

## **2021 Shintaido of America Business Report**

Shintaido has as a core value of community and contributions by a diverse group to advance the practice of Shintaido. The contributions of 2021 have been done by this community of people:

### **SOA Board 2021 - 2023**

Shin Aoki, NTC Chair

Nancy Billias, Membership

Connie Borden, SOA President

David Franklin, Developer of Podcast materials

Brad Larson, Treasurer

Herve Hofstetter

Michael Thompson, Co-founder

H.F. Ito – Co Founder

### Officers and contributing volunteers:

Rob Kedoin, SOA webmaster

Chris Ikeda-Nash, CPA

Jim Sterling, Body Dialogue editor

Sarah Baker, SOA YouTube

Lee Seaman, Teachers group

Tereza Soldatova - Paid position as social media coordinator and Mailchimp manager

The SOA Body Dialogue produced articles 1 – 2 times per month. The SOA YouTube channel remains active with clips of Keiko and interviews. SOA Google Drive is now the centralized location for SOA business documents, including the SOA photo gallery. An index of Body Dialogue articles has been completed that allows instructors and members to search by author, topic, or date. The SOA board approved to hire Tereza Soldatova in February 2021 as the social media coordinator and MailChimp manager. Tereza completed an updated look to MailChimp announcements, Instagram, and Facebook.

The SOA board approved a grant from the Joe Zawielski Memorial Fund for David Franklin to develop Podcast materials with the first project to be the reading of the Shintaido book. A subcommittee of David Franklin, Tereza Soldatova, Sarah Baker and Connie Borden have meet monthly during 2021 with the projected podcast launch date of January 2022. There will be 20 chapters released over 10 months. Tereza is developing a promotion plan to announce these podcasts. Future podcast projects can focus on interviews and/or reading of other books.

2020 and 2021 will be remembered for the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, traditional Keiko and gasshukus changed. Weekly Sunday Keiko is offered by ZOOM with co-teachers of Sandra Bengstrom,

Rob Gaston, and Connie Borden. Both the 2021 and the upcoming 2022 PacShin Kangeiko will be on ZOOM. Quebec held a modified in-person gasshuku in September 2021 and we thank Carole and Denis for use of their private dojo to make this event successful. ZOOM continues to be used for the SOA Board meetings and subcommittee meetings.

Work on migrating the SOA website to a new hosting company began in June 2021 and discussions of upgrading the SOA bookstore to WooCommerce started between the webmaster and SOA board.

The SOA Board has ensured ongoing SOA matters with quarterly business meetings, approval of a budget, and filing of needed financial reports. The SOA Board was reelected in August 2021 for a two-year term until August/September 2023. The SOA NTC has met to discuss exam curriculum and exam criteria. The SOA NTC was active in ensuring the offering of high-level exams in August 2021 as part of the international activities and these exams were done via ZOOM. A teacher's group has been (re)established with Lee Seaman.

The International Shintaido organization based as a nonprofit in France was dissolved in June 2021 after voting by the international members. SOA and ESC are now the organizing and sponsoring organizations for international activities. SOA and ESC have signed Memorandum of Understandings for the ongoing work by International Technical and Examination Committee (ITEC), creating the position for an IT manager for international communication and website, and established the structure and financial structure to offer high level examinations (Sandan and Yondan) during the summer of 2021. The SOA president and SOA NTC Chair are the two representatives from SOA to participate in quarterly meetings of the sponsoring organizations. SOA now holds one-third of the international funds within the SOA bank account. ESC holds the other two-thirds of international funds. This division was formulated based on international membership between 2018 – 2021. SOA and ESC now work through a combined committee to manage international activities and international funds.

Respectfully submitted by

Connie Borden, SOA President

12 December 2021