

December Announcements

December 2nd, 2025 | JKA NorCal



THIS MONTH

Dojo Holiday Party: The JKA NorCal end-of-the-year Christmas/Holiday party will take place on Sunday, December 14, at 4 pm. There will be food, drinks, karaoke, an ugly sweater competition, and an optional secret Santa. This end-of-the-year party serves not just to wrap up the year and celebrate the holidays, but also to provide all students a chance to socialize and get to know their fellow students in a relaxed setting. We encourage all JKA NorCal students to attend regardless of whether or not they are actively training. If you would like to assist in bringing food/drinks or utensils, participate in a gift exchange, or have any questions, please reach out to Abdallah Batshon on Slack.

Winter Holiday Break: The dojo will be closed to all classes from December 22 to January 4th. Classes resume as normal on Monday, January 5th. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all who celebrate!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

2025 JKA/AF Nationals: This year, we had seven dojo members travel to New Orleans, LA, to compete in our federation's annual national championships from November 21-23, 2025. Coming off a high-energy Panamerican Championship and an insightful camp with Hirayama Sensei, we're proud of how our competitors took those lessons and applied them on the mat to close out their year of training.

Congratulations to everyone for a strong performance and showing the all-around high level of West Coast karate! Our dojo has competitors well-rounded in both disciplines; this highlights both our high level of instruction and the depth of our fundamentals. Special shout-out to Sammi, who was named Outstanding Female Competitor. She was able to secure first place in both adult women's kata and



kumite for the first time! We're thrilled to see her hard work over the past few years come to fruition in 2025. We're only getting stronger from here!

Dojo Highlights:

- Sammi: 1st place indiv. kata/kumite; 1st place team kumite
- Harry: 3rd place indiv. kata/kumite; 3rd place team kumite
- Julia: Top 8 indiv. kata; 1st place team kumite
- Christina: 2nd place indiv. seniors kata/kumite; 1st place team kumite
- Abdallah+Amir: 3rd place team kumite

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* offers an opportunity to start the year with a clean slate, emphasizing the focus, determination, and power needed to forge ahead.

We're planning on driving down to the Los Angeles area for this event! If you're interested in tagging along for Thursday evening arrival and a Sunday evening return (Jan. 8-11), please reach out so we can figure out a carpool and hotel arrangement that works for everyone. Expect early morning and evening trainings with sightseeing in between!

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

2026 Shin'Nen Budo Karate Tournament: USNKF-style tournament hosted by HP Shotokan in Sacramento, CA. Open to all ages and ranks. Please let instructors know if you are interested so we can review the rules with you! WKF gear and mouthpiece required.

Date: January 17, 2026; 8 AM doors open

Tokon In-House: USNKF-style tournament hosted by Tokon Martial Arts in Sacramento. A good entry tournament for people interested in competing at all ages and levels! Let us know if you or your child is interested so instructors can provide a proper introduction to the format and expectations of competition karate.

Date: February 22, 2026

JKA SKDI Revere Goodwill Championship: A Shotokan tournament hosted by JKA Revere in Revere, MA, to raise funds for the next Funakoshi World Tournament. Divisions for all ages, beginner to advanced, will be offered. Early registration (\$10 off each event) ends December 12. On-time registration closes January 27.

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 multiple-time All Japan kumite medalist, 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