



The Kensankai Quarterly

Okinawa Shorinryu Karatedo Kobudo

Summer 2025

From the Kaicho:

It was great to see so many of you in Hendersonville at the Aoyama Dojo-hosted camp. Only months after Perry sensei passed away, I had a strong impression he was



pleased to see everyone working so hard and training so sincerely.

I recently had the opportunity to teach at the Hands of Okinawa Camp hosted by Peter Polander sensei. I always enjoy when karateka from all traditions get together and share their commitment to the art. It reminds me the essence of karate is not in the differences between us but in the values we share the goals we pursue.



In only a few short weeks, we will have another opportunity to gather at the Pioneer Gasshuku hosted by the Jimmy Newton sensei. The Pioneer Gasshuku (12-13 September) brings together karate teachers and students from across the karate community and is a great way to learn the art by looking through different sets of lenses. I hope you will all make time to attend this wonderful event.



Before I left Okinawa, I had the opportunity to work with the then-president of the Okinawa Karate Kaikan Nakamura Yasushi. Nakamura sensei is the grandson of the founder of Okinawa Kenpo, Nakamura Shigeru. I spoke to Nakamura sensei about his plans to re-open his grandfather's dojo in Nago and assisted in a little network building to support his efforts. That vision is now reality.

In 2024, several Okinawa Karatedo Kobudo Kensankai members visited Okinawa and we were among the first visitors to the soon-to-open dojo. It was an awesome visit! We saw and heard some amazing history and feel the spirit in that dojo. We also met Matsuda Tatsunori sensei who trained with both Nakamura Shigeru and with Yasushi sensei's father Taketo. Matsuda sensei exuded an infectious energy and excitement as he trained with us. I truly appreciated the opportunity to meet him.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvgw_HpuBBc

Last week, I received a message from Chris Willson who lives in Nago and created the Master of Okinawa Karate series which included a segment about Perry sensei. Chris informed me he had completed another video, this time featuring Matsuda sensei. I hope you will watch the video and appreciate the skill and knowledge he has.

Finally, we have finally released the Introduction to Okinawa History and Culture course on the ChuraTi Academy website. As an association we are dedicated to not only the techniques of karate jutsu but the complete understanding of the values, history, and traditions of Okinawa Karate. This course is an introduction to a better understanding of the origins of our art. I encourage you all to enroll and complete the course.



Introduction to Okinawa History and Culture

This course provides Karateka an introduction to the geographical, geo-political, social, and economic influences...

<https://churatiacademy.thinkific.com>

I ask that you continue to train with a sincere heart. Only those who have the ability to choose violence but choose peace, can truly practice peace. As we train sincerely, we become more patient, more accepting of others, humbler, and more resilient. Some of these attributes may not sound like traits of a strong warrior but in fact, these are the very traits that require the most strength of character. Chibariyo!

Ichariba Chodee,

Jason Perry, Kaicho
Okinawa Shorinryu Karatedo Kobudo Kensankai

Just for kids

Peasant Mountaineer



A youngster climbed hills daily, in search of timber to be used for charcoal. Since the passing of his father, he was the man of the household. Demand for cooking fuel, provided income, to support his aging mother.

She, prepared a boxed lunch bundled up in a scarf, for him to carry every morning. He would hang it on a branch of a tree, to keep ants from eating the meal. One hot day, he decided to sit in the shade of the tree, to rest and relax. Collecting firewood in the fresh air of the mountains, can be an enjoyable occupation. Scents and sights in nature are a bonus, when you take time to sit and observe them.

Quite a few piles of firewood had been collected and bundled so, he decided to have a little picnic.

He smiled, stretched his sore muscles and, took off his shirt, spreading it over some pine needles. It had been such a productive morning, he might get to go home early today. When, he reached up to the branch his lunch had been tied to, something seemed strange. It felt unusually light, as he lowered it to the ground. Soon, he'd know why. Untying the knot, he opened the box of food and, it was empty. All his lunch was gone!

He shrugged and said, "Someone hungrier than, me must have taken the meal." Then, he got up and hurried, to finish his daily routine, and never gave the food a second thought.

The next day was a repetition of the same events. No other humans were encountered. All day the youngster was in the forest, never saw anyone yet, his noon meal would disappear.

Bring Two Lunches

Not to upset mother, the lad kept it a secret. No sense making her worry about him. He just told her, they had plenty of food in the house and, his hard work made him hungry. It would be nice if, he had two bundles of boxed lunches, to eat while working in the forest.

On the third day, he hiked up the mountain carrying two lunchtime meals. Arriving at an area, he decided to harvest, he hung both meals on the branch of the same tree. Noon arrived and, he discovered, all the food had been taken. He didn't get angry.

He simply said, "Whoever it is, must be awful hungry, to eat all those meals." Then, the youngster, went back to collecting wood out of the forest.

Out of the woods, came an elderly character with a lengthy white beard and, he had the meals. "I took them. To reward you for being a good hearted, charitable spirit, I'll do something for you. Travel to Nanakijyai and, I will reward you with any three wishes, you may have."

That sounded good but the young chap, had no idea, where Nanakijyai might be. The old man told him, it would be a three days and two nights trip, walking to get there. He gave back all the meals, he had appropriated and, told the boy, to head south.

Each night, before sunset, he would find a house, where he could spend the evenings.

The Journey Began

The young boy, walked to the south and, at sunset found a home, where he was welcomed. A beauty of a girl cooked him supper. The homeowner asked, where the boy's travels would take him. When he heard, Nanakijyai, he had a special request and, wanted the boy to help him. His daughter suddenly lost the ability to speak, a long time ago. The man told him that, the god of Nanakijyai, could remedy her problem. The youngster promised, he would use one wish, to thank his gracious hosts.

The following night, having hiked south all day, the lad came upon another home. He was given permission, to spend the night and, treated like royalty. He thanked the family and, was prepared to continue his travels the next morning. The man of the house discovered where the youth was headed and also had a request. He was a well to do person, who had a tree, growing on his property. It had failed to produce the colorful flowers, which usually blossomed, at this time of year. He wanted to know, "Could the young man ask, the lord at Nanakijyai, how to fix that tree?" The lad said, he would find out and, report back on his return trip.

Almost There

He had promised two of his three wishes as gratitude for others, helping him travel. The unselfish lad, knew Nanakijyai, would be reached before sundown today. Rounding a bend in the trail, he came upon a river. There was no bridge, to cross it. The lad couldn't swim. He looked up and down the river but, no boats were to be found. He discovered a charming looking lady standing near the water's edge. She approached him. When he

told her, his destination was Nanakijyai, she became excited. She said, "I'll take you there if, you can make a request, to the god, for me." She said she was a dragon, who crashed on earth and, couldn't reach the heavens anymore. She took on the human form but, could transform, to fly the boy, the short distance. If, he would ask the god of Nanakijyai, to restore her powers, she'd get him there. His heart sunk. He would have to spend, his last wish, to help this dragon-lady. It was the only way, he could get to Nanakijyai so, he agreed. The woman transformed into a monstrous dragon and flew him on her back, crossing the river. Arriving, he walked a short way and, came upon the old man, who had been confiscating lunches. The god listened to the boy's three requests and cracked a smile. He replied to the lad's favors:

"The girl, who can't speak will regain that ability, after she meets a man suitable for marriage. Tell the guy, whose flowers won't bloom, to dig under the tree. There are two pots, one containing silver, the other, gold. If he gives, half of each, to another family, the tree will blossom. The dragon, who flew you here, is a greedy witch. She has two precious gems. If, she gives one, to someone else, she'll be able, to fly off this planet. Those three wishes will be granted. Now git."

The young man was saddened. He used all of his wishes, for others and, gotten nothing in return. But he was glad that, at least he brought happiness to other beings.

Return Trip

After recrossing the river, dragon-lady deposited the boy and became the woman, again. He told her, what the god said, she needed to do, concerning the gems. She gladly, gave one to the lad and, immediately became a dragon with full powers. After thanking the boy, she quickly flew off into the clouds, never to return to this planet.

Next in the circuit, he would spend the night at the home of the man with the tree problem. The young guy told the elder, what god had said about the pots, under the roots of the tree. It was dark outside and had begun to rain. The homeowner decided to wait until morning. There was no sense in rushing, to dig in the dark and, catch a cold in the chilly rain. At dawn, they went out to begin digging. The earth had softened from the rainfall. They carefully dug around the base of the tree and, discovered two earthen urns. When the covers were removed, one was full of gold and the other contained

silver. Half the contents of each, were given to the boy and, the load would be heavy. The grateful homeowner gladly gave the lad a horse, to take on his voyage home.

Arriving at the first home, he had visited days earlier, the family was anxiously awaiting his return. The youth told the father, "When the girl meets her future husband, she will begin to speak." The lad was invited to dine, celebrate and spend another night but, he declined. He wished to hurry home and share the story of his adventures with his mother. They said goodbyes and the boy mounted the horse, to head on out the gate. As he started to leave, the girl shouted, "Don't go. I want to marry you." The young man, married into the well to do family and, brought his mother, to live with them.

And, everybody lived happily.....

Upcoming Events

今後のイベント  空手の日 10月25日

June 15 – August 10, 2025 Eisa Night

When the sun goes down, the streets of Okinawa City come alive with traditional performances.

<https://visitokinawajapan.com/discover/events/eisa-night/>



Eisa Dancers Northern VA

May 5 – August 1, 2025 Japan's Local Wonders in Films

<https://visitokinawajapan.com/discover/events/japanslocal-wonders-films/> Sanshin, dance and soul - carving rhythms that resonate with timeless hearts.

The Japan Foundation (JF) will hold a streaming project titled "Japan's Local Wonders in Films" on the free online streaming platform "JFF Theater" for three months from May 1 to August 1, 2025.

If you are in the Raleigh area, Troy Price sensei will host a seminar on August 16. Price sensei's events are always filled with quality instruction.

<https://shuritebujutsu.com/seminars%2Fevents>

Sept. 12th – 13th Pioneer Gasshuku, Shelby, NC.

For more information contact: <https://newtons-karate.com/>

NEWTON'S SHORIN-RYU KARATE AND KOBUDO

PIONEER GASSHUKU

10月12-13日

SEPTEMBER 12-13, 2025 • SHELBY, NC

小林 達 Newton's Karate 竹成 久

575 for Friday only
3:00 pm - 8:00 pm
\$125 for Saturday only
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
\$160 for Friday and Sat.
(Search included on Saturday)

Register Now!

LE GRAND CENTER
1800 East Marion St.
Shelby, NC 28150

newtonskarate@gmail.com
704-408-0828

Payment Options:
- PayPal: newtonskarate@gmail.com
- Venmo: Newton's Karate
- Cashapp: newtonskarate
- Cash
- Check: Jeremy Newton - 101 Twin Lake Dr. - Shelby, NC 28152
Make check or payable to: Newton's Karate

HOTEL INFO:
Hilton Inn & Suites - Shelby
2007 East Dean Blvd.
Shelby, NC 28150
704-487-1900

Karate no Hi: October 25, 2025 Okinawa Japan

<https://karate-event.jp/en/> (this will be released on July 18)



The Dojo Corner

General Kensanki Information

I sent an email to all Shorin-ryu Kensankai dojo owners with a request to supply me with all of their Yudansha names and email addresses. This way I can enter them into the Member Planet membership roster and send each one an invitation to join the association. Another option would be to give them my email address (birddochah@gamil.com) or phone/text me (828)606-5807, to give me their information.

If you are reading this newsletter, then you are presently a member, but check your status to make sure you do not need to add any additional information about yourself (phone numbers, recent promotions, and to see if you need to update your yearly membership fee).

Chris W. Coleman, DVM

Aoyama Dojo

Aoyama Dojo was honored to host our first Okinawan Karate Spring Camp 2025 on June 6–7 in Flat Rock, NC. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who attended and supported this event. Your energy, dedication, and positive spirit were key to making the camp a great success—creating an excellent training environment and strengthening our karate community.



This camp was also a heartfelt

tribute to Hanshi Doug Perry and the foundation he laid for us all through the building of Kensankai. A special thank you to Sensei Jason Perry, whose leadership and encouragement brought us together to focus on the core of our Shorin Ryu roots and the continued development of our shared foundation.

We are deeply grateful to the instructors who so generously shared their time, knowledge, and passion:

Kyoshi Perry (Kaicho), Hanshi Estes, Hanshi Roberts, Kyoshi Meibers, Kyoshi Harris, Kyoshi Brown, Kyoshi Ye Harbison, Kyoshi Newsom, Kyoshi Coleman, Kyoshi Shultz, Kyoshi Carver, Kyoshi Lanier, Sensei Newton, and Sensei Payne.

Your expertise and dedication were essential to the success of the camp, and we thank you for your invaluable contributions.



A special shout-out to Kyoshi Meibers and Kyoshi Harris for their outstanding leadership of the Women's Self-Defense Class. The overwhelmingly positive feedback speaks for itself—this class was a clear highlight and deeply meaningful for all who participated.

We'd also like to thank our team of incredible volunteers. From setting up training areas to assisting throughout the weekend, your behind-the-scenes efforts ensured the camp ran smoothly. Your support was truly appreciated by everyone involved.

The quality of instruction throughout the camp was exceptional. It was inspiring to see participants fully engaged—eager to refine their techniques, expand their skills, and build meaningful connections with fellow karateka. We hope you found the experience rewarding, the training valuable, and left feeling refreshed and inspired.



We were especially pleased with the Introduction to Karate class, led by the Belues, which welcomed many new faces to the dojo. This session was a fantastic starting point for those just beginning their karate journey. After all, this is where it all begins—taking that first step and allowing karate to change us for life.

Looking ahead, we hope to see many of you at Sensei Jimmy Newton's Pioneer Gasshuku this September—another exciting opportunity to train and grow together.

And finally, please mark your calendars for next year's Okinawan Karate Spring Camp 2026!

📅 May 29–30, 2026

Be sure to save the dates! For updates on registration and other important information, follow us on our Facebook page. We'll be posting regular announcements there to keep you informed.

Thank you once again for being part of such a meaningful and memorable event. We look forward to training with you again soon!

With gratitude,

The Belues – Aoyama Dojo

Traveling?

You can still train while you travel:

Kensankai Dojos:

- **Aoyama Dojo:** Ben & Jamie Belue; 14 Reeds Way, Flat Rock, NC. (828) 6067855 <https://www.aoyamadojo.com/>
- **The Renbukan Dojo:** Kevin Roberts; 182A Bradley Branch Road, Arden, NC 28704 <http://www.therenbukan.com>
- **Small Forest Karate:** Tom Harris: 796 Poquoson Ave, Poquoson, VA 23662. (757) 868-8798 <http://www.smallforestkarate.com/>
- **Newton's Karate;** Jimmy Newton: 1620 S Dekalb St., Shelby, NC 28152. (704) 408-0828 <https://newtons-karate.com/>
- **Shorin-Ryu Karate and Kobudo Kensankai Dojo** – Joe Lanier: 1901 Hwy 414, Travelers Rest, SC
- **RVA Karate** - Aaron Payne: 10800 Center View Dr., Richmond, VA 23235. (804) 348-8034 <https://rvakarate.com>

If you are traveling somewhere else in the country and want to train or are traveling overseas and need an introduction to a dojo in the area, please contact Jason Perry at

Jason.perry@shorinryukensankai.org.

Resources

List of Dojos in Okinawa:

<https://okic.okinawa/en/> YouTube

Video:

[Getting to Know Japan: The History of Karate in Okinawa-Colonel Jason Perry](#)



My Memories of Sensei Perry

At the Aoyama Dojo-hosted camp this last June, the Spring Kensankai Newsletter was handed out. On the last page you were invited to share a story of your memories of Sensei Perry. Below is one that was shared with us. Thank you, Ben Dorr.



One morning I was in class practicing Sai Kata. I had a low-quality pair of sai. One of the whiru (sp?) had lost it's pommel while working bo/sai kata. Sensei Perry stopped class halfway through kata and looked at5 my sai, then me, then my sai and once again at me. While saying nothing, the look on his face was enough!

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