



### UPCOMING DATES:

#### ◆ May

11th -



26th - Memorial Day  
Dojo Closed

#### ◆ June

14th - Dojo Beach Party!!  
(See pg. 4 for more info.)

15th -



#### ◆ July



4th - Independence Day  
Dojo Closed

7th & 8th - Testing/Promotions  
(during class-time)

8th - KK Testing

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**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](http://OkinawanShorinRyu.com)



May 2025

## Congratulations!

To Sensei Chuck Renfro and Sensei Tom Sorrells  
on their latest Black Belt promotions in March.  
These two gentlemen worked very hard and have  
made our dojo family proud!



Sensei Chuck Renfro  
Sandan Rank

Sensei Tom Sorrells  
Nidan Rank

### STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

KinderKarate

*Apaullo Hoffmann*

Children's Class

*Reeve Stephens*

Adult Class

*Doris Herrero*

### Welcome New Students

*Mia Margio*

*Miles Margio*

*Jason Pickering*

*Mark Pickering*

*Gavin Jacobson*

## April Testing

### KinderKarate Class

Apaullo Hoffmann white belt yellow tip  
Gabriel Ruiz yellow stripe belt  
Sebastian DeSalvo yellow stripe belt orange tip  
John Pastrana orange stripe belt  
Jack Dierdorff blue stripe belt

### Children's Class

Mia Margio white 1 tip  
Miles Margio white 1 tip  
Blair Raker white 2 tips  
Wilder Brady white 3 tips  
Riley McKinnon white 3 tips  
Zachary Conser yellow belt  
Reeve Stephens yellow belt  
Garrison Hillyer yellow 3 tips  
Remi Spicer yellow 3 tips  
Elliot Boxley orange belt  
Taylor Hardisty orange 1 tip  
Alexander Orsaeo orange 1 tip  
Nicholas Poulos orange 1 tip  
Michael Wilkes orange 1 tip  
Ariely Araujo orange 2 tips  
Filippo Raimondo orange 2 tips  
Amelia Webster red belt  
Annabelle Wilkes red belt  
Bella Manzano red 1 tip  
Charleston Hayes blue belt  
Harrison Hayes blue belt  
Essex Dunham blue 1 tip  
Theon Spicer purple 1 tip



### Adult Class

Elijah Dukes 4th kyu  
Doris Herrero 2nd kyu  
Diamara Cheatwood 1st kyu



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



## **The Uniqueness of Japanese Culture** by Diamara Ruiz Cheatwood, 1st Kyu

The Japanese people are often regarded as unique and special, distinguished by their rich culture and way of living. Central to their identity is the concept of “Shikata,” which refers to their methodical approach to doing things. This essay explores the elements that make Japanese culture exceptional, including their emphasis on harmony, the importance of kata, and their deep appreciation for beauty in nature.

### **The Concept of Shikata**

At the heart of Japanese culture is the principle of shikata, which underscores the importance of doing things correctly and ethically. Historically, before World War II, the Japanese were known for their humility, kindness, generosity, and trustworthiness, traits that were cultivated in a society rooted in agriculture. As Japan opened its doors to foreign visitors, the desire to understand and integrate different cultures led to a flourishing of arts and literature. The concept of kata emerged, providing structured methods for thinking, reading, writing, and even eating. These katas established a moral framework and a shared way of living, reinforcing social cohesion.

### **Shikata of Harmony**

A vital aspect of Japanese culture is the pursuit of harmony, which is reflected in their social interactions. The Japanese strive to eliminate envy, discourage individualism, and suppress excessive talent. This cultural harmony is encapsulated in the concept of “amae,” which describes a nurturing love akin to that between a mother and her child. This relationship fosters trust and dependency, leading to strict guidelines governing interactions between family members. The proper functioning of “bun” (life roles) relies on individuals understanding their place in society and adhering to prescribed behaviors that emphasize honesty, integrity and selflessness. This structured approach to relationships promotes a sense of social harmony based on love and respect.

### **Recovery and Resilience**

The Japanese spirit of harmony played a crucial role in the nation’s recovery from the devastation of World War II. The collaboration between labor and management, as well as between business and government, was built on a foundation of trust and shared goals. This collective mindset enabled the Japanese to rebuild their society and economy, demonstrating the power of unity and cooperation in overcoming adversity.

### **The Importance of Kata**

The emphasis on kata extends beyond social interactions; it also influences personal development. The mental concentration and mechanical effort required to memorize and write thousands of kanji characters have a profound impact on the psychological and physical growth of educated Japanese individuals. This rigorous training instills patience, diligence, and enhanced manual dexterity, preparing them for a lifestyle where form and order are paramount.

### **Appreciation for Beauty**

From early in their history, the Japanese have developed a keen awareness of beauty in nature, which they have integrated into their daily lives through various arts and ceremonies. This appreciation for beauty is evident in practices such as bowing, which is taught from infancy. Each bow has a specific kata, reflecting the importance of the idea that every action has meaning and significance.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the uniqueness of Japanese culture lies in its foundational principles of shikata and harmony, as well as its deep appreciation for beauty. The structured approach to life, embodied in the concept of kata, fosters a sense of community and mutual respect. The resilience demonstrated by the Japanese people in the face of adversity further highlights the strength of their cultural values. Ultimately, the Japanese way of living serves as an inspiring example of how a society can thrive through unity, respect, and a commitment to doing things right.



# ***Birthdays***

## May

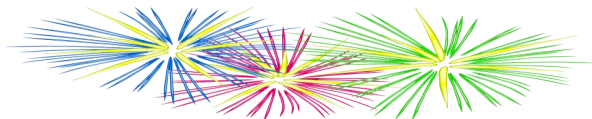
Taylor Hardisty 1st  
Diamara Cheatwood 11th  
Sebastian DeSalvo 12th  
Sensei Michael Barnes 20th  
Shihan Geoff Gaudoin 21st  
Jason Pickering

## June

Theon Spicer 4th  
Michael Wilkes 10th  
Garrison Hillyer 15th  
Riley McKinnon 26th  
Mark Pickering 30th

## July

Alex Orsaeo 5th  
Sensei Conner Lion 7th  
Ariely Araujo 23rd  
Sensei Judd Cheatwood 24th



Greater love has no one than this;  
to lay down one's life for one's friends.

**John 15:13**



*Who's getting ready for some FUN in the SUN??*

***SAVE the DATE: June 14th, 2025***  
*More information will be coming soon so keep your ears  
open and watch for updates on the dojo ledge.*



Thank you to all our dojo parents who  
came and participated in Parents Night!!

Everyone did great & got a good  
workout in too. Join us again next year!



## **KUDOS!**

To Sensei Austin Gordon &  
The Palm Beach Atlantic Karate  
Club on their latest promotions!

**WELL DONE, STUDENTS!**

