



## Face to Face

By Janine Moore, Moore Martial Arts

### Conversation with martial art legends "Superfoot" Bill Wallace and Ron Marchini

It is a great pleasure and a wonderful opportunity to attend the Gathering every year that is hosted by Bruce Juchnik Hanshi and the Martial Arts Collective Society. Every year I have the honor to interview wonderful individuals that have made extensive contributions to the martial art world as we know it. Without their innovations, their leadership and the love that they have shared with others where would we be as practitioners? I am grateful to have spent some time with them, to learn more about them and to share the love that they have in martial arts. So far the individuals that have been highlighted in the SKSKI newsletter are: Grandmaster Ming Lum, Grandmaster Mike Young, Professor Leibert O'Sullivan, Paul Yamaguchi Hanshi, Uncle Larry, Sifu Mary Owens, Sifu Bill Owens, Charles Garrett Kyoshi, Leslie Kufferath, Gary and Bev Curtis and Trenton Ingles.

For anyone to say that I have been there, (the Gathering) and done that, it is the same thing every year, so I am not going to go this year, is not looking at that event in the right way. You should look at it through your heart and for the love of the martial arts. For meeting new people and the learning experience. That saddens me, because every year that I have attended has been a wonderful experience that words cannot express by gratitude towards the hard work that goes into this event. This last year was no different. Juchnik Hanshi brought together three wonderful people, Ron Marchini, Bill Wallace and Jerry Pennington, to teach together and to share their stories. I felt lucky to be able to sit down with, along with my husband Jon Moore and my student Sharon Dunn, and listen to the conversation that "Superfoot" Bill Wallace and Ron Marchini had. These are their stories

The interview started with the two going over some old memories, the good old days.

Ron Marchini, "we're so old, everyone looks young."

And Bill Wallace, that's none of your business.

We each get social security and born in the same year... 1945...

BW: we've lived together several times, but he got married on me.

Ron: 1969

BW: Too long.. We met in 1971

Ron: 71? Hawaii

BW, 69:

We met at a tournament. We were on the same team. It was mainland vs. Hawaii. We were on the mainland. Ron won the whole thing.

Ron: I got two trophies for that.

BW: Point tournaments are just fun. We fought at the Top Ten Nationals in 1971 in Albuquerque, NM.

Ron: That was the only time we fought together.

BW: He won. We fought for grand Championship. The Top 10 fighters in the country at the time fought everyone else. I won my division and Ron won his. We fought for the championship.

Ron: It was one point.

BW: It was a reverse punch. I wanted him to kiss it and make it better.



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SKSKI Editors

Janine Moore, Sensei; Jon Moore, Sensei; Sharon Dunn-Newton

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## Conversation, continued

Ron: It was a game.

BW: It was a game, we never thought we were Billy bad butt tough guys. There were too many rules. I can hit you, think I could have killed you and not have to kill ya, which is pretty nice.

Ron: it was a game, it's a sport. Today it's a game of tag.

When we fought you could thump the guy, as long as you didn't cause superficial damage.

BW: We were back in ancient times.

BW: We all took karate. I took classes in Okinawa, I was in the service.

Ron started in Stockton, and went to Japan to train.

Ron: I took out an educational loan. I was in the army, and they let me go, I went there and trained with Mas Oyama and Gogen Yamaguchi, the cat.

It was interesting. At that time, it was relative a year and a half. Started Aug. 5, 1964, went to Japan in 1966.

### **How has martial arts changed?**

Ron: Today, we were talking, it's different. Not anything like it is here now. The style I created, Renbukai, the fighting is all done with kendo and gloves and chest protectors, it was full contact. The stuff with Mas Oyama, they didn't wear the equipment but it was more of stand up brawl. Styles were very close. Gogen Yamaguchi style, they were smaller, and his son they were fast and moved around.

It was an enjoyable experience. Probably went back every year for 10 years. A month sometimes three weeks

I was in the reserves.

I trained a lot of troops and sent them to Vietnam. I taught hand to hand combat. When you're in the service it's not a case of calling points, or knocking a guy out. They're going to kill you, if you don't pay attention, it's a very serious thing.

Lot of people didn't come back. There is no toughest guy on the block.

Tournaments it's a game, strictly a game..

I can't remember the last tournament I was at, couple years ago. I stopped teaching and having schools in 1995 cause I was doing other things. Renbukai.

BW: I studied in Okinawa in 1966.

I was in the Air Force.

Kadena Airbase in Okinawa. I played judo, and was a wrestler in high school and college. I had just torn my knee up in judo, I was in a cast, ankle to hip. I went to this school with some friends. Guy said, you do karate. I said I got a bad knee, he said no problem. Good, we do front kick, mae geri. I can't do that I have a bad leg. He said you turn sideways and do kiba dachi. He said you do yoko geri, sidekick. He showed me.

For the next two months, I'm doing yoko geri, mawasha geri, that's all I could do because I was in a cast. Then leg came out of cast.. it's all weak.

He said you do right leg...  
pretty soon mind of its own.

I stayed there a year and trained with Eisio Shimabuku.

### **How did you get into the tournament scene?**

Ron: I was stationed at Norton Air Force base in San Bernardino, lucky enough there was a Shorin Ryu school. Talk about luck, and started training there. In Okinawa, when I was training, there were no karate tournaments. You just sparred. I came back to United States, and said there was a karate tournament. I went and had fun.

Ron: I competed for a lot of Ed Parker's teams. . .  
Gladiators.

I didn't know Elvis, but he came and watched us. Ed Parker would call me and ask me to go his tournaments.

Ron: Ed Parker called me to compete. I won first place in brown belt division in California state tournament. Year later, they had them at the Madison Square Garden. . . Tournament of Champions, asked if I could go. I went and won the Grand Champion. He just said, he call me. That's how it kinda happened.

Ron: In training in Japan, most of my training was Renbukai, 95 percent.

My instructors: Masayuki Koide (Renbukai) I was 19 years old. I trained the year in half.. with Gordon Kennedy who had trained in Japan.

BW: I got picked, I won a bunch of tournament through us. Tournaments all over, we fought again in each other in east coast, med west.. you and I fought Steve Sanders. Joes Hayes....

Ron: I fought Kenny Knudson.

Ron: Some people had a bad attitude but you made friendships and lasting friendships.

Ron: we weren't out there at all saying that I'm the baddest guy on the block. Nobody wins 100 percent of the time. What you think is a point and what someone else thinks is different. Everyone sees it differently.

### **Describe your friendship through the years.**

Ron: We're both (into the same studies) you graduated

BW: My undergrad degree was in physical education and I have a graduate degree in kinesiology and physiology.

Ron: my major was physical education, and minor in

history. We related to each other.

We have a lot of college graduates in the Martial Arts.

BW: Martial arts itself is a family. Trouble is, Ron was taught in Japan, but also with Gordon. I studied in Okinawa when they walked round with bamboo Shinai (and they'd smack you with it) and that was the way you learned, you'd throw kick, hit. . . you.. you'd tense up. You were rewarded for doing it correctly, but taking that reward away by relaxing.

I got off from my job at 4pm, I was there training from 4-10 p.m.

Ron doesn't drink, I don't drink. In the service we either drink or find something else to do. That was what we did.

### **How do you stay involved in martial arts today?**

BW: I travel all over the place doing seminars, because of seminars, I am able to bring karate training. We played it like a game, could have killed you but didn't. I took that same thing into kick boxing, my goal was to make it through the fight without getting hurt. His (ron's) niche is sweeps and take downs, my niche was kicking.

BW: I travel all over the world.

Some of us started doing this become our life. I've never had a job. I taught college on the side, because they wanted me to teach martial arts. I explain physiology and kinesiology.. that's fun for me because I'm learning all the time to. Rather than just saying do this kick because Wallace said do it. Now I explain physiologically why its done, how it works, the antagonistic muscle groups, the muscle groups that come in to play.

### **You were both in martial arts films. What was that experience like?**

Ron: The last tournament I was involved in was in 1973. I did the new Gladiators documentary then I started doing films. The first was in 1973. In Sana Francisco, Lo Wei came over, and he directed first Bruce Lee film. Yellowfaced Tiger, and Chuck Norris was the bad guy. I played the friend of his younger brother. . . Went to Philippines and did a picture over there. Then I figured out, I can do this, I didn't like the acting as much, because you're just kind of a puppet. So I got into producing and directing. I did 10 motion pictures and one documentary, which is the new gladiators. . . In 1994, I had to stop, it just got to be ridiculous after a while.. people in the film industry. It's cutthroat.

Bill Wallace: I did 15 films.

BW: I die good.

Ron: I never had to die.

When you get old, you'll look back.

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## Conversation, continued

BW: I died in all of them. I'm such a good dier, when it comes time to do it, I'm gonna walk up to the man and say which way do you want me to go?

Ron: Martial artists, they don't want to die. If I die my students will see me. They think it's real.. this is just a movie.

BW: There was a movie and opening night was in Denver, I come out after ward and this kid comes up to me and (his mouth dropped open) I said what's wrong? He said, you're dead, I saw Chuck Norris kill you... (finishes the story by telling the kid that out of the scene, he crawled and escaped through the woods.

Not only was that tiring, but you have to take your ego and step on it and throw it in the trash can and flush it. I was in LA, I got a call, they wanted me to do a commercial, and wanted a martial artist. My agent said, you're going to be perfect. Took a judo uniform, karate uniform. I do all kinds of kicks. He said god that's really cool. I was waiting for the call back. I call my agent and he said they gave it to someone who didn't know how to do anything, but he had the look. I said I quit. Don't call me again. You have to just bite your lip.

Ron: It is a cutthroat business..

### **What do you do now to pass the time or how do you keep your martial arts fresh?**

Ron: I'm a grower/shipper. I'm a farmer. You grow onions and have a packing facility. We ship overseas. The almonds like Blue Diamond. We supply Blue Diamond.

BW: It's fresh for me cause every time I do a seminar, it's a different day, different flexibility, weakness, balances, it's ongoing thing for me because the movement changes. When I use partners, I say go ahead and block this. When you block it I find another opening. That's how I learn. I'll kick more than anyone else in the class, demonstrate and redo, that's the fun part. I get paid to work out.

Ron: I just practice for myself. I have a place I built in the back of my home, a bag and mirrors. I stopped doing commercial training in 1995 because of the liability exposures. Someone in school came to work, he slipped and fell...

It just opened up the exposure.

I just build a place in the back of my home. I don't think

you ever stop learning, but you get to certain age, you might not be improving but you're slowing down.

BW: You're always looking for an easier way to do something, so you don't have to put so much effort into it.

Ron: It soothes your mind because you're focusing.. just simple things. I do stuff even now, I'll do blocks and punches and kicks...

### **At the time, did it register with you just how incredible it was to learn from Mas Oyama and Gogen Yamaguchi?**

Ron: I had Mas Oyama's books. I got the introduction with Don Buck, a student of his. He wrote a letter of introduction for me. That's how I went over there. I've got pictures of Mas Oyama when I first met him, he was fairly old then, he was very protective, his dojo was three stories, but you walked in, had an entrance, second floor was his office, and third floor is where we trained.

I've got pictures a new uniform and belt, and he was punching for me.

I was shooting some pictures. It was a great experience. Every year, I'd talk to him, or he'd send a Christmas card, sign himself.. probably something he said to all his students, "To my best student."

That was a legend. To me that was first and most famous person I ever knew. Everybody ever you went, he was one who killed the bulls.

I met Gogen Yamaguchi, ... in 1970. He was a very interesting character.

Definitely, that was history, and seeing these people. I don't think probably 50 percent of the people out there, or 75 percent there even know who those people are, that's like being on one side of the mountain and not being on the other side. The Europeans and South Americans, they know about more history than us. We're ignorant.

### **How has martial arts changed through the years?**

BW: It's getting watered down some, but it's not that bad. Case in point: you have this many students in karate in 1960s, this many people stayed to make black belts. Half quit and have nothing nice to say about the martial arts.

But these small groups here are tough mother scratchers. ... No matter how bad they are, they'll be better tomorrow than they are today, and day after tomorrow, but at least they're trying to get better. We've all known people who quit. Show me one guy who started taking martial arts, quit, even if they became brown belt, started talking about it, but they will not demonstrate one technique...

They won't even demonstrate, anything, either they're pissed off, or they're embarrassed because they quit.

Ron: When I was training, because you trained didn't mean you were going to be a black belt. There were no women, no kids, it was that hard core group, of 18-19 up to maybe 30 years old that trained in the dojo. It

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*Conversation, continued*

was looked down on. Karate wasn't like kendo, or judo. Karate was the lower-class guys. They were the tough guys. Can't tell you how many guys.. it was fighting, you went there and you fought.

BW: kimi: called focusing. They're all in the same class, regardless of their focusing. You give and took, and that was part of it. We learned to understand the techniques. . . Practice punching you though it was going to kill someone, . . . good focus, I controlled that. When karate was first developed in 15-1600s when the okinawans were rice eaters. Now people eat meat and the bodies are now stronger. . . We had a Choki Motabu, he had a reputation in getting in street fights and kill the people with side kicks. An old book said he used to go to a bar, get in a fight, but it would take place four days later, we fight to death. He'd leave, couple of Chiki's friends would bash the guy on head, kidnap him, hold him in some bar, not feed him, so he'd be week as hell. . . then four days later they let him loose. Choki would kill him... this was in an okinawan book that wrote this. Sometimes we're more oriental than the orientals. We want to believe these people are so pure, soooo .. but they had no regard for life at all.

Ron: The dojos over there the black belts used the lower belts as cannon fodder. The white belts cleaned the floors.

### ***What do you think about events like the Gathering?***

BW: What's good about the Gathering, and ironically, there's Tae Kwondo, but mostly Kenpo people, some other system here as well, but they are willing to intermingle. In the old days . . . you didn't mix (four systems). . . it was all politics.

Ron: This is the best thing for martial arts, what's going on with the Gathering, getting the styles together. In a tournament, you go there, 90 percent of people will leave with a bad feeling because they lost. Have a few people who win. Here, everybody learns something and everyone takes something home, maybe not a trophy, that's not the important thing. They go back and have a good feeling.





# Letter to all Kai Members

Greetings Kai members,

We have made some structural changes with in the Kai this year. Each year I offer a position of work to members of the Kai who have demonstrated the desire and ability to work on behalf of the spread of Kosho Ryu. The positions offered are ones of work and bear no martial rank. Our Kyoshi's, Renshi's, and Shihan's all have specific job duties and requirements and act as ambassadors for the Kai, in essence they work for you and your art. They will continue to be addressed as Sensei.

Each member school has requirements to sustain their Kosho Ryu teaching licensing, as continued training and learning is a requirement of all members, including school owners. All member schools will also host a seminar with me at least once per year, to ensure that all Kai members have the opportunity to study and train directly with me and open discussions can take place. As our understanding of Kosho Ryu grows, so must our training standards and knowledge base.

One clarification that needs to be made at this time, is that ALL rank within Kosho Ryu Kempo, under the SKSKI will bear my signature and chop. ALL rank, including Kyu, will look the same throughout the Kai. If you would like to verify your rank or standing within in the Kai, please send a photograph, or scanned image of your current rank to Jeff Driscoll, Kyoshi, ([senseijd2000@yahoo.com](mailto:senseijd2000@yahoo.com)) we will be happy to verify my signature and chop. If you are a school owner and need to obtain rank certificates for your students, you may contact me directly ([hanshijuchnik@att.net](mailto:hanshijuchnik@att.net) or 916 308 2606).

I would like to thank the following Kai members who have gracefully accepted a job position within the organization:

Jeff Driscoll-Kyoshi  
Gary Curtis-Kyoshi  
Larry Kraxburger-Kyoshi

Trenton Ingles-Renshi  
Jon Ludwig-Renshi  
Tony Disarro-Renshi

Janine Moore-Chutoko Shihan  
Kurt Van Sickle-Chutoko Shihan  
Jon Moore-Chutoko Shihan  
Eric Plate-Chutoko Shihan

Ray Erlandson-Shotoko Shihan  
Bart DeBaker-Shotoko Shihan  
Megan Koneval-Shotoko Shihan  
Steve Bonk-Shotoko Shihan  
Robert Lynn Kelch-Shotoko Shihan  
Kurt Hinton-Shotoko Shihan  
Ed Untalan-Shotoko Shihan  
Tom Smith-Shotoko Shihan  
James Clement-Shotoko Shihan

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**Member letter, continued**

I would like to ensure that all members have the ability to review our SKSKI bylaws and you may visit our website for a full copy. Job descriptions and dojo requirements will be outlined in the bylaws.

Look forward to seeing you all in the coming year, and will be emailing and posting updated calendars for events all over the country. If you have received this email and know of a friend that has not, please forward the email to them and copy the Moore's at ([jon@mooremartialarts.com](mailto:jon@mooremartialarts.com)) so that we can ensure the most effective communication in the Kai.

Yours for world Martial Arts,

Bruce Juchnik-Hanshi

For current SKSKI bylaws and school information go to [skski.weebly.com](http://skski.weebly.com).  
go to membership tab  
scroll to the bottom to download the pdf document of the bylaws

