

# Research: Students of O Sensei

teaching career (1920-1969)

**Aikido - Morihei Ueshiba (1883-1969)**

**Second Doshu:**

**Ueshiba Kisshomaru**

- lived 06.27.1921-01.04.1999 (77 years)
- born in the city of Ayabe, Kyoto Prefecture, Japan
- third son and fourth child of O Sensei and Hatsu Ueshiba
- began training under his father around 1937
- became international leader of Aikido after death of father
- tearing down of the Kobukan Dojo in 1967 to construct the Aikikai headquarters
- review the medal of honour with blue ribbon by Japanese government



**Present Doshu:**

**Moriteru Ueshiba (1951- )**

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## 20's

- Hisao Kamada
- Hajime Iwara

**Minoru Mochizuki-Yoseikan Budo**

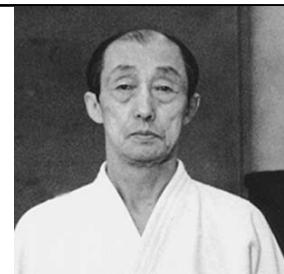
- 04.07.1907-04.30.2003
- He was a 10th dan in Aikido, 9th dan in jujutsu, 8th dan in iaido, 8th dan in judo, 8th dan in kobudo, 5th dan in kendo, 5th dan in karate, and a 5th dan in jojutsu
- founder Jigoro Kano, aikido founder Morihei Ueshiba and Gichin Funakoshi, founder of Shotokan Karate
- Mochizuki achievement was to assemble back the major techniques of the Japanese martial tradition into a single structure, as it was once practised
- oversaw the development of the system from his home in Shizuoka, Japan, where his dojo, the Yoseikan, was often visited by martial arts practitioners from all over the world
- born in Shizuoka, Japan
- Mochizuki, began by training in kendo at the age of five, at his grandfather's dojo in Shizuoka
- began judo in 1925 where he became an outstanding competitor
- In 1930, he was sent by Jigoro Kano to study aikijujutsu with Morihei Ueshiba
- He was the uchideshi of Morihei Ueshiba at the Kobukan dojo for one year before opening his own dojo in Shizuoka City in 1931
- was awarded two Daito-Ryu scrolls by Ueshiba in June 1932
- spent eight years in Mongolia where he was an active educator and entrepreneur of projects to improve communications and irrigation
- Mochizuki was the first to teach aikido in the West when he traveled in France from 1951 to 1953 as a judo teacher



- was the 3rd Aikido Division head of the Kokusai Budoin-International Martial Arts Federation (IMAF Japan) after Ueshiba and Tomiki
- taught at the dojo of Shizuoka until nearly the end of the last millennium and spent the last years of his life in France with his son Hiroo
- **Artoshi Murashige**
- **Yoichiro Inoue**
- **Seikyo Asano**
- **Isamu Takeshita**

### **Kenji Tomiki - Shodokan Aikido/Tomiki-ryū**

- 03.15.1900-12.25.1979
- specialised in aikido and judo
- founder of competitive aikido (aikido kyogi)
- Tomiki is credited in devising and introducing new forms of Randori practice in Aikido. He founded his own Aikido system, which has many differences from other Aikido styles, mainly in randori training, and is referred by several names including Tomiki Aikido, Shodokan Aikido and Sport Aikido.
- Early life and World War II: Kenji Tomiki was born on March 15, 1900 (Meiji 33) in Yokomachi, Semboku, Akita. He was the as the eldest son of the Shosuke Tomiki - a landholder. Japanese-style painter Hoan Hirafuku was his maternal grandfather.
- Circa 1909, Tomiki began practising Judo. In 1914, he entered Akita Prefectural Yokote Junior High School (predecessor of the current Akita Prefectural Yokote High School). He was active in the judo club while he was in school. In 1919, he obtained the first dan level of judo.
- In 1924, after enrolling in the Faculty of Political Science and Economics at Waseda University, he began a practising at the Kodokan, under Judo founder Jigoro Kano. He actively practised Judo, despite Jigoro Kano's advanced age and declining health.
- In early 1926, he encountered the founder of aikido Morihei Ueshiba. Fascinated by Ueshiba's technique, Tomiki introduced himself and became one Ueshiba's early students.
- In 1927, he went on to graduate school and was promoted to Judo 5th Dan. In 1929, got a job at Miyagi Prefecture Electricity Bureau. In same year, he represented Miyagi Prefecture in the first judo tournament held in front of the Emperor—this tournament became the All Japan Tournament the following year. In 1931, he was assigned to Akita Prefectural Kakunodate Junior High School (predecessor of the current Akita Prefectural Kakunodate High School), in his birth town.
- From 1936 till the end of the second world war he lived in Manchukuo (Manchuria) where he taught aikibudo (an early name for aikido) to the Kwantung Army and the Imperial Household Agency. In 1938 he became an assistant professor at Kenkoku University in Manchukuo. In 1940, he was the first 8th dan black belt to be awarded by Morihei Ueshiba in Aikido history. In 1941, became a professor at Kenkoku University. Following the surrender of Imperial Japan in 1945, Tomiki was detained by Soviet Red Army troops and was held in a three-year internment by the Soviet Union.
- Post-war: Tomiki was released from interment in 1948 and subsequently returned to Japan. In 1949, he became a part-time lecturer at Waseda University's Physical Education Department. He would teach Judo and Aikido for many years at Waseda University. It was there that he formulated and expanded his theories concerning both kata based training methods and a particular form of free-style fighting which would put him at odds with much, but not all, of the aikido world.



- It was this action on the part of Tomiki of attempting to convert aikido into a sport that led to a schism with the founder Morihei Ueshiba and the Aikikai. Tomiki was urged by the Aikikai to adopt a different name for his art other than “aikido” if he intended to introduce such a system of competition. Convinced of the need to modernize aikido, he stood his ground and persisted in his efforts to evolve a viable form of competition.
- In 1952, he was selected as one of the members of the Kodokan Goshinjutsu Enactment Committee. Tomiki is perhaps best known in the judo world for his influence in the developing of Kodokan Goshin Jutsu kata. His work Judo is considered a classic. The aikido appendix to the book is thought to be the earliest English language text on aikido.
- In 1953, Tomiki along with 9 other martial art instructors were selected to tour US Air Force bases in the United States and was thus the first aikido instructor to visit the US. In 1954, he became a professor at Waseda University.
- Between 1955 and 1959, he helped formalise the Self-Defense Forces unarmed fighting system (Jieitaikakutojutsu).
- In 1958, Waseda University Aikido Club was established and became the first director. On same year, he published the book “Aikidō nyūmon” (Eng. “Introduction to Aikido”). In 1961, Tomiki almost formalized aikidō kyōgi/competitive Aikido. In 1964, he established “Physical Education Specialization” in the Department of Education, Faculty of Education, Waseda University, and became the chief professor.
- In 1967, Tomiki opened his Shodokan honbu Dojo which he used as a testing ground for his theories on aikido and competition. Tomiki followed Ueshiba as the Aikido division head of the Kokusai Budoin-International Martial Arts Federation (IMAF Japan). In 1970, Tomiki retired from Waseda University and, in the same year, presided over the first All-Japan Student Aikido Tournament. The basic rules for the holding of aikido tournaments had been worked out by this time in what would become an ongoing experiment to develop a viable form of competitive aikido.
- In 1971, Kodokan awarded Tomiki with the 8th Dan blackbelt. Then, in 1974, he founded the Japan Aikido Association (JAA) from an earlier organization of the same name to promote his theories. In 1975, he became Vice Chairman of the Japanese Academy of Budo.
- Tomiki set up a new dojo for the Shodokan in Osaka on March 28, 1976 with the support of Masaharu Uchiyama, Vice-Chairman of the J.A.A. This dojo was intended to function as the headquarters of the Japan Aikido Association and Tomiki served as its first director. The current head of the dojo and chief instructor of the Shodokan Aikido Federation is Tetsuro Nariyama.
- Professor Tomiki died from complications of colorectal cancer on December 24, 1979

**Kosaburo Gejo**  
**Makoto Miura**

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### **30's**

- **Yoshio Sugino (1904-1998)**
- **Zenzaburo Akazawa (1919-2007)**
- **Takuma Hisa (1895-1980)**

## Kenji Tomita (1897-1977)

- was a Japanese politician
- born in Kobe
- graduated from Kyoto University
- was governor of Nagano Prefecture (1938–1940), served as Cabinet Secretary under Fumimaro Konoe, and was elected to the House of Representatives in 1952
- was a recipient of the Order of the Sacred Treasure.
- was a keen martial artist, studying judo and aikido. He used his influence to protect aikido's founder Morihei Ueshiba from arrest during the Second Oomoto Incident in 1935 and was the first chairman of the Aikikai.

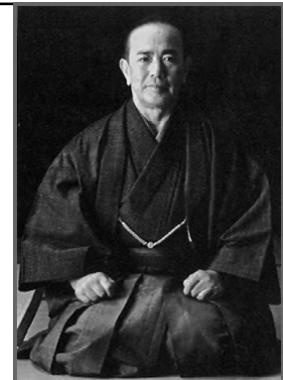


## Bansen Tanaka (1912-1988)

- Shigenobu Okumura (1922-2008)
- Minoru Hirai (1903-1998)
- Saburo Wakuta (1903-1989)

## Koichi Tohei (1920-2011)

- was a 10th Dan aikidoka
- founder of the Ki Society and its style of aikido, officially Shin Shin Toitsu Aikido (literally "aikido with mind and body unified"), but commonly known as Ki-Aikido.
- Koichi Tohei was born 1920 in Shitaya ward (下谷区), presently Taitō, in Tokyo
- graduated from the Economics Department of Keio University
- As a boy he was sickly and frail, leading his father to recommend Tohei for judo studies. He trained hard and his body prospered, but soon after he began his pre-college studies at Keio University, he developed a case of pleurisy. This forced Tohei to take a year off.
- Tohei was distressed at the thought of losing his newfound strength of body and his means of training it, so he decided to replace his judo studies with Zen meditation and misogi exercises, learned at the Ichikukai Dojo in Tokyo. As with his judo studies, Tohei entered the training of the mind with fervor and soon excelled despite his serious health issues. After his recovery from pleurisy, Tohei became convinced that it was his efforts in training his mind and cultivating his ki that had helped him to heal and recover. This stimulated his later development of Kiatsu, a system of treating physical illness by pressing with the fingers and extending the ki into the ill person's body. Tohei describes this as "priming the pump" allowing the person to heal themselves.
- After recovering from pleurisy he returned to judo, but Tohei wanted more than just physical training and did not think that judo was the right art for him to practise, although he did continue studying judo until he started aikido.
- In 1940, when he was 19, Tohei's judo instructor, Shohei Mori, recommended that Tohei meet with the founder of aikido, Morihei Ueshiba.
- According to Tohei, when he first met with an aikido instructor and practiced some techniques at the Ueshiba dojo, he had doubts about aikido and its value to him. That changed when Ueshiba entered the dojo and started to perform his techniques on the instructors. Tohei was still not entirely convinced until Ueshiba asked Tohei to step onto the mat and try to grab him. Tohei's attempts were unsuccessful, and after this personal demonstration by Ueshiba, Tohei asked to enrol on the spot. Tohei continued to train his mind as well as his body with meditation, misogi and aikido.



- Tohei trained with Ueshiba for six months before being sent as a representative (dairi) to teach at the Shumei Okawa school and the military police academy. This was before Tohei was ranked as either dan or kyu. Ueshiba presented Tohei with the rank of 5th dan after Tohei had begun his military service.
- Beginning in 1953 Koichi Tohei Sensei was responsible for the introduction of Aikido to the West, mainly through regular teaching journeys to Hawaii, but also continental US and Europe. It was the first time the Founder of Aikido allowed for the art to be taught outside Japan. For that reason, Hawaii became a center for diffusion of Aikido in the United States, and remains today an important place for Ki-Aikido. During his years at the Aikikai, Tohei Sensei taught Aikido to many famous Shihan like Hiroshi Tada, Sadateru Arikawa, Seigo Yamaguchi, Shigenobu Okumura, Kazuo Chiba, Yoshimitsu Yamada and Steven Seagal.
- The events leading up to the split between the main aikido organization, the Aikikai, and Tohei were fuelled with the death of Morihei Ueshiba in 1969. His son Kisshomaru Ueshiba inherited the title of Doshu. At the time of Ueshiba's death, Tohei was chief instructor of the Hombu Dojo, the headquarters of Aikikai, a title he retained until his official split from Aikikai in 1974. One of the major causes of the conflict arose from Tohei's emphasis on his principle of ki in aikido. Tohei wanted aikido to focus on these principles, using exercises to both cultivate and test ki in the daily aikido practice. He had already started teaching his new ideas during his own training sessions at Hombu dojo, but the majority of the other instructors would not. There were some who agreed with Tohei's approach, but Tohei's actions were not welcomed by Kisshomaru and most of the senior instructors. They strongly encouraged him not to teach his principles and techniques in the Hombu Dojo. Tohei replied that he had the right to teach it outside Hombu Dojo, which he did.
- But the tensions remained among the senior cadre of instructors, who still did not approve of Tohei's focus upon ki. These brewing tensions together with Tohei's general dissatisfaction with the situation culminated in 1971 when he created the Ki No Kenyukai, with the purpose of promoting the development and cultivation of ki inside aikido, but outside the Aikikai "umbrella". The years of conflict finally cemented Tohei's decision to break away from the Aikikai and teach his own 'ki' style of aikido. On 1 May 1974, Koichi Tohei officially left the Aikikai organization to concentrate on his newly created Ki-aikido and Ki-society.
- On 15 May 1974, Tohei sent a letter in English and Japanese to the majority of the dojos both in Japan and abroad, explaining his reasons for the breakaway and his plans involving Ki-aikido and the Ki-society. This breakup came as a shock to many aikidoka throughout the dojos of the world. Tohei was well regarded by many instructors and students. He was seen as the foremost sensei of Aikido after Ueshiba's death. This, in turn, led to several dojos breaking with the Aikikai and joining Tohei in his new style. Tohei's new objective was to coordinate all the dojos who joined him and incorporate them into the organization of Shin Shin Toitsu Aikido: "Aikido with Mind and Body Coordinated". This branch of aikido is still active today even though Tohei himself retired from the day-to-day business of the Ki-aikido section and then concentrated solely on the Ki-society and further personal development of ki.
- In 1969, Tohei was asked by Ueshiba to accept the new rank of 10th dan, which Tohei accepted, after having previously refused the same offer. The top rank in aikido had been 8th dan, but the ranks were expanded by Ueshiba for practical as well as political reasons. (The above statement may be inaccurate as Gozo Shioda of Yoshinkan Aikido had been awarded the rank of 9th Dan by Ueshiba eight years before any other 9th dans, in 1961.)

- **Kaoru Funahashi (c1911-?)**

- **Kenzo Futaki (1873-1966)**
- **Shigemi Yonekawa (1910-2005)**
- **Rinjiro Shirt (1912-1993)**
- **Kiyoshi Nakakura (1910-2000)**

### **Takako Kunigoshi (1911-c2000)**

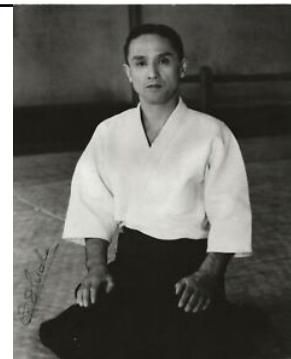
- was a Japanese practitioner of aikido. She was an early student of Morihei Ueshiba and was one of the **first female instructors** of the martial art.
- Kunigoshi joined Ueshiba's Kobukan dojo in 1933, while still a student at the Women's Fine Arts University. Her artwork was used in Ueshiba's book *Budo Renshu*, Fujiko Suzuki's Yamato-ryu Goshin Jutsu, and Morihei Ueshiba's Aikido Maki-no-Ichi and she also painted at least one portrait of him. She taught at the personal dojo of Isamu Takeshita as well as teaching self-defence courses for women. After World War II, Kunigoshi retired from aikido, and devoted her time to the study of chado.



- **Tsutomu Yukawa (c1911-1942)**

### **Goza Shioda (1915-1994)**

- developed Yoshinkan Aikido
- 09.09.1915-07.17.1994
- aikido master who founded the Yoshinkan style of aikido
- was one of aikido founder Morihei Ueshiba's most senior students
- held rank of 10th dan in aikido

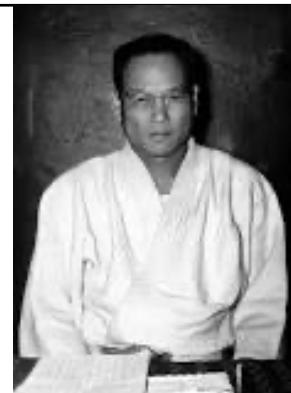


## **40's**

- **Hiroshi tada (1929- )**
- **Hiroshi is-yama (1937- )**
- **Sadateru Arikawa (1930-2003)**
- **Hirokazu Kobayashi (1929-1998)**
- **Kisaburo Osawa (1911-1991)**
- **Kanshu Sunadomari (1923-2010)**

### **Tadashi Abe (1926-1984)**

- was the first aikido master to **live and teach in the west**. He began training in Aikido in Osaka in 1942 and went on to train directly under the founder of the art Morihei Ueshiba at Iwama as an uchideshi during World War II. In 1952, after graduating in law from Waseda University, he moved to France where he studied law at the Sorbonne and taught aikido as a 6th Dan representative of Aikikai Honbu. After seven years he returned to Japan. By 1964 he was a 7th dan black belt in aikido.
- Aikido had been introduced into France a year earlier by Minoru



Mochizuki during a visit, but it was Tadashi Abe's teaching at the judo dojo of Mikinosuke Kawaishi where aikido was first taught on a regular basis in the west.

- In his beginning years in aikido, Abe had been very keen on ascertaining the martial effectiveness of the art. He wrote two books on aikido in French language, and a scathing letter in critique of Koichi Tohei's decision to break from the Aikikai and start his own Ki Society. He is the uncle of Yoshimitsu Yamada.

### **Morihiro Saito (1928-2002)**

- **Morihiro Saito** (斎藤 守弘 *Saitō Morihiro*, March 31, 1928) was a teacher of the Japanese martial art of aikido, with many students around the world. Saito's practice of aikido spanned 56 years, from the age of 18, when he first met aikido founder Morihei Ueshiba, until his death in 2002.
- was born in Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan, on 31 March 1928.
- grew up in a poor farming village
- in the Japanese schools at that time, the martial arts of kendo and judo were taught to students, and Saito chose to study kendo
- in the years immediately following the end of World War II, the carrying of weapons of any kind, as well the practice of martial arts, was prohibited by the GHQ. As a result, Saito felt he should study some kind of unarmed self-defense technique, and began training in Shinto-ryū karate at the Shudokan in Meguro. After a short time, his work with the Japanese National Railways transferred him to Iwama, and he was forced to find other martial arts training. Thinking judo would be a useful complement to his kendo and karate skills, he began training at a judo dojo in Ishioka. In the summer of 1946, however, Saito heard stories about an "old man doing strange techniques up on the mountain near Iwama." It seemed that people were confused about what martial art, exactly, this old man was practicing, but one judo instructor said the man was teaching "Ueshiba-ryū Judo."
- By July 1946, the GHQ-imposed ban upon the practice of martial arts had forced Morihei Ueshiba into an official "retirement" from practice for several years. Ueshiba took this opportunity to seclude himself in the small town of Iwama, and was engaged in the practice of ascetic training, and some believe that it was during this period that Ueshiba was perfecting the practice of aikido.
- at the age of 18 Saito joined Ueshiba for training, which already included then live-in students Kisshomaru Ueshiba, Koichi Tohei, and Tadashi Abe. This early training was quite brutal, but after persevering for several years, Saito became one of Ueshiba's closest students.
- Training at the Iwama dojo consisted of a great deal of farm work. The life of the full-time live in students consisted of prayer each morning before sunrise, two meals of rice porridge each day, and training interspersed with copious amounts of work on the farm. As a result of Saito's 24 hours on, 24 hours off, position with the National Railway meant that he would train and live as a live-in student only every other 24 hours. Eventually, the other live-in students moved away, and when Saito returned from work, he would train alone with Ueshiba.
- Although other students such as Koichi Tohei trained with Ueshiba for more years than Saito did, Saito's work allowed him to train almost as an *uchideshi*, for long periods as the only student.
- From 1946 until Ueshiba's passing in 1969, Saito served as Ueshiba's assistant in a variety of ways at Iwama while his wife served Mrs. Ueshiba. During Saito's period as a *deshi* he taught classes in the Iwama dojo.



- Saito's instruction of aikido is particularly remembered for its emphasis upon the basics of aikido, and especially upon the relationship between the armed and unarmed aspects of the art.
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## 50's

- **Fukiko Sunadomari (1914-2006)**
- **Yutaka Kurita (1940- )**
- **Nobuyuki Watanabe (1930- )**
- **Mitsunari Kanai (1939-2004)**
- **Seizure Masuda (1936- )**
- **Seiichi Sugano (1939-2010)**

### **Yoshimitsu Yamada (1938- )**

- is ranked 8th dan in the Aikikai. He is chief instructor at the dojo New York Aikikai and President of the United States Aikido Federation(USAF).
- Originally from Tokyo, Japan, Yamada became interested in aikido through his father's cousin, Tadashi Abe, who trained at the Aikikai Hombu Dojo. He entered Hombu Dojo as an uchi deshi in 1955 at the age of 17. His exposure to westerners and ability to speak English made him a natural choice to teach to American soldiers. He first came to the United States in 1964 to do an aikido demonstration at the 1964 World's Fair in New York. In 1966 Yamada and his family hosted Virginia Mayhew, an aikido practitioner from New York. Although the original New York Aikikai was founded in 1961 and led by Yasuo Ohara, when Yamada moved to New York he assumed control and moved the dojo from its 18th Street local to its present location.
- In those days there was no other aikido teacher (with the exception of the original NY Aikikai founder Yasuo Ohara) from Japan on the east coast of the US, and Yamada would travel weekly to Boston, with frequent trips to Philadelphia and points south as well. In 1966 some of the burden was relieved when he invited Mitsunari Kanai to take over the small group in Boston.
- in 1988 Yamada invited Seiichi Sugano to join the dojo, making it one of the few dojo outside Japan with two 8th dan shihan in residence. In 2004 the New York Aikikai celebrated its 40th anniversary with a summer camp at Colgate University with many shihan and Doshu Moriteru Ueshiba in attendance. Yamada continues to keep an active teaching and travelling schedule, holding seminars in the US as well as Latin America, Russia, France, Germany and other points around the world. In France, he teaches at the summer seminar at La Colle-sur-Loup which was organised by his senpai, Nobuyoshi Tamura, and at the summer seminar in Lesneven; both seminars also feature Malcolm Tiki Shewan. In Germany, Yamada teaches a summer seminar at Bernau am Chiemsee.
- Yamada is well known for his clear and strong basic technique. Beyond his technical ability, he also possesses a gift for passing on his knowledge. His students have become some of the most well-known and high-ranking aikidoka in America. He teaches seminars all over the world where thousands of students attend his classes. He was a direct student of the founder of aikido, Morihei Ueshiba, for more than ten years.
- Yamada is president of the United States Aikido Federation and chairman of the Latin America Aikido Federation. In January 2011, Yamada accepted an invitation to become the patron of Aikikai Australia. He is the author of the book *Aikido Complete*, and has

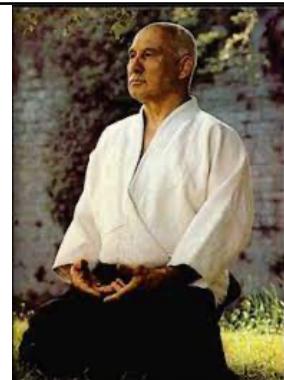


made multiple aikido training tapes, including the "Power and the Basics" series, which outlines the requirements for rank testing of all levels.

- With the deaths of his colleagues Akira Tohei in 1999, Mitsunari Kanai in 2004, and Seiichi Sugano and Nobuyoshi Tamura in 2010, Yamada is one of the most senior living representatives of the last generation of direct students of Morihei Ueshiba.
- In February 2010 Yoshimitsu Yamada founded Aikido Sansuikai International during a seminar in Dominican Republic. Aikido Sansuikai International is an organization recognized by Aikikai Hombu Dojo and has affiliated dojos from Latin America and Europe.
- Quotes:
  - "We must keep the spirit of budo no matter how we practice."
  - "Aikido is the way of harmony - but not too much harmony"
  - "put harm back in harmony"
- Kazuo Chiba (1940-2015)**
- Yasuo Kobayashi (1936- )**
- Akira Tohei (1929-1999)**
- Katsuaki Asai (1943- )**

### **Andre Nocquet (1913-1999)**

- was a French aikido teacher holding the rank of 8th dan. He was one of the very earliest non-Japanese to practice the art.
- Nocquet studied Greco-Roman wrestling as a young man. He began the practice of Jujutsu in 1937 with Israeli professor Moshé Feldenkrais. Later Mikinosuke Kawaishi came to Feldenkrais's dojo to teach and Nocquet became Kawaishi's student.
- In 1954, Nocquet was encouraged by Tadashi Abe to travel to Japan to see Morihei Ueshiba and study at the Aikikai Hombu Dojo. Nocquet stayed for nearly three years (1955-57), living in the dojo; he was one of only two non-Japanese to enjoy this privilege during that early era, the other being subsequently Terry Dobson. This was a difficult time for him as a westerner as there were virtually no other non-Japanese practicing aikido at the time.
- During Nocquet's initial time at Hombu, he was the only uchi-deshi. Later Nobuyoshi Tamura and Masamichi Noro took up residence there. Nocquet and Tamura, both of whom held the rank of first dan at the time, trained extensively together.
- He returned to France in the summer of 1958. He practiced alongside Tadashi Abe when the latter came to France. In 1959-1960 Abe returned to Japan, leaving Nocquet to teach aikido in France. Nocquet received the rank of 8th dan in 1985, from his French Aikido federation.
- Nocquet founded the Groupe Historique Aikido André Nocquet (GHAAN) in 1988 within the Fédération Française d'Aïkido et Budo (FFAB) headed by Tamura Sensei. This structure gave him the possibility to teach autonomously while participating in the technical organization of the FFAB.
- Mistake Fujita (1937-2014)**
- Masando Sasaki (1929-2018)**



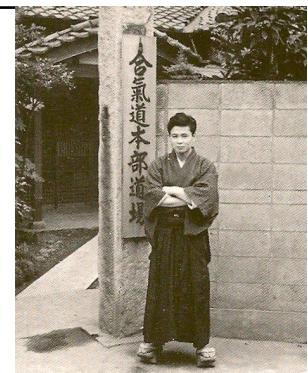
### **Nobuyoshi Tamura (1933-2010)**

- prominent aikidoka and a direct student of Morihei Ueshiba
- son of a kendo teacher, Tamura entered the Aikikai Hombu Dojo in 1953 as an uchi-deshi (live-in student) of aikido founder Morihei Ueshiba. He was one of Ueshiba's favourite pupils and since 1964 has greatly contributed to the development of aikido in Europe and France in particular.
- He was the National Technical Director (DTN) of the FFAB (French Federation of Aikido and Budō).
- held the rank of 8th dan and the title of Shihan. Throughout his teaching career he trained many others instructors in various countries around the world but foremost Western Europe.
- In 1999, he received the medal of "Chevalier de l'ordre National du Mérite" from the French government.
- published several books on aikido in French. His dojo, Shumeikan Dojo, is located in the village of Bras, France.
- Sent by Morihei Ueshiba, Tamura arrived in France in the port of Marseille in 1964 as the final destination of his honeymoon cruise (he paid part of his trip by performing aikido exhibitions on the ship). In France, he succeeded Tadashi Abe as the Aikikai representative there and decided to stay in this country teaching aikido, despite the fact that he could barely speak French at that time. Other aikido teachers in France then included Minoru Mochizuki, Masamichi Noro and Mutsuro Nakazono.
- In France, he befriended zen master Taisen Deshimaru who arrived in this country in 1965 and whom Osawa considered as his successor.
- Tamura was an honorary citizen of the town of Lesneven, France, where he gave week long yearly summer seminars with fellow aikido sensei Yoshimitsu Yamada. The other two important aikido trainings he gave every year during the summer were Saint-Mandrier and La Colle-sur-Loup.
- He first visited Hungary in 1988, and held camps there on a yearly or bi-yearly basis until 2009.
- Personal life: Tamura married Rumiko, a student in Morihei Ueshiba's dojo. Tamura had three sons. He died of cancer on the night of 9 July 2010.

### **• Yoshio Kuroiwa (1932-2010)**

### **Shoji Nishio (1927-2005)**

- was a Japanese aikido teacher holding the rank of 8th dan shihan from the Aikikai.
- Life and career: Nishio was born in Aomori Prefecture of Japan in 1927. He joined Aikikai Hombu Dojo in 1951 and began to teach around 1955. Before aikido he studied judo (6th Dan Kodokan Judo), karate (5th Dan Shindō jinen-ryū), iaido (7th Dan Nihon Zendoku Iaido) and jōdō and also Shintō Musō-ryū jōjutsu and Hōzōin-ryū sōjutsu. Skills gained from them he managed to smoothly merge into his own specific aikido style where all techniques can be performed with the wooden sword bokken in hand as well as without weapons, and his weapon systems has few similarities to the more common system that derives from Morihiro Saito. He held the title of an Aikikai shihan and also created a new school of iaido with forms from aikido, called Aiki Toho Iaido or Nishio-ryū Iai. In 2003 Nishio received the Budo Kyoryusho award from Japanese Budo Federation for his lifetime



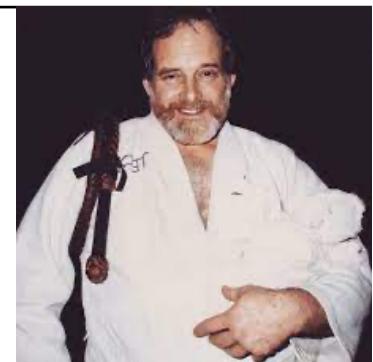
contribution to development and worldwide propagation of aikido. He died in March 2005 aged 77.

- **Seiseki Abe (1915-2011)**
  - **Mochio Hikitsuchi (1923-2004)**
  - **Masamichi Noro (1935-2013)**
  - **Seigo Yamaguchi (1924-1996)**
  - **Shuji Maruyama (1940- )**
- 

## 60's

### **Terry Dobson (1937-1992)**

- Terry Dobson birthname Walter Norton Dobson III (1937–1992) was an American aikido pioneer, aikido teacher and writer founder of aikido, Morihei Ueshiba.
- Early life: Born in Cambridge, Massachusetts to a wealthy family on June 9, 1937 and moving to New York City in 1940, Dobson had a tumultuous childhood. Raised by his alcoholic mother and stepfather, he did not meet his real father, who had been disgraced after it was discovered that he forged his degree to get into Harvard Business School, until his late teens.
- Terry went to the Buckley School and then Deerfield Academy, both prestigious private schools, where he excelled at American football. After receiving a scholarship to play at Franklin & Marshall, he quickly failed out and trained for a summer with the New York Football Giants under Vince Lombardi, the line coach at the time. He was a US Marine doing helicopter maintenance during the Lebanon crisis of 1958, and attended New York University for a brief period. In 1959 he went to Japan to assist in rural development and teach English.
- Discovering aikido: During a visit to Tokyo, Dobson witnessed a demonstration of what was then the little-known martial art aikido on an American military base in Yokohama. He instantly fell in love with the art and six months later entered the Aikikai Hombu Dojo as an uchi-deshi (live-in student), and trained as uchi-deshi until his marriage in 1964. He was one of only two non-Japanese to enjoy this privilege during that early era, the other being André Nocquet. He continued to train at the Hombu Dojo until Ueshiba's death in 1969.
- Spreading Aikido in the US: In 1970 Dobson returned to the US where he gave seminars around the country and with Ken Nisson co-founded Bond Street Dojo in New York City and Vermont Aikido in Burlington, Vermont. In 1979 he moved to San Francisco, California and became involved with Robert Bly and his Mythopoetic men's movement, still teaching aikido as a visiting sensei.
- Death: In 1984 he became ill with what was misdiagnosed as sarcoidosis and moved to Vermont to recover. His teaching trailed off and eventually stopped as he became weaker and weaker. After a change in medication his health improved and he started teaching again in Vermont. Though not fully healthy, he flew to California to give a Men's Conference and teach aikido in 1992. After teaching a class in San Francisco, he fell into a coma. On August 2, 1992, he died in an ambulance in Inverness, California of a heart attack. Dobson is survived by his daughter Marion, son Daniel, and partner Riki Moss.



- **Morito Suganuma (1942- )**
- **Norihiro Ichihashi (1940-2001)**
- **Koretoshi Maruyama (1936- )**

### **Seishiro Endo (1942- )**

- born in 1942
- 8th dan ranked in Aikikai aikido
- master teacher
- studied directly under O Sensei
- trained at Aikikai Hombu Dojo with master teachers including Seigo Yamaguchi, Hiroshi Tada, Mitsunari Kanai, and Yasuo Kobayashi
- dislocated his shoulder when he was 30 years old which changed his aikido to a softer and more contact-based style
- In 1993, he created the Aikido Saku Dojo in his hometown of Saku, Nagano, Japan



### **Shizuo Imaizumi (1938- )**

- **Kenji Shimizu (1940- )**
- **Minoru Kurita (1943- )**

### **Mitsugi Saotome (1937- )**

- is a Japanese aikido instructor currently living in the United States
- is a master in the martial art of aikido and was a direct disciple of the founder of aikido, Morihei Ueshiba
- At the age of 16, Saotome began his martial arts training in judo. At the age of 18, he entered the Aikikai Hombu Dojo in Tokyo in order to train under Ueshiba. He became an uchi-deshi (personal apprentice or disciple) to the Founder in 1958 and trained there for a total of 15 years until his teacher's death in 1969.
- Saotome began teaching at the Aikikai Hombu Dojo in 1960. He was very well respected as an instructor, receiving many honours. He obtained the title of shihan and ultimately was appointed a senior instructor. As a senior instructor in Aikido he was the Chief Weapons Instructor at Hombu. He held that position until 1975.
- At this time Saotome began to give great thought and contemplation as to his future purpose. After many days of consideration, he was said to have felt the hand of divine spiritual intervention. This was instrumental in his decision to relocate to the United States. He felt that the US was at a point of development that embraced new ideas, and that this would be an ideal environment to spread the message of peace and harmony implicit in the study of aikido.
- Saotome was asked about his decision to move to the US: "I meditated on Ōsensei's spirit for three days and three nights and I felt it was his wish that I should go. This country is a great experiment, a melting pot of people from many different cultural backgrounds living together, the world condensed into one nation. The goal of aikido and Ōsensei's dream is that all the peoples of the world live together as one family, in harmony with each other and with their environment. The United States has the opportunity to set a great example."
- After relocating to Sarasota, Florida in 1975, Saotome founded an organisation known as Aikido Schools of Ueshiba. He has continued to serve as chief instructor for the organisation, which rejoined the Aikikai and resumed its association with Hombu Dojo (world Aikido headquarters) in 1988.



- Saotome is especially skilled in the use of traditional Japanese weapons, including the wooden staffs jo and bo, and the wooden sword bokken. He has also developed a system for working with two swords in aikido. Saotome feels that learning the movements and skills associated with proficiency in these weapons not only increases speed and agility, but harmony with one's partner. Saotome Sensei has been described by Aikido Journal as "One of the most highly regarded of contemporary aikido masters. His style of aikido is minimal and powerful. Razor sharp technique with superb control."
- Mitsugi Saotome currently resides in the state of Florida in the US. He continues to teach seminars at the Aiki Shrine Dojo in Myakka City, Florida, and at locations throughout the United States.

### **Takuma Hisa**

- lived ca. 1895-01.31.1980
- early student of O Sensei
- born in Kochi Prefecture, Japan
- in his youth he was a sumo wrestler. He was captain of the sumo club at Kobe Business School (now Kobe University) and won the All-Kansai Student Sumo Championship
- later became director of General Affairs of Asahi News in Osaka
- was advised to learn technique of Daito-ryu Aiki-jujutsu for self-defence and was introduced to Ueshiba, becoming one of his pre-war students
- 1936 he studied directly under Sokaku Takeda



### **Noriaki Inoue-Shin'ei Taidō**

- 12.03.1902-04.13.1994
- Japanese martial artist, who was in his early years closely associated with the spiritual and technical development of aikido along with his uncle Morihei Ueshiba
- founder of Shinwa Taidō, a martial art which he later renamed to Shin'ei Taidō
- Much of Noriaki's childhood was spent in the company of Ueshiba
- He joined his uncle at Shirataki in a settlement expedition in the north of the island of Hokkaidō (1912–1919) and studied the Daito-ryu Aiki-Jutsu with him under Sokaku Takeda
- He was also closely associated with the discovery by Ueshiba of the Omoto sect in Ayabe and his encounter with its spiritual leader Onisaburo Deguchi which had a decisive influence in Ueshiba's later philosophy
- Inoue then actively collaborated with his uncle into the spreading of *aikibudō*, the art derived from the *daitō-ryū* that Ueshiba has perfected. In 1927, the two men settled in Tokyo, teaching at various locations until the construction in 1931 of Ueshiba's first permanent dojo, the Kobukan
- While the original *aikibudō* has now evolved into aikido under Ueshiba, Inoue kept teaching his art as such until 1956 when he changed its name into Shinwa Taidō and finally Shin'ei Taidō
- He had little interaction with the Aikikai organization which followed the death of Ueshiba and continued teaching actively until his death. He considered himself a co-founder of aikido along with Ueshiba although that is disputed by the Ueshiba family



- Inoue used various names throughout his life: Kitamatsumaru (1902), Yoichiro (1909), Yoshiharu (1920), Seisho (1940), Hoken (1948), Teruyoshi (1971), and finally Noriaki (1973)

### **Seiseki Abe**

- 04.26.1915-05.18.2011
- Japanese shod and aikido teacher
- student of Morihei Ueshiba and his teacher in calligraphy
- Abe met Morihei Ueshiba at the inauguration of the aikido dojo of Bansen Tanaka in Osaka in 1952 and began training immediately. He was particularly struck by the similarity between the breathing technique used in aikido, misogi and shodo and arrived to the conclusion that the three arts are pursuing the same ultimate goal - the comprehension of the concept of ki. He studied aikido under Ueshiba for many years while perfecting his shodo technique. Ueshiba gradually took interest in calligraphy and one day asked Abe to teach him shodo (around 1954). A very special relationship developed between the two men and from 1959 until his death, Ueshiba would regularly come to stay at Abe's home in Osaka to learn calligraphy and teach aikido at the traditional dojo Abe built for him just next to his house (the Ameno Takemusu Juku Dojo). Abe was verbally awarded the grade of 10th dan by Ueshiba, although the Aikikai only recognized him as 8th dan.



### **Michio Hikitsuchi**

- 07.14.1923-02.02.2004
- when he was 14, he met Morihei Ueshiba. At that time there was an age requirement for studying budo with Ueshiba, but they made an exception for Hikitsuchi.

