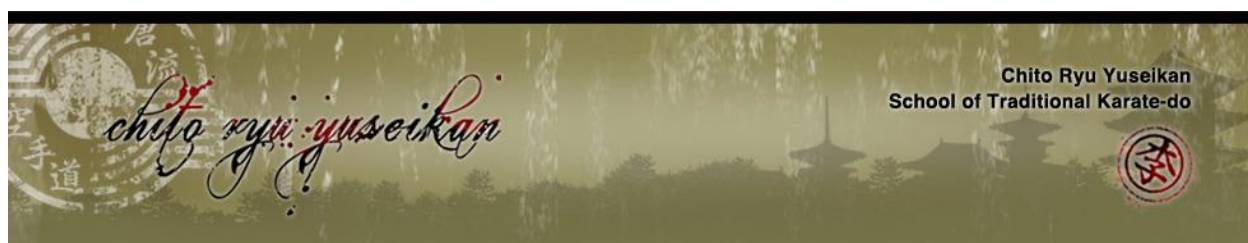


CLUB SPOTLIGHT

KARATE 道 BC



This month, Karate BC would like to profile Chito Ryu Yuseikan Karate. Thank you for being a member of Karate BC for 34 years!



Club Name: **Chito Ryu Yuseikan Karate** formerly known as Burnaby Chito Ryu

1st Head Sensei: **Gary Mah and Robert Lee**

Current Head Sensei: **Robert Lee**

Year Club was founded: **1980-1981**

Year joined Karate BC (if different):

Style Association: **Chito Ryu**

Number of Members: **~150**



Chito Ryu Yuseikan Karate focuses on authentic, traditional karate offering the highest standard of training. Our objectives include the development of discipline, respect, self-esteem and personal fitness.

Chito Ryu is the first style of karate in Canada. **Dr. Tsuyoshi Chitose** was the founder of the Chito Ryu style; in Okinawa he was known as Chinen Gua but is now respectfully titled O-Sensei. At O-Sensei's death in 1984, his son **Yasuhiro Chitose** assumed his father's name and took on the responsibilities as the new Soke and head of Chito Ryu.

Chito Ryu Yuseikan formerly known as Burnaby Chito Ryu started in Burnaby, BC in 1980-81 under Gary Mah and **Robert Lee**. In 1982, under the direction of Robert Lee the dojo permanently moved to the Eastburn Community Centre and recently expanded to include classes at the Queensborough Community Centre in New Westminster. Robert Lee has been the head instructor since that time. He is a 6th degree black belt with the title

Renshi. His karate and life have been positively influenced by many notable instructors including: O-Sensei, Warren Mauer, Brian DeMasters, Chris Taneda, Gary Mah, David Akutagawa, Shane Higashi, Tsutomu Tashiro, Hiroshi Tanaka, Ryuichi Nakamura, Morimitsu Tamaki and his greatest influence, Soke Sensei.

Chito Ryu Karate is a traditional martial art with close ties to Japan. The dojo is honoured to host an annual visit from Soke Sensei who often brings other senior delegates with him. In addition, Sensei Lee, often accompanied by his Yudansha, regularly visits the Sohonbu headquarters in Kumamoto City.

Chito Ryu Yuseikan is also unique with respect to the longevity of its large Yudansha group. Many of the black belts have grown up in the dojo and most of them have trained with Sensei Lee for over 20 years, many closer to 30 years.

The karate classes are fun and interactive; no special athletic ability or skill is required. Chito Ryu can be practiced by all ages, regardless of gender. Chito Ryu Yuseikan has a unique family atmosphere based on a mentoring system where older students work with younger ones to provide a supportive network. Students are encouraged to progress at their own rate and potential.

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