

Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai Newsletter

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Professor Okazaki, Danzan Ryu, and Loyalty

By
Bryan Stanley

“Loyalty is something you give regardless of what you get back, and in giving loyalty, you're getting more loyalty; and out of loyalty flow other great qualities.” – Charles “Tremendous” Jones.

Loyalty is a hard word to define. Sure a dictionary definition exists, but put loyalty into layman's terms and the definition becomes a bit muddled. People use words like respect, honor, devotion, responsibility, and perseverance. All those words have their own definitions and appear to be part of the definition of loyalty, but they are not loyalty.

Just so everyone works from the same spot, the dictionary.com definition of loyalty is “faithful adherence to a sovereign, government, leader, cause, etc.” That works, and it is easy to understand how all those other words are bandied about when discussing what loyalty means.

Those of us who practice Danzan Ryu have loyalty to Professor Okazaki and to the art - at least one would hope we do – but what does that mean? Is it disloyal to question? Is it disloyal to see flaws? Is it disloyal to modify a technique? Exactly what loyalty do we owe to Professor Okazaki? Can we be loyal to someone that 99.9% of us have never met?

Ed Townsend, Yodan, from Hi No De Ryu said this about Professor Okazaki, “I don't know Professor Okazaki's character that much. I didn't know him. I know about him. He did a lot of great things for the martial arts. He brought an art to the U.S. I respect him for that. He went out on a limb and taught anyone who wanted to learn. So if you just look at that, it's amazing.”

Yes, Professor Okazaki did what he thought was best, he taught non-Japanese people jujitsu at a time when that was frowned upon by the Japanese community. If he had not done that, how many of us would be here today? We might have fallen into some other martial art, but it was because of his steadfastness that Danzan Ryu has spread.

“It's more of a loyalty in gratitude for what he has done.” Brown belt Alfonso Ramirez said as he discussed where his loyalty was for Professor Okazaki, “It's for his legacy. It's a loyalty to him and all those who followed him.”

Which creates an important point, would so many people have followed Professor Okazaki's example if he did not have the kind of character that garnered respect and loyalty?

Professor Ramon Gallegos of Kaito Gakko expanded on that thought, “I can only refer to my knowledge of the stories about him. The stories make him sound like a great man, but I've never met him. I will say that I see it in his students. Such a great devotion to the man, he must have been a great man to assume that devotion.”

(Prof. Okazaki, Danzan, and Loyalty, continued on page FOUR)

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Official SRY Dojo Certificates

Your dojo and students are important to Shoshin-Ryu. Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai will be issuing an annual official dojo certificate to SRY schools with ten or more members. In April of each year, it will be determined which dojos meet the membership requirement, and certificates will be sent out to those Official SRY Dojos.

An Official Shoshin Ryu Dojo will receive:

- *A verification certificate
- *National Recognition from Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai
- *Listing on the Shoshin Ryu website
Which includes your dojo logo, class times, a link to your webpage, and more.
- *Free advertising on the Shoshin Ryu website
- *A dojo biography in the Shoshin Ryu Newsletter.

If you would like to have an official SRY dojo, but have fewer than ten students, you can urge your students to bring in their friends and sign them up, or for fifty dollars a year – that is a little more than four dollars a month – a dojo can become an official SRY dojo.

Becoming an official SRY dojo is not a requirement for being a part of Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai. If you have run your dojo for years with six or seven students, keep doing it! You and your students will still have all the benefits that membership in Shoshin Ryu provides. However, your dojo will not be listed on the website or have official dojo status.



Have a Party on Shoshin-Ryu!

What is another benefit of membership in Shoshin Ryu? Starting July 2012, Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai is going to hold a quarterly raffle for a 50\$ Visa gift card. Each dojo will get as many raffle tickets as they have members. One ticket will be selected, and the winning dojo will receive a 50\$ Visa gift card. The winner will be announced via e-mail and the newsletter.

What could you do with the money? Anything. Get dojo t-shirts made. Have a pizza party for your class. Buy the workout gear you need. Whatever! The sky is the limit – well 50\$ is the limit, but you get the idea.

Start turning your memberships in and get ready, the first drawing will be held on July 1, 2012.

Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Bookstore

If you have the time, be sure to visit <http://www.danzan.com/HTML/bookstore.html> the home of the Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Bookstore, and check out what Professor George Arrington has to offer.

Yudansha Notes

Black Belt Workout

During the weekend of February 18 and 19, black belts swarmed Boulder City, Nevada, for a weekend of jujitsu mayhem. Among the attendees were Professors Jon Jacques, Kevin Dalrymple, Steve McMillian, and the ever elusive Myron Dickson. The group went over all the Danzan Ryu advanced boards.

Black Belt, Brown Belt Workout

On Saturday, February 25, fourteen black and brown belts gathered at the Anaheim Super Sport Center for a workout. It was reminiscent of the black belt workouts from the mid-90s at Professor Len Riley's West Grove dojo. It was an open mat where jujitsuka were free to work on whatever techniques they wanted.

The next workout is going to happen on March 31 at the same place. It was a lot of fun and everyone had a great time.

Alas, I must make a correction

As editor of the Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai Newsletter, I make mistakes from time to time. I try to keep them to a minimum, I hope they do not damage my credibility any more than it already is. I have to make a correction about this picture from the last newsletter:



I got the people correct. They were in fact there, but I got the context wrong. I wrote, "Every year Kodenkan Yudanshakai would throw a formal sake ceremony in Tucson, Arizona, for black belts only." That was true, but it did not tell the whole story.

The whole story is this: It is actually the Kodenkan Yudanshakai's Annual Yudansha Promotion Ceremony, and they have a long-standing tradition whereby the student toasts his sensei with sake and the sensei in turn toasts the student. It is, as I said, a formal affair.

It was not my intention to imply that members of Kodenkan Yudanshakai sat around and got hammered on sake. However, that picture shows a couple of Shoshin Ryu guys who, during that era, may have drunk everything and then gone to the store for more.

Please, Update your e-mail

We all know how the e-mail thing goes, new webhost, new domain name, etc. Things change in cyberspace with rapid speed. If you have been getting notifications about upcoming newsletters then we're all good. For the benefit of the Shoshin Ryu Newsletter, if you are not getting your notifications with the correct e-mail address, could you shoot an e-mail to srynewsletter@aol.com for a correction? We at the newsletter are trying to keep things up to date.

Make Plans to Save the Weekend

Plans are being made to have a Shoshin Ryu Black Belt Seminar in May 2012. The tentative date is over the Memorial Day weekend. The seminar will be held at Professor Rebmann's Amador Jujitsu Studio in Livermore, California.

More information will be coming. Look for the flyer and read the full story in the next newsletter. This is will be an opportunity you do not want to miss.

Spring Sumo Contest

The Seventh Annual Spring Sumo Contest is going to happen on Saturday, April 14, at the West Anaheim Youth Center. It is always a good time. Go and get your sumo on! See the Flyer on page seven of this newsletter.

(**Loyalty**, continued from page **ONE**)

Put this into a little perspective. Every two or three years, the entire Danzan Ryu family gets together to share ideas, thoughts, energy, and friendship because of one man. Did Professor Okazaki know he was going to leave such a legacy? We do not know. We will never know. Each Ohana is something we do to celebrate the man. That tells us more about his character than we can say and in that regard, he is deserving of our loyalty.

We can understand the great debt that we owe to Professor Okazaki for doing what he did. He offered a system of martial arts to anyone who wanted to learn, and we have taken that same philosophy and applied it to our dojos and organization.

In order to understand the nature of loyalty, the opposite, disloyalty, should be addressed. Where do we draw the line between loyalty and disloyalty? Where does one stop and the other start? At what point do blind allegiance and willing loyalty split?

Alfonso Ramirez had this to say, “We should not follow blindly. We chose who we follow. The followers should know what a good leader is. The leader needs to inspire those he leads.” As expressed earlier, Professor Okazaki has inspired thousands of people. His art should continue to inspire people in the future.

“I think any teacher who expects their students to be mindless followers, isn’t giving their students the opportunity to develop correctly.” That sentiment from Professor Ramon Gallegos sums up the idea of following blindly. For all accounts, Professor Okazaki appeared to be thoughtful and articulate – just read the Esoteric Principles. We can only assume that he would not have wanted his students to follow lockstep behind him without wondering about better ways to do things.

Is it disloyal to criticize? Can we be loyal and still critique Danzan Ryu and Professor Okazaki?

“If it’s just criticism, then it could be disloyal,” said Ed Townsend. “If you are showing him respect, then you are not being disloyal. I guess it depends on what you mean by it.”

In a similar vein, Professor Ramon Gallegos expanded on Ed Townsend’s thought, “It could be considered disrespectful in the manner you deliver it. Constructive criticism is necessary to advance an art, to make it better. But if you are being disrespectful in your criticism or doing it out of a perceived insult, then it’s destructive and negative. But it can be positive and having criticism toward something at its root isn’t wrong or disrespectful.”

How many of us have worked on a Danzan Ryu technique and said, “That just won’t work in a fight.” Probably all of us have heard our senseis say, “I’d do something else if my life depended on it.” Maybe everything has its place and a moment exists for each technique. Is that disloyal? Or are we just seeing Danzan Ryu for what it is?

Finally, What about Professor Okazaki himself? Like each of us, our motives and behaviors get questioned from time to time. It offers us a moment of careful reflection about where we can improve our character. Is it disrespectful to question Professor Okazaki’s life?
(see **Loyalty**, continued on page **SIX**)

Words of Wisdom

“Never talk defeat. Use words like hope, belief, faith, and victory.” – *Norman Vincent Peale*

“The willow knows what the storm does not: that the power to endure harm outlives the power to inflict it.” – *Blood of the Martyr*

“Better than a thousand hollow words, is one word that brings peace.” – *Buddha*

AMERICAN JIJITSU INSTITUTE

Presents

Ohana 2012

Ala Moana Hotel

Honolulu's Landmark Hotel

410 Atkinson Dr

Honolulu, Hi 96814-4722

Reservations: (808) 955-4811

Fax: (808) 944-2974

Email reservations@alamoanahotel.com

Mention the "AmericanJijitsu Institute 2012 Seminar"

Rates:

\$ 109.00 Double - Single Bed

\$ 139.00 Triple/Quad - 2 Beds

All rooms come with Mini-Fridge and Microwave

Rates available 3 days prior to and 3 days after event

Located at the outskirts of Waikiki at the World Famous Ala Moana Shopping Center. Walking distance to shops, beach park, Magic Island, Clubs and many other amenities.

Shuttle at hotel available to Waikiki and surrounding areas. Waikiki and shops are also within walking distance.

Dates: July 6-8, 2012

Featuring Clinics and Instructions, Jujitsu Kata Tournament, Karate Kata Tournament, Pupu Party, Awards Banquet, Okazaki Gravesite Visit,- also Shopping, Nightlife, Beaches, Luaus, Authentic Hawaiian Shows and much more.

Website: ohana2012.americanjijitsuinstitute.org



Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Hall of Fame

Professor David Nuuhiwa
Inducted in 2006

David Kawaiikoolihilihi Nuuhiwa was born to Elizabeth and David Nuuhiwa on December 30, 1925. The Nuuhiwa family lived in Kauai's Hanalei River region, then moved to the suburbs of Honolulu, not far from Waikiki Beach.

"Uncle" David loved the water and spent a lot of time during his early years at the beach, becoming both an accomplished surfer and a member of the Waikiki Beach Boys. Nuuhiwa became something of a celebrity in surfing, but few people were aware that he was also an outstanding martial artist, winning more than 100 consecutive matches. In later years his martial arts skill would provide the opportunity for him to make appearances on "The Ed Sullivan Show" and "The Steve Allen Show."



Uncle David was not in the first group of students to train under Professor Okazaki, but he did learn from Professor Okazaki as a young man. He learned most of his Danzan Ryu from John Cahill, one of Professor Okazaki's original students.

Professor Nuuhiwa eventually moved to Anaheim, California, where he worked for Walt Disney and was instrumental in setting up the Disney security team for the theme park.

In terms of martial arts, Professor Nuuhiwa took much of what he had learned from Professor Okazaki and Professor Cahill and worked it into a new style of his own creation, Kaito Gakko. The system was believed to have originated between 1935 and 1945.

Professor Nuuhiwa passed away on January 21, 2005, in Honolulu. His ashes were separated and half were scattered at Waikiki and the other half at Huntington Beach.

(Loyalty, cont. from page FOUR)

One response to that question has to do with the fact that he is not here to defend himself. He cannot explain his actions or answer the most basic question, "Why?" To criticize and not offer that courtesy may not be disrespectful, but it is one sided.

However, we do need to remember one basic thing, Professor Kevin Dalrymple explained, "He's human like anybody else. He made mistakes. He did some great things and some things that should probably be frowned upon. The idea is that what he was able to pass on to his students is something that everyone should respect and honor."

Professor Ramon Gallegos had the final thought about Professor Okazaki, "There are flaws in everybody. To put someone on such a high pedestal is to do them a disservice as well, because they had tribulations, they had challenges to overcome, they faltered, and if you don't recognize that, then you are eliminating a part of their life."

Seeing Professor Okazaki for who and what he was, seeing Danzan Ryu for the art it is, is not disloyal. It is imperative. That may be the best way we can be loyal to Professor Okazaki's memory and Danzan Ryu.

One From the Archives



H. S. Okazaki National Kata Championship, Long Beach '93: Professors Kevin Dalrymple and Rick DeHaven receive their second place trophies from Prof. Carl Beaver. Professor Steve McMillan and Jon Jacques got their award, for third, from Professor Francisco Limbago.

7th Annual Spring Classic

Sumo Competition

(Ages 4 to 17)

Contest Fee: \$5 for Shoshin Ryu members
\$30 for non members (Fee includes 2012 Shoshin Ryu membership)

*West Anaheim Youth Center
320 S. Beach Blvd., Anaheim, CA 92802*

Saturday, April 14, 2012

Registration 11:30 AM/Competition to immediately follow



Email Steve Davis for more information at sdavis@anaheim.net

Nunchuck/Yawara Clinic

By
Sensei Steve Davis

On Saturday, March 3, 2012, the Southern California Region of Shoshin Ryu hosted a nunchuck/yawara clinic at the Downtown Anaheim Community Center. Sensei Steve Davis and Professor Kevin Dalrymple taught the class, and several local students ages 5 to ??? years attended the event.

The day started with a good warm-up, focusing on wrist flexes and joint extensions. After the warm-up, the class learned and practiced basic nunchuck drawing and retention techniques. Then they practiced manipulating the nunchucks with both hands. It was at this point the instructors had to reign in a few of the wannabe Bruce Lees -- the Bruce Lee demonstration is going to happen at another date and time.

The purpose of this clinic was to demonstrate how to use nunchucks to control someone's movement. Students paired up and learned how to attack elbows, wrists, arms, legs, and ankles.

During the final part of the lesson, students attacked the instructors and the infamous black strike bag. By the end of the class, everyone could see how versatile two pieces of wood attached by a nylon cord could be.

When the clinic was over, the participants kept their nunchucks so they could practice what they learned and share their new knowledge with their dojo. It was a great learning experience, everyone had fun, but more importantly, no one got hurt.

Martial Arts Jokes

(Shamelessly stolen from www.Sportsjokescafe.com)

Joke #1

Judo Buddies

Two old buddies who continued to compete in judo tournaments well past their prime. One day, while relaxing after yet another competition, they were chatting and wondering if there is judo in heaven. They made a pact that whoever passed away first would come back and let the other know. About a week later, one of the old judoka passed away. A month after that the surviving old judoka was at a competition when all of the sudden he saw an apparition. Sure enough it was his old buddy who had come back to see him. "Well, please tell me," asked the surviving judoka, "Are there judo competitions in heaven?"

"I have good news and bad news for you," replied the apparition. "The good news is that, yes, there are judo competitions in heaven. The bad news is that your first match is against Jigoro Kano day after tomorrow."

Joke #2

Blonde Martial Artists

A blind man goes into a ladies bar and has a seat. He turns to the woman next to him and says, "Do you want to hear a blonde joke?"

The woman replies, "As you are blind, I feel its only fair to warn you, this is a ladies bar. I'm blonde and a champion at karate, my two friends are blonde and are professional wrestlers, and the barmaid is blonde. Now do you really want to tell that joke?"

The blind man thinks for a moment then says, "No, I don't want to have to explain it four times."



Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai



Membership form

Please check one: _____ New member _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name (Last) _____ (First) _____ (MI) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthdate _____ Sex: M / F Phone(s) _____

e-mail address _____ Dojo affiliation _____

Instructor _____ Your current rank _____

Dues/ fees are per year. Membership dues include mandatory liability and supplemental medical insurance. Memberships are for the current calendar year from January through December 31.

_____ \$25.00 General Membership Dues (for Adults & Juniors)

_____ \$30.00 Black Belt Membership Dues

Signature _____ Date _____

Parental consent if under 18 years _____

Mail to: **Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai**
C/O Prof. Kevin Dalrymple
5547 E. San Juan Dr.
Orange, CA 92869

Phone: 714 - 538 - 4622

Please enclose your check payable to: **Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai**

For more information, visit us at www.Shoshinryu.com