



Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai Newsletter

The Official Newsletter
of Shoshin Ryu
Yudanshakai

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Kata Observations

By Professor Bryan Stanley

In the past, more than a few articles have shown up in this newsletter about Kata. Most of them were about the importance of the activity and what it does for people as they learn the art. Those arguments are solid: repetition of techniques, searching for perfection, and performing under stress. That is what kata does for a jujitsuka, which is vital for learning the art.

At some point kata goes beyond practice and enters a stylistic transformation. It is one of those funny changes that happens over time. If a contest has enough participants, one can see it as the event progresses.

Allow me to explain. I can still remember the first kata contest I participated in. It was at The Black Belt Karate Studio in Westminster in 1984. My partner was Greg Lamb and we were both white belts. We did our nine

techniques and combat scene as best we could. It was a no frills demonstration: attack, technique, discard. For me it was a matter of controlling my nerves, focusing on my technique, and not messing up.

With each new group of competitors, the techniques got smoother, more defined, and more complex. I remember watching the black belts, wondering what art they were doing. It looked like jujitsu, but it was like nothing I had seen before. (I had only been in class for a few months, I literally had no idea what the black belts were doing.)

Fast forward five years. I was working out at the Santa Ana dojo, and Sensei Rick DeHaven was preparing for the 1989 AAU National Championships. He asked me to read off the techniques on his list so he could practice. "Wrist es-



Fortner and Smith, Santa Ana, California, late 1980s. Kata has not changed much.

cape," I called out. He walked across the mat to his uki, who grabbed his wrist. Rick escaped, then proceeded to "discard" the uki with a series of wrist techniques and takedowns for the next fifteen seconds.

"What was that?" I asked.
(See **Kata** on page **THREE**)

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The History of Shoshin Ryu: Vol. 1

The History of Shoshin Ryu is now available on Amazon.com and on the OutskirtsPress websites. It took nine months to write and was produced through countless interviews with Professors Mike Chubb, Bill Fischer, Len Riley, Jon Jacques, Kevin Dalrymple, Steve McMillan, Roger Medlen, and a host of others. For some it will be a trip down memory lane, for others it will be an essential part of understanding the roots of Shoshin Ryu.

www.outskirtspress.com/bookstore/9781432786458.html
Click the book cover to go to Amazon.com

Advertisements:

- Danzan Ryu Ohana Black Belt Weekend Flyer on Page 6
- Danzan Ryu Ohana Black Belt Weekend Registration Info pages 7-9
- Danzan Ryu Bookstore on Page 11

Promotions

Parker Colton - Orange Belt, 1 stripe; Kaito Gakko, Orange

Robby Iligan - Yellow Belt; Kaito Gakko, Orange

Troy Bertrand - Nikyu; Surf City Jujitsu Club

Commerical Dojos

It looks like two Shoshin Ryu senseis will be making the jump into the world of commercial dojos in the very near future.

Professor Len Riley is going to open a new WEST COAST Jujitsu dojo in the city of Rancho Santa Margarita. The address is 22431 Antonio and is next to the Pavilions in the Plaza Antonio shopping center. The plan is to have class eve-

Yudansha Notes

ry night but Friday, in order to keep the YMCA class going.

A little further up the coast, Sensei Steve Davis is going to be opening a 4,000 foot dojo in Orange. He plans on having not only Danzan Ryu classes, but boxing, grappling, Brazilian Jujitsu, and a plethora of other activities on site.

That'll Keep You off the Mat

Professor Jim Lambert recently learned he was going to have to have hip replacement surgery.

"Funny thing," Professor Lambert said, "I went to the doctor last year and I was fine. A year later and my hip socket has just about disintegrated."

He did not give a date for his upcoming surgery, but it is probably going to keep him off the mat for a while.

Danzan Ryu Ohana Black Belt Weekend

Danzan Ryu Ohana



Black Belt Weekend

June 1 and 2, 2013, is going to be the second annual Black Belt Weekend.

What is going to make this event interesting is the format. This year's weekend is Tripartisan effort between Shoshin Ryu, the Pacific Jujitsu Alliance, and the Kilohana Martial Arts

Association.

The plan is to cover the advanced boards of Danzan Ryu. The clinics will be an open format where three professors will share ideas about techniques. According to Professor Bob McKean the last time they ran a clinic this way, it worked out better than they

hoped.

The weekend is open to all Danzan Ryu black belts. Any Ikkyus who are interested may attend the Shinin clinic only.

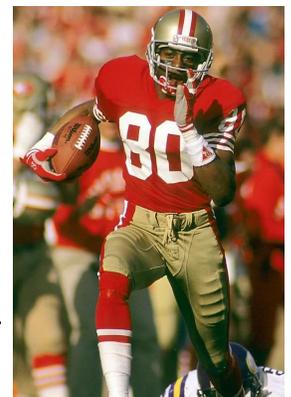
The flyer for the Black Belt weekend can be found on page six. All contact info is there.

Words of Wisdom

"Inaction breeds doubt and fear. Action breeds confidence and courage. If you want to conquer fear, do not sit home and think about it. Go out and get busy." - Dale Carnegie

"Today I will do what others won't, so tomorrow I can accomplish what others can't." - Jerry Rice

"Hold yourself responsible for a higher standard than anybody else expects of you. Never excuse yourself. Never pity yourself. Be a hard master to yourself – and be lenient to everybody else." - Henry Ward Beecher





(KATA, Continued from Page ONE)

“A wrist escape,” Rick said.

“I don’t remember seeing a wrist escape. What was all that other stuff?”

“I’ll clean it up later. It’s called ‘flash’ and a kata needs to have it if you are going to win.”

Fast forward to Ohana 2012 in Honolulu. On Sunday morning I got up and went down to the main ballroom to watch the Kata contest. The event went forward with ruthless efficiency, white belts through black belts. Just like I had experienced at my first kata contest, the white belts did their techniques short and quick, then each successive group of competitors made their techniques more and more complex.

When the shodans competed, their demonstrations were like complex sentences of techniques that took several seconds to write. When the nidans competed, they wrote paragraphs. When the sandans competed, they wrote chapters.

The yodans and godans wrote haiku.

In terms of presentation, the yodan/godan division looked more like the white belt division than the division that should have been writing books. Their techniques combined perfection and simplicity. The flash was in the commitment of the attack, the effectiveness of the technique, and the cleanliness of the discard.

Professor Barry Posner noticed the transformation as well. “It was funny. I judged the Shodan division and they were so complex. When I went out and competed, the whole intention was attack, technique, discard. We wanted to be smooth and effective.”

So what happens? When does the transition take place?

Professor Kevin Dalrymple thought about that question and reminisced about his time doing kata contests, “I don’t remember ever making a conscious decision to change my techniques. As I got older, I focused on making my techniques clean. I also was more aware of my etiquette. I do know that I changed how I presented my techniques. I just tried to be really precise, and the more things you do, the harder it is to be really accurate.”

Both Professor Posner and Professor Dalrymple added another reason why yodans and godans keep it simple. “In the contest at Ohana 2012,” Professor Posner said, “I was just trying to get through it. I’m not twenty-one any more. I’m not a flyer like a lot of those young black belts. I don’t have the fitness that I used to have.”

Professor Dalrymple added, “Most yodans and godans are older. They aren’t going to have the time or stamina to do four or five techniques and make the kata look really flashy. It suits an older martial artist to be direct in what they do.”

Without a doubt, stamina has a lot to do with it. Even though kata looks easy and controlled, the amount of mental energy required to do techniques well is just as draining to the body as the physical aspect of the competition. Regardless of age, kata requires intense concentration, precise physical movements, and the ability to feel subtle changes with your uki. Throw into that mix the desire to demonstrate an art as best one can, and it becomes easy to understand how tiring a kata can be.

The final part of the kata puzzle is style. Style is personal. Some jujitsuka are light and fearless, they can jump and fly and do things that seem more applicable to a martial (see **KATA** on page **ELEVEN**)



Kata participants at Ohana 2012.

“Most yodans and godans are older. They aren’t going to have the time or stamina to do four or five techniques and make the kata look really flashy. It suits an older martial artist to be direct in what they do..” — Professor Kevin Dalrymple



What the Kodokan Knows about Professor Okazaki and Danzan-ryu Jujutsu

Tom Lang, godan, Danzan-ryu Jujutsu

On a February, 2013, trip to Japan, Jun Shimada, a Japanese friend who translated one of my books into Japanese, arranged for the two of us to visit the Kodokan to talk with the librarian, Ms. Hanako Motohashi. I was interested in verifying Professor Okazaki's judo rank and in investigating the names and kanji of the higher boards.

Before continuing, you need to know that decisive answers are hard to find in Japan. Ambiguity is a part of the culture, and answers are usually followed by some sort of qualification. In other words, we may never get definitive answers to many of our questions about Danzan-ryu, although we may get evidence that makes some answers more believable than others.

Professor Okazaki's Judo Rank

We have long been told that Professor Okazaki was promoted to sandan by Professor Kano. There was also speculation that this rank may have been awarded in Hawaii as a "batsugun" promotion, or promotion for winning contests against several consecutive judoka of the same rank in a single event, rather than by a rank exam or by participation in a certain number of matches.

The Kodokan has kept meticulous records of promotion for close to 100 years. A search of these records revealed that Okazaki Seishiro joined the Kodokan on December 15, 1924, and was awarded the rank of shodan on January 11, 1925 (Figure 1). The kanji for Professor Okazaki's name are identical to those appearing on a scroll signed by Professor Okazaki, the Goshin Jutsu no Kata Moku Roku (Figure 2). However, the two kanji in his first name differ from those he used in signing his other mokuroku and kaidensho (Figure 3), which also differ from those he used in signing his book. (No sense in making this easy.) There is no record of him receiving a sandan or any other rank from the Kodokan.

Names and Kanji for the Higher Boards

I also asked Motohashi-san about the names and possible kanji for the higher boards. The time between Professor Okazaki ending his training as a student and beginning his teaching of Danzan-ryu was only a few years. When Danzan-ryu was introduced, however, it was essentially in final form. The techniques may vary somewhat by instructor, but the boards have never changed. My thought was that creating such stability in so short a period could be explained if Okazaki included blocks of techniques from other, fully formed systems. For example, most techniques on Nage and Shime also appear on the Kodokan judo lists.

Shinyo no Maki

We know that Professor studied with Master Kichimatsu Tanaka at the Shinyu-Kai Dojo, where he learned Yoshin-ryu jujutsu, a ryu with which Motohashi-san is familiar. Yoshin-ryu has a list of techniques called Shinyo no Maki: 心用乙巻 (or 心用之巻, which uses a different kanji for "no."). In her opinion, the kanji for our Shinyo list would likely be the same as these kanji. However (See? I told you . . .), she also suggested another set of kanji for this list: 真楊ノ巻.

The next step is to determine what techniques are associated with Yoshin-ryu's Shinyo No Maki. If the techniques are similar to ours (difficult to characterize, but techniques of strategy and tactics), it may well be that Professor Okazaki adopted or adapted this list in creating his own.

(See, **What the Kodokan Knows...**, on page **FIVE**)



(What the Kokenkan Knows..., Continued from page FOUR)

Shingen no Maki

Some time ago, I found on an Internet search a mention of Shin-gen no Maki (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sōsuishi-ryū>). An excerpt from the Wikipedia entry is below.

Matsui Hyakutaro Munetada

“Munetada was born native to Kyūshū, Japan in Fukuoka on February of Genji year 1 (1864). He was the first son of Matsui Kakitsu who was the samurai of Fukuoka han. As a boy he was fascinated with the martial arts so he started to train with his uncle Matsui Kokichi, a Shingen No Maki (similar to Menkyo Kaiden) and direct student of Sōsuishi-ryū under 11th generation inheritor Shitama Munetsuna. Munetada also began training under Shitama Munetsuna and received a Shingen No Maki in Sōsuishi-ryū. His line of Sōsuishi-ryū is called the "Matsui-ha" and it continues in Tokyo today . . .”

Grandmaster Maasaki Hatsumi, of ninjutsu fame, confirmed that this rank was awarded in Sōsuishi-ryū.

Sōsuishi-ryū is the modern name of Sōsuishitsu-ryū. (The name was changed to remove the “tsu” ending that created an offending syllable.) Sōsuishitsu-ryū is listed in Professor Okazaki’s mokuroku as one of the many traditional jujutsu ryu. Clearly, he knew of the ryu.

The Shingen No Maki certificate of Sōsuishi-ryū is of interest because, like our own list of the same name, it is the highest certificate awarded by the ryu and contains the most secret techniques of the ryu.

I contacted two people whom I know practice Sōsuishi-ryū. Judoka and author Pat Harrington of the New South Wales area of Australia and Rory Miller of Portland, Oregon. Neither had ever heard of the Shingen No Maki rank or certificate.

From memory, Motohashi-san quickly suggested two sets of kanji for this list: 森 巖 / 卷 and 深 巖 / 卷.

The next step, again, is to determine what techniques are associated with Sōsuishi-ryū’s Shingen No Maki. If the techniques are similar to ours (striking points and techniques), it may well be that Professor Okazaki adopted or adapted this list in creating his own.

Shinin no Maki

My friend Shimada-san found an article on Danzan-ryu written in Japanese that mentioned Takeru Sasaki, a man who studied Danzan Ryu in Reno, Nevada, under Robert Kolbet, a student of Herb Lague, many years ago. He now teaches in Tokyo. I contacted him and received the following:

“I think ‘Shin-In’ was originally pronounced ‘Shin-kage.’ The word ‘Kage’ can be also pronounced ‘In’; therefore, Kage changed into In during long time. I think ‘Shin-In’ or ‘Shin-kage’ was concerned with Shin-kage ryu. Shin-kage ryu is very famous Japanese traditional martial arts school. Please see this site; <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shinkage-ry%C5%AB>”

I had not heard of this possibility and have not had time to investigate it. The one book in my library on Shin-kage ryu (Shin Kage Ryu: Japan’s Complete Fighting system, by Robin L. Rielly, Tokyo: Charles E. Tuttle, 1989) shows no similarities to either the history of Danzan-ryu or to the techniques of our Shinin no Maki.

(See **What the Kodokan Knows...**, Continued on page **ELEVEN**)

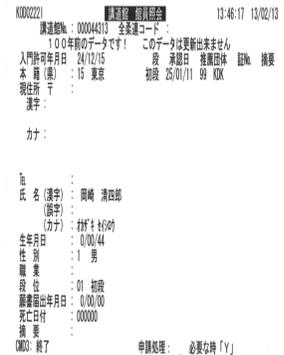


Figure 1.

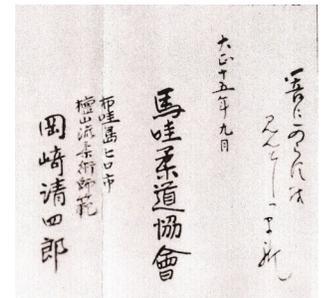


Figure 2

The kanji Professor Okazaki used to sign his scroll, *Goshin Jutsu no Kata Moku Roku*, are identical to those on the *Kodokan*’s record of his shodan promotion.

- 岡崎 清四郎
- oka - hill
- zaki - promontory
- sei - pure
- shi - four
- rō - counter for sons

The kanji for Professor Okazaki’s first name on most of his other *mokuroku*.

- 岡崎 星史郎
- oka - hill
- zaki - promontory
- sei - sunny; bright
- shi - history
- rō - counter for sons

Figure 3



Danzan Ryu Ohana Black Belt Weekend

June 1 & 2, 2013

Saturday & Sunday - 9 AM – 4 PM

*Co-Hosted by the Kilohana Martial Arts Association, Pacific Jujitsu Alliance
and Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai.*

Host Dojo: Amador Judo & Jujitsu
847 Rincon Ave., Livermore, CA. 94551 (925) 455-6054
Amadorstudio@aol.com

Clinic instructors include the following DZR Professors

**Representing the Kilohana Martial Arts Association, Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai,
Pacific Jujitsu Alliance, American Jujitsu Institute and the
American Judo & Jujitsu Federation**

10th dan - Rory Rebmann, James Muro and John Congistre. 9th dan - Bill Fischer and Ken Eddy.
8th dan - Russ Coelho and Tom Jenkins. 7th dan - Larry Nolte, Mike Esmailzadeh, Geoff Lane and Bob
McKean. 6th dan – Hans Ingebretsen, Troy Shehorn, Kevin Colton and others.

Clinic is open to all DZR Black Belts

DZR 1st kyu (ikkyu) brown belts are welcome to attend and participate in the Shinin no Maki clinics and instructor development classes with approval of their sensei.

The weekend will include classes on

Shinin no Maki, Shinyo no Maki and Kai no Maki. Additional classes will include Ethics & Professional Conduct of Black Belts, Dojo Management Responsibilities, Techniques of Teaching and a special class on the Prof. Ray Law's techniques of teaching children.

Clinic Fee

Registration before June 1st

\$35 per day - or - \$50 for both days

Registration at the door

\$45 per day - or - \$60 for both days



Danzan Ryu Ohana Black Belt Weekend

June 1 & 2, 2013

Saturday & Sunday - 9 AM – 4 PM

Registration Form

Print Name: _____

First

Middle

Last

E-mail address: _____

Address: _____

#

Street

City

State

Zip

Phone: _____

Home

Cell

Other

Danzan Ryu Rank: _____ Sensei: _____

DZR organization(s) you are affiliated with: _____

Please check the day(s) you will be attending:

Saturday only _____ Sunday only _____ Both days _____

NOTE: There will be a no host dinner on Saturday night at a local restaurant. Sack lunches will be available for a nominal fee (\$5 to \$7) on Saturday and Sunday. Check if you wish to purchase a lunch:

Saturday _____ Sunday _____ You can pay for your lunch that day.

It may be warm/hot in June - It is recommended that you bring your own snacks and water/sports drinks on both days.

Registration Fees:

Pre-Registration - before May 31st

\$35 per day - or - \$50 for both days

Registration at the door – day of the event

\$45 per day - or - \$60 for both days

Total Amount: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to - Amador Judo & Jujitsu

When mailing in your registration form please include the event waiver form

Amador Judo & Jujitsu

847 Rincon Ave., Livermore, CA. 94551 (925) 455-6054

Amadorstudio@aol.com



Danzan Ryu Ohana Black Belt Weekend
June 1 & 2, 2013
Livermore, California

Martial Art Seminar Clinic Warning Waiver, Release of Liability and Agreement to Participate

INSTRUCTIONS

This agreement and release must be signed by all participants, and their parent(s) or guardian(s) if the participant is a minor (under 18), who wish to participate in this martial art event.

PLEASE READ ALL SECTIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in this martial art event, I hereby

1. Agree that prior to participating; I will inspect the mat, equipment, facilities, and any pairing of participants. If I believe anything is unsafe or beyond my capability, I will immediately advise the head instructor of such condition(s) and refuse to participate.

_____ Initial

2. Acknowledge and fully understand that Jujitsu and other Martial Arts are a physical contact sport/event and that I will be engaging in activities that might result in serious injury, including permanent disability and death and severe social and economic loss due to my own actions, negligence of others, or conditions of the premises or any other equipment used. Further, I acknowledge that there may be other risks not known to me or not reasonably foreseeable at this time.

_____ Initial

3. Assume all risks involved in this Martial Arts event and accept personal responsibility for the damages following such injury, permanent disability or death.

_____ Initial

4. Enter Jujitsu or other Martial Art practice entirely on my own free will and understand the importance of following all directions given me by instructors and other officials.

_____ Initial

5. Certify that I am in good physical condition and have no disease, injury, or other condition that would impair my performance or physical and mental well being in intense physical practice, training or competition.

_____ Initial

6. Grant permission in case of injury to have a doctor, nurse, EMT, athletic trainer or other medical emergency personal provide me with medical assistance or treatment for such injury.

_____ Initial



7. Release, waive, discharge and covenant not to sue the Amador Judo & Jujitsu Studio, its owners, staff and instructors, Kilohana Martial Arts Association, Pacific Jujitsu Alliance, Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai, individual instructors, individual members, promoters, other participating organizations, their affiliated clubs and schools, their respective administrations, directors, agents, instructors, and other employees or volunteers of the organizations, event officials, medical personnel, other participants, their parent(s), guardian(s), supervisors, instructors, sponsoring agents, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the Jujitsu/Martial Art class or event, all which are hereinafter referred to as "releases," from any and all claims, demands, losses, or damages on account of injury, including permanent disability and death or damages to property, caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the releases or otherwise.

_____ Initial

8. I/We the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of this minor participant have instructed or will instruct the minor participating to the above warning and conditions and their ramifications and I/We additionally confirm and agree to all of the above statements, conditions, waivers, and releases, and consent to this minor's participation.

_____ Initial

I/We have read the above warning, waiver and release, understand that I/We give up substantial rights by signing it and knowing this, sign it voluntarily.

_____ Print Name of Participant

_____ Date

_____ Signature of Participant

_____ Print Name of Parent/Guardian

_____ Date

_____ Signature of Parent/Guardian

Form received by: _____ Date Received: _____

Location of Event: Amador Judo & Jujitsu, - 847 Rincon Ave., Livermore, CA

Date(s) of event: June 1 & 2, 2013



SHOSHIN RYU REUNION 2013

August 9th - August 11th

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



Sheraton Cerritos Hotel

12725 Center Court Drive
Cerritos, CA 90073

Hotel Rooms Limited

BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

Call Toll Free:

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Please mention Shoshin Ryu Reunion for the
SPECIAL ROOM RATES!

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**For more information please visit
www.shoshinryu.com
So mark your calendars for a great time!**



Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai

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Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai:
Dedicated to the art and principles of
Danzan Ryu Jujitsu

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(KATA, continued from page **THREE**)

arts movie than a kata contest. Then there are others who see kata in a different light.

“For me,” Professor Posner said, “doing kata has always been about trying to display the pure essence of the technique. I have always wanted to let the technique speak for itself.” Consequently, when Professor Posner has done kata in the past, he has done his techniques with very little “flash.” “When I was younger I had something to prove. I still believed that I wanted to show the techniques in the best possible light. So it has been part of my style to be direct when I do kata.”



Kata is a demonstration. Whether that demonstration looks like a Kung Fu movie or a photograph, the purpose is for the jujitsuka to show what they can do when the pressure is on. All those people are watching, the judges are watching, cameras are rolling, and two people have to show that they can do a technique. How one chooses to do show how they can do it is their personal interpretation of the art. It just appears that as one moves up the ranks, that interpretation becomes more streamlined and possibly, more efficient.

Be Sure to Visit the Danzan Ryu Bookstore at

<http://www.danzan.com/HTML/bookstore.html>

See What Professor Arrington has to offer!

(What the Kodokan Knows..., from page 5) Closing

Motohashi-san has given me leads to experts in the *Yoshin-ryū* and *Sōsuishi-ryū*. My friend Shimada-san is also now hooked on solving the mystery. I would not have gotten this far without him and will probably not get further without him, either. The need to consult native Japanese speakers and those with expertise in martial arts is essential to this research. Simply making the connections to experts in Japan requires a native speaker, and Shimada-san has been incredibly helpful in this regard.

We owe him a debt of gratitude.

So, aside from verifying the *shodan* promotion for Professor Okazaki, the above findings raise more questions than they answer. I emphasize that I have not found definitive answers for the meaning or *kanji* of the higher boards, although I think the similarities mentioned above are most interesting. Finding answers is possible: we still have places to look.

A Look at the Past Through Pictures

The man at the front of the picture, who looks like an orchestra conductor, is Professor Francisco Limbago. He is teaching a class of juniors at Ohana '92 in Reno, Nevada. Like most Ohanas, mat space is at a premium. It was always at a premium when Prof. Limbago taught. I wonder if those kids realize how lucky they are?

