

# November Announcements

November 1st, 2025 | JKA NorCal



## THIS MONTH

**Ryukyukan Karate & Kobudo Tournament:** Local tournament with WKF-style ruleset in Dixon, CA (1.25 hr drive). If you are interested, please speak with an instructor before the event to ensure proper division registration. Handpads, mouthguards, and WKF shins are required.

*Dates: November 8, 2025*

**2025 JKA/AF Nationals:** Competition team members will be representing JKA NorCal at the annual national championship in New Orleans, LA. Wish your Sempais luck if you see them around!

*Dates: November 21-23, 2025*

Pictured (left): Photos of competitors at the 2024 Nationals in New Orleans, LA.



**Thanksgiving Break:** Classes will only be held on Monday and Tuesday for the week of November 23-29. Classes resume as normal on Monday, December 1st. Happy Thanksgiving to all who celebrate!

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

**Hirayama Seminar:** At the end of October, the dojo was honored to host Sensei Yuko Hirayama for our first-ever camp featuring a JKA Headquarters instructor. We're especially grateful for the younger NorCal students who attended the Friday general training! We hope that you come away with a positive experience and feel inspired to continue on your karate journey.

We kicked off on Saturday morning with an open mat, where all participants had the opportunity to



train with current and former members of the United States National Team in both kumite and kata. This boosted morale and brought campgoers a renewed sense of unity that carried through into Hirayama Sensei's classes later that day in the heart of San Francisco.



Over the course of the seminar, Hirayama Sensei led five information-packed sessions in San Francisco's Japantown. A general focus of kata instruction was on correct execution, including proper posture, stances, hip position, eye direction, and course of techniques. Ideas stressed in kihon and kumite included the incorporation of relaxation before and after each waza - "0 - 10 - 0," and using floor connection (*tame*) to maximize both power and distance. Sensei Hirayama also provided insight into different levels of training by explaining progressions for kihon kumite between the color belt, brown belt, and black belt levels. By framing the drills in such an accessible way, Sensei provided participants of all skill levels a way to apply her lessons in their daily practice.



In addition to her excellent teaching and humility, Hirayama Sensei's philosophies of life-long learning and "seizing the moment" deeply resonated with participants. Not only did these ideas strengthen their technique and connection to karate-do, but they also

had greater implications for their everyday lives. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Hirayama Sensei for their exceptional instruction and dedication, as well as to the organizers, volunteers, and supporting dojos who made this camp possible through their tireless efforts and commitments. We're looking forward to seeing how this event evolves and grows over the next several years.

## FUTURE EVENTS

**Santa Monica 53rd Annual Kangeiko:** *Kangeiko*, or “cold training,” is a Japanese martial-arts tradition typically performed on an early winter morning. The training aims for practitioners to cleanse their spirit, refocus, and mentally prepare themselves for the challenges of the upcoming year. Providing both a physical and mental challenge, *kangeiko* is an opportunity to begin the year with a clean slate and with the focus, determination, and power to forge ahead.

*Dates: January 5-10, 2026; 6 AM training every day*

**3rd Annual Revere Goodwill Championship:** All USA Shotokan tournament hosted by JKA Revere in Revere, MA.

*Date: February 7, 2026*

**Sensei Kazuaki Kurihara in NY:** Instructional seminars hosted by JKA Karate Shiroma New York. Kurihara Sensei is a 6th Dan instructor at JKA Headquarters in Tokyo, Japan. A ten-time All Japan kata champion, three-time World kata champion, and with multiple-time All Japan kumite podium, he was undoubtedly one of the most dominant all-around competitors in the mid-2000s to late-2010s. Currently, he teaches at Komazawa University, home of one of Japan’s most renowned karate programs. Don’t miss this rare opportunity to train under such an accomplished instructor!

*Dates: February 26 - March 1, 2026*