

## Dai Ko Myo Sai 2017

### The Gi Yu Kyo Kai Honbu 12/17

*Sukh S. Sandhu KanCho The Gi Yu Kyo Kai Dojos*



Another terrific time with the folks I care so much about. My budoka, warrior brothers and sisters and up and coming children from our CORDS kids programs. This is an annual event to train with one another and celebrate our teachers, our martial art, and the lineages that give us the opportunity to grow. However, I would also add, that this event is my way of celebrating each and every one of our Adult and Kid students along with their families. It is my way to thank each of them for being a part of my community and encourage them to stay the course and continue to train as warriors and grow as human beings.

The betterment of all, starting with oneself, is the endeavor that lasts a lifetime in budo. We did something a bit different this year, the Dojo-cho decided to have each of the DAN level students teach a technique from the lineages we study and then have me a do henka (variation) of that technique. They based the technique of choice for the DAN levels based upon where they believed that student could/should be challenged so to recall their original path of budo.



It was a lot of work for Dojo-cho WS Bumgarner and Dojo-cho Chuck VanDine, but they did a great job organizing this agenda. Thank you gentlemen!



To all the Black Belts, you all did a wonderful job showcasing your effort, researching your techniques, the lineages, and explaining the ideas behind the techniques. Well done to all of you as well!

We also had 3 students attempt our adult testing with 2 of the 3 passing their exams. Congratulations to Jordan M. of Dayton for passing SanKyu 3<sup>rd</sup> Kyu Green Belt and Congratulations to Lucas B. of Atlanta for passing his IchiKyu 1<sup>st</sup> Kyu Brown Belt. Nice job guys. To the other student who has to try again, stick with it, focus and learn from your errors and you WILL be stronger for it. There are plenty of folks at the dojo that are willing to help you be successful.



Our Dinner party was once again hosted by Sasaki-san and Miko-san, the owners of Ariake Sushi Rest. Great Food, great venue and great service. With over 100 folks in attendance, they shut down the restaurant just for us. As everyone arrived, I had my parents for the first time join our celebration. I did that for a reason, I had a surprise for them. A gift that is priceless and very much meaningful. Many years ago when we first arrived in the United States, we were very poor, my father had \$23 in his pocket as I recall. We landed in Boston, MA and while we lived there, a very nice Italian family somewhat took us in. They had a son the same age as me and he (Lee) and I bonded instantly as “brothers from another mother”. Jack and Barbara Mayer, his parents, treated me and my siblings as their own. We lost touch with them over the next 30 some years, but I was able to reconnect with them earlier this year. I decided to persuade them to come to Ohio and surprise my folks and brother at the Dai Ko Myo Sai dinner. Boy what a surprise it was, I do not think I have seen my folks smile that big in a long time! I am a firm believer that you never forget the folks that helped you in your life/ helped shape your life, no matter what circumstances may/may not have transpired in between, you NEVER forget and you ALWAYS honor those relationships. It is YOUR duty to pursue them and make them just.



I then had the opportunity to say a few words about these wonderful folks and about leadership, and what it means. To me, leaders are not born, they are grown was the gist of my thoughts.



Shortly thereafter, I was able to hand out over 250 Holiday / Christmas presents to all these students from all the different dojos and training groups that we are fortunate to be a part of. I was given a very nice marble carved OX. I was born in the year of the OX and it was very significant in that my birthday was the same weekend as this celebration. I am very appreciative of these small gestures from some of the folks I respect the most in this life.



I would throw out though, that the most meaningful gift, the most precious gift anyone could give me (and me to them) is the gift of sharing time with one another. Sharing time together training, talking, laughing and having a few festive beverages with one another. Just like getting our dear friends from Boston to come in and spend time with my family, no amount of money could have been spent to outdo that single moment of when they walked in to see my folks after 30 years. The gift of interaction and true friendship is based upon a relationship. Time goes by very quickly in life, get over our egos and issues and let us not waste it.

All the best to everyone and I look forward to seeing you all in and outside of the dojo.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Make the New Year YOUR year!