

JANUARY 2025

Sensei Dave Manara, Judan
(10th Degree Black Belt)

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(8th Degree Black Belt)

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Robb Dods, Rokudan
(6th Degree Black Belt)

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Leaton Bernard, Rokudan
(6th Degree Black Belt)

INTRODUCTION

I'm not going to say it, I'm not going to say it... Oh, I guess I have to say it, but I do it this time every year, and I didn't want to sound predictable. Happy New Year! and I hope everyone enjoyed the festive season at the end of 2024.

I apologise for this issue coming out late. I have a confession, I kind of forgot about it after waiting and hoping for some news from the clubs to arrive. I received only one submission – thank you **Marion Dimand**. Any little tidbit helps our readers feel connected.

I have some schedules to share in this issue. There is a **Tournament on Saturday January 25th**. We encourage everyone to come out and have some fun!

There is another tournament planned for Saturday April 26th, and one in the fall on Saturday November 8th; the **Training Camp** is planned for Saturday June 21st, so mark your calendars!

Also, the Main Yudansha Schedule for the year is included in this issue and will be published on the website soon.

As a Ryerson club alumnus, I have shared some of my memories of those early years of my training. I had to give you all something to read after all.



Students warming up at the October 2024 Tournament

Enjoy your read! > EDITOR ROBB DODS

TORONTO WADO-KAI KARATE CLUB LTD.

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Winter Tournament at the Etobicoke Olympium

Saturday, January 25

Registration is on-line only and closes January 23rd.

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.

In order to compete, participants are required to wear a karate gi (uniform). These are available through your instructor.

Another requirement for new students, is that competitors must be able to get through one of their Kihon Kata as a minimum.

For Kumite (free sparring) no jewelry (bracelets, rings, watches, dangling earrings, Kara, etc.) are allowed. This is a safety issue. If participants are wearing jewelry and do not remove it, they will not be allowed in the Kumite portion of the tournament.

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

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.

Everyone Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/seikikai-invitational-karate-tournament-tickets-1048999394427?aff=oddtcreator>

For the Password: Local karate-ka should have received an email already but, if you need it, contact Sensei Steve Borda or Robb Dods.

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



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NEWS FROM CLUBS

THORNHILL Karate Club, Thornhill ON

Sensei Dave Manara
Judan
(10th 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

The last quarter of 2024 saw no new promotions for the students. However, a number of club members did attend the October 26 Karate tournament at the Etobicoke Olympium, with obviously a lot of success:

Naz Rashidi, an experienced karate-ka who joined the Thornhill dojo in August 2024, earned a gold in kata and a silver in sparring.



< Sensei **Leaton Bernard** earned a gold in black belt kata, and a silver in black belt sparring

Sensei **Jamie Darker** earned a bronze in black belt sparring >



Congratulations to these participants! From the Thornhill dojo, wishing everyone the best in 2025!

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**MAIN YUDANSHA SCHEDULE FOR 2025**

<u>DATE</u>		<u>EVENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
JAN 14	Tuesday	YUDANSHA	THORNHILL Community Ctr
JAN 25	Saturday	TOURNAMENT	ETOBICOKE OLYMPIUM
FEB 04	Tuesday	RANKING	THORNHILL Community Ctr
FEB 13	Thursday	YUDANSHA	THORNHILL Community Ctr
MAR 11	Tuesday	YUDANSHA	THORNHILL Community Ctr
APR 17	Thursday	YUDANSHA	THORNHILL Community Ctr
APR 26	Saturday	TOURNAMENT	ETOBICOKE OLYMPIUM
MAY 06	Tuesday	RANKING	THORNHILL Community Ctr
MAY 13	Tuesday	YUDANSHA	THORNHILL Community Ctr
JUN 19	Thursday	YUDANSHA	THORNHILL Community Ctr
JUN 21	Saturday	TRAINING DAY CAMP	The Borda Farm, CALEDON
JUL 15	Tuesday	YUDANSHA	THORNHILL Community Ctr
AUG 05	Tuesday	RANKING	THORNHILL Community Ctr
AUG 14	Thursday	YUDANSHA	THORNHILL Community Ctr
SEP 16	Tuesday	YUDANSHA	THORNHILL Community Ctr
OCT 16	Thursday	YUDANSHA	THORNHILL Community Ctr
NOV 04	Tuesday	RANKING	THORNHILL Community Ctr
NOV 08	Saturday	TOURNAMENT	ETOBICOKE OLYMPIUM
NOV 11	Tuesday	YUDANSHA	THORNHILL Community Ctr
DEC 18	Thursday	YUDANSHA	THORNHILL Community Ctr

Class Times: 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Class Location: Thornhill Community Ctr, 7755 Bayview Ave., Thornhill, Ontario

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**TWKK / SEIKIKAI
FALL
TOURNAMENT
RESULTS**

**Congratulations to all the participants of the
TWKK/Seikikai (Etobicoke) Tournament
held on October 26, 2024**

Division	Event	1 st Place	2 nd Place	3 rd Place
CHILDREN 6 to 8 Yrs				
White – Green	Kata	Liam D., Green, Seikikai/Etobicoke	Luka Z., Orange, Toronto Goju	Aria M., Yellow, Seikikai/Etobicoke
	Kumite	Liam D., Green, Seikikai/Etobicoke	Maximilian C., Orange, Seikikai/Etobicoke	Boris T., Yellow, Seikikai/Etobicoke
JUNIORS 9 to 11 Yrs				
Yellow – Orange	Kata	Sam R., Yellow, Seikikai/Etobicoke	Nicholas P., Yellow, Seikikai/Etobicoke	Mannie A., Orange, Seikikai/Etobicoke
	Kumite	Ethan L., Yellow, Seikikai/Caledon	Sam R., Yellow, Seikikai/Etobicoke	Mannie A., Orange, Seikikai/Etobicoke
Green – Blue	Kata	Eva D., Blue, Seikikai/Etobicoke	Adhya M., Green Seikikai/Etobicoke	Elias A., Green, Seikikai/Etobicoke
	Kumite	Eva D., Blue, Seikikai/Etobicoke	Adhya M., Green Seikikai/Etobicoke	Manasvi G., Green, Seikikai/Caledon
JUNIORS 12 TO 15 Yrs.				
Orange – Blue	Kata	Paul F., Blue, Seikikai/Etobicoke	Taiga R., Blue, Seikikai/Etobicoke	Brindha S., Blue, Seikikai/Etobicoke
	Kumite	Paul F., Blue, Seikikai/Etobicoke	Faith S., Blue, Seikikai/Etobicoke	Brindha S., Blue, Seikikai/Etobicoke
ADULTS				
White – Yellow	Kata	Samrawit Mulugeta, Yellow, Natsuoka TMU	John Thomas Laramore, Yellow, Natsuoka TMU	Gohul Tharmakulaseelan, White, Natsuoka TMU
Orange – Green		Nazanin Rashidi, Green, TWKK Thornhill	Owais Lightwala, Green, Natsuoka TMU	Darryl Malloy, Green, TWKK Oshawa
Blue – Brown		Yee-Guan Wong, Brown, Toronto Goju	Ali Rouzrokh, Blue, Toronto Goju	Anthony Vaz, Blue, Natsuoka Annex
Black Belts		Leaton Bernard, Rokudan, TWKK Thornhill	Daina Als, Sandan, TWKK Oshawa	Katherine Hogg, Shodan, Toronto Goju
White – Yellow	Kumite	Samrawit Mulugeta, Yellow, Natsuoka TMU	John Thomas Laramore, Yellow, Natsuoka TMU	Gohul Tharmakulaseelan, White, Natsuoka TMU
Orange – Green		Owais Lightwala, Green, Natsuoka TMU	Nazanin Rashidi, Green, TWKK Thornhill	Darryl Malloy, Green, TWKK Oshawa
Blue – Brown		Alex Smith, Blue, TWKK Thornhill	Ibraheem Youssef, Blue, Natsuoka TMU Yee-Guan, Blue, Toronto Goju	Tie for 2 nd Place
Black Belts		Daina Als, Sandan, TWKK Oshawa	Leaton Bernard, Rokudan, TWKK Thornhill	Jamie Darker, Godan, TWKK Thornhill

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Congratulations to the Medal Winners of the TWKK/Seikikai Tournament



Aria, Luka, Liam



Maximillian, Liam, Boris



Mannie, Nicholas, Sam



Ethan, Mannie, Sam



Elias, Eva, Adhya



Manasvi, Eva, Adhya



Taiga, Paul, Brindha



Faith, Paul, Brindha



Gohul, Samrawit, John



Darryl, Nazanin, Owais



Ali, Yee-Guan, Anthony



Katherine, Leaton, Daina

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TORONTO WADO-KAI KARATE CLUB LTD.



Congratulations to the Medal Winners of the TWKK/Seikikai Tournament



Yee-Guan, Alex, Ibraheem



Jamie, Daina, Leaton

Tournament Standings and Pictures: <http://www.seikikai.ca/Results.html>

Many Memories – Great Experiences!

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

Sensei Robb Dods, Rokudan

I apologise up front for any repeat of things I have shared in past issues. Here are a few of my stories from the early years.



Before I started my karate training, I was in my first year at Ryerson and there were flyers up on the walls advertising the karate classes. I was living at Neill-Wycik College, and a friend of mine had started taking the classes. A girl he was dating got the nickname 'Flipper' because she was taking classes too and someone was kidding her about how he could 'take her on' even if she was taking karate. Fooling around, she had flipped him over her shoulder (nothing to do with her training), hence the nickname. Well, I got the idea that maybe I would like to try karate, so I joined the Beginners class in February 1974.

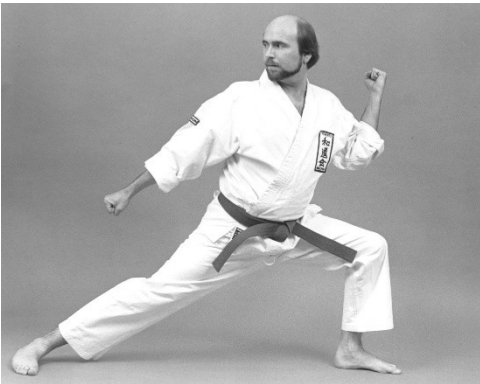
In the beginning, karate was a mystifying thing, something I had only seen in the movies and knew nothing about. Those beginner classes opened my eyes to the fact that karate was just disciplined training and a lot of repetition (did I say a lot?). I had not been one for sports in high school, but I really enjoyed the classes, the workouts and the friendships that were developing. Working out in a class where I could focus on myself, yet take part in a bigger, whole experience was unique for me.

The first Training Camp happened that summer. It was a totally different experience working out on grass (rather bumpy ground underfoot, actually) and a lot of fun. I hadn't brought a tent, there was no room in the cottage, so I slept in my car. There I met the sister of my friend I mentioned earlier. She was taking classes in Port Perry, and it was her sensei's family that owned the cottage we were staying at (this was a sensei from another style that didn't have an organisation to support him, and Sensei Dave asked him to join our organisation). I had the nerve to ask her to go for a beer and banana split in Uxbridge on the Sunday before we all went home. (Beer and a banana split? What was I thinking?)

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In the early days of training, your sensei is a large figure in the scheme of things. Sensei Dave may have been just a few years older than me, but he presented a master presence in those classes. I used to get a hurting twinge in my back sometimes when we did some types of exercises, and I remember when I was a yellow belt Sensei coming over while I was nursing my lower back, and he started rubbing it with his fist in a massage sort of way to help loosen the muscles that had seized up. I was impressed; the Master had just done a very personal thing for me that seemed above and beyond in a class.



Sensei would travel up to Port Perry so he could teach the sensei there our Wado-Kai katas. When I got my green belt I, along with another karate-ka, would go up to meet Sensei, where he worked at Motorola in North York, after our school classes were done and accompany him on the ride up to Port Perry. There were times just Sensei and I would go up. We both have the memory of coming home in a snowstorm, the night so black and the blinding snow so thick that we could not see where the sides of the road were. The headlights just shone on a wall of huge snowflakes dropping before us. Sensei was tense with the driving, and I was tense trying to tell him if he was too close to the ditch, which we couldn't make out.

In those early days, we went to invitational open tournaments where we competed against a range of styles and other schools of training. In my first real competition as a green belt, I wasn't doing too badly. Then I was up against a big guy who didn't like that I scored a point on him. I came out a winner of the match by disqualification with knuckle imprints on my forehead and had the nickname, at least for the rest of the day, of 'Lumpy'.

My worst memory is of a class we were doing line attack. A fellow green belt, Sandy, was quite aggressive and would stand up to the guys no matter what, a real joy to spar with. I was at the front facing my line and Sandy charged in. I put out my fist and she ran straight into it. The next class I brought her flowers to apologise for breaking her nose. She forgave me from the start, we both knew what had happened, but I still feel bad to this day thinking about it.

Once I achieved my blue belt in 1975, life got in the way, slowing down my training. I had a part time job, school was busy, I had to work in the summers such that I could rarely get into Toronto for the classes, and I got married in my last year in college, all of which meant my focus was not on my training. I had my blue belt for about six years by the time my life settled down after I graduated and got a job in my profession. I didn't get to any of the early training camps that were held at the Ryerson farm out near Pontypool.



I kept going back to classes when I could, and I attended the training camps at Rice Lake and the Ryerson Chalet at Blue Mountain, before the Wasaga Beach days. I went back to training with passion in 1982 and achieved my Shodan by early 1984. During this time, I started up the Port Perry club again, which had not been operating for many years.

< At the Ryerson Chalet, Blue Mountain



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Sensei Ray Kennedy, Rob Stark, Steve Borda, and Larry O'Grady at the October Tournament

TORONTO WADO-KAI KARATE CLUBS AND CLUB HEADS

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 HOMBURU (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)	Chester Buczek, Marion Dimand

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