



# Zenko International

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Advisor:  
Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche

Kyudo Master:  
Kanjuro Shibata XX

February 27, 2009

Dear friends,

*Kin ga shin nen o-medito gozaimasu!*

We wish you all a quality year of the earth ox. This message, which could be read as “Happy New Year”, is written in high Japanese, which gives it a depth of meaning that can’t conveniently be translated in English. It is the language that would be used when addressing the emperor, not just friend to friend.

For the past three years, Sensei has been wishing to host an international gathering for his students at his home dojo. Finally, this year the time seems to be ripe. The gathering will be held on May 29-31, followed immediately by the Shambhala Mountain Center kyudo intensive, May 31 to June 6. Sensei has chosen the theme of “*shin gi*” for this gathering. *Shin gi* refers to honor, which Sensei associates with never giving up. His message about the gathering and for the year is:

This *Shin gi* gathering is an opportunity to strengthen our perseverance as a kyudo family. The strength of our kyudo family is not based on ‘I like this person; I don’t like that person’. Rather, it comes from having a bigger mind that transcends our likes and dislikes. By cutting the hopes of ego, we do not give up on each other. This loyalty has nothing to do with what happened in the Second World War. It is an unwavering heart born from great aspiration. To be three-day monks is no good. *Gashin-shōtan!*

We encourage all of Sensei’s kyudo students to join in this exceptional event with our teacher. Of course, there are many obstacles to participating. There always are. But, this event is particularly intended for students in dojos where he is not often able to visit. Please consider that it is truly not possible to learn the heart of kyudo by yourself. You can only learn kyudo from a master. None of us knows if he or she will be alive tomorrow – and this is also true of Shibata Sensei XX. This is his 88<sup>th</sup> year, his 28<sup>th</sup> year teaching in the West. We are certain that you can understand the significance of this opportunity.

The Boulder dojo will assist you in your planning and during your stay. If you are planning to attend, please contact Sue Kranzdorf at [kyudocontact@herodragon.com](mailto:kyudocontact@herodragon.com).

For your information, the hotel nearest the dojo (walking distance) is the Holiday Inn Express Boulder at 4777 North Broadway, Boulder, Colorado 80304; (303) 442-6600 or 888 HOLIDAY (888 465 4329). For information and registration at Shambhala Mountain Center go to [www.shambhalamountain.org](http://www.shambhalamountain.org).

This year again, Sensei has extensive travel plans. He will be in California in April, then Dechen Choling from July 10 to 25; Dorje Denma Ling from August 28-30 and up to Gampo Abbey; and Karme Choling from September 11-20. For additional information, please check the schedule and links at [www.zenko.org/events.html](http://www.zenko.org/events.html). While you are on the Internet, please also go to our new Zenko Kyudojo blog at <http://zenkokyudojonews.blogspot.com>. Included are photos and descriptions of Sensei's most recent teachings, as well as events at the dojo. All students are warmly invited to visit often and comment as they like. To add a comment, just click on "comments" at the bottom of any entry.

Sensei lives a dignified and frugal life devoted to the care of his students. This is a responsibility that he takes very seriously. Our generosity sustains his life and is a foundation stone for the development of authentic kyudo in our time. All Zenko members are encouraged to continue to help with the financial support of Zenko and Sensei. North American members are also requested to complete the membership form.

Once again, best wishes from Sensei and Zenko for the new year. External events come and go. May the earth ox bring a greater level of genuineness and bravery to us all. *Shin gi o omonzubeshi!* Never give up!

Shibata Kanjuro XX

For Zenko International:

Max Baltin, Alex Halpern, Carolyn Kanjuro,  
Scott Spanbauer, and Sam West