

Kaifukan New Year's Greeting-January 1, 2011

By Daniel Fischberg



Kaifukan celebrated New Year's 2011 in high and traditional style. Maeda Sensei and Jeanne once again opened their home and their hearts to all Kaifukan students to greet the New Year. This marked the 8th year that Kaifukan has carried out this important Japanese tradition, ringing in the New Year in both a reverent and festive fashion.



According to Japanese and Kaifukan tradition, students come to their sensei's home on one of the first three days of the New Year to greet him and wish him and his family happiness, health and prosperity in the New Year. Equally, important, students renew their pledges as students to work hard to improve themselves in the coming year by diligently adhering to their sensei's teachings.



In Kaifukan, we also

take time to review our resolutions from the past year, reflect on how well we have honored them, and to commit to new resolutions for the New Year.



Another important Kaifukan tradition is to honor students for their accomplishments in the dojo. This year, Joette and Jim were honored for their superlative attendance in iai/kendo and iai, respectively.

Shiai champion Jim and his worthy runners up Linda (2nd place) and Tyler

(3rd place) were also saluted for their victories.



A unique twist to this year's greeting was its two-part nature. Due to their unavailability on the first, Dain and Andrew with his family all came to participate in a separate New Year's Greeting on the 2nd.

Somehow this year, Jeanne once again outdid herself as the meal, lovingly prepared, ranged from traditional



to comfort with everything indescribably delicious.



Cathleen Hutchins, visiting from Virginia, who participated in Kaifukan in December, joined the New Year's Greeting with her husband. Cathleen expressed abundant appreciation for the opportunity to practice with Kaifukan and the generous guidance she received from Sensei during her visit.

And no New Year's Greeting could be complete without much traditional toasting with sake. May 2011 bring good health, much joy, and prosperity to Maeda Sensei and Jeanne and may Kaifukan continue to grow strong in numbers and its own unique spirit!



Students' Resolutions for 2011

Aaron Makana Schweitzer

Sensei, My resolution this year is to continue working on my footwork and fluidity. I am enjoying studying Kendo and look forward to continued improvement in body, mind and form.

Ken

I will continue to improve my visualization of iaido tekki to better perform my waza.

Linda

Dear Maeda-Sensei, I think the resolution I identified last Thursday is my greatest weakness, so I remain resolved to Move this year.

Tyler Brawner

Maeda Sensei, My resolutions for 2011 is to continue to refine the basics, focus on swinging straight all the time, and swing shinai 800 times a day.

David

Sensei, I am going to try and take the exam for San Dan. I know it will require the following; better attendance, re-learning all 10 of the kata, and just overall improve my waza.

Dan

Dear Sensei: My resolution--Three words: Fix left foot.

Jim

Maeda Sensei, My resolution is to continue to work on seme to create openings. Also, to improve my tsuki accuracy and kote suriage men.

Dain Osedo

Maeda Sensei, My kendo resolutions for 2011 will be to work on my ashi sabaki. Mostly keeping my left heel down and feet close, moving more fluidly and quickly when passing through (no bouncing), and better timing while striving for ki-ken-tai ichhi.

Joette

Dear Maeda Sensei, For 2011 I will focus my practice on correct ki ken tai ichi as one of the basic building blocks of correct kendo.

Terry

Regarding my NY resolution, I am pledging to continue to work on straightening my swing and also to make it to at least 2 practices per week this year.

*“Very few men are wise
by their own counsel;
or learned by their own teaching.
For he that was only taught by himself,
had a fool for his master.”*

Ben Jonson English dramatist and poet, 1572-163