

TREMONT SCHOOL OF JUDO, KARATE, AND JU-JUTSU

535 East Tremont Ave, Bronx NY 10457 Tel: (718) 731-9067

Tremont School Newsletter – June 2006

Dear Miyama Ryu Students and Instructors:

I have been asked by the Soke Antonio Pereira Jr. and Director of the Hombu dojo Shihan Medina to begin a newsletter which will initially be distributed through the Miyama Ryu website (mi-yamaryu.com)

It will include the schedules of upcoming tournaments, special classes and seminars which we feel could be of interest to other martial artists, students of the Hombu dojo and other members of the Miyama Ryu system. We will begin to inform and educate those interested in the Miyama Ryu system with the express goal of growing Miyama Ryu Jujutsu while preserving its traditions and standards.

In addition, I hope it will become an open forum for those interested in the martial arts and / or the Miyama Ryu system to write, question or comment on the content of the newsletter or on any other issues which they feel are important to them.

We are a very young and small organization in the world of the martial arts. Several of the more classic styles of jujutsu like Daito Ryu Jujutsu can trace their lineage back over a thousand years. Our system of Miyama Ryu Jujutsu formally came into being after Shinan Pereira returned from Japan in the early 1960's.

The Shinan used to say that as many as twenty thousand people had been students at the Hombu dojo, yet few remain and fewer still are active in any martial art let alone Miyama Ryu. In the United States alone, there are over 50 thousand active students of Kodokan Judo and some estimates put the worldwide student population of Aikido at close to 1 million. Both of these arts are little more than 100 years old.

These arts have grown while keeping their founders visions largely intact. To grow and preserve the core teachings of any system is not an easy task. Thankfully, we have a firm foundation to build upon. We must continue to build on that foundation. Our system is well documented and cataloged. Our promotional procedures lay the framework and standards which the Shinan expected of us. They must continue to be our guide.

Some 40 years ago I watched, and in some cases served as an uki, as then head instructor Sensei Marquez (BB4) along with Sensei Miguel Lozada (BB6) assisted Professor Pereira, as he was called in those years, in the further refinement of many of the movements of our beloved Miyama Ryu Jujutsu. These movements were then cataloged into our first promotional procedures by Sensei Arthur Forstrom (BB8). Some years later as our weapons division was being created, many of our movements were modified and a new promotional procedure was created with the assistance of Sensei

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Michael Alvarez (BB39) and his wife Sensei Gloria Scifo Alvarez (BB28). This promotional procedure has remained in place since that time. Further revisions to movements in the promotional procedures were done with the assistance of Dai Shihan Milliaressis (BB138) in the 1990's. The core of the Shinans' philosophy, his techniques and movements have thus remained intact over the last 40 odd years. We will continue along that path.

As both teachers and students of such a young system as Miyama Ryu we need to hold ourselves to only the highest of standards. Those teaching the system must remember that teaching is not practice; only practice is practice and will lead to a greater understanding of their movements and techniques. Students need to have patience and remember that those who now instruct them were once novices like themselves. It was only through years of hard work and practice that they achieved the level of understanding and movement that they now possess.

Miyama Ryu will grow and develop largely through the face it shows to its prospective students and the public in general. That face must reflect the knowledge, confidence and skills necessary to execute each and every technique in the Miyama Ryu System. With the proper exposure Miyama Ryu will speak for itself. We have seen that in the past and we will see it again.

I am honored to serve as one of the Dai Shihans of the Miyama Ryu system. Like my predecessors before me, and current Dai Shihans D'Arcy Rahming (BB189) of the Bahamas and Dai Shihan William Duke (BB160) of the Dominican Republic I hope to make a contribution to the growth and development of our ryu, its students and the Hombu dojo.

I follow a long line of head instructors, beginning with Sensei Pablo Martinez (BB1) in the early 1960s' who have all given of their time and experience to help further the vision of our founder Shinan Antonio Pereira. I will do my best to preserve and grow that vision and, like those before me, I will try to leave us a little bigger and stronger for the next generation of Dai Shihans

Dai-Shihan Lewis Palzer