



The Kensankai Quarterly

Okinawa Shorinryu Karatedo Kobudo

Fall 2025

Kaicho Corner Fall 2025:

I am writing this quarter's note from the airplane on my way home from an outstanding 5th Annual Pioneer Gasshuku hosted by Jimmy Newton Sensei. I am a little sore, a little tired, and could not be happier that I was able to spend the weekend with such high caliber teachers and committed karateka. I want to express my gratitude and my compliments to everyone who attended.



A special congratulations to Jimmy Newton Sensei for his promotion to Rokudan.



I also want to congratulate our new Shodan. The word Shodan in Japanese is made up of two characters - 初段. The first character means first. Notice this is not the same as the cardinal number 1. In subsequent ranks the cardinal numbers are used, for example, Nidan, Sandan, and so forth. The second character means level or step (as in stairs). Shodan, literally means "first level." The character is also used in the word for beginner or shoshinsha (初心者). In karate, Shodan is the first level or the first step in the process of mastering the art. It is the first step, not a finish line. To all of our Shodan, I hope you feel a sense of accomplishment but at the same time I hope you recognize that this is not the end of a road, but rather, the beginning of a lifelong pursuit.

This 25th of October is Karate no Hi in Okinawa. On October 25, 1936, the Okinawa Shinpo newspaper (still a prominent newspaper in Okinawa) hosted a meeting at the Showa Kaikan in Naha. There, leaders from across the Okinawa Karate community gathered to finalize the name of the art, to formally adopt a uniform, and discuss how to best promote the art throughout Japan. Chibana Choshin Sensei attended that meeting as one of the leaders of the movement to "modernize" traditional karate. We remember that historic day on the 25th.

One of my fondest memories from Okinawa was participating in the annual 100 Karate Kata Challenge hosted by our good friend James Pankiewicz Sensei. The event will be held in Naha but participants from all over the world join in a day of celebrating our art.

More information on the 2025 Challenge at <https://challengeokinawa.com/100katachallenges/>

Here is a link to me participating a few years ago at the old Chinese quarter of Naha called Kumemura.

https://youtu.be/R6zC-05aosI?si=CMmn0RiE8Lf_7Av

Finally, in November, the Okinawa Karate Promotion Branch (Shinkokai) is sending a delegation of teachers from Okinawa to promote the International Tournament scheduled for August 2026. If you are near Washington D.C. or Atlanta, Georgia in November, please take the opportunity to attend this event. I am happy to see my friend Gibo Takehiko on the roster. His father, Gibo Giyu, is a longtime friend of me and my father. Gibo Sensei is known throughout Okinawa for his ability with weapons and regularly teaches at Prefectural seminars. Please see more about his event in this quarter's newsletter.

Finally, I wish you all a Happy Holiday season. We will celebrate Thanksgiving in November and Christmas and Hanukkah in December. These are special seasons of showing gratitude and for giving. Take care of each other. Train hard.

Ichariba chodee
Jason Perry
Okinawa Shorinryu Karatedo Kobudo Kensankai

Just for kids

Okinawan Folktale:

Did the Bride

Become a Calf?

Beautiful Chiru-gwa



Mother worried about her single daughter Chiru-gwa and, who she would marry. All the well to do young men wanted her hand in marriage. She would seek the advice of God, by praying outside Sonohyan Utaki.

A deadbeat of a man called Tara, learned of the mother's praying at the utaki. He devised a plan, to insure, Chiru-gwa, would become his wife. Early one morning, he hid in the bushes, behind the stone gate, of the sacred site. The mother was bowed with folded hands, praying in front of the gates. From within, came a deep voice, telling her, "God speaking, listen to me, carefully. On your journey home today, you will meet the best man for your daughter, to marry." The mother, thanked God, bowed and started on her trip towards home. Rounding a bend in the road, she met a smiling Tara. Everybody knew he was a no good slouch but, the word from the heavens must be followed. Chiru-gwa, would soon become Tara's wife.

A Wedding Was Arranged

One moonlight night, Tara dispatched a palanquin to bring home his bride. The two men carrying her got tired and stopped alongside the road to take a rest. Having had way too much to drink, they soon fell asleep. Along came the King and his entourage, returning to Shuri Castle from a day on a hunt. The King wanted to know, who was inside the palanquin. He was told, there was a bride, crying in there and, two drunk men snoring

in the grass. He asked Chiru-gwa, why she was crying, felt sorry for her and invited her to the castle. He told the servants to place a calf in the palanquin and, they departed.

Next Morning

The palanquin bearers woke up with the sun and, hurried along with their load. A large gathering was waiting to meet the bride, at Tara's House. When he opened the palanquin, a frightened calf, jumped out. The crowd laughed. They figured this was God's way of rewarding the idiot, Tara. He became angry and took the calf to Chiru-gwa's mother and, said he didn't want it. The mother was saddened and, worried, God may have done this to her daughter.

A Message from the King

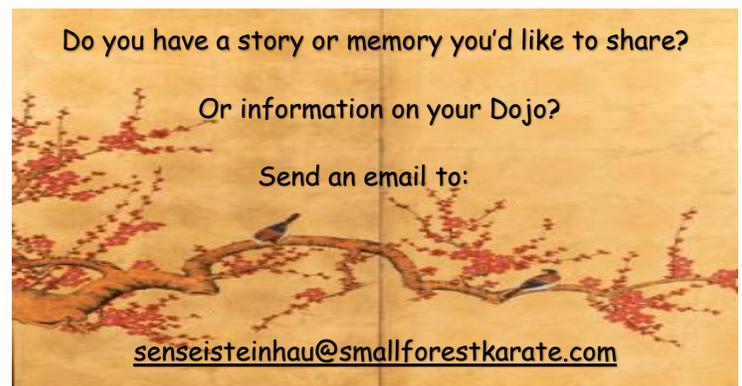
A servant from Shuri instructed Chiru-gwa's mother to bring the calf to the castle. She bathed and brushed the calf, to present it to the King. At the castle, she was greeted by the Queen. The Queen exclaimed, "Mother" and hurried over to kiss her.

Chiru-gwa had become the King's bride.

Reminder:

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. All are encouraged to enroll and complete the course.

<https://churatiacademy.thinkific.com>



Upcoming Events

今後のイベント  空手の日 10月25日

Karate Day

October 25 – 26, 2025

Celebrate karate, the martial art with roots that can be traced back 700 years

Perhaps the most famous of all martial arts, karate embodies shurei-no-kokoro—the spirit of courtesy—a guiding tenet of both karate and life as a whole on Okinawa. Join thousands of others on Kokusai Street in Naha on October 25, Karate Day, as karate practitioners demonstrate their finely disciplined skills. A special dedicatory demonstration is also performed at the Shurei no Yakata dojo in Okinawa Karate Kaikan. In 2016, Naha’s Karate Day celebrations featured in the Guinness World Records for the most people (3973) performing a kata.

<https://karate-event.jp/en/>



The 2025 even will be held as a special project commemorating the “20th Anniversary of Karate Day” and the “80th Anniversary of Postwar Peace Memorial Project.”

SAVE THE DATE:

Aoyama Dojo Okinawan Karate Spring Camp. Please join us on Friday, May 29th, and Saturday, May 30th, 2026. We invite you—students, friends, family, and anyone interested in Okinawan Karate, no matter your style—to train with us. The camp is held at Blue Ridge Community College in Flat Rock, NC.

You can find the registration information at aoyamadojo.com. We will have more details coming out soon. We hope to see you there.

Aoyama Dojo



Seminar to promote the International Tournament with a delegation of teachers from Okinawa

General Kensankai Information

Membership is slowly growing this year. Individuals who are listed in the Member Planet database that received initial invitations to join in the past but did not go so far as to pay their dues were sent invitations again. In addition, Jimmy Newton promoted ten of his Ikkyu to Shodan during last month’s Pioneer Gasshuku in Shelby, NC. A big congratulations to those students.

The requirements to promote into and through the black belt ranks can vary depending on your individual Sensei and Dojo. Traditionally there is a test to evaluate your Karate do and Kobudo skills. Hojo Undo, Kumite, language and cultural knowledge may also be required. But, before you can receive a promotion certificate from the Kaicho of the Okinawa Shorinryu Kensankai Association, you must be a paid member in good standing of the association. Check your member status through the Member Planet app. To make sure you are up to date. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Chris W. Coleman, DVM
(828)-606-5807
birddochah@gmail.com



The Dojo Corner

Aoyama Dojo

We're back from Sensei Jimmy Newton's Pioneer Gasshuku, and we're still feeling the energy from the weekend. It's always more than just a seminar. It feels like a family reunion, where the family is connected by a shared respect for the path we walk in our karate journey. We wanted to share some thoughts from our time there.

The best part, hands down, was seeing everyone. A huge part of that community celebration was witnessing the promotions. A heartfelt congratulations to all the new Shodans. Earning that rank is a monumental step, and it was an honor to be there for it. Your hard work has brought you to this point, and now a new chapter of your journey begins. We encourage you to keep training and growing into your new rank.

Of course, a special congratulations to our host and friend, Sensei Jimmy Newton, on his promotion to Rokudan. It's a remarkable achievement that reflects his dedication and was an inspiration to witness. Jimmy, thank you for all your hard work in putting this event together. You continue to do such a good job for the community. The camp ran smoothly, allowing us to be present and focus on the training and connections.

While we spent much of our time training with familiar faces and deepening our own practice, one of the great benefits of a camp like this is the cross-pollination of ideas. It was nice to witness some of the other styles and different ways of doing things and take some of those classes. Seeing the art through a different lens, even for a class, helps keep our karate from becoming stagnant. It reminds us that the world of karate is vast and there's always a new perspective to appreciate.

We hope to build on that feeling of connection and discovery. It inspires us to continue the tradition and host our own camps. With the Aoyama Dojo Okinawan Karate Spring Camp.

The Belue Family

Newtown's Karate

Greetings! I hope everyone is healthy and training hard. We have had an exciting few months at our dojo. We recently hosted AAU and WUKF national champion for a kumite clinic for our athletes that compete in tournaments.

Our 5th annual Pioneer Gasshuku was a huge success with participants from CO, CA, NJ, PA, FL, GA, VA, SC and NC! We really appreciate everyone's support and dedication to making this an event worth attending. This year we did something we've never done before and did a surprise Shodan for my students. I gave them all a very hard work out 2 weeks prior, and Kyoshi Perry was able to work with them an hour before the official camp start time and they thought they were prepping for December. Little did they know that we would promote.

It was very well deserved and I'm very proud of all of them.



Our classes for youth teens and adults are growing and we are keeping Perry Sensei's spirit alive with stories, lessons and hard training.

To everyone reading this, I truly appreciate any role you've played in shaping myself and students and hope our paths cross sooner than later!!

All our visiting students really enjoyed the instruction and the camaraderie at the camp. They are all looking forward to the next one.

Jimmy Newton

Small Forest Karate

Small Forest Karate would really like to thank Renshi Jimmy Newton and his team for an excellent Pioneer Gasshuku.



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](#)



Kyoshi Estes teaching kama



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, Kyoski Harris.

Among many of the great things that Hanshi Doug Perry taught me over our years together was that karate is a lifelong endeavor and an unbelievable journey. The shared adventures and lessons help make us into the martial artists we are today. When I would get excited and think I had reached a significant understanding of a piece of our karate, he would say, “That is great Tom, but now look at it this way.”

I have a note he wrote me in a small picture frame that I read every day.

**“It’s not enough to do,
you must also become”**

We are Karate.

Never be satisfied. There is always more.