

# Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai Newsletter

May/June 2008

Vol. 16 Issue 3

## Remembering Imi

By

Bryan Stanley

In his song "American Pie," Don McLean wrote, "But February made me shiver, with every paper I'd deliver, bad news on the doorstep, I couldn't take one more step." I'm sure that Clyde Zimmerman, must have felt a lot like young Don McLean on January 5, 2008, when he sent out a very short e-mail that told of the death of one Louise Imiko "Imi" Okazaki-Mullins.

Her death caught us of guard. It was so sudden and abrupt. In a way, it was pure Imi, "Don't tell anyone I am going to have surgery. It's not a public matter." So she passed away without so much as a "keep her in your thoughts." Coming to grips with death is one of those things, after all no one gets out of this alive, but in Imi's case it was as if someone had blasted a face off Mount Rushmore, something that you took for granted, something that was always supposed to be there, was suddenly gone.

As a tribute, a number of people wrote short remembrances of the time they spent with her; hopefully, she knew how much she meant to the Danzan Ryu world and the people in it.

My most telling memory of Imi comes from the 1998 Reunion, held in Tempe, Arizona, over Labor Day Weekend.

When the Judoka lined up to bow in for the Saturday morning clinics, Professor Jack Wheat was asked to say a few words to get the event started. He had something more dramatic in mind. He asked Imi out to join him on the mat and act as uki for a ceremonial "opening throw." Imi graciously accepted despite the fact she had not warmed up and had most likely not hit the mat in a while.

Professor Wheat proceeded to execute a perfect, FAST, Uki Otoshi, and Imi hit the mat with a force that would have jarred the teeth of a sixteen-year-old. I stood shocked, along with 200+ Judoka who stared in awe, nervous that Imi might be hurt, but she jumped up with a smile on her face, and never hinted she might be shaken or hurt. That was Imi. Never let the crowd see you sweat!

-- Professor Steve McMillian

I first met Imi when she came to the first Ohana in 1990. During the planning of the Ohana, we learned that she lived in northern California and immediately extended an invitation for her to attend as our guest. I was expecting Professor Okazaki's daughter to be very formal and, in the beginning, she was that. However, it was not because of any self-importance on her part, but that the Danzan Ryu family (and Shoshin Ryu in particular) had made such an effort to come together and honor her father in this way. In point of fact, she was humbled by the event. Her warmth and generosity quickly came out and, to all, she was a very gracious lady. That says it all.

-- Professor Bill Fischer (see **Remembering Imi**, continued on page **three**)

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## Yudansha Notes

### Not Feeling So Hot

For those of you who know “Big Jim” DeHaven, drop him a line or a good word. He’s not feeling so great and the more we support him, the better he’ll feel.

### Big Changes With the Website

If you have not checked out the new Shoshin Ryu website, you need to give it a look. It is still in its early stages of development, but when it’s all finished, we will be able to do a plethora of things on-line.

The site will also have space for blogs, individual dojo information, and a place for the newsletter.

If you haven’t been to the site yet, go to [www.shoshinryu.com](http://www.shoshinryu.com) and check it out.

### USE THE WEBSITE

In a story closely related to the previous story, go to the website at [www.shoshinryu.com](http://www.shoshinryu.com) and register for the 2008 reunion. It’s all automated now, so no more annoying mailing.

In another related story, renew your membership on-line. It’s as easy as signing up for the banquet.

Isn’t technology great!

## Promotions

### Jukyu:

Joseantonio Murillo	Downey YMCA
Karely Murillo	Downey YMCA
Andres Murillo	Downey YMCA

### Kukyu:

Steve Meza	Downey YMCA
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### Hachikyu:

Tyler Theroux	Downey YMCA
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### Shichikyu:

Guillermo Martinez	Downey YMCA
Erica Martinez	Downey YMCA
Jose Arceo	Downey YMCA
Juan Trujillo	Downey YMCA
Mario Trujillo	Downey YMCA
Diego Campos	Downey YMCA

### Rokkyu:

Mark Romero	Downey YMCA
Steven Duran	Downey YMCA
Raymond Causly	Downey YMCA

### Gokyu:

Juaquin Durazo	Downey YMCA
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### Yonkyu:

Jose Barragan	Downey YMCA
Carlos Romero	Downey YMCA

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## Reunion 2008

It’s time. It’s time to get signed up for the Shoshin Ryu reunion. Go to the Shoshin Ryu Website and get your space. Sign up early and save money. Mark your calendars for August 29 to September 1 and be ready for a great weekend. We have great clinic instructors on Saturday and what should be a first class contest on Sunday.

In case you have not heard, this years reunion will be held at Knott’s Berry Farm. Just imagine, go to the clinics in the day, the park at night. If the amusement park is not your sort of thing, then just down the street is the Movieland Wax Museum. There’s always Medieval Times for a cup of grog and a lamb shank. Other attractions include the Ripley’s Believe It or Not Museum and the Mott’s Miniatures Museum & Dollhouse Shop™. One thing you will not find is the California Alligator Farm. It’s gone. What a shame. It was this funky green building across the street from Knott’s on La Palma. The Radisson Suites sits where it used to be.

Mention Shoshin Ryu when you book your room at the Knott’s Berry Farm Hotel and get a special room rate. Sign up for the reunion. Be ready for a great weekend. GO TO THE SHOSHIN RYU WEBSITE NOW AND SIGN UP!!! [www.shoshinryu.com](http://www.shoshinryu.com)

**(Remembering Imi, from page one)**

I didn't really get to know Imi, but I was always impressed by her gentleness and good nature. Those things and her relatively small size belied the strength of will and character that I could sense in her. I took her class at the Ohana in 2007 (I heard it was the last she taught). She was very modest, self-deprecating even, but then exhibited a very deep knowledge of the subtle nuances of our art. I am very glad that I took her class.

-- Scott Hargis

The first time that I had met Professor Mullins was at a SRY Reunion. I took a clinic with her, met her, and then later had the opportunity to introduce Robin, my wife, to her. Now, when I made the introductions I said, "Professor Mullins, this is my wife, Robin." She retorted, "My wife it is nice to meet you". She continued to address Robin as "my wife" when I was present the rest of the weekend. When I was not present, she would address her as Robin. Professor Mullins was trying to get me to introduce her as Robin and then if I wanted to add "My Wife" it was appropriate to do so. That was a humorous event but has lasted several years. The story continues to be told.

-- Sensei Michael Whitaker

What I will miss most about Imi is my connection to our shared heritage. She shared her recollections about her father, her family, and our art so freely, it provided a tangible connection to Danzan's history that brought it all home, now, and very relevant. I will miss her ready smile, grace, and humility. I will miss most that we have all lost a traveling minstrel who was able to recount first hand how we trace our heritage.

-- Professor Rich Charlebois

I remember something she said to me. I was talking to her about Danzan Ryu and I mistakenly said, "Okazaki's Jujitsu system is the best." She immediately placed her hands on her hips and sharply told me that I must say, "Prof Okazaki, or Master Okazaki" when talking about him. So, here is this little Japanese woman with her hands on her hips just reaming me out for not using the correct term when referring to Prof. Okazaki.

I changed my ways due to her, and she and I continued to talk about all sorts of "Prof Okazaki's" system and classes.

-- Professor John Congistre, AJJF

I never was very close with Imi but it was my observation that she was very fond of all the children involved in martial arts, and she had a particular passion for working with other women in martial arts. I say martial arts because she did not distinguish between Karate and Jujitsu students. She was active with many of the other organizations in Danzan Ryu like AJI, AJJF, and Jujitsu America as well as Shoshin Ryu. She seemed to get involved with all the organizations that had a connection to her father and Danzan Ryu.

-- Professor Len Riley

The first time I met Prof. Mullins was at a Shoshin Ryu Reunion. She already knew who I was, and that I was from Amador Judo and Jujitsu Studio in Livermore. I was impressed by her quiet manner, her ready smile, her engaging sense of humor, and the sheer fact that she knew of me and our dojo.

I could not help but notice her the next day at the kata competition. I observed her as she quietly sat, never taking her eyes off the children competing, the expression on her face rarely changed. I was amazed by the fact that she could remain so very attentive throughout the entire (see **Remembering Imi**, continued on page six)

## For the lotus flower to fall is to rise to the surface?

By Prof. Wm. M. Fischer

Since beginning the study of Danzan Ryu jujitsu in 1971, I have read the Esoteric Principles possibly hundreds of times. Although much of it is straightforward and easy to comprehend, Prof. Okazaki would at times become, well, *esoteric*. This to me meant that what he said would be understood by an 'inner' circle of a chosen few people.

Even with the benefit of a degree in Scholastic Philosophy, I was sometimes befuddled at what the Professor was trying to relate in parts of the Principles (I admit that the deeper meanings of 'the lotus flower falling' is still lost on me). I did know, however, that by using the Esoteric Principles in daily life, one could strive to perfect his or her character.

The bigger question that comes to mind is why we don't, as senseis, stress what the Professor was trying so eloquently (albeit cryptically) to say to our students, especially the junior grades. More than anyone else, our junior students must learn that there is more to jujitsu than a throw or a yawara technique. They must start to learn that jujitsu can show them the way to achieving something extraordinary in their lives.

Prof. Chubb's decision to break down the major concepts of the Esoteric Principles of Prof. Okazaki into clear, concise and simple ideas is perhaps the greatest idea since the Professor's passing in 1951. Its importance dwarfs anything else that this organization has created in over 20 years, including the Ohana and the H.S. Okazaki Nationals. It provides a critical and essential tool in the total instruction and overall formation of our juniors. It is what Prof. Chubb calls "The Pearls of Wisdom."

The Pearls of Wisdom were created by Prof. Chubb several years ago. They are as follows:

1. **OBEY YOUR PARENTS**
2. **DO YOUR CHORES WITH A SMILE ON YOUR FACE**

(see **Pearls**, continued on page **six**)

## Danzan Ryu Hall of Fame

### Professor Raymond L. Law Inducted in 1995

by Professor William Fischer

One of the greatest moving forces of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu in the United States died on March 14, 1969. Professor Raymond Lewis Law will be remembered as one of the channels through which the jujitsu system of Professor Henry Okazaki reached Southern California. Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai salutes his memory and his contributions to jujitsu this weekend.

Prof. Law was born in 1899 in Roundup, a town in Silver Bow County, Montana. After a varied youth and adolescence, he conceived of a promotional idea in health education, the "Health Clown," and toured under the sponsorship of various health organizations, including the Utah Public Health Association and National Tuberculosis Association.

On July 2, 1925, he married Marie Bonita Law and moved to Northern California. Becoming a staff lecturer for the National Dairy Council, Professor Law incorporated the "Health Clown" routine, along with magic, animal acts, and acrobatics, into his lectures.

Later, with the dawn of radio, Prof. Law created "Dario, King of Health Land," and devised unusual sounds in certain characters to depict, for example, excursions through "Tooth Robber Canyon" near "Neglected Teeth Caves." The radio years were exciting, and Prof. Law played an important part in pioneering several promotional ideas for campaigning and fund-raising.

In 1938 Prof. Law traveled to Hawaii as part of a public relations effort to make the Islands popular and there met his neighbor, Professor Henry Okazaki. He studied under Prof. Okazaki and returned to the Mainland with his Black Belt and a burning desire to share what he had learned. He settled in Oakland and established the first full-time Danzan Ryu Judo and Jujitsu school in the United States.

(see **Hall of Fame**, Continued on page **five**)

## Sensei Profile

**Name:** Jon Jacques  
**Rank:** Shichidan  
**Dojo:** Sensei, Downey YMCA  
**Years practicing:** 33 years  
**Styles studied:** Danzan Ryu Jujitsu  
**Favorite Ice Cream:** Jamoca  
**Favorite book:** *Shogun* by James Clavell  
**Favorite food:** Lasagna  
**Favorite movie:** *Full Metal Jacket*  
**Favorite actor:** Harrison Ford  
**Favorite actress:** Uma Thurman  
**Favorite musical artist:** Rush  
**Most memorable moment in martial arts:**  
In Monterrey watching Jim Marcinkus doing Hondo Shime in a kata contest and pulling it off clean.  
**Favorite thing about practicing Danzan Ryu:** The people, the workout, the feeling you get after the workout. It's fun  
**Four famous people you would like to invite to dinner from any time or place:** Benjamin Franklin, Alexander the Great, Napoleon, and Ronald Reagan.  
**Biggest inspiration:** My dad because he has been there my entire life, and I am what I am because of him.

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## Words of Wisdom

Some people are always grumbling because Roses have thorns. I am thankful that thorns have roses." – *Alphonse Karr*

"Never, never, never give up." – *Winston Churchill*

"Courage is the discovery that you may not win and trying when you know you can lose." -- *Tom Krause*

"Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans." -- *John Lennon*

"A politician is an animal which can sit on a fence and yet keep both ears to the ground." -- *H. L. Mencken*

(Hall of Fame, from page four)

In Twenty-four years, Prof. Law taught over 14,000 students and 116 Black Belts. Among his black belt recipients were Prof. Norm C. Nelson, Prof. John Congistre, Prof. Rory Rebmann, Prof. William Randle, Prof. Jim Birmingham, Prof. William Morris, Prof. Bert Aspinall, Prof. Betty Maillette, Sensei Don Cross, and many more.

Always the organizer, Prof. Law became a founding member and past president of the Northern California Judo Federation and its successor, the American Judo and Jujitsu Federation. He created programs for schools, colleges, and police agencies.

To many, as Sensei Don Cross reminisces, Law's Judo was a home away from home, and Ray and Marie Law were like mother and father to him and his fellow junior students. The evening never ended with the closing bell, as students stayed to talk jujitsu and more jujitsu. No one wanted to leave and generally it was towards midnight before the doors to the dojo were locked up. Mrs. Law coordinated the bookkeeping, qualification cards, checking of valuables, and transportation ride-sharing.

Prof. Law so touched his students with his zeal, that many went forward to start successful and long-standing schools of their own. His student Bill Randle, along with Prof. Carl P. Beaver, was the force instrumental in the creation of the Danzan Ryu jujitsu program in Southern California, thus making it the largest center for Danzan Ryu Jujitsu in the country today.

Prof. Law was one of the founders of the American Judo and Jujitsu Federation, he was accorded the rank of 10<sup>th</sup> degree Black Belt, a rank which had been recognized by the International Judo and Jujitsu League. He served in the capacity of continental President of the International World Judo Federation, and was a distinguished member of the international Technical committee, Danish Sports Judo Federation, and the Austrian J.U.V.O. He was inspirational in the creation of the Southern California Jujitsu Association and Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai.

(**Lotus Flower**, from page **four**)

3. **BE A GOOD CITIZEN**
4. **HELP ONE ANOTHER**
5. **BE THANKFUL FOR WHAT YOU HAVE.**

At the end of each of Prof. Chubb's junior classes, one student is asked to come up to choose and explain one of the Pearls to the rest of the class. It requires the student to not only think about what is important in life to perfect character but also to verbalize the concept to others.

A young mind has much less difficulty understanding "BE THANKFUL FOR WHAT YOU HAVE" as opposed to "one must be grateful for the abundant blessings of Heaven, Earth and Nature." A call to action, such as, "BE A GOOD CITIZEN" and "HELP ONE ANOTHER" is far easier to grasp than analyzing, "...service to humanity is the fountain of mutual existence and common prosperity." And, isn't that really the point of it all? As teachers, do we want to teach the concepts with ease and understanding, or do we want to 'try and move the boat that is placed on dry land'?

These Pearls, coupled with the 4 Posts of the Dojo (Courtesy, Charity, Loyalty and Humility), provide powerful and ever-reaching tools for the senseis intent on fulfilling their mandate and their primary obligation to the art: *to perfect the character of their students*. To fail to use them is to deprive their students of an important insight of what Danzan Ryu jujitsu truly is.

It is my understanding that Professor Okazaki did not name the Esoteric Principles; however, I must respectfully disagree with whoever did. These Principles, whether in the original form or in the simplified and easily understood "Pearls," should not be *esoteric* or for a chosen few. They should not be, as the Bible states, "a candle under a bushel basket," but should be allowed to illuminate the dojo and beyond. They should be taught at every class, junior and senior alike, because they embody the true meaning of Danzan Ryu. And, if there are instructors unable or unwilling to do so, there are some pretty enlightened junior students in the Boulder City area available to conduct seminars on what the Esoteric Principles are all about.

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(**Remembering Imi**, from page **three**)

I will miss her very much, her smile that could light up a room, her laugh, her sense of humor, and her very presence. But above all, I will miss the message she gave the children training in Danzan Ryu Jujitsu. A message that said to represent themselves proudly, with dignity and to have respect not only to themselves, but for all others.

-- Patricia Rebmann

My first Ohana was the 1994 event held in Las Vegas and co-sponsored by ShoshinRyu and AJI. It was also the first time I had visited Las Vegas, so naturally I was a bit overwhelmed by the surrounds of this convention. Having known a bit about many of the famous names in the history, I went to the lobby of the Alexis Park Resort to see if I could spot some Danzan-Ryu celebrities. Sitting at one of the large circular couches I spent some time chatting with Carl Beaver. As I did so, I noticed a Japanese woman sitting nearby listening to the conversation. She was a bit older than me and she had a familiar face. After my chat with Prof. Beaver, I moved next to the woman and introduced myself. Since she looked so familiar, I asked her if she was someone that I should know. Over the next hour, I found though my conversation with Mrs. Imi Mullins how odd my question must have seemed.

I will miss Imi.

-- Professor George Arrington

What a gracious and endearing woman. I only got to know Imi maybe ten years ago. I looked (see **Remembering Imi**, continued on page **seven**)

(**Remembering Imi**, from page **six**)

forward to my trips to Ohana and visits to a few other Jujitsu events because I could see and talk with her. She wasn't the only person I wanted to see, but she was the most charming.

We almost never talked about the AJI or any of the other Okazaki organizations. We talked about her siblings and how proud her father would be to see the continued dedication to the Okazaki legacy. She was always so proud that we all revered her dad.

Imi was glad to know that I had personally met her dad at his dojo, and was so awe struck in his presence that I longed to accompany my dad to visit whenever I could.

Imi had the same characteristics as our founder, elegance and imposing presence, while humble with a loving nature. I will always remember her with the same admiration I have for Prof. Okazaki. I will continue to promote the Way of Life the way they taught us and the way they lived it. May their example guide us in leadership to perpetuate the Okazaki legacy through out the martial arts world.

-- Professor Sam Luke

The best thing I can remember about Imi was after a banquet. We went back to the hospitality room and there were probably twenty or thirty people standing around. Imi was dressed casually in shorts and a t-shirt. We decided to have some sake, so we put it in a coffee machine to heat it up.

Imi was standing on the bed toasting everyone in the room, letting them know that this was the spirit of what her father had started. It was kokua. It was ohana. She said her father probably would not have approved of her standing on the bed toasting with sake, but the spirit of the occasion was right.

I can remember that toast and her demeanor. She was this fun loving person. It was a great experience. We drank the sake but it was way too hot. Still, it was a lot of fun.

-- Professor Jon Jacques

Professor Imi Mullins was an exceptional person who did not know the meaning of "can't." She had a great love of family and that love extended to jujitsu as a way to honor her father. Imi was the ambassador for her family, representing them at jujitsu functions and reporting to Betty



and Myrtle or seeking input from them. Imi was always "close to the vest" on most issues regarding her family and her life. If there was no need for you to know, then that was that, case closed. When she did open up, it was quickly followed by an oath of secrecy. But if you needed something, maybe a special card to cheer you up, or a special little gift...just because...then there were Imi and Butch. She was involved in her community, the Red Hat Society, Taiko drumming, white water rafting, jujitsu etc. etc. She never tired and constantly

gave. The world was a better place for her being here. She will never be forgotten.

-- Professor Clyde Zimmerman

Imi would probably be angry at me for devoting so many words to her in the newsletter. "Oh, please," she would say, "don't print that. No one needs to know." Under normal circumstances, I would do as she asked. However, this is not for her, it is for us, the one's who carry her memory. I think she would understand that, even if she did not like it.

Hosted By GoldenWest Dojo

**SHOSHIN RYU**



**2008**

**REUNION**

**AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup> - SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

Conference schedule will include extra time so that you can visit local theme parks and dinner theater attractions.

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