



The Kensankai Quarterly

Okinawa Shorinryu Karatedo Kobudo

Spring 2026

Kaicho Corner Spring 2026:

This quarter found me in Japan from January to early April with a few quick trips home between events. Most enjoyable was our trip to Okinawa in March. It was great to see old friends and to meet new friends. The Okinawa saying “Ichariba Chodei” resonated with me time and again. “Once we meet we are brothers.”



Okinawa karate is, in my view, at an inflection point. Leadership of several larger organizations in Okinawa is passing from father to son. I am happy to be a part of that transition. As my father's generation of Okinawa teachers ages, I am happy to call their son's my friends. Shimabukuro Zenpo sensei graciously opened his dojo to us. His son, Zenshun is moving forward with confidence. The Uechi family lineage from Kanbun continues with Sadanao sensei who has become a good friend. Gibo sensei's son Takahiko also remains active and I was glad to see him during our visit. It was also our privilege to train with Matsuda Sensei in the Nakijin Dojo of Nakamura Shigeru's lineage of Okinawa Kenpo.



We were privileged to travel with Tim Jurgens sensei and to train with his teacher Akamine Hiroshi Sensei. I did not have the opportunity to meet Hiroshi sensei when I lived in Okinawa, so it was an honor to be invited to his dojo and to have him teach us the Eaku. As expected, he

is an incredibly capable karateka who has dignity, humility, and kindness I aspire to.

Upon my return to the U.S., we learned of the passing of Steve Curley Sensei. Steve sensei was a dedicated karateka. He always had a smile on his face. Similarly, he was never far from a ukulele and would not hesitate to play at the drop of a hat regardless of time or location. His celebration of life was a testament to the family he created in the dojo. We will stay in touch with his students and will continue to support them as they carry on. Until we meet again, Steve.



I look forward to seeing everyone at the Shorinryu Kensankai Aoyama Dojo Spring Camp later this month. This is an opportunity for us to reunite and train together. These moments are invaluable to building lasting relationships.

We also look forward to September when we will have the opportunity to train again at the Pioneer Gasshuku. Please make the time to attend both.

Chibariyo!

Jason Perry

Kaicho

Okinawa Shorinryu Karatedo Kobudo Kensankai

PS. I have included a link to Chris Wilson's video of Matsuda sensei.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=im76ssc8bj8>

Just for kids

Okinawan Folktale:

Okinawan Folktale: Red Butt of a Japanese Monkey

Surprise a Rich Man's Reward



Many years ago, a poor traveler visited a wealthy man's home. It was New Year's Eve, and he was looking for shelter from the cold for one night. The rich man and his family were preparing for the New Year and, he chased the traveler away. Next, the traveler stopped at the home of a poor couple next door. They had a small home and, no food to offer but, he invited the traveler in, to stay warm. He saw an empty cooking pot hanging above the fireplace and asked them to fill it with water. As the water began to boil, he began to chant and, soon the pot was filled with food. Seeing the poor couple eating a meal, it made the stranger smile. He asked them to make one wish, and he would see if he could make it come true. They decided to request to become a young couple, again. The traveler (who was really a god) told them to refill the pot with water. As the water warmed, he chanted and sprinkled their bodies with warm liquid. Soon, their old bodies became young, again.

New Years Day

On the morning of the New Year, the couple went to greet their neighbors. At first, the rich man didn't recognize the poor couple. They explained what had happened to them, due to the kindness of the strange traveler. Now, the wealthy man wanted to see the traveler. When he found him, an invitation was extended to visit the rich man's home. He promised the traveler riches if he could work his magic on the wealthy family. The traveler told the rich man to fill a pot with water and boil it. Before the god began his chant, the rich man started sprinkling water on the family. The wife turned into a dog, the daughter a crow, son a goat and, rich man, a monkey. The animals all fled the house and headed for the mountains. The home was abandoned so, the traveler told the poor couple to move in and, they did.

Return of the Monkey

Soon, the monkey started visiting the yard and, he would sit on a rock. There, he screamed at the couple, "This is my home. Get out of here!" The couple ignored the animal and shooed it away. The monkey returned every day and became louder and more verbally abusive each time. Contacting the traveler for advice, he told them what to do. "Boil water and pour it on the stone, the monkey sits on every day." They did it, just before the monkey arrived, the next morning. When he came, to shout his usual obscenities, he sat on the rock and burned his fanny. He ran back into the woods in the mountains, screaming in pain.

And never came back to haunt the young couple again.

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>



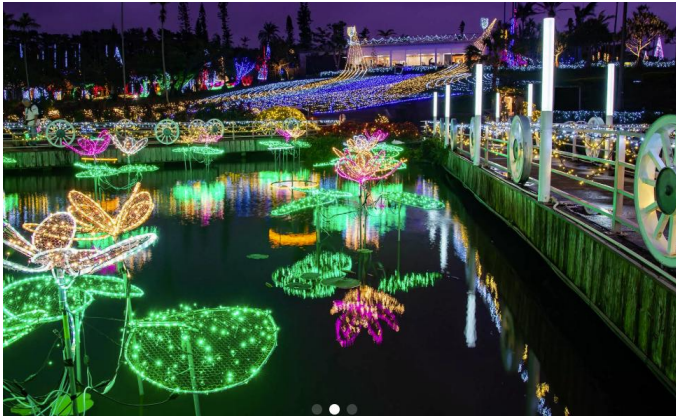
Upcoming Events

今後のイベント  空手の日 10月25日

Southeast Botanical Gardens Illumination

Oct. 24, 2025 – May 24, 2026

Enjoy millions of holiday lights in a display that blends nature and the magic of illumination



Okinawa Flower Carnival

Jan. 1 – May 31, 2026

See gorgeous outdoor flower displays from January to May at various events throughout Okinawa



Naha Hari/Hare

May 3 – May 5, 2026

Watch as mighty dragons race along the waves in Okinawa's largest dragon boat racing event



Ie Island Lily Festival

April 25 – May 05, 2026



Over 100 varieties of lilies grace the fields of Ie Island in April at Japan's earliest lily festival

2nd Annual Okinawan Karate Camp

Camp May 29 – 30, 2029

See for additional information:

<https://www.aoyamadojo.com/>

6th Annual Pioneer Gasshuku

September 11 – 12, 2026

See for more information:

<https://newtons-karate.com/>

General Kensankai Information

In the last newsletter I mentioned that one of the requirements for promotion through the black belt ranks and receiving a certificate from the Kensankai association is to be a paid member of the association. When a person is sent an invitation via Member Planet to join, they would be required to fill out certain information about themselves and pay the present \$25.00 dues which should be renewed on a yearly basis. You can pay such dues by opting to allow automatic withdrawal with a credit card. In this manner you would be notified through email a year later that a withdrawal will be occurring soon, therefore keeping your membership current continuously.

Recently I have become aware through an individual that he did not use the automatic withdrawal option and just paid with a credit card for membership for one year. Apparently with this option he was not notified of his upcoming membership renewal and when he realized he was behind, he could not find a way through the Member Planet platform to update his dues. What I eventually ended up doing is deleting him from the member roster and resending him an invitation to join again, which worked. If you have experienced an inability to update your membership, please contact me so we can resolve the issue.

Chris W. Coleman, DVM
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The Dojo Corner

Aoyama Dojo

We, along with others from our dojo, traveled to Okinawa this spring. It was a pleasure to train with our fellow karateka and with traditional Okinawa Sensei. 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

Hello everyone! I hope everyone is in good spirits and training is going well.

This June marks our 20th anniversary of sharing what I love!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in at Sensei Belue's camp in May! Classes have been busy, and we have been trying to encourage our upper belt students to put themselves out there and attend different seminars and events. I think it's good for people to see a different perspective and learn things that will enhance their own personal growth. Other events we've taken part in or will be attending is an Oyata-Te seminar that was in Columbia and the 2026 International Conference in June. We are also excited to be hosting our 6th annual Pioneer Gasshuku in September.

I have also had the privilege to teach at a local park. I offered to do a youth class, female only class and a class for adults over 50. My goal was so that the public could see that there are many facets to what all karate can bring and teach different lessons to different demographics.

Our dojo also partnered with the local Boys and Girls Club. We offer a scholarship to a select male and female. If their grades remain 3.0 and above and have no behavior problems at home or school, they can remain and the contract will stay in place. It's anonymous and only the family of the student and the Boys and Girls Club know.

Although I still don't consider us a "tournament dojo", we do still participate and have had a good run this year. We've recently competed in NC, GA, SC and VA events. I have one student, Brody Thackerson who went to Chicago for the prestigious John Fonsesca Cup as well Las Vegas to the AAU North American International Event. The Las Vegas event had 82 clubs from 14 different countries, and this young man earned 3 gold medals in 3 different divisions of kumite. He is traveling to Chicago this weekend to try out for the AAU National team and was also selected for the WIKF National team. He will be competing in Athens, Greece in October. Through community fundraising, we have collected almost 3,000.00 to help with his travel costs. Again, I've never pushed tournaments and only usually attend two or three annually, however I'm very proud of the students that enjoy competing.

I'd also like to recognize Sensei Mackenzie Glaser. She's currently at Paris Island and will be serving our country in the United States Marine Corps. It's been really amazing to watch our young students excel.

In closing, it all comes down to training and pushing yourself past your comfort zone. By surrounding ourselves with other high level martial artists and really looking closely at what we are doing... we all improve, and that is the ultimate goal.

Karate has opened doors for our students to travel down different roads, and start to make their own long lasting relationships. Thank you for allowing me to share and hope to see all of you soon!

Jimmy Newton

Small Forest Karate

Members from Small Forest Karate joined other Karateka in Okinawa to visit and train with some really great traditional Okinawa Sensei.



Sensei Steinhau, Sensei Harris and Sankyu Tony Risk, along with Sensei Sutton Knight from the RVA Karate Dojo, trained in multiple styles with numerous Sensei who, with open hearts, shared their art with us. It was a pleasure and an honor to have this privilege.



Thank you to all involved for making it a great adventure. We look forward to our next one!

May your karate journey be one of great adventures.

With thanks,

Thomas Harris

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
- **Okinawan Shorin-Ryu Kensankai Karate & Kobudo Dojo**; Patrick Lang D:
2314 Asheville Hwy, Unit C,
Hendersonville, NC 28791.
(828) 697-6878
<http://www.hendersonvilleshorinryukarate.com/>
- **RVA Karate** - Aaron Payne: 10800
Center View Dr., Richmond, VA 23235.
(804) 348-8034
<https://rvakarate.com>
- **Taylor's Karate Academy**: Dave Johnson;
4308 Glade Rd, Mount. Airy, GA 30563
(706) 716-0225

Traveling Continued:

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 a in June 2025. The Spring Kensankai Newsletter was handed out. On the last page you were invited to share a story of your memories of Sensei Perry. Please share a story with us that you have with Sensei Perry.

Below is one that was shared with us. Thank you, Chris Coleman.

About 20 years ago I decided to bake pies. I had never baked a pie before then, and as a matter of fact I did not do any baking at all, but I had just read a book called “American Pie”. It was written by a journalist who lived in San Francisco and took a job in New York. She decided, in her move to New York, to drive across the country and stop in small to large towns along the way to find who made the best pie in town. It’s a fascinating story about the people she met along the way and unique pie recipes.

I knew Sensei Perry had a powerful sweet tooth and would always bring him a slice of the latest pie I had just baked. He would critique it for me and after a while I got to know his favorites.

As the holidays approached that year, I asked him if he would like a fresh baked pie for Thanksgiving and Christmas. He agreed that it would be nice, as family always congregated at the Perry house and all he knew how to cook was “Cheese Toast”. Thus began a tradition of me showing up the day before Thanksgiving and Christmas with a pie.

After about 15 years of doing this, I got to wondering if maybe he was just agreeing to accepting the pies because he didn’t want to tell me no? Maybe he threw them in the trash can or gave them to someone else after I left. I guess I wondered if I was just imposing on him to accept them! So, I asked him one day when I dropped by for a visit if he truly wanted me to continue to bring them. We were in his “office” (cubbyhole corner garage with a space heater and dim desk light) and he leaned over to get in my face and said “Coleman, if you don’t show up here with my pies, YOU WILL NEVER HEAR THE ROUND GO OFF”.

How many times have we heard that phrase? As the holidays approached this year, I will have to say, I will miss baking him pies.

Chris W. Coleman, DVM



Working hard as we await our next adventure!

