

2023 Shintaido of America Business Report

Shintaido has as a core value the contributions by a diverse group to advance the practice of Shintaido. The contributions of 2023 have been done by this community of people:

SOA Board 2023

Shin Aoki as NTC Chair until May 2023; current NTC chair is Rob Gaston

Nancy Billias, Membership

Connie Borden, SOA President

David Franklin, Developer of Podcast materials

Brad Larson, Treasurer (deceased November 2023)

Herve Hofstetter (resigned October 2023)

Michael Thompson, Co-founder

H.F. Ito – Co Founder

Officers and contributing volunteers:

Sandra Bengtsson, Acting Treasurer (Dec 2023)

Rob Kedoin, SOA webmaster

Chris Ikeda-Nash, CPA

Jim Sterling, Body Dialogue editor

Sarah Baker, SOA YouTube & SOA Website Maintenance subcontractor

Tereza Soldatova – Subcontractor for social media coordinator and Mailchimp

The SOA Board has ensured ongoing SOA matters with quarterly business meetings, approval of a 2024 budget, and filing of needed financial reports. The SOA YouTube channel now has 218 subscribers with 224 videos. The SOA Facebook page has 380 followers, and the SOA Mailchimp has 145 subscribers. SOA had 59 paid members in 2023.

I. Strategic Plan for 2023

A. Podcast

Season two of the season began on February 5th with the giving of a Lifetime Achievement Award to Michael Thompson, Doshu. David Franklin is reading Michael Thompson's autobiography, *Untying Knots: A Shintaido Chronicle*. David also presented interviews with individuals - Mario Uribe, Kent Nagano, Brad Larson, David Palmer, and Amanda Palmer. Find your preferred listening method here: [shintaidoofamerica - Listen on YouTube, Spotify - Linktree](#).

B. Grants

Plans for 2023 included teaching grants to reach new groups of people. Tomi Nagai-Rothe submitted a proposal and was selected to offer Shintaido to a group of Quakers in July 2023. She taught 20 people for 12 hours in a one-week workshop. Read her Body Dialogue article here on her teaching: [Body Dialogue – Shintaido of America](#). She plans to submit a plan to teach again in 2024.

David Franklin submitted a proposal for an experimental project to combine Shintaido with performance arts. He received partial funding from SOA and was encouraged to ask ESC to also fund this project in the Czech Republic.

Robert Gaston and Connie Borden each received a stipend to attend the British Shintaido Daienshu where 33 people gathered to practice at Worth Abbey, the same venue planned for the International 2024. Read about this effort via Body Dialogue here: [Shinsei – New Life – Shintaido of America](#).

C. Website.

Discussion continued on the SOA Website with plans to ensure content was current. We accomplished this through a combined effort of the SOA Board, SOA Technical committee, and a website subcontractor. Please look at these areas of the website to see changes: [The Organization](#), [Contact Us](#), [Curriculum](#), and [Examinations](#) to name a few. The SOA website remains a SOA Board topic for 2024.

II. New Project

The SOA Board agreed to fund the publication in English of *Shakunetsu: Chronicles of the Creation of Shintaido, a Japanese Martial Arts* by Pierre Quettier. HF Ito was the coordinator of the team to edit and proofread the book.

Peter Furtado, Nancy Billias, Lee Seaman, Lee Ordeman and Pierre Quettier were the volunteers for this effort. The editing and proofreading was completed in July 2023 and the book was released for sale as print-on-demand with Amazon.

Purchase the book here: [@shakunetsu book | Linktree](#). Read the Body Dialogue article here: [Shakunetsu: Chronicles of the Creation of Shintaido, a Japanese Martial Art – Shintaido of America](#)

Through the volunteer efforts of Sarah Baker, twelve videos were made. There are videos with the editing team, the author Pierre Quettier, with book coordinator HF Ito, and with contributor Masashi Minagawa. Additional videos are available with more content that goes beyond the book. Mieko Hirano is the latest person to be interviewed for her role in the book. SOA held a discussion group on the book at the end of August 2023. See the videos here: [Shintaido of America - YouTube](#).

III. International Shintaido affairs

Since the dissolving in June 2021 of international Shintaido France-based nonprofit, SOA and ESC are now the organizing organizations for international funding. SOA, ESC and International Examination and Technical Committee (ITEC) approved the plan by British Shintaido to host 2024 in the UK. The event is Dokan '24 with the theme Dokan – Circle of the Way. Charles Burns is the event manager and Ula Chambers is the Director of Instruction. The dates are 16 August to 20 August 2024 to be held at Worth School, Turners Hill, Crawley.

Respectfully submitted by

Connie Borden, SOA President

December 2023