd place - N. Ton, Seattle	3rd place - E. Marsten, Highline
1-2 Dan	3 Dan
1st place - B. Chung, Steveston	lst place - T. Hori, SCKF
2nd place - SH Jung, Vancouver	2nd place - F. Itokazu, SCKF
3rd place - K. Umeda, NCKF	3rd place - N. Nakano, Steveston
3rd place - J. Hatakeyama, NCKF	3rd place - K. Miyamoto, Ontario
4 Dan and Above	Senior Team
1st place - C. Yang, SCKF	1st place - SCKF
2nd place - D. Taguchi, Renfrew	2nd place - Univ of Victoria
3rd place - J. Brown, SCKF	3rd place - Youshinkan

GRATITUDE TO GARY IMANISHI SENSEI

3rd place - T. Ariga, Butokuden 3rd place - Renbu

Pat Yoshitsugu Murosako Sensei reports that on January 27, he and Rod Nobuto Omoto Sensei and Paul Kurose Sensei honored Gary Y. Imanishi Sensei with a special luncheon at Anthony's in Tacoma in deep appreciation of the ShiOnKai which Imanishi Sensei and Cascade Kendo Kai had sponsored on September 30, 2006. Kiyoshi Yasui Sensei was not able to be present, but he joined the other three in also expressing his thanks for the ShiOnKai.

THE LAST WORD

Jiri-sobo (Forgetting principles and technique) -- the stage after Jiri-itchi (Unification of principles and technique) Kendo is a way of cultivating the body and mind by training in accordance with the principles of the sword. As such, you must be able to demonstrate an understanding of this concept when attempting high-level promotion examinations. In the days when warriors actually fought with swords, they would rarely make the first attack. Instead, they coaxed their opponents into thinking that they had a good chance to attack, and just as they were about to launch their assault, they would nip it in the bud. This is the concept of sensen-no-sen.

When you are sitting a grading [taking a shinsa], you only have two minutes (or less) to demonstrate your level of Kendo proficiency. During that time, how do you make your opponent attack? How do you confuse or unsettle them? These are the things you need to keep in mind in the course of your everyday training. If you truly take your training as a life-death encounter, you will naturally put emphasis on taking the first point. It is important to train with an attitude that is unforgiving of failure to achieve this.

Elegance and beauty in technique is not something that can be faked. It can only be demonstrated through continuous training with these points in mind. By doing so, your waza will become second nature, and an air of grace will naturally manifest itself in your movement. An old teaching suggests that any waza that can be explained is not real. In other words, to be genuine, it must be done unconsciously and naturally. This is *jiri-itchi*, and is the unification of technique and mind; an important goal in your training. However, to make acquisition of this level of mastery useful to society, you must then forget your fixation with technique and mind (*jiri-sobo*). Only then can it be natural. That is the next level of mastery, and what we as *kendoka* should aspire to. This is to better the self for the betterment of society.

--Oka Kenjiro, "Always keep the 'principles of the sword' in mind when training," Hanshi Says, Kendo World 4.1, 2007, p. 98.