



Lakewood Budo Kai

Jujitsu, Karate, and Women's Self Defense



Jim Kelton – Head Instructor Bio

Introduction

Jim Kelton is the founder and head instructor of the Lakewood Budo Kai martial arts school in Long Beach California. He has over 40 years of martial arts experience including 32 years of teaching experience. He holds black belts in four martial arts:

- *Karate* - Shichidan 7th degree black belt in Shorin Ryu Karate
- *Jujitsu* - Rokudan 6th degree black belt in Danzan Ryu Jujitsu
- *Judo* - Sandan 3rd degree black belt in Kodenkan Judo
- *Sword* - Nidan 2nd degree black belt in Iai sword drawing

Teaching Philosophy

While upholding ancient warrior ways, Mr. Kelton strives to build a school around Ohana, the Hawaiian word for “family.” Every student of Lakewood Budo Kai is part of a family that support the growth and teaching of every individual. Students progress at their own rate and are given personalized instruction based on their individual strengths and weaknesses. Jim Kelton has touched thousands of lives and is revered and respected by his students, apparent by the number of students that have devoted themselves and studied under him for decades.

Training Experience

Mr. Kelton credits his knowledge and experience to his instructors, Joseph Holck, DaiShihan (10th degree black belt and founder of Kokenkan Yudanshakai martial arts association) and Professor Carl Beaver (10th degree black belt and co-founder of Jujitsu America). Both instructors played a major role in Mr. Kelton’s personal and martial arts development.

Martial Arts Background

Jim Kelton, a martial arts traditionalist, is an instructor’s instructor. He is widely regarded as one of the last martial arts instructors to uphold traditional Japanese samurai martial arts and Okinawa Karate ways and philosophies. He teaches the arts in the purest, most historically accurate manner possible, as they were passed down from his instructors. Students from around the world seek out Mr. Kelton to study with him and learn these traditional ways.

Jim Kelton was born in Alameda, California and raised in Tucson, Arizona. Mr. Kelton’s martial arts career began in Tucson in 1964 at the age of 11 when he was introduced to Judo. Jim Kelton later sought out more traditional forms of martial arts descending from one of the last remaining Japanese samurai clan. It is from this family that Mr. Kelton continued his training in martial arts under Joseph Holck, founder of Kodenkan Yudanshakai, the School of the Ancient Tradition Black Belt Society, and direct student of Professor Henry Seishiro Okazaki (founder of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu).



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In 1969, Mr. Kelton began his training in Okinawa Shorin Ryu Karate. Shorin Ryu is a traditional form of self defense that combines blocks, punches, strikes, and kicks into an Okinawan fighting style. Shorin Ryu is an effective art used by warriors who served as bodyguards to the kings of Okinawa.

After completing college in 1977, Mr. Kelton relocated to California where he continued his training under Professor Carl Beaver, another direct student of Professor Henry Seishiro Okazaki (founder of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu), and the only known student to have lived with Professor Okazaki while studying massage and martial arts. In the early 1980's, Mr. Kelton was accepted as the only "westerner" into a traditional Iai samurai sword school.

Lineage

Students of Mr. Kelton are fortunate to learn ancient martial arts techniques passed down through a close and unbroken lineage.

- *Jujitsu* – Mr. Kelton studied under two instructors of Professor Henry Shesheiro Okazaki, founder of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu.
- *Karate* – Mr. Kelton teaches from an unbroken lineage of ancient Okinawan karate masters.

Teaching Experience

In May 1979, Mr. Kelton opened his own school, Lakewood Budo Kai martial arts, providing instruction in:

- *Jujitsu* – Traditional Japanese Danzan Ryu Jujitsu (ages 7 and up)
- *Karate* – Traditional Okinawan Shorin Ryu (Sukunai Hayashi) Karate (ages 13 and up)
- *Women's Self Defense* – practical self defense techniques (women ages 13 and up)

Mr. Kelton is most proud that his dojo, the Lakewood Budo Kai, celebrated its 25th anniversary of teaching Jujitsu and Karate in the Long Beach area. Classes are held twice weekly Monday and Wednesday evenings. For more information, please visit www.LakewoodBudoKai.com.

Media Recognition

Jim Kelton and the Lakewood Budo Kai have been featured in the following Southern California publications:

- Long Beach Press Telegram
- Lakewood Herald American



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Awards and Certifications

Throughout his 40 year career, Mr. Kelton has received numerous awards and certifications including:

- Kodankan Judo Gold Life Member from the United States Judo Association
- Kansetsu Waza joint locking techniques from the Southern California Jujitsu Association
- Karate Kobudo weapons training in the art of sword drawing from the Japan Karate Federation
- Monadnock persuader police baton certification from Westchester Jujitsu Kai
- Lamplighter Award from Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai martial arts association

Education

In addition to his martial arts training, Mr. Kelton is well educated and holds advanced degrees from a Top 5 university:

- Master of Science 1976, University of Arizona, Major: Management Information Systems
- Bachelor of Science 1975, University of Arizona, Majors: Accounting and Management