



## Upcoming Dates:

### ◆ February

14th - Happy Valentines Day!!  
(dojo open)



23rd - Children's Kata  
Tournament

24th & 25th - Pioneer Days

### ◆ March

28th - Federation Dues  
Deadline \*

29th - Good Friday (Dojo  
Closed)

### ◆ April

13th - Testing/Promotions

16th - KK Testing

## \* ATTENTION!

### Black Belt & Adult Students

Please pay your Federation  
Dues for 2024

BB's = \$25  
Adults = \$13

Cash, Credit Card or Check  
made out to "Mike Ritter"  
accepted.

Get connected  
with your dojo  
community on  
facebook:

**Orlando  
Okinawan  
Shorin ryu  
Karate-do**

# The Shuri Gate

Okinawan Shorin-ryu Karate-do  
3340 Curry Ford Road, Orlando, FL 32806  
407-897-3642, okinawanshorinryu.com



February 2024

We are sincerely moved by the outpouring of support and love and  
the fantastic job everyone did at the demo this past Christmas.  
Thank you so much, dojo family!



Sincerely, Kyoshi &  
Renshi Gaudoin

## STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

KinderKarate  
*Jayda Vasquez*  
Children's Class  
*Bella Manzano*  
Adult Class  
*Jorge Reyes*

## Welcome New Students

*Phyllis Pinon*  
*Dakota Slayter*  
*Isaiah Maeztu*  
*Ariely Araujo*

## January Testing

### KinderKarate Class

Jack Dierdorff yellow stripe belt  
Riley McKinnon yellow stripe belt  
Elisha Philyaw yellow stripe belt, orange tip  
Jayda Vasquez yellow stripe belt, orange tip



### Children's Class

Michael Wilkes white 2 tips  
August Boxley white 3 tips  
Elliot Boxley white 3 tips  
Garrison Hillyer white 3 tips  
Alexander Orsaeo yellow belt  
Nicholas Poulos yellow belt  
Filippo Raimondo yellow belt  
Cole Ramsey yellow belt  
Annabelle Wilkes yellow belt  
Leonor Ronda yellow 1 tip  
Teo Saraiva yellow 2 tips  
Amelia Webster yellow 3 tips  
Bella Manzano orange belt  
Essex Dunham orange 3 tips  
Charleston Hayes orange 3 tips  
Harrison Hayes orange 3 tips  
Benny Philyaw red belt  
Thomas Poore red 1 tip  
Theon Spicer blue belt



### Adult Class

Emily Ramsey 8th kyu  
Jorge Reyes 8th kyu  
Diego Lasanta 6th kyu  
Joseph Pinon 6th kyu  
Dawn Moncrief 2nd kyu  
Sakhan Yith 2nd kyu



### **Cherry Blossom Festival** by Lillian Dukes, Purple Belt

Japan hosts a beautiful festival called Hanami, also known as the Cherry Blossom Festival, to celebrate the arrival of spring. Have you ever wondered about the origin of this fascinating festival?

During the Nara period (710-794), farmers prayed under cherry trees. The farmers believed that the cherry blossoms signified a full harvest. These prayers slowly changed into a festival and then during the Edo period (1603-1868), common citizens started having banquets under the trees. Today, the festival is a vibrant display of music, food, and beauty that attracts visitors from all over the world.

The cherry blossom season occurs from the end of March into the month of May. Festivals are held all over the country of Japan. At the cherry blossom festival, they have picnics with brewed alcohol made from fermented rice. Some common foods at these picnics are rice balls, called onigiri, grilled meat, fish, and vegetables. Sweet treats are also very common such as tamagoyaki (a rolled egg omelet dipped in soy sauce and sugar). Another dessert is made from sweet red bean pastes called anko and mochi. Mochi is a delicious sticky rice cake that is under the category of wagashi (traditional Japanese sweets). They also have tea ceremonies which often feature tea wares. Cultural experiences include live performances and cultural displays, and at the end, paper lanterns are commonly lit when the sun goes down and they shine down on the cherry blossom trees.

The best places to go for hanami are Ueno Park, Shinjuku Gyoen Park, Hirosaki Castle, Kawazu, Sumida Park, and the Meguro River.

The cherry blossom festival is filled with picnics, beauty, and an amazing long history. It started with farmers praying under the trees to bless their harvest and it evolved into a celebration held nationwide from March to May. These festivals include picnics with a lot of food, cultural displays, live entertainment, and paper lanterns at night. Go and see the cherry blossom festival and all its amazing sights!

### **Matsubayashi-Ryu History**

After the Japanese surrendered to the United States in World War II, Grand Master Shoshin Nagamine was sent to a village called Iraha where he did odd jobs for the wounded at the back of the hospital. Nagamine eventually returned to the police department where he worked as a policeman before the war. In 1951 he was promoted to Police Superintendent and was appointed head of the Motobu Police Station where he trained young policemen in Judo for the purpose of participating in an All-Okinawan Judo Tournament. He incorporated karate as well into their training and his team ended up winning this tournament! Pleased with the result of his efforts as the head of the Motobu Police Station, he resigned from the post to pursue his main purpose of building a karate dojo.

Nagamine opened his first dojo in 1942 where it was later destroyed during the war. He founded Matsubayashi-Ryu in 1947 and opened a temporary dojo in 1948. He finally opened his permanent dojo in Naha in 1953 and called it Matsubayashi-Ryu Kodan Karate and Ancient Martial Arts Studies. The name Matsubayashi-Ryu was in part chosen in honor of two of the most important teaching masters, Sensei Sokon Matsumura of Shuri and Sensei Kosaku Matsumura of Tomari.

[Excerpts from "The History of Matsubayashi-Ryu" by Sakhan Yith, 2nd Kyu]



# ***Birthdays***

## **February**

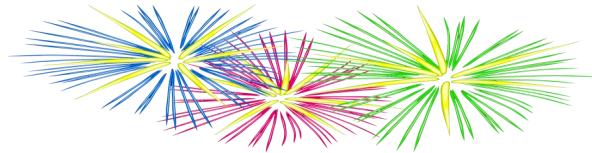
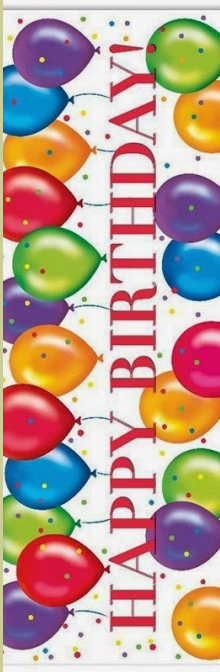
Elisha Philyaw 2nd  
Joseph Pinon 15th  
August Boxley 19th  
Derek Nail 25th

## **March**

Emily Ramsey 1st  
Sensei Colleen Boyle 4th  
Annabelle Wilkes 23rd  
Jack Dierdorff 27th

## **April**

Sensei Cynthia Dang 5th  
Sensei Mark Baird 9th  
Nicholas Poulos 9th  
Tom Sorrells 22nd  
Leonor Ronda 24th



"LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE."  
***1 Corinthians 16 : 14***



## **CHILDREN ' S CLASS KATA TOURNAMENT**

**DATE:** FRIDAY – FEBRUARY 23RD, 2024  
**TIME:** 6:00 –7:00PM  
**ENTRY FEE:** \$1.00 PER CHILD

Students will be grouped by rank and judged by a panel of sensei's on a 10 point scale.

Awards will be given to  
1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners.

**LET ' S SEE SOME AMAZING KATA ' S !**

*Support your dojo  
by writing a  
review on Yelp!*



## **2024 Dojo Hike!**

**Date:** Saturday - February, 17th  
**Time:** 8am at site or 7am at dojo for carpooling  
**Location:** Lil' Econ - Barr Street Trailhead  
951 Barr Street  
Oviedo, FL 32765

Family fun for all dojo members and friends!  
This is a leisurely walk in the woods, we expect to do only around 4-5 miles. We explore, watch for wildlife, cut-up some and have a blast.

Be prepared to bring snacks/lunch, sunscreen, good walking shoes, maybe a hat, a walking stick if needed, a bottle of water and your camera.

There is a sign up sheet on the dojo ledge. Please put your name on it so we know how many people to expect. Meet at the dojo between 7 and 7:15am for carpooling. It may take up to 30 minutes of driving to get to our destination.

If meeting us at the site, we expect to start the hike at 8:00am...SHARP!

**Contacts:**  
Sensei Barnes 407-765-6293  
Sensei Baird 407-415-9538