

OCTOBER 2024

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(10th Degree Black Belt)

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(6th Degree Black Belt)

INTRODUCTION

Autumn has officially arrived, but so far it bodes well for a warm fall, if the beginning of October is any indication with the coming weather forecast. As the clubs get back to regular training after the summer, we look forward to more news in the coming months as to what is happening in our TWKK community. This issue is a little shorter than in the past (I am always looking for input remember from the readers).

In Ontario, the next **TWKK / Seikikai Tournament** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 26**, at the Etobicoke Olympium. Remember that the even will be on the main floor this time. Registration is online only, so be sure to check the Tournament info in this issue.

In August, our condolences went out to partner Sensei **Alex Nguyen** and the family of Sensei **Veronica Czimer**, who died July 12th while fighting cancer. Veronica will be remembered and sorely missed. She was half of the Bahama Mama team that were involved in arranging the 2010 Bahamas trip, as well as the 50th Anniversary Celebration for Sensei Manara in 2013. Always a studious and competent fighter in class, she was so in her life to the end. **Bahamas 2010**



You may remember in past issues I have been asking for some stories from the old Ryerson club days. Sensei **John Gallagher** has provided some humorous tales for this issue. Thanks, John, for the memories, and the laughs. I remember it well.

We note that some senior dan ranks were presented this summer by Sensei Manara, but I would like to make special mention of **Nelly Readner**, of Sensei **Randy James'** Edmonton dojo, who was ranked to Shodan this summer. Nelly is 87 years of age and going strong.

Enjoy your read. > **EDITOR ROBB DODS**

TORONTO WADO-KAI KARATE CLUB LTD.

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TWKK / SEIKIKAI KARATE INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

Saturday, October 26, 2024

We are holding our Fall tournament at the **Etobicoke Olympium**. Registration is on-line only and closes October 24th.

Tournament will be from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Pizza will be available afterwards.

Note that the tournament will be on the main floor of the Etobicoke Olympium, in the gymnasium.

Everyone Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/seikikai-invitational-karate-tournament-tickets-865884502857?aff=oddtcreator>

(For the password, please contact Sensei Steve Borda, or reply to the email address the FOCUS was sent from).

An advantage to registering early is that for Kumite (free sparring) we sometimes have to award a “bye” (the transfer of a competitor directly to the next round of the competition) to some competitors at the start of the competition, in order to get the group to a size where we can have a set of straight elimination rounds. If you get a “bye” it’s like winning your first sparring match without sparring. If needed, byes will be awarded to the competitors registered in the group in the order of when they registered.

We always need judges. There is a section in the registration on-line for judges to register as well. Judges, please arrive at 1:30 for a Judges meeting prior to the tournament.



Participants of Spring Tournament

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW BLACK BELT RANKS

Congratulations to the following Yudansha members recently promoted.

New Senior Ranks:

To Yodan (4th Dan): **Marion Dimand**, Thornhill

To Rokudan (6th Dan): **Heather Cant-Woodward, Anthony Woodward**, Brooklin

And:

To Shodan: **Nellie Readner**, Edmonton; and **Brad Peddle** and **Natasha McKee**, Brooklin

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Many Memories – Great Experiences!

More shared memories from another alumnus of the organisation who trained at Ryerson in years past.

Sensei John Gallagher

The Ryerson Club was a great place back in the '70s. In those days, the Lower Gym was our “home” Mondays and Wednesdays in the evenings, and Saturday mornings. We would get shuttled over to Ryerson Hall when exams were on and who could EVER forget that hard concrete tiled floor that seemed mostly frozen during the winter months.

One funny memory, that I may have written about before, warrants another mention though. During a Saturday morning, the Ryerson final exams were on and we are up there in The Hall training, punching and kicking away. A young guy who was just walking through the Ryerson facility, noticed all of our gym bags and shoes in a pile; and for whatever reason this “brainiac” decides to lift one of the girls purses and run off!!!

I forget who yelled about it, but we all turned around just in time to witness him running down the Hallway, headed for the stairs. Who knows what the general public thought at that time, but that Saturday morning one very stupid young guy was being chased across Gerrard Street and down Yonge Street by an ENTIRE KARATE CLUB screaming at him. These were the days before every single person had a camera in their hands so there are probably no visual records of the event, but we did, in fact, catch him when he made the fatal mistake of turning into a dead end alleyway with no escape. You can only imagine the shocked look on his face when he turned around and the entire Karate Club was standing there. Thankfully, it was one of those really nice spring days in Toronto and we all enjoyed the walk back with purse in hand.

Another funny moment comes to me about a certain class where we were paired together with a partner to do some punching drills. Sensei had us facing each other and the idea was to have enough distance between us so we could execute a proper punch without actually hitting each other's fists together.

Steve Borda and I partnered-up; we set our distance, slowly punched into the middle section to check our focus, backed up a bit so as not to hit fists and the drill began. On ONE ... you guessed it ... Steve and I smashed our middle knuckles together at the perfect moment! YEOWCH!!!–BIG TIME!!! Right after Sensei had just finished telling us about having the proper distance NOT to hit our fists together! HAHAAHAAA! I believe Steve and I had a pair of “golf ball” sized red knuckles for a couple weeks!

We also had quite a bit of fun in those days at the annual Christmas Party. One year a couple of “special guests” showed up ... KARATE CLAUSE AND THE UNKNOWN ELF!!! There was quite a loud roar of laughter as I recall and it got even louder as these “special guests” passed out a host of satirical Christmas gag gifts to various members before quickly departing and returning to “parts unknown” from whence they came.

Some of us also found humour with a particular character in the hall. In our regular “home” of the lower gym, the temperature could get fairly hot, so we often had all the doors open onto the hallway. Sometimes, this funny, elderly “street person” would find his way down wandering around, usually after he'd ingested his “daily bottle”. And he would stand near the back doors yelling “arrgghh, arrgghh, arrgghh” trying to imitate the class [Kaia's] as we were going through our punching and kicking drills. He was totally harmless, but it was kind of funny as his timing was way off which made the yelling even funnier.

There are also lots of fun memories from the Summer Camps at The Ryerson Farm, Rice Lake and Wasaga Beach and a lifetime of other memories at the original Ryerson Club.



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It was a different time and we had different values back then, but the old core group who showed up day after day for years became pretty accomplished Black Belts and, to this day, quite a number of us are still pretty good friends. We have Sensei Manara to thank for that. It takes a special person with a lifetime of commitment and dedication to create a community like that and keep it growing strong after over 60 years.

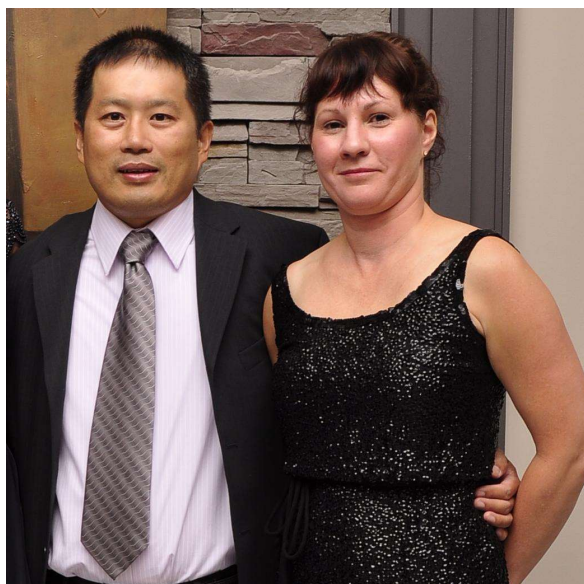
[Sensei John received his Sandan from Sensei Manara, and continued in competitive kata, being ranked to Shichidan (7th Dan) in 2013 by Sensei Rizzo and Master Atkinson in Arizona.]



OUR CONDOLENCES

It was with great sadness that the family of Sensei **Veronica Suzanne Cizmar** announced her passing on Friday, July 12, 2024, at the age of 55. Veronica will be lovingly remembered by Sensei **Alex Nguyen**, her partner of 14 years. A memorial was held in Toronto on Saturday, October 5, 2024.

<https://complexeaeterna.com/avis-de-deces/2024/veronica-suzanne-cizmar/>



At Sensei Manara's 50th Celebration

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NEWS FROM CLUBS

EDMONTON Karate Club, Edmonton AB

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

SALVATION ARMY CHURCH
165 LIBERTON DRIVE ST. ALBERT

Sensei **Ed Young** was unable to attend our service recognition / Appreciation Awards dinner with Sensei Manara. Pictured is Ed receiving his 55-year anniversary award, that was presented by Sensei Andre and me (Randy).

We are very happy to announce that **Nelly Readner** (87 years young) was ranked to Shodan this summer.



Sensei Ed and I presented Nellie with her Blackbelt at our season-end potluck.



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Edmonton Karate Club,
Edmonton, AB

This is our brain trust discussing very important relevant topics.....**Perry Iatridis** [brown belt] **Fabian Verbicki** [with the NY hat, orange belt] Sensei Ed and myself.



Our season ending potluck with the entire crew and our families.



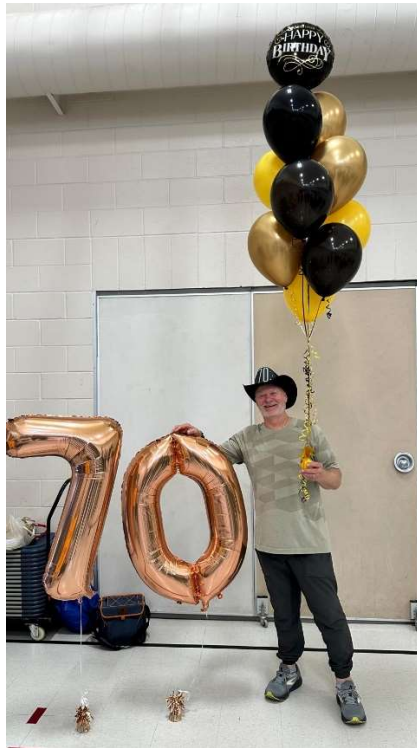
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Edmonton Karate Club,
Edmonton, AB

My wife **Arlene**, [unbeknownst to me] organized with the help of some from our group a surprise 70th birthday celebration as part of our potluck. It was very unexpected and appreciated.



Our Blackbelts in attendance at our potluck with Nellie on receiving her Blackbelt.

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
Yodan
(4th Degree Black Belt)

THORNHILL COMMUNITY CENTRE

TUESDAY & THURSDAY

With pleasure, a few things can be reported on, since June 2024.

Firstly, I would like to report that age has some privileges associated with it in the Toronto Wado-Kai Karate Club. On August 2, the Retired Old Farts met for a lovely brunch in the beautiful backyard of Sensei Dave's residence. A spread like no other, lovingly prepared by the hosts: Marilyn and Sensei Dave Manara, was made available. Good conversation and company, not to mention delicious food consumption was enjoyed by all!

Less than a week later, on August 6, at the black belt ranking, **Marion Dimand** was promoted to 4th Dan. Marion started karate training in her early 40's and has done so now for almost 30 years. She is greatly humbled by this and continues to try to do her best at improving in karate and contributing to the club.



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THORNHILL Karate Club
Thornhill, ON

May Lam is continuing her very successful karate journey, which only started at age 64 in August 2023.

On September 24th, May was ranked again, this time to green belt. She continues to demonstrate that no matter what your age or gender, with effort, one can be very successful in the Toronto Wado-Kai Club. Congratulations May!



In conclusion, after the slow attendance of summer, the Thornhill Club had a resurgence of attendees, so much so that, although not everyone was there, a photo of the class on September 24th was taken.



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Retired Old Farts Coffee Club Meets Again

From the front, counter-clockwise, shown are the ROF sensei:

Dave Manara, Steve Henrich, Biller Ching, Ray Kennedy, John Lobo, Steve Borda, Larry O'Grady, i Robb Dods, Marion Dimand, and Chester Buczek.



TORONTO WADO-KAI KARATE CLUBS AND CLUB LEADERS

André's Budo Centre (Edmonton) – André Beauregard
 BROOKLIN-WHITBY – Mark Illy
 CALGARY – Steve Henrich
 EDMONTON – Randy James

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

TORONTO WADO-KAI SENIOR DAN COUNCIL

Judan (10 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, Anthony Woodward, Heather Woodward
Godan (5 th Degree Black Belt)	Ken Buck, James Darker
Yodan (4 th Degree Black Belt)	Marion Dimond

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