



Pacific Jujitsu Alliance

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Newsletter – November 2017

A Message from Professor Bob McKean

Here is a question for the Professors and Senior Black Belts of our Danzan Ryu Ohana. What do we really know about the history and early members of our ryu and how well have we preserved and passed this history on to the newer members of our Ohana?

Overall I do not believe we have done a very good job. Danzan Ryu was founded less than 100 years ago and yet much of our known history, photos and documents have been lost, destroyed, hoarded away, altered and even distorted. We do not have a central location where the archives of Danzan Ryu are kept and shared.

It is unfortunate that some of today's Danzan Ryu organizations no longer publish a newsletter and some no longer maintain or update their websites. With the passing of Professor Okazaki's disciples, it has become more difficult to find accurate and reliable information. Much of our history, both past and current, is being passed down by word of mouth. Some of it is accurate and some not so accurate. The concern many of us have is that inaccurate information is being passed down to the newer generations of Danzan Ryu students. Most of the time this inaccurate information is not being passed on intentionally. It is just being repeated from bad sources. The members of our Ohana need to come together collectively to work on preserving and protecting the accurate history of our ryu before it is lost forever.

All Professors, Senior Black Belts and School Heads of Danzan Ryu have a duty and responsibility to protect, defend and perpetuate the teachings of Professor Okazaki to the best of their ability. This includes doing their best to make sure the historical information we pass on is true and accurate.

As we approach the 100th anniversary of the founding of Kodenkan Danzan Ryu Jujitsu, I encourage everyone to renew their efforts in helping to protect and perpetuate the true and accurate of history of Professor Okazaki and the ryu he lovingly passed on to us.

As we near the end of 2017 I hope all of you are looking forward to 2018 with excitement. The 2018 Ohana will give us another opportunity to once again come together in friendship and harmony. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there.

I wish everyone a wonderful and safe Christmas and New Year.

Mark Your Calendar:

Ohana 2018

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

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

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

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PJA Black Belt Promotions

Amador Judo & Jujitsu – Livermore, CA

Congratulations to *Todd Palmer* and *David Laursen*, students of Professor Rory Rebmann, who were promoted to Godan on August 26, 2017.

Warriors Playground Jujitsu – Naples, FL

Congratulations to Dallas Wauters and Rebecca Groendyk, students of Sensei Ross Anthony, who were promoted to Shodan on October 14, 2017.

New PJA Dojo

The PJA welcomes our newest affiliated dojo and black belts – *Koa Jujitsu Academy*, East Amherst, NY. *Sensei Ted DiNoto*, *Sensei John Fiore* and *Sensei JoAnn DiNoto*

Jujitsu As If Atemi Mattered

by
Sensei Bruce Anders

Your skill in atemi is vital. Despite that, few Danzan Ryu black belts have any real facility with it. This is a situation of which many of us are aware but don't normally address. As the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance draws from many different DZR lineages and values transparency, it's only to our benefit to share our knowledge and pool our resources.

Atemi is mystified in much of the DZR world. There's little atemi instruction in most dojos, hence the mystery. Unfortunately in some groups part of the lack of instruction has been about political control. The truth of the matter is that only a handful of instructors know much about it.

We benefit by periodically reflecting on our training and identify what we're emphasizing and what's missing. What we will find will vary from dojo to dojo, person to person, and year to year. One's interests will naturally fluctuate over years of training, and it's tough to keep on top of all the material all the time. But as black belts we set the example. What we do or don't practice is what students see and tend to duplicate. Even if you are

not the head sensei of your dojo, the mudansha are looking at you and are influenced by what you do as an assistant instructor. So are your fellow black belts. It's important to be aware of how you are training and what you convey both verbally and non-verbally. Historically, atemi has always been part of Jujitsu, but it developed unevenly and according to the context in which a ryuha flourished. For instance, the Jujitsu that comes from battlefield arts is limited in atemi - can't do much damage to an armored opponent with a punch. Ateni simply wasn't that useful in that context. Through time, as the need for battlefield applications diminished, traditional inertia from the older methods often prevented new material getting added to the existing body of knowledge. In other words, atemi seems to have been emphasized as more civilians became involved for general self-defense. Even then, emphasis on striking techniques varied widely.

Regardless, our Danzan Ryu is laced with places where atemi is part of the art, and we are charged with figuring out how to make it work. We have basic striking techniques to start with, and we even have a Board devoted to identifying specific targets. Our task today is to learn and practice atemi until it is second nature and practical, and not just something that aids us pass a rank exam. Otherwise much of what DZR has to offer remains out of reach. Developing and maintaining atemi takes just as much investment of time and effort as any other aspect of the ryu. It also takes the humility to recognize we may be lacking in something and the enthusiasm to seek instruction.

There are two general opinions about atemi's function in Jujitsu: distraction or devastation. Some say that distraction is for setting up a subsequent lock or throw. Others believe that in a rapid encounter, distraction is a waste of time if not impossible, and it's better to hit hard. These are areas to explore what is workable under what circumstances. Just as we learn the strengths and weaknesses of Yawara, Nage, and Shime, the same goes for atemi. There's no approach that works all the time. Every movement has its time and place.

If you find your atemi training lacking, simply seek out someone to teach you. There's no shame in recognizing a shortcoming. The occasional seminar won't do it. Regular instruction and feedback are necessary as with learning area of Jujitsu. It may be someone within DZR or in some other martial art. The good news is that we have people within the PJA who are knowledgeable and willing to share. You may discover when a boxing right cross or a Muay Thai kick does the job perfectly. Take the time to consider this. Your self-defense may depend on it.

2017 Rutgers Seminar

Professor Barb Gessner



September 22-24 Rutgers Kodokan once again hosted the AJJF Northeast Regional Seminar. This event was particularly outstanding, not only because of the quality and variety of the instructors, but also because four black belts considered it worth flying in from California, Colorado and Missouri for the event.

The Seminar became an East Coast 'Ohana of sorts. Besides Professor John Congistre, Judan, Sensei Harry Burluson, Godan, and Sensei Steve Balzac, Godan, representing the American Judo & Jujitsu Federation, there were four other Danzan Ryu organizations represented by the instructors: Pacific Jujitsu Alliance, Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai, American Jujitsu Institute, and Kilohana Martial Arts Association; by Professors Barb Gessner, Chris Nicholas, Gerry Halligan and Robert Korody. We were also treated to classes in Kodokan Judo taught by Sensei George Pasiuk from Bronx Judo and Martial Arts. And Kevin Schnitzer, Doctor of Physical Therapy shared his expertise in a hands-on class on Joint Mobilizations for Musculoskeletal Injuries.

In addition to the excellent classes, we also shared fantastic fellowship, between classes, over lunches provided by Rutgers Kodokan, and particularly dinner Saturday night at a local Chinese buffet. No one went home hungry!

After the classes on Friday night, Edy deLeon and Vikram Sarath, from Rutgers Kodokan, received their PJA Nidan certificates. These two are among the most dedicated and helpful instructors in our dojo. What a treat, having four PJA Professors present to participate in their official promotion!



We host this seminar every fall, so I

hope you will also consider being a part of it in 2018. We are always happy to pick you up at the airport and help you find lodging.

Come, be a part of this energetic training experience!

PJA Black Belt Exams – Naples, Florida

Sensei Ross Anthony
Warriors Playground Jujitsu – Naples, FL



On the weekend of October 13-15, we had our “Warrior Weekend” in Naples Florida. Professor Chris Nicholas, Professor Robert Korody, Sensei Kitty Nicholas and Sensei Jim Warren traveled for a great weekend of Dojo, beach and knife training.

Training kicked off Friday with some firearm shooting at the range, with dojo training at night with some finer points of arm bars and constrictions. Saturday afternoon was dedicated for long anticipated Shodan exams, where candidates Rebecca Groendyk and Dallas Wauters demonstrated their enthusiasm for Danzan Ryu in front of an exceptional panel of instructors. Despite training set backs from Hurricane Irma,

Rebecca and Dallas showed confidence in their abilities and gave our visiting Ohana members a taste of Southwest Florida DZR.

Sunday morning was a great day for some folding knife training from Professor Nicholas on the beach, which has become a staple location of training in Naples.

Although the training ended Sunday, the weekend came to a proper close with a fishing charter near Tampaon, where many fish were caught by all, and barbequed by our host to the North, Jim Warren. It was a great weekend of fun and fellowship with family we see all too rarely. Special thanks to all visiting instructors, as well as Professor McKean and Professor Tucker for their past and continued support in the growth of DZR in Florida.

Congratulations to our two new Shodans as they begin their journey with our proud PJA family.

Check out the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance website for updates.

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