



An Aikido Explorer from Brazil

I've been practicing aikido for one year and half in Brazil with my sensei Ricardo Kanashiro. When I decided to come to New Zealand, I didn't want to stop my training – because I'd stay here for more than two months.

So I started looking for a dojo here in Auckland. My sister, who lives here, helped me in my search. She found Takase sensei and called him. She liked him and sent me a message telling me "I found a dojo for you!". Before I come, I was completely anxious about the aikido here, would be the same? Could I understand a class in English? Would be my mates nice with me? I was a little afraid because I'm just fourth kyu and I don't know a lot of movements yet.

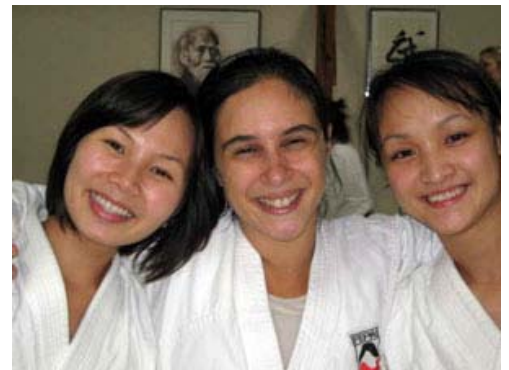
Well, two months later I can say it was one of the greatest experiences in my life! I had to express myself in a different language in order to ask how to do the movements and I had to learn how to be patient because sometimes I couldn't understand what I had to do. I also learn a lot with Takase sensei. The way he moves, the way he shows the movements was new for me. I enjoyed every single second watching him, trying to learn new ways to do "old" things and new movements as well.

I also could learn a lot with Jeanie and Sarah! As they teach kids, they had a lot of patience with me! The group in general is great – a lot of black belts! And I could not only keep training here but learning a lot.

Thank you very much, guys! Thanks for teaching me the kiwi way of practicing aikido! And, please, if you go to Brazil it will be a great pleasure have you in our dojo. I hope I see you soon!!



Nobuo Takase Shihan & Debora Rubin de Toledo



Debora with training partners
Chau (L) and Kelly (R)



Debora's last training session at
Aikido Shinryukan Hombu Dojo...until next time!



Deborah with Jeanie Benson Sensei

by Debora Rubin de Toledo 14/05/2008