



# Ka Leo O Kodenkan

American Jujitsu Institute

Since 1939

*“Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono”*

Volume 2012 - 01

## The Portals of Danzan Ryu - It's Personal

### Part 1

By: Sensei Dale Kahoun

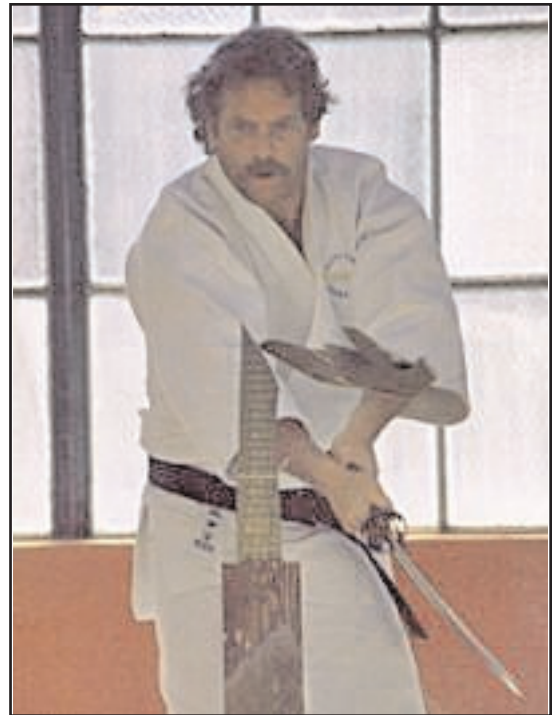
I have been wanting to write a follow-up article to the 'Foundations of Danzan Ryu' article I wrote a few years ago. That study explored as far as I could, where our techniques came from. Many of those koryu (arts instructed at the time of the samurai) ryuha (schools) are still practiced in Japan. That article included who the current headmasters were and where they are now. The writing showed that the Japanese styles were interconnected, and how Judo also came from a modern (post samurai era) amalgamation of those Japanese styles.

Professor Okazaki also incorporated some other techniques gleaned from other martial arts including: Judo, Hawaiian Lua, Okinawa-te (Karate), Kung fu, Eskrima (Philippine stick/knife fighting) and I'm sure he had pointers in there from wrestling and boxing as it was done in the time of Professor Okazaki.

Martial study is a very personal experience. There are different reasons why you started your study, how it affected you, what your level of commitment to practice was, how successful the experience was, who your teachers were, were your goals met, what affect did it have on you and on others you influence.

We're not going to have experienced all the same things. Probably some of our learnings or observations are similar; I can only offer you some of mine. These experiences though have been my own version of "Through the Looking Glass" only as a martial artist. That being said I need to digress into a personal diatribe of my study and practice.

What the gist of this writing is, though, (in Part III), will be insights I had concerning Danzan Ryu while writing and putting together the 400+ page techniques workbook 'The Kilohana Workbook' for Professor Sig Kufferath (and for myself and others). Part I lays the groundwork; Part II tells about mindset (or maybe opening the mind to studying) and studying from Professor Kufferath.



**Sensei Dale Kahoun is shown slicing cleanly through his target using a technique deveoped through practice of the daito no maki (sword) list of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu.**

I began my study of Danzan Ryu (Kodenkan) Jujitsu and at the same time Judo (Kodokan) in January of 1969. Then I was eighteen years old; now I've entered my sixties, and I'm still learning these martial arts. My goal at that time was to become a police officer (now I'm retired from that profession). I wanted practical/tactical techniques for self-defense and capture. I wasn't disappointed; it's been all I'd hoped for, and much more

To do a really pretty kata technique, you need a trained uke. Uke does a proper kata attack and a good breakfall and you have demonstrated a technique. With an impromptu antagonist out on the sidewalk or asphalt, who comes

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## President's Message

*Prof. Samuel C. Luke*

Hello members, parents and friends,

I am so happy to report that all is well with the Institute. We are hearing positive reports on activities from our Regions and dojos as well.

Expect some great changes on our website. We are making it easier to read and navigate. Brian McElhany has been replaced Jason Spencer as our Webmaster. Thank you Jason for your years of service as Webmaster!

Meanwhile, our Ohana committee is hard at work for the biggest and best yet. Registrations have been a little slow but we are hopeful that those who can come will come. Maybe some may require a little nudge. I am asking you to give some folks you know a gentle nudge to encourage them to come to Hawaii for Ohana 2012.

A little late this year, but we had our Executive Retreat recently. This weekend gathering of Officers review last year's activities and plan to make improvements on any shortfalls we recognize. We also lay out ways where we can improve for the year and beyond. I am proud of our hard working officers, directors, and all the leaders. In fact I'm proud of all our members, parents and friends for their dedication and loyalty to the AJI.

Notice that we are not interested in growth for growth's sake, for we seek quality rather than quantity. I continue to urge for you to tell us how we can better the AJI and to maintain loyalty from our members, parents and friends.

Aloha Nui Loa!

Prof. Sam Luke

Sam Luke  
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### Ohana 2012

Ohana 2012 is fast approaching. Please visit the website for current information. Book your rooms early to get the most favorable room rates. We recommend taking this opportunity to turn this into a family vacation where you'll have the chance to take in all that Hawaii has to offer.

<http://ohana2012.americanjujitsuinstitute.org>

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# The Portals of Danzan Ryu

(Cont'd. from Page 1)

at you with some oddball attack, you respond with something that you think might fit the piece of the puzzle he's presented. The defensive response rarely looks like kata (on occasion it actually does), but what usually happens is thumpy and bumpy. The opponent has made two really bad choices: 1) Attacking or resisting a cop; and 2) Not knowing how to do a proper breakfall.

I never did an actual hip throw, just mostly sweeps, reaps, and trips. What I found best to use were; Osotogari, Osotogaruma, Harai Goshi, Tai Otoshi, and Okuriashi Barai. Pain compliance worked, like wristlocks, armlocks/armbars, and quite a few carotid restraints. I have given out whacks with all three styles of police baton; sidehandle, straight, and expandable. Remember usually people aren't so much 'An Enemy' as much as they are usually someone out of control, often under the influence of one thing or another (not too uncommon in California). They may have needed a bit of a lesson, but I never intended to maim anyone. That also doesn't mean it was sport or in good fun, when they're 'out of control' they can hurt, maim or kill you. So I started my study with fairly serious intent.

As a preparation for combat, Judo can offer the mental preparation, the internal dialog, and the ability to respond under pressure a little like it was a real confrontation. Advanced Judo practitioners have been known to plan their opponent's next move and take advantage of it. Whether awarded by rank or not this demonstrates mastery. You might be aware that in the 'old days' of Danzan Ryu a brown belt was preferred in Judo before you were promoted to Shodan in Jujitsu. Later this was reduced to at least some Judo experience.

I heard a well respected martial arts teacher (a Kung Fu practitioner and a brawler in his youth) at a seminar take advantage of students who had never 'tested' their Danzan Ryu techniques on the street say; "What you practice, and those things you practice would never work on the street!" I never want to take over someone else's class, or publicly embarrass them . . . so, I waited till we had a private moment and told him that *I had used our techniques on the street*, and as a matter of fact there are quite a few Judo and Danzan Ryu practitioners who are in law enforcement, and this style fits the bill quite well. I wouldn't always have scored kata points with what I did when responding to an attack but I will say it hits like a thunderbolt against someone who is not a skilled fighter. When I say that, I mean studied more than one fighting method. The truth is, I usually protected the person I was taking into custody and did not do competition style throws on the street, which could prove fatal. By the way, a competition Judo throw also only looks like kata a percentage of the time. I need to add that the dynamic motion of both competitors sometimes results in a throw that looks better than I think kata ever could. (Magic!)

I believe in Danzan Ryu and will defend it. It is not *what style* you practice but *how you practice the style*! For instance Brazilian Jujitsu's foundation is from Judo and Japanese Jujitsu, basically the same techniques as in Danzan Ryu. The practices for Competition Judo and Brazilian Jujitsu are more extreme. Both styles are playing (or fighting if you think that way) other martial artists who are skilled. The practice is more physical; repetition is done so techniques are developed to be quick, fluid and strong. You will sweat harder in practice, another definition of 'sweat equity'.

I wrestled some in high school. When I saw what Judo looked like, and what the rules were, why . . . it was just wrestling *only more*! I studied Judo and Jujitsu for a whole two weeks before I entered a small local tournament. I promised myself to do these new throw-things (I only knew one really) and I would not rely on ground work. I won two matches and lost two matches but I was hooked! I competed in Judo until I was thirty-seven.

I need to mention in-passing that martial arts is a continuum of people. My martial arts experience is made up of the mostly excellent teachers in front of me. Many of my teachers have passed on and it was my great good fortune to have known them. I now appreciate the valuable time I spend with those who are still here. There are my peers, and as I grow older some of them have passed on; this gives another appreciation of the time we spend together, and an acceptance of *our mortality*. There are those behind me, many long-time students and new students who are my extended family. My oldest students are *Sensei*, even of Associate Professor rank, and some international competitors. Now some of *their* students are *Sensei*! The sense of *immortality* I get from this is that some part of me will be left when I go, and I was happily a part of this human transfer of knowledge, a people-chain-continuum.

I had black belt ranks in Danzan Ryu and Judo, and a brown belt in Aikido. I had taught Judo and Jujitsu at two California Community Colleges for eight years and was a police impact weapons and defensive tactics instructor when I re-began my study of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu . . . from Professor Siegfried Kufferath when I was thirty-seven.

# Portals - Learning Danzan Ryu from Closer to the Source

## ~ Part II ~

I've given my history, personal experiences and feelings regarding my martial study. Young students might be surprised to find that their teacher may have had many of these feelings and the experiences might be different but the overall outcome is the same. We are all the same; everyone should feel their own 'specialness'. Different paths lead to the same place.

The 'Do' of Judo, Aikido, Kendo, etc is also read 'michi' in Japanese. Either way it means an *esoteric path*. The character also is Tao in Chinese, (it still means path) as in 'Tao Te Ching' which is a philosophy of 'nature's way'.

A study of the Tao is not a religious study, but philosophic. A person can study 'Taoist thought' and be a devout Christian or other religious practitioner, as was Thomas Merton, a Trappist Monk who toured China and wrote insightful books on 'Taoist thought'. I was surprised when (in my twenties) I found books that pointed out personal lessons that I had learned in martial arts practice. I recommend used book stores.

I needed to point out a different way of thinking than we westerners usually employ. We are somewhat consumed with a linear way of thinking, over-concerned with 'a right way, a wrong way, the way I learned it'. There are a lot of ways or paths you can take to the same destination.

After my first teacher had passed on, I could see a world of politically cliquish frustration ahead of me for advancement in Jujitsu where I was. What was worse, I'd have to participate in those politics I despised, so I concentrated on Judo and Aikido. I was a Shodan in Danzan Ryu for about thirteen years when I found my next Jujitsu Sensei, Professor Sig Kufferath, 10th Dan, and student of founder Professor Henry S. Okazaki.

To me, Professor Kufferath did not just have the 'cosmic giggle', he embodied it. He was unassuming and at the same time very exacting about how you performed your techniques. For instance, during a rank exam if your fingers or your feet were in a good solid position, that didn't matter if it wasn't kata, he'd stop the exam and make you do it over. Every other Sensei's rank exam seemed more forgiving than Professor Kufferath's. I suppose that if it was your school and you wanted it done some other way, Professor Kufferath would stand down, but we at Kilohana gave him carte-blanche. He was exacting and a task-master. If you asked him why, he'd say that's the way Professor Okazaki taught it, or simply because 'that's the way it's done.' Some of the reasoning will remain a mystery, but *'that's the way it's done!'* We loved it and we loved him. Sig (I was allowed to call him that), was a Hawaiian. An example of that was when I had just picked up some photos from the processor. Most were martial art photos with some personal pictures mixed in. As Sig looked through them he said "Who's this?" I said "Oh, that's just my Mom." He said, "Ok I need that." and he took it and put it in his photo album! (Ohana = Family, we're part of each other.)

Sig was disarmingly honest. After some street situation I had, I asked him a question about what I had done with a resisting opponent. His answer was; "Don't ask me! You're the expert! In all the time I've done Jujitsu I've never had the *chance* to use it in a fight!" Wow! No faking it, no macho, no supposing. How rare is that in a human, much less an advanced martial artist who had trained the military in hand-to-hand combat during World War II?

When I dropped Sig off at his house after practice he always stood outside and watched me drive away, watching until I was out of sight. He didn't just teach Martial Arts, he taught what it was to have the heart of a Hawaiian. At this juncture I'll say that I was in the right place at the right time. Professor Kufferath studied directly from Danzan Ryu founder Professor Henry Okazaki. I got to spend some time with Sig bringing him back and forth to class, and going to Kenpo Tournaments where I was usually his uke for the self defense demonstration portions of the competitions.

I had a habit of making martial art notebooks for myself. Taking factual crime reports and traffic accident reports had forced technical writing on me. I found myself adaptable to make sense out of martial art movements in written words. In 1996 (I was then forty-six years old) I offered to make a workbook for Kilohana, and other interested Danzan Ryu practitioners. The workbook would list techniques the way Sig preferred them for rank testing. I wanted to capture what it was that Sig taught, for posterity. Writings are often changed by outside influences. I made two originals that Professor Kufferath signed and applied his chop for all pages showing his approval. To allow breathing room for the possessor of the workbook, I left room to write-in any other way they like, or notes. The same year I completed the workbook, (1999), after it was accepted by the Library of Congress and had a Copyright and ISBN number, Professor Kufferath passed away.



The techniques in the workbook, for the majority, were the way that Professor Okazaki taught Danzan Ryu to Professor Kufferath. Occasionally an original technique was replaced or augmented with something else, usually a note indicated that occurred.

From accounts I have read about Professor Okazaki, he was proud of his Japanese Culture and wanted to enrich other Americans with Japanese traditions and culture. Professor Okazaki was also proud of the U.S.A. and you will find photos of him standing in front of the American Flag.

There are many things Japanese that we recognize today, and Americans are in the habit of assimilating the best from each culture that we can; that's a lot of what makes the U.S.A. what it is. With the melting pot of culture that Hawaii was; and at a time when a lot of people had just gotten there, there were attitudes brought from 'the old country'. There was resistance to overcome.

It is pretty well known that Professor Okazaki met resistance teaching Japanese martial arts to non-Japanese. It is also well known that the Chinese were like that too with their martial art. I believe that the nationalizing of martial arts is not unnatural, as this is what we have learned to protect ourselves from *them* (whoever *them* is). Professor Okazaki's message was, come to the party, we're all Americans now! I don't think he could have picked a better place to win this battle, than on the islands of aloha. That we're here in large diverse groups studying Danzan Ryu JuJitsu means, he won.

When I wrote the workbook I also made boards that exactly matched the workbook. I put them on the walls around my small dojo. The Danzan Ryu lists were all there from Yawara through Shinjin No Maki. The Judo lists of Go Kyo No Waza, the sixty five throws of Judo were also there. The basic sword techniques of Kashima Shin Ryu were there as well as the Kihon of Aikido. In order to instruct students I had built a learning box. Nobody was there more than I was for the next three years, maybe it was mostly for me.

I have written all of this, so I could tell you what seeped into my thick skull during the process of writing the clever teachings of Professor Okazaki. He studied and taught many martial arts, then layed them out in lists for us like a smörgåsbord, or Luau, for our Hawaiian friends (we like 'em all).

**Editor's Note:** Sensei Dale Kahoun's article will be ran as a multi-part series in the AJI Newsletter. Next issue look for: **Part III - Portals, The Portals of Danzan Ryu, and Part IV - Portals of Danzan Ryu JuJitsu.**)

## Mizu Shin Tao Announces Promotion

*By Prof. Ken Eddy*

Mizu Shin Tao is proud to announce the promotion of Melissa Wiseman to the rank of Shodan.

Melissa has been studying Danzan Ryu Jujitsu for six years and has attended many events throughout the years.

She has shown understanding in the martial as well as the "healing" side of the art and is a licensed massage therapist in Nevada with certifications in Swedish methodologies as well as being certified in the Art of Seifukujutsu.

Her persistence and determination set her aside from most and she has been dubbed "Lion Heart".

Melissa is only 5'3" tall, but is a giant in stature and tenacity.

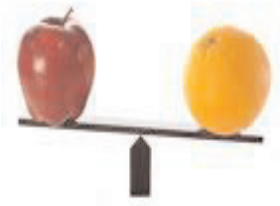
Congratulations, Melissa.

**Photo at Right:** Mellissa Wiseman is shown with her mentor and instructor, Professor Ken Eddy.



# Apples and Oranges

By: Sifu Kai Li



Last night a group of my students started a familiar conversation comparing what we do in Combatives and Defensive Tactics to MMA and traditional martial arts systems. In particular they were saying they liked combative systems such as Systema, Krav Maga, and MCMAP (The U.S. Marine Corps Program) better than combat sports like MMA or the traditional martial arts.

I let them run for awhile until one of them asked me to chime in. In one sense they are correct. Combative systems are better at doing what they were designed to do. They are made to help you survive in a sudden life and death struggle. They were not designed to help you become a good person or bring you on a path of enlightenment. I'm not saying those things are not possible, just that they are not part of the design of the program. In the military you have people who have already been trained up to a certain level of combat fitness and moral conditioning. Combatives are merely icing on the cake in developing the complete operator.

Life and death struggles may feel like forever when you are in them, but the truth is that most of them are extremely brief. Without weapons they last fifteen seconds or less. With a firearm the average gunfight is only three seconds long. MMA fights with equally matched opponents can go on for half an hour or more while traditional martial arts sparring matches are somewhere in between those extremes.



In looking at the big picture the value of communication skills cannot be undervalued. Programs like Verbal Judo, Adrenal Response Aggression Training, and The Dale Carnegie Course all have a place in preparing you as a complete martial artist. In bottom line truth the simple yet overlooked value of situational awareness is paramount. To avoid any conflict by knowing it about well in advance is an ace that trumps any set of fisticuffs you could endeavor to pursue.

Those aspects set aside, the traditional, MMA and Close Combat arts all have very valuable attributes. In a very formal traditional martial art such as Aikido you have a level of mental, emotional, and spiritual development that is more important within the context of the art than the actual combatpracticality. In MMA you have a level of fitness that needs to be there to give you any chance of surviving in that environment. You also have to develop an ability to consistently adapt since the fights are very long! A serious mixed martial artist is one of the best-conditioned athletes in the world. Both a traditional Aikido man and an MMA fighter could find their skills valuable in a street situation, it would depend a lot more on who they were as an operator and how they were trained than what style or system they were actually trained in. People love to take sides, but in the bright light of truth there is a value to all the different styles and systems otherwise they wouldn't all exist. Each one brings something important and beneficial to the table. It just depends what you need. It's all about "having the right tool for the job" as opposed to the "right job for the tool". You can't make three criminals intent on kidnapping your wife decide to "spar" you one at a time in a controlled environment with padded safety gear and a referee. That said you would be the one at fault both legally and morally if you caused serious injury to a drunken friend who tapped you on the shoulder to ask where the bathroom was.



There are four types of liability you have to consider because when you truly train you are creating subconscious program that will run on its own when you feel the stimulus.

First there is **tactical liability**. This means making the best decision under stress to ensure your survival. If you are in Iraq or Afghanistan fighting for your life then you need to use the strategy and tactics that will enable you and your team to survive. It can be that simple. Any slow decision process or silly move will get you killed and the combat environment is extremely unforgiving. Try doing a jump spinning heel kick wearing sixty pounds of gear and you will end up on your bum.

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***Think too much or too long and you will end up  
at your funeral watching your relatives cry.***

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Secondly, there is **criminal liability**. In a civilian environment you will have to show that you were in legitimate fear of your life before taking someone else's. You can't give it back after all is said and done. This is why it is always better to just walk away and let the other guy get the go points unless you know you have no choice but to save your life or protect someone else's.

Thirdly, there is **civil liability**. This one is the worst because it is all about people's opinions. A judge and jury may find you not guilty of any criminal wrongdoing, but in a civil proceeding you could lose everything you own as well as whatever reputation you have built up in your life.

Fourth, you must consider **moral liability**. Even if there are no witnesses and no one else knows you were there, you know and God knows. There may be no jail time or financial burden to be paid, but karma can be a bitch and taking someone's life is not something you can undo.

The bottom line is that if you are going to use extreme measures in a fight you better be darn sure it is an extreme situation before you go too far. You need to have a little "switch" for target identification so you act with conviction and confidence in making a just decision under stress. As students of IMB and legacy of Bruce Lee's Jeet Kune Do, many of you already realize that everything can be great for you. It is just a matter of doing the hard work of daily training to see what works for you and "absorb what is useful".

MMA as well as Traditional Martial Arts and Combatives are all excellent tools for the jobs they were actually designed to do well. I have been a practitioner of all three at different times in my life. If I had children they would learn them all. I would start them with the traditional martial arts from early childhood through the age of reason.

When a child is very young, developing self-esteem, self-discipline, and overall character are paramount. The structure and guidance found in the traditional arts are ideal for this. Here you can also find a way to make training really fun without much injury. A crawl-walk-run approach is par for the course as ideal as an introduction to the warrior path. Right and wrong are being defined as a child grows into their elementary school years, so up to their teens this process is better guided in traditional arts.

Much of a child's moral character is formed by age 13 so it is then that I would build on the traditional arts with some MMA training because it is in middle school and high school that kids face getting into a lot of fights. It is also the harsh reality that kids today are huge MMA fans and goof around with it all the time. If your kids are going to have to face off against it, they need to know how to enter that arena and win.

I wouldn't worry too much about my kids being the ones who actually started the fight if they had already developed a traditional martial arts base foundation first.





After they turned 16 I would introduce close combat skills so they would be well prepared if they chose to serve in the military after graduation.

A traditional martial artist can be much better balanced in his/her inner character development because it is par for the course. The intentionally slow progression of skill development allows the mental understanding of the art and emotional self-control to develop ahead of the more dangerous skills.

My first martial art was Judo and in Judo you only learn throws and presses first. When you are 11 you begin to learn chokes because before then the neck is extremely fragile. It is not until age 15 that you are allowed to perform arm bars because broken joints are serious business for youth going through puberty. In retrospect this was a good thing as a sense of moral responsibility is developed at each stage.

An MMA fighter is in far better overall strength, endurance, whole body coordination, and overall fitness than most martial artists because he/she needs to be. They also develop a high pain threshold because they are on the receiving end of a lot of hits and submissions as part of their core base of training. In the 90's I fought 21 MMA matches and quite honestly it develops a level of toughness that is rare to find in a regular martial artist.

For a one-on-one altercation devoid of lethal intent, a strong set of MMA skills will win you the day. It is more than enough to earn respect in a high school or college fight, which is to say. In a situation like this it is the right tool for the job, especially the Jiu-Jitsu portion.

Jiu-jitsu is wonderful because you can control and contain a situation without inflicting serious injury. I remember using only Judo and Jiu-jitsu to overcome adversity a number of times. More often than not you can emerge from the fight having also earned a new friend because you have not visibly injured your adversary.

Combative close combat skills are another animal entirely. They are designed to save your life when all other systems have failed. They are a measure of last resort when your primary weapons and the rest of your fire team have failed to neutralize the problem. They are designed for "kill or be killed" situations. All movie, television, video games, and graphic novel fantasy set aside, they require a much higher level of moral responsibility and legal accountability. If you train for close combat then you simply carry a higher responsibility just like someone who carries a gun for a living. You have to function with a great sense of awareness, responsibility, and compassion for all life around you. You are basically carrying a loaded gun everywhere you go because you are the weapon.

Even in firearms training the truth always stems from the actual operator, not so much from the type of weapon, choice of firearm, or the existence of the gun itself.

I have had someone try to kill me at close range with a sub-machine gun and miss. He was fast, but he was poorly trained. The unfortunate truth for him is that a slow hit will beat a fast miss every time.

Though an enemy might have a more powerful firearm the bottom line rests in the complete physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual development of the operator. A screwdriver might be able to open your car door, but you would rather use a key if it were your car.

Stay safe.

Aloha,

Sifu Kai Li

P.S. These apples and oranges look so tasty and refreshing, I think I will enjoy one of each right now. Diversity can be yummy and good for you.





# Pacific NW News

*By: Sensei Sue Jennings*

Classes are going very well at KaishinKai Dojo and the satellite schools. Enthusiasm for local, regional and national events is there. Unfortunately not all the students that would like to attend events can because of finances, but the enthusiasm is still contagious.

For my program at the Evergreen State College, it's been a good school year. It's been great being back at the college where we have a huge space to hold classes (it's actually two large rooms adjoining), nice facilities and mats, and good support from the college.

The college has purchased new kick shields and striking mitts for our use, and we've been able to add a Saturday class for more practice time as well. While I teach the Tuesdays and Thursdays, Peter Barnhill (KaishinKai Shodan) has the opportunity of teaching the Saturday afternoon class.

Usually during the summer months we hold classes at our home dojo, but this summer we'll be holding classes at the college. This gives more continuity to the program at the college, and also allows students without transportation to attend classes easier during the summer months. We still hold advanced classes for more senior kyu ranks once a month at our home dojo, as well as a black belt class once every month there, too.

We had a successful Regional Clinic on February 5th where instructors came from as far south as Salem, Oregon to teach a segment at the clinic. The regional events are held every other month and allow students to receive training from instructors other than from our school, so they receive valuable cross-training at the 4-hour events.

On April 17th we had the honor of celebrating Prof. Ron Jennings' 50th year anniversary in Danzan Ryu Jujitsu. He taught a segment in class where he discussed the samurai and history of jujitsu. This was even more special because he attended in hakama complete with swords and tessen. Prof. also demonstrated a few techniques for the students. After class 18 of us went to Appleby's to celebrate with food and drink and comraderie.

Our next Regional Event will be held Saturday, May 5th at Salem, Oregon. There the clinic will have a guest instructor from California from Jujitsu America.

We're pleased to announce the following recent promotions from our KaishinKai schools.

<b>At KaishinKai (Evergreen State College):</b> (Sensei Sue Jennings)	Yonkyu (Green Belt) - Tyler Pearce; Gokyu (3rd) - Adrian Maes.
<b>At KaishinKai (Seattle University):</b> (Sensei Chris Eller)	Yonkyu (Green Belt) - Luke Gentry; Gokyu (3rd) - Sean Chong.

Congratulations to these individuals for their time on the mat and off to further them on their path in Danzan Ryu Jujitsu.

The next exciting events on the schedule for our students will be the much anticipated Ohana 2012 in Hawaii in July. Several students from our area will be attending and are greatly looking forward to the event. Then in September Jujitsu America has their convention in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. It's unknown at this time whether anyone will be able to attend that convention.

Next on the agenda for our region is Kamp KaishinKai which will be held on the property of Prof. Ron and Sensei Sue Jennings from August 10th through 12th. Students should bring a tent, or plan to sleep in the dojo for the 3-day event. One of the reasons this event is special is that it's held in conjunction with the Perseid Meteor Showers that we can see from our property each night. This year the height of the stellar activity is supposed to be August 12th, so on Friday and Saturday nights we should have good viewing for the display. As there is for any event, there's a lot of planning involved, so we hope we have good response from our students in the region. If anyone is interested in attending camp from a distance, we'd be pleased to have you attend and help you with arrangements to attend.



Above Left Photo - Students watch as Prof. Ron Jennings is shown in hakama presenting a segment on samurai and their weapons with a little history as well to the students of KaishinKai at the Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. He celebrated his 50th Anniversary in Danzan Ryu Jujitsu on April 17th. Above Right Photo - Prof. shows the different kinds of tessen (fans) that samurai used.

# My 50 years in Danzan Ryu

*By: Prof. Ron Jennings*

In April I celebrated my 50<sup>th</sup> year as a student of Kodenkan Danzan Ryu Jujitsu. It is hard to believe it has been that long and there is still so much to learn.

I spent the first decade learning the basics of Danzan and the second decade cross-training and verifying just how good DZR is compared to other styles. That's about how long the testosterone lasted before injuries and a certain level of martial maturity set in. Those first twenty years were exciting. Those were the days of competition and challenges. Those were the days of liniment, athletic tape, and crutches. Those were also the days when martial and military applications brought reality to the arts.

The third decade I was into building my own dojo and getting martial arts programs going on a local level. That is a chore not understood by those who have never had to establish a dojo or martial arts program from scratch. You have to have a place to hold classes and you have to find students. There is the frustration of retaining students and finding enough to stay with your program long enough to get promoted. You grow your own colored belts and develop a curriculum that follows the traditions you were taught. There is the grind of holding classes night after night even when there are other things you could do. There is being there to run the junior class even when no one shows up. There is paperwork, insurance issues, and there are organizations to join, and there are students to mentor.

Being a school head is in a world of its own. It is an invaluable learning and personal experience and something all senior martial artists should have gone through.

By the fourth decade I and my students were helping teach and spread DZR at a state and regional level and the fifth decade found me working with national organizations and Yudanshakai.

The most exciting part of the 50 years is not what I have done but what the entire martial arts world has done. Being a teacher/coach in a sport that has tremendous growth and changes over time is indeed challenging. Within constant motion and change there is tranquility, and within tranquility there is motion and change, so I changed and grew as the explosion of martial arts impacted me and my students in many subtle and not so subtle ways.

In the 1950's martial arts dojos and instructors were few and hard to find. There were a few Judo schools around and Karate had not yet become that well known. One could find references to the old Jujitsu and advertisements in mens' magazines for 'secrets of the masters' type of pulp materials.

In the 1960's competition Judo became big in the U.S. after Judo was first included in the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo and an American, James Bregman, won a bronze medal. Judo and Jujitsu dojos started popping up in YMCA's, churches, backyards and basements all over the country. Punching and kicking are not normally covered in the early phases of Judo and the old stand up and fight mentality of Americans left a gap that Karate quickly filled. Then the commercial Karate dojo/business ventures started in essence soon to be followed by the Korean Taekwondo franchises.

The TV show *Kung Fu* and people like Bruce Lee caught the country's imagination and Bruce had a different name for his art form - Jeet Kune Do.

The 70's and 80's saw a real explosion in martial arts programs. No longer were dojos offering just one art form. *Black Belt Magazine* reported finding over 350 different martial arts being taught in the U.S. alone. Instructors merged techniques for various art forms to create new KICKBUTTDO styles. Although the curriculum may stay the same, the sign over the dojo door changed. The quality of instruction and the requirements for rank suffered. Contracts for lessons with guaranteed rank, whether attending class or not became popular. Six-year-old Black Belts were not uncommon. Tradition and lineage were out the door in all but the most dedicated dojos. A traditional Danzan Ryu dojo following Professor Okazaki's esoteric principles did not attract too many students.

By the 90's the country had also gone through its ninja phase. There were Ninja Turtles, Power Rangers, Anime, and toys, toys, and more toys. Fantasy ninja weapons made of real steel became widely available. There was money to be made and people were making it.

Not to be forgotten is the impact of the Gracie's Brazilian Jujitsu and the recent Mixed Martial Arts caged fights and fighters. Yet there are still those seeking the martial path and those sensei still out there with a traditional dojo with lineage and ties to its founder.

When I look at the Martial Arts in 2012 as compared to when I started DZR in 1962, I have to say there have been tremendous changes in the martial world around me and I am thrilled to have lived through and been a part of those changes. I am thrilled to have been a teacher and having to keep up with all the changes. My kids and students have given me about every \$1.98 ninja toy and the modern graphic novel comics are actually pretty good. I am also thrilled to find that Kodengan Danzan Ryu Jujitsu as an art form itself has not substantially changed from what Professor H.S. Okazaki taught.

I look forward to many more years of coaching and sharing.



KaishinKai students are shown performing a dojo kata in honor of Prof. Ron Jennings' special day.



# What has teaching Jujitsu taught me?

By: Peter W. Barnhill, AJI Ikkyu

As I prepare for my upcoming black belt test this question was asked of me and required a more thorough answer than could be spit out in a few words. So I write this hoping to give justice to both the Danzan Ryu system and my dojo.

Before becoming a student, and eventually a teacher of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu I had the pleasure of serving as a United States Marine. How does this relate to teaching you may ask?



AJI Member Peter Barnhill teaches a Saturday class for KaishinKai at the Evergreen State College. He's currently a dojo shodan and submitted this as his black belt essay.

Let me tell you about some of the founding keystones of Marine Corps leadership. They fit into a nice little acronym we call **JJ DID TIE BUCKLE**. This stands for: Justice - Judgment - Dependability - Initiative - Decisiveness - Tact - Integrity - Endurance - Bearing - Unselfishness - Courage - Knowledge - Loyalty - Enthusiasm.

In the Corps we use these as the fundamental guidelines for quality leaders. As some may have realized throughout their jujitsu careers, as teachers you are elevated to a position of leadership in your own dojo. With that comes a responsibility... nay, a duty to yourself, the students and the traditions of Danzan Ryu.

Now I found these traits through my service to the Marine Corps, but I have no doubt that these traits are no stranger to anyone practicing the Danzan Ryu martial arts, and the aforementioned traits shouldn't be. Because, they are as central to what Danzan Ryu is, as Ogoshi is to Nage. Personally I felt that these qualities were always there, inherent to our art, but they seemed buried or veiled somehow. Then came the day I was entrusted to begin teaching on my own, and suddenly there they were; the leadership traits that I knew and loved right in front of me.

As I began teaching I first found them in Prof. Okazaki's Esoteric Principles (so obvious once you see them for what they are), then I started seeing them in my seniors. Finally, I started realizing them in myself, but how did these traits get there, and who was responsible for them being nurtured and eventually cultivated? I can say with all honesty it's every senior student, every sensei, every Professor, and every practitioner of the Danzan Ryu family.

Prof. Okazaki gave us both the idea and the tradition of Kodenkan. Once they had taken root within the system, Kodenkan became more than just the verbal passing on of the kata and the histories of martial arts. These ideas became crucial to the continued viability of Danzan Ryu, because who wants to learn from someone in whom the characteristics found in both the Esoteric Principles and the 14 leadership traits are at odds with their actions? Quietly

these traits were paraded in front of each and every one of us by the next student attempting to rise through the ranks and by each sensei and instructor who made us take on the difficulties of some of the arts. The leadership traits have become intrinsic to the system each of us practices, every time we teach an art to somebody or talk (sometimes at great length) about our art, we display these leadership traits and principles. These traits require no explicit spoken or codified form. They are passed on intangibly to each of us by someone senior without us ever being cognizant of it.

As with everything in life there are exceptions, and I realize that the Esoteric Principles speak to some of this, but as I mentioned earlier they are not explicit, "...One must be discreet in action, yet hold courage in high regard, and strive to cultivate manliness. One must be gentle, modest, polite, and resourceful; never eccentric, but striving always to practice moderation in all things. One must realize that these qualities constitute the secret of the practice of Judo." We learn these things by example passed to us by a living example which can hold us accountable to the ideas set forth in the practice of our art almost making the Leadership Traits and Esoteric Principles secret.

**THIS IS A LONG DISTANCE NUDGE  
FROM OUR AJI PRESIDENT,  
PROF. SAM LUKE AND YOUR  
NEWSLETTER EDITOR  
URGING YOU TO ATTEND  
OHANA 2012.**



The following is the **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS** for the Ohana 2012 celebration.

**FRIDAY, JULY 6 - CHECK IN**

2:00 pm - 6:30 pm - Registration (upper level from lobby)

Take elevator up 1 level.

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm - No Host Cocktail Gathering (location to be announced. Swimming pool will be open.

Hospitality Suite is open every night after 9:00 pm.

**SATURDAY, JULY 7 - CLINICS AND PUPU PARTY DAY**

7:45 am - Opening Ceremony

8:00 am - 5:00 pm - Clinics

5:00 pm - Closing Ceremony

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm - Pupu Party - location to be determined

9:00 pm - Hospitality Suite Open

**SUNDAY, JULY 8 - TOURNAMENT AND BANQUET DAY**

7:45 am - Opening Ceremonies

8:00 am - 12:00 noon - Jujitsu Tournament (additional clinics depending on numbers)

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - Lunch

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm - Jujitsu Tournament (additional clinics depending on numbers)

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm - Special Awards and Recognition Banquet (buffet style dinner)

Hospitality Suite Opens after the banquet

**MONDAY, JULY 9**

8:00 am - 10:00 am - Organizational Heads Breakfast Meeting - by invitation only

12:00 pm - 5:30 pm - Special Ohana Championship Golfing - register beforehand

All registrations must be received at AJI Headquarters **no later than June 16, 2012**. There will be no later registrations for the event, nor the tournament.

Remember: you can extend your vacation either before or after the event and the hotel will honor your Ohana rates for the entire stay. Special tours can be arranged and you will be picked up and dropped right at the hotel for your convenience.

The official Ohana 2012 website has all registration packets, applications flyers and hotel information, and the schedule. The website is:

**<http://ohana2012.americanjujitsuinstitute.org>**

# AJI Ohana 2012

## July 6-9 2012 Registration Form

### Waikiki – Hawaii

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

School or Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Hotel Information:

### ***Ala Moana Hotel***

#### **Honolulu's Landmark Hotel**

410 Atkinson Dr. Honolulu, Hi 96814-4722

Ph: (808) 955-4811 FAX: (808) 944-2974

#### **Rates:**

\$109.00 Single or double

\$139.00 Double, Triple, Quad

Mention the "American Jujitsu Institute 2012 Seminar" to receive these rates. Within 30 days of the event, the rates will default to their normal room rates which are considerably higher..

#### **Reservations must be made and held by credit card.**

Cancellation within 72 hours of arrival will be assessed one (1) night room and tax.

**One Form Per Person Please!**

Event	Cost	Amount
Child Clinic (16 yrs and under)	\$35.00	
Adult Clinic	\$70.00	
Child Banquet (11 yrs and Under)	\$ 35.00	
Adult Banquet (12 yrs and up)	\$ 50.00	
Youth T-Shirt ____SM ____M ____L ____XL	\$ 12.00	
Adult T-Shirt ____M ____L ____XL ____2XL ____3X	\$15.00	
Okazaki Gravesite Visit	\$15.00	
Pupu Gathereing (Saturday nite July 7 <sup>th</sup> )	15.00	

Make Checks Payable to: **AJI**

**Do not send cash!**

Web Site: <http://ohana2012.americanjujitsuinstitute.org>

email: [pra0005@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:pra0005@hawaii.rr.com) Event Coordinator:

Daniel W. Saragosa (808) 224-1142

**Total:**

\$

Mail To: AJI ~ c/o Dan Saragosa ~ 1779 Koi Koi St. ~ Wahiawa, Hi 96786



# Waiver of Liability

**I certify that I am medically and physically able to participate in this activity. I have been made aware of the potential hazards involved in jujitsu, karate and other self defense training and competition. Knowing the potential hazards involved and in consideration of my application being accepted, I hereby for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators or anyone else who might claim on my behalf, covenant not to sue, waive, release and discharge the American Jujitsu Institute, it's instructors, it's officers, the City and County of Honolulu, the State of Hawaii, the Ala Moana Hotel and anyone acting on their behalf, from any and all claims of liability for personal injury and, or death arising out of, or in the course of participating in this activity. This release and waiver extends to all claims of every kind or nature whatsoever, foreseen or unforeseen, known or unknown.**

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

(Participants Signature if 18years or older - Only)

Print Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(Print participant's Name)

Note: If under 18 year of age, parental signature is required and noted below:

Print Name of Parent or Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature

Every attendee is required to fill in an application and submit this waiver, even if the person is only attending the banquet, or Pupu Gathering functions.  
Aloha!



**American Jujitsu Institute**

c/o 1779 Koikoi St.  
Wahiawa, Hi 96786