



OCTOBER 2023

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INTRODUCTION

As I worked on this issue over the weekend, I wasn't too sure that it was only going to be a few pages. However, I then received requests to allow some late submissions and, voila, we have a much more enjoyable newsletter.

The **Next Tournament**, hosted by the Seikikai dojo is on **Saturday, October 21, 2023**. Be sure to sign-up online now because registration closes October 18th. If you missed receiving the password, contact me or Sensei Steve Borda. These tournaments are becoming a hit because of the opportunities for the participants to have extra matches. The pizza afterwards doesn't hurt either.



We are trying to decide what is the best way to celebrate and recognise long-time members who are reaching 50 years in their training with the TWKK. Read the article and share with us your thoughts and ideas.

It is with sadness that we announce the closing of the original dojo of the TWKK. The Ryerson club is no more. A search is on for an alternative downtown location.

There are a few clubs still working to reopen their doors. We'll keep you posted when this happens. For the club news received, it is great to see other clubs are thriving, with rankings being held and anniversaries being reached. Congratulations to the Seikikai dojo in Etobicoke on your 30-years anniversary! > **EDITOR ROBB**

TORONTO WADO-KAI KARATE CLUB LTD.

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How Long Have You Been With The TWKK?

The Toronto Wado-Kai Karate Club began in 1971 at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, now called Toronto Metropolitan University. That is now 52 years since Sensei Manara, 9th Dan, founder of the TWKK, 'opened the doors' to an institution that has become a multi-generational community experience in the martial arts. Many karate-ka of the TWKK have been members since they first began their training. Others have left, of course, and some came back after time away; and some have brought their children, and even their children's children to the TWKK dojos for martial arts training.

What this means is that there are members that have now been involved with the TWKK for 50 years, such as Sensei Ray Kennedy, whom we noted in last year's October FOCUS. There are members who, over this decade, will reach 50 years of training, if not congruently, and membership with the organisation.

We have been considering how we might celebrate this. Getting together to acknowledge those who have contributed over the years with steadfast support, and those who have had a long-term relationship, not to mention all the karate friends and acquaintances made over the years, seems like the appropriate thing to do. Rather than having multiple recognition events, we have been thinking about one affair to acknowledge everyone who would reach the 50th year milestone in the 2020's.

We are interested
in hearing from
you!



While we are sure everyone is interested in knowing who has a 50th anniversary coming up, or who may get an award for their long-term services or for other reasons, we are assuming that there is likely a smaller contingent of people who would be interested in physically getting together. We still have the distance issue that makes it difficult to include the clubs in the west with the Ontario clubs at an affair where we all get-together. Not everyone is interested in or able to attend such events, due to family and work commitments; and cost is sometimes a factor as well.

In the past we have held Awards Banquets, but there does not seem to be an interest in having a similar event at this time. We have thought about a 'lighter' occasion, maybe a coffee get-together of sorts. We are interested in hearing from you about these ideas, or about any other ideas, especially from those members with anniversaries coming up.

Think about it, and let us know. You can contact the editor Robb Dods or Sensei Dave Manara directly.

Fall Wado-Kai Tournament is October 21, 2023

Registration is on-line only and closes October 18th

Password Required

Tournament will be from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Pizza will be available afterwards.

We always need judges! (See section in registration form to sign-up)

Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/seikikai-invitational-karate-tournament-tickets-713388944537>

For password, contact torontowadokai@gmail.com or Sensei Steve Borda

> FOCUS <

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NEWS FROM CLUBS

RYERSON Karate Club, Toronto, ON **Closed**

Since COVID-19 closed the dojo doors in 2020, over the last few years discussions have been on-going with the University about the re-opening of the TWKK dojo, the original club of the organisation. Unfortunately, the Toronto Metropolitan University informed Sensei **Manara** and Sensei **Leaton** this summer that **the club cannot reopen again**. Sensei Dave Manara's induction to the University's Sports Hall of Fame on September 29, 2001 will remain as a milestone marking the history and long relationship of the TWKK with the University. It is unfortunate the legacy will not continue.

Sensei Manara and Sensei Leaton are exploring options to find a location for a downtown Toronto dojo. We will let you know on the progress when we have more information.



EDMONTON Karate Club, St. Albert AB

Sensei Randy James,
Shichidan
(7th Degree Black Belt)

THE SALVATION ARMY
Mondays & Wednesdays:
6:30 – 8:00PM

Note our new location is now at The Salvation Army. At our annual picnic this summer, Sensei **Laurie Wiles** was promoted to Nidan.



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Edmonton Karate Club,
Edmonton, AB

We also had a couple of kyu rankings.

Jamie Lantz and Fabian Verbicki were promoted to yellow belt.



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ANDRE'S BUDO CENTRE, Edmonton AB

Sensei André Beauregard
Rokudan
(6th Degree Black Belt)

ANDRE'S BUDO CENTRE INC.
Tuesdays & Thursdays:
7:00 – 9:00pm

It's been a busy end of August/September beginning. **Christian Alexander Gow** received his Shodan-Ho. At left is Sensei **Nathalie Bilodeau-Lepage** (Nidan), and at right is Sensei **Majorie Thériault** (Nidan).



Zedriq Baldoza received his Shodan-Ho.



Madison C. was awarded her red belt (Junior Shodan). Shown with Sensei André and big brother Sensei **Jaedon** (Shodan).



> FOCUS <



Andre's Budo Ctr,
Edmonton, AB

On the left, **Macen N.** received his Junior Shodan. **Xavier W.** was awarded his Red Belt and his little sister, **Madeleine W.**, was awarded her green belt.

Congratulations to all newly-awarded belt students!



SEIKIKAI Martial Arts, Etobicoke ON

Sensei Steve Borda,
Hachidan
(8th Degree Black Belt)

OLYMPIUM:

Monday, Wednesday,
Sunday:
7:00-8:30pm

Congratulations to **George Florea** who achieved his Shodan at the ranking in August.

On Friday September 15th, the **Seikikai Club** celebrated **30 years of karate** at the Etobicoke Olympium. A high energy and fun karate class was led by Sensei **Steve**, followed by a party upstairs in the lounge at the Olympium.

Sensei **Dave Manara** congratulated Sensei Steve for his 30 years and presented him with a plaque of appreciation for his efforts. As well, Sensei **Larry** presented Sensei Steve with an Appreciation Plaque on behalf of the karate club; he also commented that it was their 30th anniversary of the two of them together at the Olympium.

Thanks to everyone who came out, and a big 'Thank You' to everyone who helped out!



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SEIKIKAI Martial Arts,
Etobicoke ON

Seikikai Club Celebrated 30 Years of Karate



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SEIKIKAI Martial Arts,
Etobicoke ON

The students at the Seikikai Etobicoke had the privilege and honour of having Sensei Manara stop by to teach class on Friday Sept. 29th. Sensei led them through a thorough class on advance karate techniques and kata.

The students got a lesson in advance on how to incorporate techniques from their Pinans into their sparring.

Sensei asked the children's class if they had any questions, and one of them was 'how long had he been doing karate?' One of the children guessed 100 years!! Sensei laughed and told them he has been practicing for 60 years.



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THORNHILL Karate Club, Thornhill ON

Sensei Dave Manara
Kudan
(9th Degree Black Belt)

Sensei Biller Ching
Rokudan
(6th Degree Black Belt)

C.O. Marion Dimand
Sandan
(3rd Degree Black Belt)

THORNHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE

Tuesdays & Thursdays
7:00-8:30pm

Since June this year, three karate-ka were successfully ranked.

In July, **Jake S.** achieved his Brown Belt. Jake is very proud of his achievement. In the photo, are some of the senior belts that supported him along his journey. From left to right: Sensei **Dave**, Sensei **Biller**, Sensei **Tony**, Jake, Sensei **Jamie**, Sensei **Casey** (proud father of Jake), and Sensei **Chester**.



In early August, Jake's older brother **Alex** was ranked to Blue Belt. Clearly, Alex is very proud of his achievement. Supporting senior belts shown in the photo are: Sensei Dave, Sensei Biller, Alex, Sensei Jamie and Sensei Chester.



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THORNHILL Karate Club
Thornhill, ON

In late August, our youngest and one of our newest students successfully completed his ranking to Yellow belt. **Kevin J.** is a very serious, determined young man, as shown in the photo with supporting senior belts. Left to right: Sensei Biller, Sensei Dave, Kevin, Sensei Ray, Sensei Jamie and Sensei Chester.

In other news at the Thornhill Dojo, Yudansha classes resumed on September 12th after a summer break, and a slow restart after the COVID lockdowns and restrictions.

To quote Sensei Dave Manara: “Yudansha members from Etobicoke, Brooklin and Thornhill participated. We also had a special guest from Cyber Space, Sensei **Leaton Bernard.**”

It was a great work out and special attention was made on the kata Wansu. Most of us were very rusty and Sensei Manara got us back on track. We are looking forward to the **next Main Yudansha Class on Thursday October 19, 7:00 PM** at Thornhill CC.

I attended this Yudansha as well, and was very glad I did. It felt good to get back into the habit of congregating and working out with senior belts from multiple clubs, and to get the specific senior belt attention that at times is difficult to receive in our home clubs. I am looking forward to the next Yudansha!
> C.O. Marion Dimand



< Sensei Dave demonstrates a move in Wansu with Sensei Chester at the Main Yudansha Class of September 12th.

“The attendance was very good,” said Sensei. “I hope to see more students come out for the future sessions. It is a great opportunity to review the senior students’ understanding of the katas.”

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**BROOKLIN Karate Club,
Brooklin, ON**

Sensei Mark Illy, Sandan
(3rd Degree Black Belt)

BROOKLIN UNITED CHURCH
Mondays & Thursdays:
7:00 – 8:30pm

My Fellow Karate-ka,

Greetings from the Brooklin Club. We have been busy the past few months training through the heat of summer and now, leading into the fall, with many of our students successfully grading to their next belt levels.

Congratulations to **Aashni, Owen** and **Charlie** for their successful grading to orange, yellow and green belts respectfully. All three showed an excellent level of knowledge and gave a very strong effort throughout their grading. Your hard work has paid off, keep it up!

On August 1st of this year, there was a Yudansha grading that took place in Thornhill and the Brooklin Club was proud to have **Natasha** and **Brad** going to be graded and showcase their knowledge and skills.

Both karate-ka gave it their all and had an excellent grading, during which they earned their Shodan-Ho belts.

Everyone at the Brooklin Club, and throughout TWKK, is very proud of their achievement and I personally look forward to seeing them continue in the journey and study of karate.



With Fall now upon us we are now back to two full classes a week. We continue to attract new students and are steadily growing the Brooklin Wado-Kai Family. We look forward to seeing our fellow Karate-ka of all levels at Yudansha and Tournament Events in the future and please remember that if you are ever in the Brooklin/Whitby area on Monday or Thursday night, please drop in and see us. We would love to have you visit.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW BLACK BELT RANKS

Congratulations to the following Yudansha members recently promoted.

To Nidan: **Laurie Wilkes** from Edmonton

To Shodan: **George Florea** from Etobicoke (Seikikai)

Janet Mollen and **Alexandra Morado** from Oshawa

To Shodan-Ho: **Natasha McKee** and **Bradley Peddle** from Brooklin

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Another TWKK ROF Coffee Club Get-together

On Thursday, July 20, 2023, an officious occasion of the Retired Old Farts Coffee Club took place in the back yard of the home of Sensei **Dave** and **Marilyn Manara**. Invitees came together to eat, drink (coffee) and be merry, and to be regaled with the exploits of Marilyn’s various experiences with Coyote urine (that’s right, Coyote urine); as well as, her adventures with the marauding racoons and squirrels.

Marilyn had been trying to proof the back yard against the visiting varmints.

“I pointed the sprayer at the fence and fired! But the wind was in my face and so was the urine. Then I licked my lips...”, said Marilyn. As she walked home wearing her faux fur coat, Marilyn wondered why coyotes were following her to her door.

Marilyn has become the coyote magnet of Clement Road, and the neighbours (and the raccoons) have been seen to point and stare.

Kidding aside, thank you, Marilyn, for the great food and hospitality! We look forward to a future opportunity to get-together and hear more of your stories!



In attendance, left to right, Biller, Marion, Chester, John, Steve, Marilyn and Sensei Dave (Robb was taking the picture)

TORONTO WADO-KAI KARATE CLUBS AND CLUB HEADS

AJAX-PICKERING – Daina Als
ANDRÉ’S BUDO CTR. (Edmonton) – André Beauregard
BROOKLIN-WHITBY – Mark Illy
CALGARY – Steve Henrich
CLARINGTON – Robin Singh

OSHAWA-WHITBY – José-Carlos Garcia
SEIKIKAI MARTIAL ARTS (Etobicoke) – Steve Borda
ST. ALBERT (Edmonton) – Randy James
THORNHILL – Biller Ching & Dave Manara
YUDANSHA HOMBU (Thornhill) – Dave Manara

TORONTO WADO-KAI SENIOR DAN COUNCIL

Kudan (9 th Degree Black Belt)	Dave Manara
Hachidan (8 th Degree Black Belt)	Steve Borda, José-Carlos Garcia
Shichidan (7 th Degree Black Belt)	Randy James, Ray Kennedy, Larry O’Grady
Rokudan (6 th Degree Black Belt)	André Beauregard, Leaton Bernard, Biller Ching, Robb Dods, Steve Henrich, Tony Marziliano, Ed Young
Godan (5 th Degree Black Belt)	Ken Buck, James Darker, Anthony Woodward, Heather Woodward

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