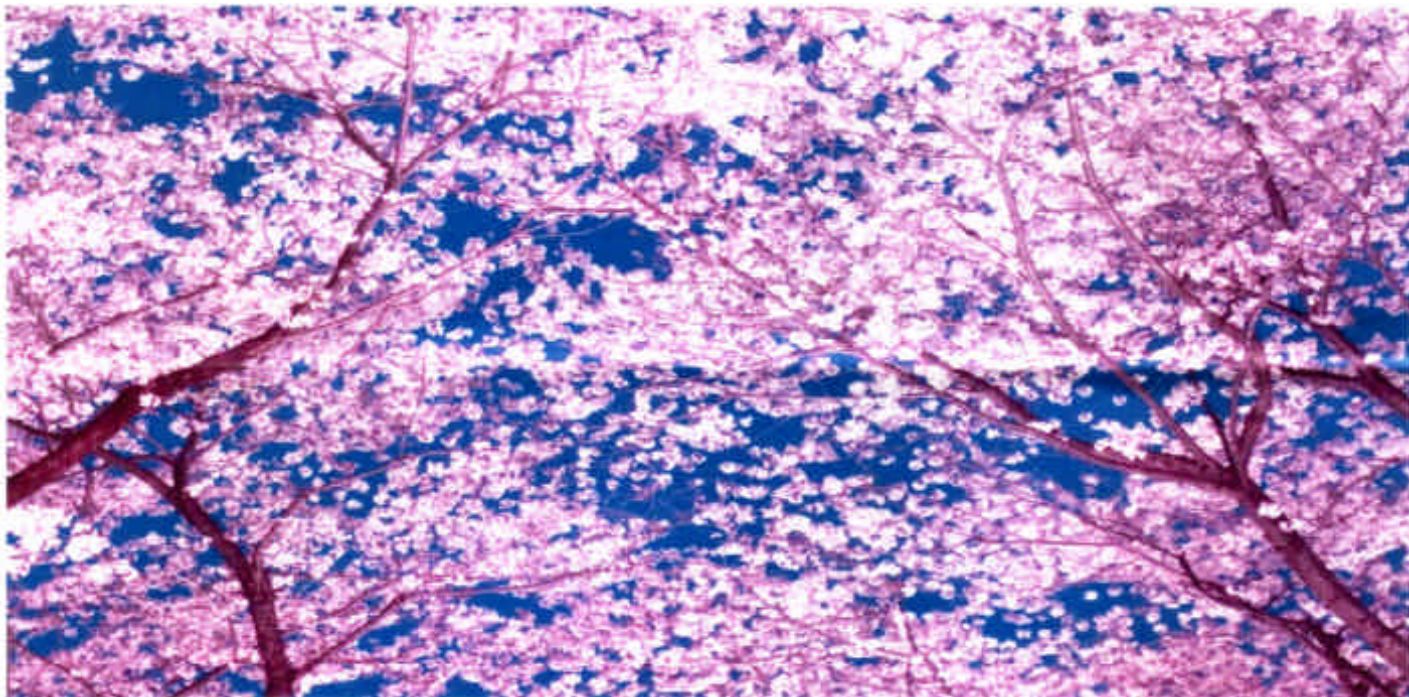


Newsletter from Prefectural Headquarters of Gifu District

Nonprofit organization approved by Japanese government
Official web site of Karate Shoto League - <http://www.fsinet.or.jp/~jks-gifu/>
Publisher: Prefectural Headquarters of Gifu District of
Japan Karate Shoto League, an NPO organization
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Break down the Dormancy

Day passes by unconsciously as yesterday. We can feel something different from yesterday however if we are a bit more alert. There are impatience for the spring and flowers, joy for the vista, and sorrow for the fall. We read poems and literature to maximize the beauty of Japan.

The buds of cherry flowers are formed in the preceding year and go to rest in dormancy. They are exposed to the low temperature in winter, get awake, and prepare to flower. This is called "breakdown from dormancy". It requires the exposition to cold weather for a certain period of time in autumn and winter.

As the temperature goes up in spring, the buds swell in tune with the rising speed of temperature. When they reach the peak, they bloom.

We understand the "dormancy, breakdown, growth, and bloom" of cherry flowers are closely related to the temperature in autumn through winter and in early spring. This explains the cherry flowers are the plant evolved on the beautiful land of Japan that has a distinctive chain of four seasons.

Etymology of "sakura" flower takes "sakuya" from "konohana sakuya hime (princess of flowers)" in Kojiki (Records of Ancient Matters) that is transformed to "sakura", or "sa", an old word for the soul of grains and "kura" for god's seat, being combined as the seat for the souls of grains. Because the blooming of cherry flowers has been considered as the sign of rice farming since the ancient days, this is very convincing.

Now, break down the dormancy in yourself, and you will feel different.

Information

It has been decided to judge the result of draw match of kata by the kata of jo for children, Heian shodan for 1st to 4th graders, junro shodan for 5th graders and up. Please confirm the contents of matches.

Schedule for April 2007

19 to 22 - World Shoto Karate Budo Festival 2007 in Honor of Gichin Funakoshi at Okinawa Budo Hall

22 - Preliminary match of Karatedo for National Athletic Meet by Gifu Karatedo Federation at Memorial Center

29 - Reception Party for Russian Players at Grand Palais Hotel at 6:00 p.m.; deadline on April 20

30 - 8th Gifu Karatedo Championship by Japan Karate Shoto Federation (NPO corporation) at Memorial Center

May 6 - Gifu Karatedo Match by Gifu Karatedo Federation at Memorial Center; full support for referees is anticipated.

My Treasures There are many kinds of treasures such as the one of boyhood that has been stored for so long a time that it went out of mind, the one that was gained with a lot of efforts, or the one that was a junk at first but turned to a treasure after a long time. It's anyhow the self, child or grownup, that determines the value. We borrowed a bunch of precious treasures from Mr. Masanori Nakazono, head of Hashima division. They have been nicely stored and hardly look 30 years old. Here are episodes picked from one of them.



Mr. Zentaro Kosaka
former chairman



Basic kumite by Mr. Hayashi
chairman
and Mr. Kawashima, chief director



Dojo Interview by Mr. Tanaka
chief director of Gifu
Headquarters

"My Treasure" by Masanori Nakazono, Head of Hashima Division

I was devoted in practice under the direction of Mr. Hirotaka Hayashi, chairman, in 1974. One day he handed me over the first edition of the magazine of "Monthly Karatedo" and told me to read it. There I found an article of the initial lesson for the national leaders, a photo of Mr. Masatoshi

Nakayama on the next page, and that of Mr. Hayashi and Mr. Kawashima on the third. I also found an article covered in three pages of the interview with Gifu Headquarters along with the scripts by Mr. Tanaka, Mr. Hayashi, Mr. Kawashima, and Mr. Hayakawa. I am now convinced the solidarity of Gifu Headquarters is based on nothing but steady efforts of long years. As I reread the articles, I recall my past days when I was full of passions and energies, and feel a need of reinspiring myself. This magazine is MY treasure that was presented by Mr. Hayashi.

March Test for Kyu and Dan Upgraders by Gifu Headquarters

750 testees attended the first test at 9:00 a.m. and the second at 10:30 a.m. on March 18. Their lips were trembling in coldness and tension but their cheerful voices sounded big in Gifu Arena.



Test for dan upgrade was conducted in the afternoon. The number of testees reached 157, the largest in history. As they listened to Mr. Tanaka, chief director, addressing "Black belt is not a gift but an achievement", they elevated and uplifted their spirit.

Test for dan upgrade for 24 boys and grownups took place in the next stage. They challenged "Ni-dan" or "Second Grade" with a target of advanced individual technique and mental development. The audience clapped their hands on the upgraders' complete absorption in the challenge with their long experiences, achievements in the past matches, and the pride in confidence as dan holders. Mr. Tanaka explained to the instructors of Motodachi (provisional opponent) about the "Attitude of Motodachi" before the test. They allowed the testees to practice on their bodies splendidly to draw the goodness of testees.

All the testees expressed the feeling of perfection in their full smile at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Apart from the results of tests their efforts up to that moment brought progress in their heart and body. Human beings can make progress by having dreams, and nothing but the continuation of having big dreams is a shortcut to make the dreams come true.

We will feature the World Shoto Budo Festival and the Gifu Match in the issue of April. We welcome the fresh reports and news around you. Please feel free to send them to us. Thank you.