

## Christina Gutz

### Wado Pentecost Seminar 2017 in Berlin

#### Tradition Come Alive

More than 90 participants from Germany, the UK, the Netherlands, Austria and Hungary attended the traditional Wado Pentecost Seminar in Berlin also in 2017. The instructors were **Shuzo Imai**, 8<sup>th</sup> Dan Wado ryu, **Takamasa Arakawa**, 6<sup>th</sup> Dan JKF Wado-Kai, **Bernd Alscher**, 6<sup>th</sup> Dan Wado ryu, and **Christina Gutz**, 6<sup>th</sup> Dan Wado ryu.

The Wado Pentecost Seminar lasted three days. All sessions were started and ended together, in the main unit the participants trained in two groups, with the instructors taking turns for each group. The motivation and concentration of the participants, who thoroughly enjoyed the entire course, as did the instructors, were characteristically high.

#### Tradition Come Alive

Wado Ryu was founded by **Hironori Otsuka** (1892 – 1982). Otsuka registered his style under the name „Wado Ryu Karate Jutsu“ in 1940 at the Dai Nippon Butoku Kai in Kyoto<sup>1</sup>, as well as, i. a., 36 kihon kumite, tanto dori, idori gata, 10 yakusoku kumite gata and kata.

At this year's course, a great part of the contents registered by Otsuka were taught and practiced: kihon, kata in conjunction with kaisetsu and bunkai, kihon kumite, kumite gata and tanto dori and idori. All four instructors placed a great deal of emphasis on correct kihon as it is the pre-condition for dynamic, effective karate. Takamasa Arakawa conveyed not only in-depth insights into kata such as Niseishi and Jion to the participants, but also had them develop bunkai sequences on their own. Takamasa Arakawa impressed everybody with his competition-related kata and kumite drills. The participants also found his self-defence techniques convincing and realistic. Shuzo Imai placed his focus on precision and on how to produce speed and power in all karate techniques, kata and partner drills, and kept reiterating the relevant budo principles.

Bernd Alscher and Christina Gutz taught the first 12 of the 36 kumite gata, placing the focus on the principles of taisabaki, irimi, kuzushi, tsukuri and kake. In so doing, they commemorated Robbie Smith who had taught these kumite gata at the 2014 Berlin Wado Seminar.<sup>2</sup> All four instructors explained kihon kumite 1 – 10 in great detail. The participants could, thus, immediately comprehend that Otsuka had derived kihon kumite from kumite gata. Selected idori and tanto dori completed the course. It was again very pleasant to deepen existing, and make new, friendships and to train together.

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<sup>1</sup> See Shingo Ohgami: History of Wado Ryu Karate.

[http://www.wadokai.se/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=10&Itemid=10](http://www.wadokai.se/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=10&Itemid=10) (23.06.2017)

Mario McKenna: An Overview of Karate-dō. Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Robbie Smith (7<sup>th</sup> Dan JKF Wado-Kai) had been relating on the Nippon Budokan series video "Wadoryu Jujutsu Kenpo" when he taught the first 12 kumite gata in Berlin.

Wado Seminar with Toby Threadgill and Robbie Smith 2014 in Berlin – see also: Christina Gutz: Below the Surface: Deeper Insights into Wado ryu and Shindo Yoshin ryu. Wado Seminar with Toby Threadgill (USA) and Robbie Smith (New Zealand) in Berlin on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2014. <https://www.jkfwadokaisohonbu.de/home/artikel-articles/>

## **Dan Gradings**

The following karateka successfully passed their grades within the framework of the Wado Pentecost Seminar:

JKF Wado-Kai: Nora Virag Horvarth (1<sup>st</sup> Dan), Tatjana Maria Schulte (2<sup>nd</sup> Dan)

DKV: Hayrettin Bekiroglu (1<sup>st</sup> Dan), René Büttner (1<sup>st</sup> Dan), Nora Virag Horvarth (1<sup>st</sup> Dan), Olaf Kufeld (1<sup>st</sup> Dan), Enes Saydam (1<sup>st</sup> Dan), Martina Streifling (1<sup>st</sup> Dan), Stefan Furche (2<sup>nd</sup> Dan), Roland Wernick (2<sup>nd</sup> Dan), Manuela Delia Cavallini (5<sup>th</sup> Dan), Dao Hung Peither (5<sup>th</sup> Dan).