



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

June 2024



Welcome to our Newsletter!

Welcome to our new dojo newsletter!

For over 50 years, Washington Shotokan Association has been a dojo that has embraced the importance of community. Once upon a time, Dulce Sensei created newsletters that would be included and mailed out with our monthly invoices. Even now, over 20 years later, I remember looking forward to each one: a combination of tips and tricks, funny quotables from Sensei, and looking through photos to see if I could get a glimpse of myself or someone I knew. I learned recently that each month Dulce Sensei would ask black belt students to fold, stuff, and seal each of those letters after a Monday night class. Sensei's Mostafa and Mitch laughed looking back on those times. It's these little details, the unseen work of our volunteers and members, that truly make our dojo what it is.

Our dojo has changed a lot since those days. We are run exclusively by volunteers and it gets difficult to keep up the newsletters, particularly since Covid. I hope to change this by showing everyone glimpses of dojo life both on and off the floor, with and without karate. Everyone reading this is such an integral part of who we are as Washington Shotokan Association. Thank you always for choosing to be a part of our karate family.

Oss,
Sensei Michelle

Upcoming Events

- June 12th
Adult Exam (Wednesday, 6:30 PM)
- June 15th
Youth Exam (Saturday, 8:00 AM)
- June 17th
Pre-Shodan #1 (Monday, 7:30 PM)
- June 19th
June 19th (Dojo closed)
- June 29th to July 27th
Competition Class Summer Break
- June 24th - July 7th
Youth Summer Break
- June 29th - June 30th
Japan Fair
- July 4th
Independence Day (Dojo closed)
- July 15th
Pre-Nidan Exam (Monday, 7:30 PM)
- August 12th
Summer Barbecue (Monday, 7:30 PM)
- August 17th
Youth Exam (Saturday, 8:00 AM)
- August 23rd
Pre-Shodan #2 (Friday, 6:30 PM)
- August 24th
Tournament: Warrior's Way Cup
- August 26th - September 8th
Youth Summer Break
- September 2nd
Labor Day (Dojo closed)



News from the Board

A few updates from our executive board:

- Many of you have noticed a new member of our executive team photo board. We would like to welcome Sensei Robert, who will be managing the tech side of dojo operations.
- Welcome back, Senseis Richard and Dean! Sensei Richard will be helping the exam prep class Sundays at 8:00 AM and working with shodan candidates alongside Sensei Maria. Sensei Dean will be teaching our Saturday morning youth classes.



Thank you, Sempai Patricia!

Sempai Patricia has been a dedicated instructor and member at Washington Shotokan Association for several years. This past spring saw her retirement from work at the VA, move back to her home in Pennsylvania, and as such, the end of her role as our Saturday morning youth instructor. Sempai Patricia has been an invaluable member of our dojo and always spoke up to advocate for the health of her fellow karateka. Her kind, yet direct instruction will be missed. Thank you so much for all that you have contributed to our community--we hope to have you back on our dojo floor in the future!



June 29 - June 30

Event Spotlight: Japan Fair

Join us for Japan Fair, a festival that celebrates Japanese art and culture. WSA will be hosting a booth through the weekend. We are looking for volunteers to help us demonstrate what a unique community we are. There will also be a stage performance on Saturday morning, 10:20 AM. Come stop by, hang out, and cheer on fellow students!

Research Opportunity: Calling all Blackbelts!

Shodan candidate, Nikitha Anand, is looking for black belt volunteers to participate in a school research project. Come find out how different variables impact the force of your punches! If you're interested, please contact Nikitha at nikitha_anand@outlook.com

Spring Recap

Dojo Spring Barbecue

A grueling class led by none other than Sensei Neil to work up a hearty appetite. Sensei Mitch on the grill with assistance from Sensei Kevin and Russell.



Spring Cleaning

Thank you, thank you to everyone who came to help with our annual refresh! It was a slightly smaller crowd this year, but we got the dojo nice and clean.



Event of the Quarter: Youth Tournament

Hopefully everyone had as much fun as we did at this year's youth tournament. If you missed out, be sure to sign up for the next one!

Setting it all up! Special thank you to Sensei Adam, who led the tournament committee and set us up for a successful event.



Warming up and hanging out before getting on the tatami.



Congratulations to winners of our Spirit of the Dojo awards! Eri Akagi (posing with mom) won in the morning, while Ibrahim Welton took home the afternoon award. Oss!

