



## Pacific Jujitsu Alliance

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# ***Newsletter – November 2019***

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## **2020 OHANA**

The 2020 Ohana will be held July 10-12, 2020 in Honolulu, Hawaii and will bring together students, teachers and friends from many Kodenkan / Danzan Ryu Organizations from all over the world.

The weekend will feature many expert seminars & clinics, the H.S. Okazaki National Martial Arts Tournament, island style entertainment, sightseeing tours, an Okazaki gravesite visit, a prime rib buffet, and a lot of old time camaraderie sessions.

More information can be found by visiting the Ohana website at: <http://www.ohana2020.com>

# Is It Danzan Ryu Jujitsu?

## **Professor Bob McKean**

During the late 1920's and early 1930's, Professor Henry S. Okazaki (1880-1951) built his Danzan Ryu Jujitsu system by collecting different arts that were available to him in Hawaii. It is considered by many that DZR was officially established in 1928. Professor Okazaki died in 1951. He was able to only teach his DZR to others for less than twenty-three years.

When Professor Okazaki died in 1951 he left no designated successor or inheritor to carry on his ryu. Without a successor to direct and manage the ryu, DZR became frozen in time. DZR had always been in a state of transition. Professor Okazaki was always modifying his ryu to include new or improved arts. What he was teaching to his disciples in the early 1930's was not totally the same as what he was teaching to them in the late 1940's.

During the 1930's Judo had a major influence on the arts Professor Okazaki included in his DZR. The passing on of these arts can be found with the early black belt disciples of Professor Okazaki who came to the mainland prior to WWII. During WWII Judo was out of favor because of its relationship to Japan. During the 1940's DZR was strongly influenced by the striking arts found in Kenpo Karate and Kajukenbo. This can be found with several of Professor Okazaki's black belt disciples who came to the mainland after WWII.

With teaching his ryu for only 23 years, why did Professor Okazaki intentionally not designate a successor? Was it his intention to have his disciples further develop DZR on their own as individuals instead of by one person or one organization? Many of Professor Okazaki's black belt disciples did not pursue passing his DZR on to others. Many of those who did had different exposures to DZR and the teachings of Professor Okazaki. There is a noted difference in the DZR arts between those disciples who trained with Professor Okazaki prior to WWII and those of post WWII as well as the number of years they spent training under Professor Okazaki. Pre WWII disciples such as Professor Ray Law (1899-1969) and Professor Bud Estes (1909-1981) trained two and four years under Professor Okazaki while post WWII disciples such as Professor Bill Montero (1916-1992) and Professor John Cahill (1921-1962) trained thirteen and fifteen years.

As Professor Okazaki's disciples moved to the U.S. mainland, prior to and after WWII, some joined together to form DZR organizations while others went out on their own to form individual schools and other DZR organizations. Some of these early DZR organizations eventually split into other DZR organizations.

Today there are 12 DZR organizations with approximately 322 schools and 7,500 members. Without a designated successor, or one central organization, the different DZR organizations have been left to interpret and teach the DZR arts, principles and concepts their own specific way. Some DZR organizations have included other martial

arts into their organization making it a mixed martial arts group and not specifically DZR. Others have changed some of the known original arts of DZR and have even made up their own lists of arts and call them Danzan Ryu Jujitsu.

Several of Professor Okazaki's black belt disciples took some of the arts, principles and concepts of DZR and designed their own system and included additional arts, principles and concepts. These disciples named the systems they developed and did not call them DZR. They continued to teach and promoted DZR but they also taught and promoted their own system. Some of these disciples of Professor Okazaki include:

Professor Wally Jay (1917-2011)	Small Circle Jujitsu
Professor Joe Holck (1926-2011)	Matsuno Ryu Goshin Jitsu
Professor John Chow-Hoon (1927-1988)	Chow-Hoon Goshin Jitsu
Professor Sig Kufferath (1911-1999)	Ken Ju Ryu Kenpo Ju Jitsu

These refined branch systems of DZR are still being taught by the black belt disciples of their founders but they are not being called DZR.

I believe Professor Okazaki intentionally did not appoint a successor or inheritor of his DZR because he did not want his ryu to become stagnant and eventually become a "classical martial art." Remember he had only been teaching DZR for approximately twenty-three years. Most importantly Professor Okazaki gave us more than just lists of arts. He gave us a code of conduct to live by and a path to follow to help further develop our character.

Now for the question for those of us who study DZR. When does DZR stop being DZR? Each of Professor Okazaki's disciples took something with them when they left regardless of how many years they trained or during which years they trained. These disciples are now gone as are many of the second generation black belts of DZR. During my 50+ years of DZR training and teaching I have seen many of the DZR arts, principles and concepts changed, dropped or interpreted in many different ways. With each new generation of DZR black belts the ryu seems to change, sometimes for the betterment of DZR and sometimes not.

The original arts, principles and concepts of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu belong only to Professor Henry Okazaki. As students of DZR it should be our duty and responsibility to preserve, protect and perpetuate the teachings of Professor Okazaki to the best of our ability. If we take away or add to his teachings it is still DZR or do we change the name of the ryu we developed out of respect for Professor Okazaki?

My Sensei, Professor Bill Montero, told me just prior to his passing, "Make DZR yours and always give credit where credit is due".

# **Black Belt Promotions**

Congratulations to all

**June 2, 2019**

**Ross Anthony** - Sandan  
Warriors Playground – Naples, FL  
Student of Professor Robert Korody

**John Fiore** - Sandan  
Koa Jujitsu Academy – East Amherst, NY  
Student of Professor Robert Korody

**August 29, 2019**

**Benjamyn Rowe** – Shodan  
Jobu Shin Kan - Eureka, CA  
Student of Sensei Jon Sylvia

**October 26, 2019**

**Professor Gerry Halligan** – Shichidan

**Joe Pisano** – Rokudan  
Student of Professor Jerry Halligan

# PJA Sandan Exams

## Professor Robert Korody



L to R: Sensei Ross Anthony, Sensei John Fiore, Prof. Bob McKean, Prof. Dan Butler, Prof. Chris Nicholas, Prof. Robert Korody

On the weekend of June 2nd 2019, Sensei Ross Anthony (*Warriors Playground – FL*) and Sensei John Fiore (*Koa Jujitsu Academy – NY*) were tested for and successfully passed promotional exam for the rank of Sandan. As per the tradition of the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance, all promotional exams are held in the presence of at least one senior PJA Yudansha member so per my request, the exam was held in the dojo of Professor Chris Nicholas (*Pacific Self Defense academy – CA*) with Senior Professor Robert McKean (*Pacific Jujitsu Alliance Hombu - OR*), Professor Dan Butler (*Paladin academy*)

– CA), and several other high ranking Yundansha members present for observation and quality assurance of the exam.

Myself, Sensei Anthony, and Sensei Fiore are all originally students of the AJJF, originally trained by Professor Gerry Halligan with Sensei Anthony and Sensei Fiore originally students of Sensei Joe Pisano, also a student of Professor Halligan and a close personal friend of Professor Korody from their early days in the dojo.

Following introduction to the PJA through national conventions, training seminars, KITW, and the quality of the training offered, we all made the decision to join the PJA in lieu of the AJJF and have since worked hard to maintain the PJA standard of intensity and quality of technique demonstrated. Following this decision and being the senior ranking instructor on the east coast, I have worked with the candidates for the past several years to prepare for the exam and assist in training in both the healing and martial arts of the ryu.

As the PJA recognizes legitimate differences in execution of particular techniques, the challenge as the stepchildren of the PJA has been to learn and adapt to the Montero tradition of DZR as taught by Senior Professor McKean and to ensure that our students are taught within this tradition. The promotional exam consisted of demonstration of the complete arts of Shinin, Shime II, and selected arts of Nage II, Oku, Shime, Nage, Yawara, Tanju, and Tanto. Professionally, both candidates are experienced law enforcement officers with many years service and among the many sworn officers among the Yudansha of the PJA. The candidate's exam lasted 4 ½ hours and following successful completion of required and requested arts, both candidates were promoted to the rank of Sandan. Also per the tradition of the PJA was the traditional pouring of sake following the presentation of obis to the candidates and a great steak dinner at the home of Professor Chris Nicholas.

Both candidates presented well, and took yet another step in the life journey of DZR which is truly never complete.

As their current instructor and Professor, the exam was also a learning opportunity for me and a means by which to continue to refine my ability to teach and guide my students, and to maintain the quality and integrity of martial technique that is the reputation of the PJA. I am proud and humbled to be a member, and grateful for the love and support of my extended DZR family.

Check out the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance website for updates.  
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## A Weekend near Niagara Falls

### Professor Chris Nicholas



(L) Sensei Joe Pisano

(R) Professor Gerry Halligan

When we talked about Danzan Ryu Jujitsu, we often use the phrase O'Hana. On October 26, it was definitely a family day! I had the privilege of going to Buffalo NY to share some DZR with the crew at Koa Jujitsu academy in Amherst. It was a great workout with topics ranging from Yawara to Atemi to Shime and Oku II. A little something for everyone.

Most importantly, I was able to represent the PJA and present Professor Gerry Halligan with his promotion to Shichidan. We then watched Professor Halligan present Joe Pisano with his Rokudan. These outstanding martial artists have been part of our family for close to 20 years. It was indeed an honor to share this moment with them. Special thanks to Professor Robert Korody for facilitating the weekend and Sensei John Flori for hosting the workout.

# K.I.T.W. 2019

## Professor Dan Butler



On September 14, 2019, the 26<sup>th</sup> annual KITW was held in Winters, California. Thirty-five participants battled each other for seven hours in the 95 degree heat. This year's theme was "Integration." Instructors demonstrated techniques to quickly incapacitate adversaries with the blade while also kicking, striking, throwing and joint locking.

In the morning sessions, the newcomers were introduced to the basics by instructors Noah Pinaire and Donovan Ely. In the afternoon, Master Instructors Troy Shehorn, Chris Nicholas, and Brandon Johnson focused on quick incapacitation techniques. In a separate class, Jesse Seigrist and Luke Marin fused knife techniques with the principles of Yawara. The day was capped with a run through "The Gauntlet."

After the workout, Senior Master Instructor Bob McKean promoted Jesse Seigrist to Master Combat Knife Instructor. Jon Sylvia was elevated to Advanced Combat Knife Instructor. Luke Marin and Mitch Stephens joined the Basic Combat Knife Instructor ranks. In addition, Andriy Yevsyevyev was inducted into the Concrete Warrior Knife Society. Congratulations to all!

Information about KITW #27 will be released in the coming months. Next year, we may up our game and hold KITW in Death Valley..... in July. Train hard.

# Shingin No Maki Course

Professor Bob McKean



(L to R)

Sensei Donovan Ely, Sensei Noah Pinaire, Professor Bob McKean, Professor Chris Nicholas, Sensei Cris Giordano, Sensei Kathleen Nicholas

During the month of October a special Shingin No Maski course was held at the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance Hombu in Phoenix Oregon

The PJA teaches Shingin No Maki in the traditional way it was passed on to Professor McKean by Professor William Montero.

Usually two, but no more than four, students are taught at a time. Shingin No Maki is a special list of arts taught by a Sensei to his own personal and trusted students. It is not taught in a group setting, seminar or large clinic and not taught to thoses outside of the dojo without prior permission by a students Sensei. Shingin No Maki should not be prostituted. Beware of those who teach Shingin No Maki to others for high fees and profit.

## Pacific Ohana Self Defense Dojo



Congratulations to the Pacific Ohana Self Defense Dojo (Patterson, Ca.)  
on its first anniversary.



## Additional Photos from Buffalo, NY



