



Pacific Jujitsu Alliance

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Newsletter – February 2018

A Message from Professor Bob McKean

As we begin a new year, the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance will be renewing and expanding its dedication and efforts to protect, preserve and perpetuate the teachings of Professor Henry S. Okazaki. This includes not only the jujitsu arts of Danzan Ryu but also the Esoteric Principles of Judo. The Esoteric Principles of Judo, as written by Professor Okazaki, is the corner stone of our ryu. It is a guide which helps to direct us in our ongoing pursuit of character development.

I have recently been discussing the importance of the Esoteric Principles with a number of Pacific Jujitsu Alliance professors, black belts and school heads. We all agreed about the importance of the Esoteric Principles and how we all need to make it a more focused part of the training curriculum of the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance. PJA School heads are encouraged to spend additional time in teaching these principles to their students.

Being a Sensei, and student of Danzan Ryu, it is important that we do not just give lip service to the Esoteric Principles. We need to lead by example. We need to follow the Esoteric Principles and not just talk about them. We set the example for honesty, integrity, moral and ethical values. Our students are influenced by our teaching as well as how we live our lives.

I have taken the Esoteric Principles and have broken the document down into small sections. At the end of class I have one of my black belts read one of the sections to the class and we will spend a few minutes discussing its meaning and how it applies to us as martial artists, family members and citizens. All of my students are provided with a copy of the Esoteric Principles and they are expected to read it from time to time and not just put it in their notebook and forget about it. Every week I try to cover a different section. When all the sections have been covered I start over again from the beginning. This is ongoing and never ending training for my students as well as for me.

Mark Your Calendar:

Ohana 2018

Hosted by Jujitsu America
June 1, 2 & 3, 2018. Reno/Sparks, Nevada
at the newly renovated Nugget Hotel/Casino

Bob Krull Memorial - 25th Annual K.I.T.W.

Hosted by Sensei Robbin Miller
August 17, 18 & 19, 2018
Crescent City, California

In this Newsletter:

In this issue of the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance Newsletter, there are several articles that discuss the current status of our ryu. I encourage everyone to take the time to read them.

- PJA Black Belt Promotions
- Active PJA Professors
- When Should We Give Up? – Professor Bryan Stanley
- When Should We Give Up? (A Counterpoint) – Professor William Fischer
- Stolen Valor – Professor Robert McKean
- Professors of Danzan Ryu – Professor Maureen Browne
- Danzan Ryu Extended Family – Professor Ron Jennings

PJA Black Belt Promotions

Shinbukan - Campbell, CA

Congratulations to *Clayton Conrad* – Godan, *Kate DeMoss* – Yodan, *Mike Halbert* – Sandan, students of Professor Hans Ingebretsen. November 11, 2017

Active PJA Professors

Current active DZR Professors of the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance

Professor Bob McKean

Pacific Jujitsu Alliance Hombu
Phoenix, OR

Professor Chris Nicholas

Pacific Self Defense Academy
Livermore, CA

Professor Robert Korody

Kodenkan Jujitsu of New York
Bronx, New York

Professor Troy Shehorn

Medford Judo Academy
Phoenix, OR

Professor Dan Butler

Fairfield Budokai
Fairfield, CA

Professor Rory Rebmann

Amador Judo & Jujitsu
Livermore, CA

Professor Maureen Browne

Martial Arts Training Service
Naperville, IL

Professor Barbara Gessner

Rutgers Kodenkan
East Stroudsburg, PA

Professor Gerry Halligan

Tonawanda, NY

When Should We Give UP? (An Editorial)

By
Professor Bryan Stanley

Shoshin Ryu Yudanshankai Newsletter, Winter 2018
Reprinted with permission of Professor Bryan Stanley

At the end of my favorite book, *Atlas Shrugged*, Eddie Willars is trying to fix a broken train. The irony is he doesn't know what to do. He turns some screws, beats on it with a wrench, curses it, and drenched in sweat, drops down to his knees, and finally gives up.

Eddie Willar and the train are a metaphor for Shoshin Ryu and perhaps the entire Danzan Ryu System. Since the late 1990s, attendance at Shoshin Ryu events has declined. Similarly attendance in Danzan Ryu events has declined.

What has prompted my metaphor was the abysmal turnout for the Shoshin Ryu Reunion. Over the years we have tried different reunion locations, different times of the year, and different formats, all to no avail. The train keeps pulling into the station, but everyone stays on the platform.

Just a few of the proposed reasons for not attending are: cost of travel, other activities, free time to invest, time of the year, and overall cost. All of them are justifications for why people do not show up to Shoshin Ryu events.

Here is my take on the problem. The golden days of Shoshin Ryu and Danzan Ryu are over. The train that Professors Chubb and Fischer got rolling with Ohana 90, has broken down.

Here is the part that is hard to accept, many of us, myself included, are like Eddie Willars, we want to fix this, but we simply cannot do it. Class sizes are getting smaller, interest in Danzan Ryu is waning, we are getting older, and younger folks would rather play with their phones.

Maybe it is time for us to give up. Maybe the time is here for all of us, to retreat to our dojos and forget about what was. Perhaps it is time to focus on what is, fewer and fewer people are interested in Danzan Ryu. Years ago when a train rolled into a station, the people on the platform jumped on. Now no one even shows up to the station.

In the future there will be contests and reunions, but eventually it will only be a few grey haired codgers with all the trapping of old age. Hopefully we won't be deluded into thinking, "If we just hang on a little longer. If we just turn one more screw, we can get this train rolling again." It's time to accept reality, the train broke down, it is frozen in place, we need to get off and start walking.

I will attend Shoshin Ryu and Danzan Ryu events as long as we have them. But I have given up the belief that they will ever be what they were. The golden days are gone. The train can't be fixed.

All responses to the above editorial should be sent to SRYNewsletter@aol.com The opinions above are those of the author and not Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai.

When Should We Give Up? (A Counterpoint)

Wm. M. Fischer, sensei

The recent article by Bryan Stanley in the Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai Newsletter, entitled, "When Should We Give Up? (an Editorial)" has generated a lot of discussion within the Danzan Ryu community over the last couple of months. Emails by leaders within the Danzan Ryu Ohana have been streaming in from every corner of the country, providing valuable commentary on the vexing question contained in its title.

I have been mulling over the article for several weeks while at the same time receiving and appreciating the sentiments of others. As I sit here (at 4:15 a.m. in a Fresno hotel) I realized that the article addressed a couple of themes, and that each leader had digested the article through the filter of his or her own experiences and concerns. So, I analyzed the article as if it were a bar examination question, applying what is called "IRAC" (Issue – Rule – Analysis – Conclusion)

With such questions, the first thing you do is to try and recognize the issue. In the article, there was one main theme but other less apparent underlying issues. The main issue: participation and attendance at organizational Danzan Ryu events, including the Ohana weekends. Other issues touched upon and worthy of comment were attendance at the dojo and the viability of the Danzan Ryu system itself in today's world.

With regard to Danzan Ryu events, the thrust of the article was that "the golden days of Shoshin Ryu and Danzan Ryu are over," which statement was supported by the writer's observation that attendance at Danzan Ryu events in general and at both the Ohanas and the Shoshin Ryu Reunion was, which the writer very charitably termed, an "abysmal turnout."

The writer's observation of current interest in these scheduled events is accurate. The observation that the best that Danzan Ryu and Shoshin Ryu will ever be is in our rear-view mirror is not. At this point, I add the filter of my own experiences.

First of all, the Ohana was an idea and, to a certain degree, a dream that for one weekend, the major organizations could lay aside differences and come together for a single, simple and pure goal: *To Honor the Professor*. It was conceived by a young black belt, given shape by a visionary leader and moved forward to fruition by a couple of dedicated yudansha. Ohana '90 was very successful in many ways but fell short in others.

Ohana '90 was a classic example of any success: it was 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. Shoshin Ryu worked on its form and content, continuously, for over 2 years. Chris & Pitts restaurant in Santa Ana became the meeting place for organizers, sometimes with meetings lasting 4 hours, 2 and 3 times a week, for over 2 years. Multiple telephone calls were made on a daily basis over the same period. There were hatchets held by senior figures that had survived decades and which had to be buried. Instructors were identified and curriculum settled a year before the event. Recognitions were sought from mayors, governors and others (in concert with the third pillar of Shoshin Ryu) to recognize those who had kept the arts alive and carried them forward. To that end, special emphasis was placed on Prof. Okazaki's own American Jujitsu Institute who, for over 50 years, had quietly and humbly kept the original arts alive. Travel to Hawaii and meetings with the AJI was received by an unprecedented spirit of collegiality and enthusiastic support for Ohana.

The A.A.U. National Jujitsu Championship was taken to the next level and its administration and efficiency fine-tuned to a degree never before seen. Details down to the recruiting of an engraver to add the names of winners on trophies, the planning for the Hospitality Room, banquet agenda and organizational heads meetings were set and reset as each organization's needs was identified and accommodations made. I logged 7 hours sleep over the three day period. Notwithstanding the positive result, a number of negative events followed, which will be discussed later in this article.

Using the original Ohana as a template, subsequent weekends and Ohana weekends were also successful. Hosting organizations invited other organizations to provide instructors. Camaraderie that began on the mat was continued off the mat at dinners and in hospitality rooms – sometimes late into the night. Friendships were forged both individually and organizationally.

In the last ten years, however, a number of factors, both unavoidable and otherwise, impacted these events. Around 2007 and 2008, the economy took a catastrophic dive. Government policies adversely impacted employers, causing them to slash 40 hour a week employment to part-time jobs. The ability of jujitsu families to pay for travel, lodging, competition and convention fees for both the parents and multiple children in the art was severely curtailed.

Pop culture concurrently added a sledge hammer of its own, with kids growing up in a politically correct, socially stunted and ethically skewed environment. Physical exercise and studying self-defense was eclipsed by hours on Grand Theft Auto and Call of Duty. One could not express oneself if it were not in a text message or a Tweet. The thought of spending a couple hours a week on the mat without one's social media within arm's reach at a moment's notice was unthinkable but, then again, how could you grab another student's gi with a hand that was cramped and misshaped by holding a smart phone 23 hours a day?

Organizers were hard pressed to cope with the adverse issues. In an effort to provide something new to draw people to weekend program, convention curricula was sometimes drastically modified that was light on Danzan Ryu and heavy on combat tai chi, hot yoga and other less-than-traditional classes, many of which had little connection to jujitsu.

As with the book, Atlas Shrugged, Danzan Ryu had lost many talented leaders and senseis, many of them original Okazaki students, over the last 20+ years. It sometimes seemed that the loss of these great masters have left a vacuum that can never really be adequately filled.

It was the perfect storm. Participation dwindled and organizational leaders were at a loss as to how to stem the tide.

There were negative events that followed the inception of the Ohana program, as well. At Ohana '90, leaders of the ryu were presented with what was purported to be a kaidensho signed by Prof. Okazaki and touted to assert seniority of one of the Okazaki students over all of the others. The document, which evidenced great care and preparation, i.e., premeditation, was nothing less than a fraud perpetrated against the Danzan Ryu community and, by virtue of a forged signature of Prof. Okazaki, an affront to the Danzan Ryu system. What compelled the senior black belt to do such a thing is still a mystery. My own theory is that fear of the Hawaiians coming to the forefront and becoming more involved was seen as some kind of threat, given the fact that the same senior black belt had authored an article earlier that stated the AJI was no longer in existence and that his organization was now the oldest. A secondary factor may have been simple ambition and an effort to be "first among equals" by virtue of being a student of the subject of that document. This fraud has yet to be fully addressed, which consequently remains a topic with many senior leaders. However, the actions of this senior black belt was, and continues to be, both outrageous and indefensible. To my knowledge, there has never been an effort to apologize for this disgraceful act against the ryu. Had ego and arrogance prevented Henry IV in 1076 from trekking the road to Rome 'by way of Canossa,' seeking and receiving repentance, history would have been far different.

A second event that followed soon after Ohana '90 was the issue of Danzan Ryu succession and the preparation of a document espousing one organization's leadership as the "inheritor" of the Danzan Ryu system. My own theory is that the creation of the document was well-intentioned by some and later perverted by others. The issue came to a head at the 1992 Ohana and, while a decision by a key leader to renounce this document laid the issue to rest, the setback it caused and division it created had continued.

Sadly, despite the fact that the Esoteric Principles unequivocally state that "the primary objective of practicing Judo is perfection of character," some of those most active in the ryu have demonstrated character behavior that falls far short of acceptable. Criminal conduct, intemperate habits, stolen valor and so on has caused other leaders and organizations to re-examine if the negative effects of exposure of their students to these people are outweighed by any benefit achieved.

In a prior article, I wrote that "ego" and "self-interest" are two of the most toxic of concepts in jujitsu, and that statement still holds true. It is the antithesis of the Esoteric Principles and the damage that self-interest has done to the ryu is clear and undeniable. So, what is the answer? To the question of shrinking event participation, my opinion is that you have to offer an exciting and quality product when you offer a convention weekend. Organizers must plan and make each weekend more exciting than the last,

rather than put a weekend on by rote. Organizations need to select venues that are travel friendly and close to airports and freeways. The venues need to be family friendly so that non-jujitsu family members have something to do in the off-hours, such as close to the beach, Disneyland, etc. The venues need to be economical, accessible and hospitable, which is where establishment of rapport with the venues is key. The dates need to be set 12 months in advance, the curriculum and instructors 6 months in advance, and alternate courses and instructors planned in advance in case of an unexpected situation arising.

Social media is a good thing but it is not a cure all. Leadership and convention representatives need to visit the dojos, multiple times, to talk up the event. Nothing is more effective than an engaged and enthusiastic senior black belt announcing in person an event that is sure to be exciting. James Earl Jones was almost right when he said in the movie, *Field of Dreams*, "If you build it, people will come." More to the point, "if you build it up, people will come."

What about shrinking classes and waning interest in Danzan Ryu? I respectfully disagree with Prof. Stanley that interest in Danzan Ryu is waning. My response is that if you want interest in Danzan Ryu, you have to make it interesting. Keeping the interest of the students is an art in itself, especially when the students are likely more concerned with what a friend has texted them in the last 30 seconds than what is happening on the mat. Students need to be engaged with not only the variety of techniques but also the richness and breadth of the ryu's history and its value system. Invite other guest instructors to instruct and talk. Teach students that they are part of a lineage, a history, and discuss the obligation and responsibilities that are carried with the knowledge they are gaining. Each class, at the end, should query the students about the Esoteric Principles and their meaning.

Moreover, the students' parents need to be educated as well, and this may well be the best target audience for demonstrations and presentations. Prof. Okazaki promulgated that the primary objective of practice is perfection of character. In today's world of snowflakes, safe spaces and mini-aggressions, the cultivation of courage, humility, modesty, gratitude for the great institutions of our lives and the ability to function under pressure, even in the face of "Hell under the upraised sword," are virtues all parents would want to have ingrained in their children so that they can prevail in the real world. Persuade the parents that the 1% of time spent on the mat will reap a bounty of benefit in the 99% of time outside the walls of the dojo and you have an invested and supportive parent. In the end, Danzan Ryu will become more important and not just some activity squeezed in between baseball and soccer seasons.

Ayn Rand's Eddie Willars has let the dysfunctional train peak his frustration level and allows him to give up. For Willars, it is completely understandable. For the leaders of this ryu, it is completely unacceptable. It is called a railway for a reason - if the essence of a railway were a train, it would have been called a "trainway." Willars simply failed to remember that there are "more ways to skin a cat," and that the train is only one tool in the toolbox. We as martial artists know by experience that there is more than one tsukuri that can be used to execute a successful technique. Willars' frustration blinds him to the reality that the most important part of a railway is the track that was laid and an understanding that the track's direction will take you to where you want to be. Prof.

Okazaki laid the track and called it the “Esoteric Principles of Judo.” Follow the track. Stay the course. It may take a little more shoe leather but it will, in the end, show you the Way.

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Kodenkan Chronicles

Stolen Valor

Robert McKean

The Pacific Jujitsu Alliance has eighteen black belt members, including seven school heads, who are either currently working or are honorably retired municipal, country, state or federal sworn law enforcement officers. These officers serve their communities with honesty, honor and integrity. There are many emergency first responders in the Danzan Ryu Ohana, which includes law enforcement, corrections, fire service, emergency medical, and 911 dispatch. The Esoteric Principles of Judo and the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics parallel and complement each other in many aspects. We take our dedicated and ethical service seriously and are deeply offended by those who intentionally misrepresent themselves as one of us. Especially if it is for their own individual personal gain, profit, political power or influence over others. We consider this STOLEN VALOR.

It is very concerning and disheartening to us that we have several ranking individuals within the Danzan Ryu community who are imposters. They have intentionally misled their students, the Danzan Ryu community and the general public about their employment background and experience by falsely representing themselves as having been sworn law enforcement officers when they were not.

For years a high ranking black belt has referred to himself as a “police officer” on his website, his DZR biographies and fliers for his clinics and seminars. He even went as far as posting photos of himself on his website wearing a full police uniform, standing next to a fully marked police patrol vehicle and holding an AR-15 rifle. This individual has been a reserve police officer and not a full time sworn police officer. There are considerable differences between the two and this individual knows it and he has chosen to intentionally misrepresent himself to others for his own ego and status in the DZR community. The law enforcement agency this individual worked for as a reserve officer received complaints from citizens about him falsely referring to himself as a police officer. He has since changed his website biography to read, “law enforcement officer.” Even though this term maybe technically correct it is still misleading and does not fully represent his true and accurate law enforcement employment status. A person with honesty and professional integrity would be truthful and would refer to himself as a

“reserve police officer.” For those of us in the DZR law enforcement community, his misrepresentation is not only unacceptable, but it is unethical and unbecoming of a ranking DZR black belt. We applaud and respect those who volunteer their time to their communities as reserve police officers. Reserve police officers know they are not fully sworn, and they do not refer to themselves as such and act accordingly. This individual has gotten away with this misrepresentation in the DZR community for many years because few have called him on it.

When an individual is first hired by a law enforcement agency they usually become a “trainee.” In order for a trainee to become a fully sworn police officer, they must complete an accredited police academy, pass a 6 to 22 week field training program and successfully complete a 12 to 18 month probationary period. If a trainee fails any one of these requirements their employment is terminated. That person was never a “police officer.” A reserve police officer normally volunteers several hours a month to perform limited auxiliary law enforcement duties. Unlike a fully time sworn police officer, a reserve police officer has a specifically defined limited scope of duties, responsibilities and powers of arrest. For someone to falsely represent himself as a sworn police officer is a deliberate and intentional misrepresentation and a slap across the face of all sworn police officers who have earned the title and have legitimately served in this capacity.

Another ranking Danzan Ryu black belt posted on his biography, for a course he was planning to teach, that he was a former “federal law enforcement officer.” This individual had worked as a security guard for a civilian company that had a federal contract to protect a federal building. He had never completed a law enforcement academy and had no sworn law enforcement powers. He knowingly and intentionally misrepresented himself to his potential students, the DZR community and the general public for his own personal benefit. This is stolen valor.

These are just two examples of stolen valor being used by ranking DZR black belts within the Danzan Ryu community. This information is not new to most of the Professors and ranking black belt members of our Ohana.

Validated proof and evidence of these repeated acts of stolen valor were given to the Professors of the DZR organization of which both these individuals are members. Most of the Professors of this particular organization turned a blind eye and completely ignored the misconduct of their own members. One has to question the ethical, moral and professional integrity of the leadership of any DZR organization that knowingly allows their members to participate in stolen valor.

Would Professor Okazaki approve of any of his ranking black belts to intentionally and actively participate in stolen valor? I’m sure he would not. These and other incidents of misconduct by ranking DZR black belts have been privately discussed among many of the DZR Professors for a number of years. I urge my fellow DZR Professors to bring these matters forward and take a united position against those in our Ohana who are imposters and who have deliberately and intentionally misrepresented themselves to their students, the DZR community and the general public. This should also include those individuals and organizations that continue to support, protect and cover up the misconduct of these few individuals. As Danzan Ryu Professors we all have a duty and

responsibility to protect, preserve and perpetuate the teachings of Professor Okazaki and to promote the Esoteric Principles of Judo.

Professor Robert McKean has been a student of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu since 1969. He is a co-founder of the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance and a charter member of the Kilohana Martial Arts Association. He honorably retired as a lieutenant with the Milpitas (CA) Police Department after serving for twenty-seven years. He also served as a sworn police lieutenant and interim chief of police for three years in Oregon.

Professor Maureen Browne



Maureen Browne began the study of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu in 1970 at the age of 16 at the urging of her brother, the late Prof. Pat Browne. As a student at NIU, Maureen began training in Aikido as a founding member of the NIU Aikido club. She also trained and competed in Kodokan Judo as a member of the NIU Judo Club.

In 1975 Maureen continued her Aikido training as one of the founding members of the Midwest Aikido Center, which was established under the direction of Akira Tohei Shihan. In 1978 Maureen moved to Tokyo to train intensively at the Aikido Hombu dojo. Upon arrival at Hombu, Maureen had the privilege of meeting and training with T.K. Chiba Shihan. It was at Hombu in 1978 that Maureen received her Shodan in Aikido from Aikido Doshu, Kisshomaru Ueshiba.

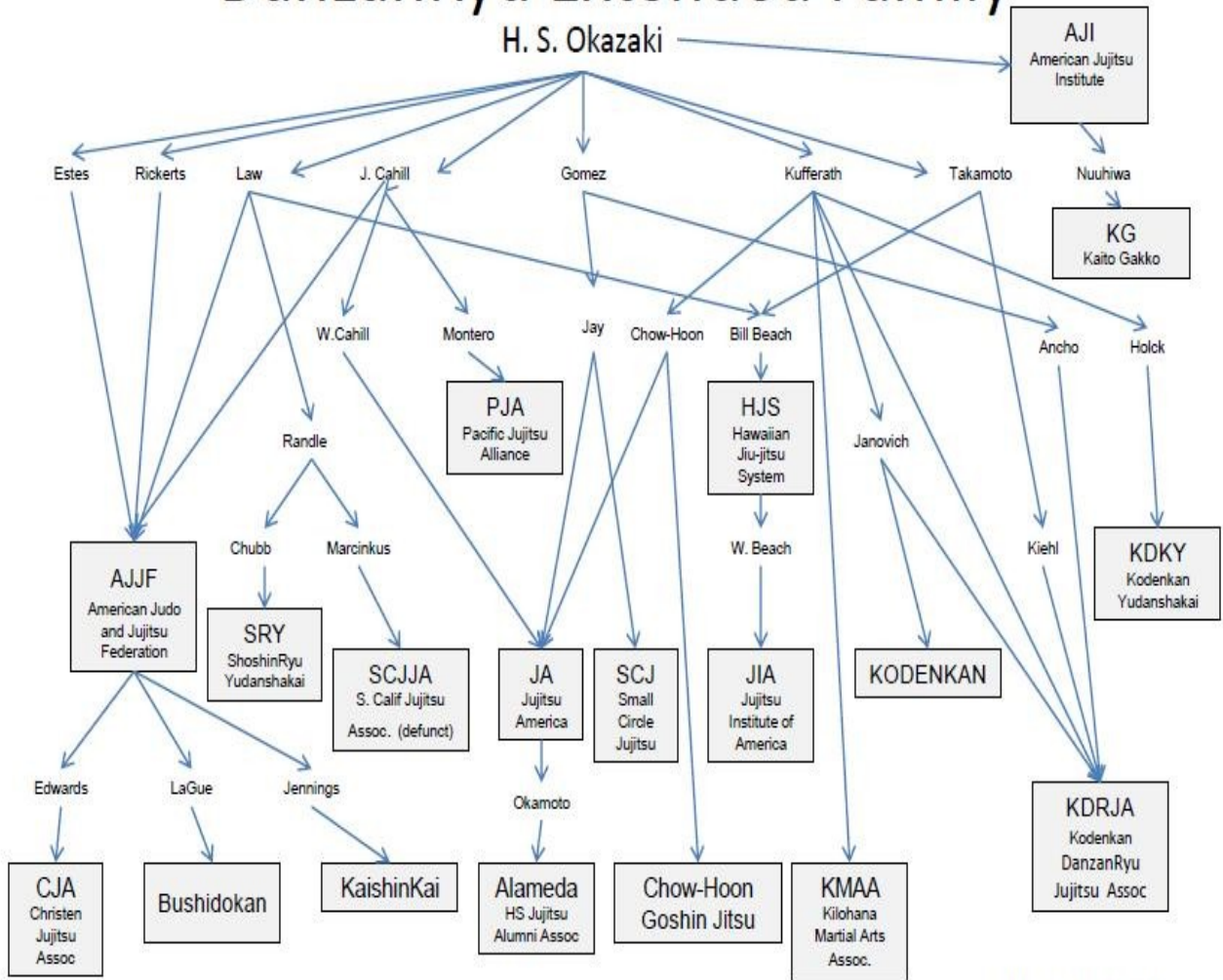
After returning to the US in 1980, Maureen continued both her study of Aikido and Danzan Ryu Jujitsu.

In 1986, Maureen and her husband John Gussman founded the Fox Valley Judo and Jujitsu Club. Classes were held at the Aurora and Naperville Park Districts.

In 1992 Maureen and John opened the Martial Arts Training Service and began teaching classes in Judo, Jujitsu and Aikido, which led to the creation of the Fox Valley Aikikai. In 1994 the Fox Valley Aikikai affiliated with T. K. Chiba Shihan.

Maureen Currently holds the ranks of 8th Dan, Professor in Danzan Ryu Jujitsu from Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai and Pacific Jujitsu Alliance and 6th Dan, Shidojin from Birankai North America.

DanzanRyu Extended Family



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