# Task Karate May 2025 Newsletter

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### Closed for Eskrima Seminar

Task Karate will be closed on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, so that members our IS3 La Crosse group can attend the Appleton eskrima seminars with Suro Hart! Thank you for understanding.

### **Riverfest Demo!**

We have been invited to perform karate demonstrations on July  $3^{\rm rd}$ , and  $5^{\rm th}$ . Please sign up at the school so we know who will be there, and can create our show!



Mr. T. asked if I would pen a short article on the Japanese concept of Kaizen

for the Task Karate May Newsletter. With that, Kaizen refers to ongoing improvement or continual improvement. Kaizen is composed of two Japanese words.

Kai = change Zen = good

In Japanese, Kaizen translates to constant improvement. To that end, the concept of Kaizen means we work to do better every day. With Kaizen, we seek to make small, daily improvements/adjustments that compound over time and can eventually even turn into positive habits. Historically, the concept of Kaizen was embraced by the Japanese populace as a means to rebuild their economy post WWII.

We can apply the concept of Kaizen to any area of our lives and to our martial arts practice. In our martial arts practice, Kaizen could look like focusing on a particular kick. In doing so, we can break the kick down into its discrete parts and practice each part a little each day until we find ourselves comfortable with the totality of the kick. This can also look like taking one form (kata) and breaking it down into chunks. After we learn the first chunk of the form, we move onto the second, and then the third part, etc. etc. Overtime, we are able to complete the entire form.

In summary, Kaizen has utility for our martial arts practice and all aspects of our life. With a mindset of continuous improvement, we are not only able to become better martial artists but also develop the skills of perseverance and resilience necessary to move through our day to day lives.

Wishing you all a peaceful sense of well-being. Ms. Yehle



## May Birthdays!

1st Jon Silha

**Thomas Bryant** 

3<sup>rd</sup> Jacob Kind

3<sup>rd</sup> Brett Nichols

5<sup>th</sup> Ira Foreman

6<sup>th</sup> Chase Bollom

9<sup>th</sup> Daniel Jensen

10<sup>th</sup> Fox Kroeger

11<sup>th</sup> Ashton Peterson

12<sup>th</sup> Neven Peterson Gianunzio

13<sup>th</sup> Hugo Unnasch

17<sup>th</sup> Josie Thompson

20<sup>th</sup> Barb Yocum

21st Josh Osley

25<sup>th</sup> Ella Johnson

26<sup>th</sup> Jeremiah Gorsett

26<sup>th</sup> Alivia Kind

30<sup>th</sup> Andreana Pollock Jedd Thompson

Please let me know if I missed your birthday!



### **April Rank Promotions**

#### **Gold Belt**

Jed Thompson Samantha McConnell Liam Knoll Ethan Eady Emma Alsaro Chloe Herod

**Orange Belt** 

Calvin Ahlert

Eden Maphie

Viggo Buri

Rafael Dinos

**Green Belt** 

Marlo Ellefson

**Purple Belt** 

**Ethan Schreier** 

**Brown Belt** 

Neven Peterson Gianunzio