

New Year's Greetings Friends,

It's here again, the New Year it seems to come around faster each year, I suppose it's the same for you, or it's just me getting old.

I take this opportunity to pass on my "Thanks" to you all for your support of the BAF.

Each and everyone of you are an important part of the Federation. From Beginners, to Instructors, Club secretaries, to the Committee Members you have all played your part during 2024 in maintaining our practice and the BAF.

Unfortunately, Aikido is not as popular in this country as it once was. But we know what Aikido has to give and by continuing to practice and continuing to develop when the wind changes and people start again looking for a pure martial art we be there.

Looking at our membership it has roughly maintained its numbers, and courses have mostly been fairly well attended.

In mentioning courses, I should say how important they are for all our progression in our practice, and we should try to attend them from beginner to senior. Courses not only gives us the chance to take instruction from another Sensei, but importantly sharing our practice with other people my give us another feeling of a technique and something which may help us to improve.

Experience cannot be bought but is " Shared!" through practice!

We are lucky in the BAF having Shihan and Senior instructors who have years of experience practicing with Chiba Sensei, Kanetsuka Sensei, and Senior Hombu instructors, along with BAF Instructors who have passed to the Dojo in the sky.

We are lucky to have Kanazawa Sensei and Umetsu Sensei visit us for Summer School both who are fully supportive of the BAF and our future!

As we move into the New Year no matter what grade or position we are told we should do so with " Beginner's Mind" !

It will be a different Summer School than in past, Steve will be informing us soon with the details of a shorter time. Umetsu Sensei will be attending!

We also have the JAC weekend in April with the main instructor Ito Sensei.

The dates for all the BAF courses are on the BAF site.

I appreciate traveling etc can be expensive but let's make it the year we support as many courses as we can.

So I wish each and everyone of you and your families a "Happy New Year" and a year with "Peace and Harmony".

Peter  
Chairperson

