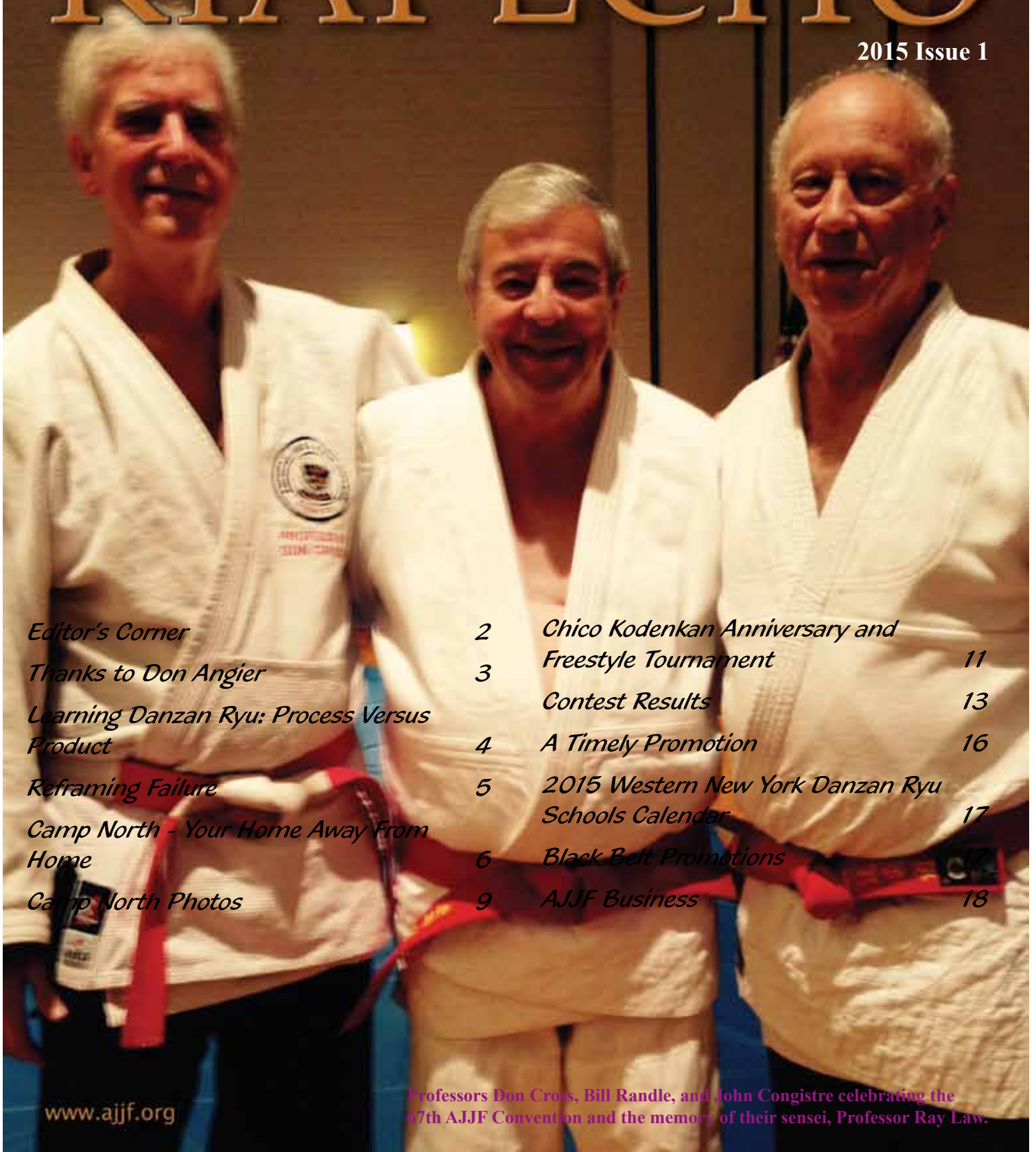


KIAI ECHO

2015 Issue 1



<i>Editor's Corner</i>	2	<i>Chico Kodenkan Anniversary and Freestyle Tournament</i>	11
<i>Thanks to Don Angier</i>	3	<i>Contest Results</i>	13
<i>Learning Danzan Ryu: Process Versus Product</i>	4	<i>A Timely Promotion</i>	16
<i>Reframing Failure</i>	5	<i>2015 Western New York Danzan Ryu Schools Calendar</i>	17
<i>Camp North - Your Home Away From Home</i>	6	<i>Black Belt Promotions</i>	
<i>Camp North Photos</i>	9	<i>AJFF Business</i>	18

Editor's Corner

Attending convention this year was definitely an experience in contrasts: from the snow covered land of Boston to sunny and warm California, from temperatures as low as -12 to as low as 50. It was almost like entering another world for a few days. The comparison was striking, and got me thinking about the convention itself.

I haven't missed a convention since I started studying Danzan Ryu, making this the 26th convention I've attended. Thinking back over these different conventions, what struck me most was not the contrasts between them, but the similarities. Convention is predictable: the flow of events, the classes, and the instructors do not vary much from year to year. Sure, some hosts might arrange for additional activities or the convention might move from San Ramon to somewhere exotic, like downtown Burbank, but fundamentally there is not much difference each year.

As comforting as that predictability and sameness might be, I do have to wonder if it is a good idea. Don't get me wrong, I enjoyed this year's convention, as I have enjoyed so many others. At the same time, it was particularly striking just how small convention was this year. I don't think it's because anyone smelled bad: we're all used to satsuzi, dit da, and zheng gu shui. Nonetheless, each year fewer and fewer people are attending.

So why might the sameness be a problem? Let's think about some key differences between 26 years ago and today. In 1990, there were not a lot of black belts and few of them were particularly high ranking. The number of professors was still in the single

digits. Many dojos were small, run by shodans and nidans, and rarely saw a professor. Clinics were infrequent.

Convention, therefore, provided an opportunity for the AJJF to come together. It was an opportunity for people from different dojos to work out together. Even more important, it was a chance for black belts to work out together, and for the colored belts to attend classes with professors. It was the chance to make sure that everyone was learning the correct versions of the arts, and for black belts to learn the higher boards.

Well, a lot has changed since 1990. Today, the AJJF has nearly 400 active black belts. Not counting professors, there are over 100 ranked sandan or higher, with over 50 of those being yodan or higher. That's a very different demographic from 25 years ago! We also have far more clinics than ever before, with many visits from professors and senior instructors.

What does this changing demographic do for convention? I am not entirely sure, but it suggests that we do need to think about what role the convention plays in the AJJF today. Lower ranks may well feel they can now learn the basic boards at home. Black belts may feel that there are enough people at home to practice with that they do not need to attend convention to train in Shinnin and Shinyo. How do we change that perception?

Convention is, in a very real sense, the AJJF in miniature. As the AJJF grows and changes, the convention will grow with it. What form that may take is something that we will discover together.✱

The Kiai Echo is the newsletter of the American Judo & Jujitsu Federation (AJJF), a non-profit educational organization that promotes Danzan Ryu Jujitsu. The Kiai Echo is published to all standard annual members of the AJJF in the United States and on the Web at www.ajjf.org.

The contents of this publication may not reflect the opinion of the editors, the AJJF Board of Professors, its Board of Directors, its Operations Committee or members of the AJJF. Final editorial approval lies with the BOP

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: Available to non-members for \$20 per year, or \$5 per issue.

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Thanks to Don Angier

Richard Howell

Last year we lost a special martial artist, Soke Don Angier. Many of the readers of the Kiai Echo will remember him and his classes. It is my personal belief that the best way to honor a teacher is to acknowledge his lessons and to continue to teach what you have learned. This is an essential lesson of Danzan Ryu. We are teachers. So I would like to remember Don by sharing some things I was able to learn in his classes. There was a lot more there and you may have a favorite Angier lesson that it is not in this article. That is because we lost him too soon and I did not get to that class or I was not ready for the lesson when it was offered.

Don gave seminars once or twice a year in Walnut Creek, California at the Diablo Valley Aikido Dojo and I went to every one that I knew about. Each of his seminars was arranged around some specific guiding principle. He explained that his aikijitsu system, Yanagi Ryu, was organized around these principles rather than individual techniques. So in a sense each Angier seminar was about a single thing. One of the first things I learned in these seminars was that there actually were underlying principles. These basic principles could be named and listed and practiced using a wide variety of techniques. There were techniques that might look very different, but would contain that principle as an element. If you really practice good principles then the techniques will flow from them. This feature of his presentation was clearly explained at the end of my first seminar and it set a direction for me from that day to now.

Some of the things I learned were “For power, arms push and legs pull.” If you are pushing with your arms there is a sense of secure balance that is missing if you are pulling. Pushing with your arms and pulling with your lead leg also protects and activates your center more effectively. I play with this at work with a pallet mover, but you can have a similar experience by paying attention to how you feel when moving a really full grocery cart. You can make the sensation stronger by pretending that the handle of the cart is going to break. If you are pushing with your arms your balance can easily be regained when the handle collapses. If you are pulling with your hands it is harder to recover. You may even feel as if you are going to fall. Proper body motion allows techniques to be done from the power of our center. With some attention we can do it in any technique we know.

“Control the elbow, control the man” is a fairly basic principle that many of our instructors also teach. If you have the elbow then your connection to uke’s center is very secure. It is easy to control the center. This principle was known in my dojo as the

\$5000 dollar secret because of a story Don told. It seems there was a European studying jujitsu in Japan and after some time his instructors offered to tell him the ultimate secret of their art for a \$5000 fee. He agreed to pay and was taken into a special room and told about this principle. He paid.

Soke Angier was famous among the Aikido students for his claim, backed up with demonstrations, that “There is no such thing as ‘ki.’ There is only good technique performed well.” That is not how many Aikido practitioners see it, but he would answer all objections by taking any technique in question and teaching everyone how to make it work. It was like having a magician show you how the illusion is performed and then giving you the tools to do it yourself. It was delightful.

I asked him once what he was looking to feel from uke in a particular technique and his answer was very surprising. He said “I don’t look for anything from uke. I just do my technique.” After some follow up discussion the principle emerged: You must practice the technique and do it correctly and precisely. This also means that you actually have to know what the correct practice is. Once you have learned a technique correctly any attention you pay to your opponent will rob from the best expression of the technique. There is a warning here: Practicing a technique precisely and wrong

does not work, even if sensei does it that way.

One of the neater tricks that he taught was “melting.” This is much easier to demonstrate on the mat than to describe here in words, but I will try. A simple demonstration is to have uke grip you firmly with one hand on each of your wrists. As uke grips, make your wrists stiff by making a fist or extending your fingers. Then simultaneously relax, sink straight down, and allow your elbows to drift slightly back. When done well, uke’s grip will also relax and his balance will be affected. His strength will have melted. With some practice this trick can be incorporated in nearly all techniques, making them much more effective. Don’s explanation of this effect was that when uke grips, his nervous system is calculating several things at once. How hard to grab, how far out to reach, how high to reach all have to be determined. If you only change just one of these things, uke can track and maintain strength. Changing them all at once gives uke a system overload and uke does not know what to do. Uke’s strength is partially neutralized as if he has melted.

Don also had an extensive library of gossip stories about Hollywood martial artists. Since he finished his working career

Continued on page 4

Learning Danzan Ryu: Process Versus Product

Hillary Kaplowitz

I love learning. I admit it openly. It is probably the number one reason I study and practice Jujitsu. In that statement, I chose the words “study” and “practice” carefully. Both words connote an important point that I wish to convey in this article which is that learning never has to end. Understood this way, learning is a continual process. Learning Danzan Ryu is experiential. It is not something attained but something experienced. As students of the art, we investigate its principles and practice applying them. We research the concepts and examine the nuances. We test ideas, revise and and retest. By doing so, we can be continually learning.

This may not be the way everyone approaches the art, but my sensei taught me to address my training with that focus. His website says it this way: “Leave no stone unturned, no question unanswered, never settle and always remain humble!” (<http://www.profhudson.com>). If we are motivated to follow this advice, how can we apply this focus to our training?

Many of us struggle along the way. At first we may think that learning is a linear process and that the more time we put into it, the more skill we will attain. Of course, we find that is not the way it works. Sometimes we learn quickly and that may be because of the nature of the material or where we are in our progress. Sometimes learning is challenging, often painfully so. We can become frustrated and disillusioned. However, if we are patient and persevere we often find that some epiphany lies on the other side of that uncomfortable zone.

But if learning is difficult, why do we do it? What is the end point? Is there a product or goal that we will attain? Zen describes the arts as vehicles toward enlightenment. Prof Okazaki talks about the completion of character. But is that really something that we can attain? What does it look like? And most importantly, is it something we would want?

There are many cliches about the journey being more important than the destination but in our case I think it is key for anyone who wants to continue their training beyond a certain point. Prof Ball once asked a group of blackbelts to reflect on our motivations for our continued training and to consider what prompted us to step on the mat and why we continue training.

Continued from page 3

as a makeup artist for the movies and TV many of these stories were first hand or from the source. He was particularly delighted by stories about Steven Segal and Judo Gene LaBell. If you want to hear these stories find me at an event. I will not include them here for fear of my faulty memory of the details.

Thank you, to Don and all of those who have gone before. They dedicated their lives to developing their skills and sharing them with the rest of us. Every one of them had something to teach us. Our best way to honor both them and those who are still teaching is to go to all the classes you can. In class, listen to

For me, it is the process that compels me to keep training. The product is not as important. Process over product. We can examine every aspect of our art using this model. Ogoshi is an excellent example. If my goal is to throw uke on the ground then I am focused on a product. I can know I am successful if what I do results in uke on the ground. The process is not as important in that case since all I need to achieve my goal is for the uke to be on the ground. This may be sufficient if that is the goal. In self defense it certainly is all that you need. In sport too, it may suffice to throw uke on the ground more often than getting thrown by them. A police officer needs to arrest their suspect so there is a clear goal in that situation. Of course there are parameters that must be followed and rules to abide by, but in general the focus in these examples is on the product over the process.

What happens when the process takes precedent over the product? This is where it gets interesting - at least to me. Principles become the focus. Things like softness, efficiency and grace are primary and final results secondary. How we do something becomes as important if not more so than what happens as a result. And if we can let go of the product entirely then we can be free to study and practice the process. Maybe the result will suffer in the beginning, but if that is not the focus then it is not important. And from that we can improve our art and ourselves. Detach from the what and focus on the how. Be a student. Be a scientist. Study and explore how you are doing things versus fast-forwarding to check on the result. Let the result be the outcome of the proper process.

I have more questions than answers and that is okay with me. It means I have more to learn and more opportunities to grow. There is no end for me.

Dive deep into our art. My hope is that none of you find the bottom.

*Hillary Kaplowitz is Sensei of Pacific Jujitsu Kai in Santa Monica, CA and holds the rank of Godan in Danzan Ryu Jujitsu under Professor Robert Hudson, Shihan. In addition, she has a Masters of Science in Instructional Design and Technology and is pursuing a doctorate in the field. **

everyone, make it yours, and then teach what you have learned and remember to say “I learned this from a teacher whose name was...”

Richard Howell, yodan, is the sensei of Yoshin Jitsu Kai.

*[Editor's note: Donald Angier was the only non-Japanese to be the soke of a traditional Japanese ryu. He inherited the Yanagi Ryu from Yoshida Kenji, son of Yoshida Kotaro. Yoshida Kotaro was a student of Takeda Sokaku Sensei, creator of Daito-ryu Aikijujitsu. For more information, please see <http://www.bugei.com/angier.html>]. **

Reframing Failure

Raymond Scholl

Only by cultivating a receptive state of mind, without preconceived ideas or thoughts, can one master the secret art of reacting spontaneously and naturally without hesitation and without purposeless resistance.

- Professor Henry Seishiro Okazaki

Quieting the mind can be a difficult task especially when we know we are being observed; if one is in need of a label then performance anxiety should suffice to describe this phenomenon. When our minds are not still and we possess some level of anxiety, we are prone to engage in negative story telling. Some part of our mind is engaging a self defense mechanism in case we fail.

In our culture the term failure is an unpleasant word. When one thinks of failure, powerful concepts like disaster, botch, catastrophe, embarrassment, rejection, pain, and death come to mind. Such ideas are threatening to the human ego; we are social creatures who thrive on approval and acceptance. If you are struggling for your own personal example of vulnerability then recall a moment similar to how you felt just before your first DZR class, your first contest, or the first time you were asked to teach or demonstrate an art; any of which may have created some self doubt and fear.

The fear of rejection and isolation can lead us to behave in irrational ways, which are detrimental to our personal growth. There may have been a time in our evolution where this behavior was crucial to survival; as hunter-gatherers the lack of social approval and acceptance could quickly become a death sentence if an individual was cast out of the tribe. While we no longer live in that environment, evolution takes time to catch up. For the average person failing is no longer a life-threatening event, but we are still prone to treat it as such; this is unfortunate because failure is a fundamental aspect of learning. Thomas Edison shed light on this point when discussing the development of the light bulb:

“I haven’t failed, I’ve found 10,000 things that don’t work.”

Edison’s perspective was that it didn’t matter that he tried and failed multiple times before achieving his desired result; rather he learned from each experience preceding his success. His failures were a tool, a source of information about the experience, not obstacles to his understanding.

The fear of failing is the manifestation of our ego. The presence of fear indicates that we possess preconceived ideas about how events will unfold; it’s not a happy ending. Failure is a threat to who we think we are, our own insecurities challenge our sense of self, and we begin to slip into disharmony. For Jujitsuka fear can impact our willingness to train and the quality of our training. The irrational and exaggerated internal voice asking

us that plaguing question, “what if?.” What if I do the wrong kata?, what if fail to place in the contest?, what if I disappoint my sensei? and the list goes on. Once we know how the story ends we may ask “why we even bother?”, “isn’t there something more satisfying I could be doing with my time?”, “something easier?.” Let the rationalization begin.

It sounds like a bleak picture, but it doesn’t have to be. Awareness of the human condition is fundamental to our success. Yudansha, for the most part, have learned to quiet that inner voice and minimize their ego as they progress through the ranks; but Mudansha are especially vulnerable to this naturally occurring aspect of ourselves. Sensei can help break the cycle of negative story telling and avoidance behavior that students engage in by letting students know that it’s okay to fail, it’s not a big deal. Reframing failure as a tool for learning teaches students that failure is not an obstacle to success, or an excuse for quitting, rather failure contains the lessons necessary for growth. It’s probable that most of us have an art that we dislike performing when there is an audience; that is the art we need to pay attention to in order to discover what we don’t like about it and fix this issue rather than outright avoiding it until it’s absolutely necessary to perform it.

The goal of this approach is to subtly begin to minimize the ego’s participation in our training as we stop concerning ourselves with the superficial act, and how we looked, and instead seek the lesson that will enable our continued growth. To cultivate a receptive mind, that is free of judgment, we must let go of who we think we are, and learn to deal effectively with our own fear of failure. Accepting that failure is a natural part of the learning cycle and choosing to learn from it, rather than being fearful of it, we are able to be receptive; without preconceived ideas or thoughts and give ourselves permission to react spontaneously and naturally without hesitation and without purposeless resistance. ✨



Camp North - Your Home Away From Home

Stephen Manifor

Before attending Camp North, I had not felt the feeling of apprehension mixed with excitement since I was a kid attending my first summer camp. So, the camp experience was not a new thing for me. I had heard nothing but great things about Camp Kodenkan North up until this point, such as, "It is so beautiful up there!" Also, I had heard that, "Prof Tom Ball and his wife Jan are such great hosts, you are sure to have a blast!" Camp is fun, and I know that. So why was I feeling nervous about it? I must admit I even doubted my decision to go to camp, and wondered if it was worth the cost. As I write this now, after attending camp, reflecting back upon the fact that I had felt any apprehension whatsoever makes me cringe a little bit. But that is just the point. Your experiences at camp allow you to grow and become a better person in so many respects. Day camps and residence camps, in general, are powerful, positive experiences for people. Community living away from home, in an outdoor recreational setting provides a foundation for tremendous growth. Best of all, camp is fun! Great friends, exciting activities, and an atmosphere that lets people be themselves are just three of the reasons why camp is so much fun. And fun, of course, accelerates learning. Let's face it folks! We want to learn the arts, and if we are lucky, pick up many other skillsets along the way. Camp Kodenkan North is a wonderful opportunity to do just that!

I know that like me, not everyone has had a camp experience growing up as a kid. We all have different paths and come from all walks of life. So I am trying to imagine never having experienced camp and how I would be different as a person. It is difficult to imagine and predict all of the effects that my experiences at camp have had on me. I do know for certain,

however, that all camps have the potential to provide positive experiences foundational to practicing successful life skills.

Was I nervous when I was in the 5th grade before going to my very first summer camp? You betcha! I also remember how awkward that time in life was. I reflect a lot about my memories of my first camp experience now that I am an adult, and I am thankful that I was able to experience that as a kid. I realize now that camp for me, was an opportunity for me to just be myself, while I was away from home. It is a wonderful feeling to enjoy several days of fun learning with no worries of anything back home. Now, that is the same attitude that I have adopted in my training when I go to the dojo each night to train. The moment I walk through that door, I get to leave all of my worries in life checked right there, so my cup is empty for me to learn on the mat. After I attended Camp North, it helped me to reflect and realize that, and it has ultimately enhanced my training.

Unlike summer camp of my years past, I never remembered camp food being as good as it was at Camp North. Imagine being at a barbecue or community picnic for several days, where the food and company are provided in abundance. Fresh plums are picked right off the tree; sugar snap peas are picked straight from the garden. These are a few of the highlights at camp. The bbq hamburgers and watermelon reminded me of a family reunion, where the food and camaraderie are memorable. However, be careful if you decide to take a break from class... Jan may enlist your help to pick food from the garden for the next meal! Also, campfire s'more making, while drinking a beer and having a deep conversation after a long day of working out, still stands out in my memory.

I noticed that after a couple days of camp, free from distractions of the technologies of the outside world, my body began to re-calibrate and adapt to camp life. At night, I welcomed sleep greatly, and after passing out, I slept well. I also have never considered myself an early riser, but while at camp my body naturally woke up at the crack of dawn, fully rested. Was it my body resetting to the way life should be? It is hard for me to describe. But I definitely noticed a change. Even after camp, I was recharged in a way that can only be described as a feeling that I could accomplish anything.

The benefits that the camp experience offers us as individuals can be extensive. For me, I really did not foresee all of the benefits that I was in fact receiving from my going to Camp North, until afterwards. In retrospect after you have attended camp, you may find

Continued on page 8

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Mahalo For Your Kokua!

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Continued from page 6

that you have acquired some benefits that were not as apparent as others. I am not going to stand up on my soap box, and spout out all of the benefits that jujitsu offers us as individuals. (Just read the Esoteric Principles if you want a refresher). The Esoteric Principles do state though, that, "...Like a drawing in India ink of the whispering of wind in the pines, the secrets of Judo can only be suggested. Only through personal experience can one comprehend the mystic ecstasy of such secrets." Camp North was such a great personal experience for my learning of the arts, that that statement of the Esoteric principles holds a new meaning for me, personally. Camp is the place to develop new friendships, connect with like-minded peers, and build alliances that will help you become a better martial artist and person. It provides meaningful opportunities for us to learn and practice life-building skills in leadership and decision-making.

I know that each time I attend camp it will be a new experience for me- meeting new people, learning new arts, or learning new

things about myself are just a few of the things I look forward to every year! Not all of the gems we receive are visible to us beforehand, but trust me... they are there and you will see them at some point. Further, I can wholeheartedly assure you that if you have any doubts, you should dismiss them. Without any apprehension now, I can say without hesitation that Camp North is one of the most fun experiences I have had within the AJJF organization and in my adult life! And I am sure that this year will be no different, as I am testing for my shodan rank at camp! I have chosen to test for my black belt at camp, because of the profound impact my experiences from camp have had on me. Where else would I rather be to demonstrate my knowledge of what I have learned thus far? Beyond the obvious benefit of receiving profound instruction from some of the best teachers, Camp North is such a great opportunity, because you can get to know some of the most proficient martial artists that study our system on a personal level. You get to hear their great stories and shared experiences, and even maybe get them to teach you how to do the Squirrel Dance! (If you are lucky!) ✨



Camp North Photos



We're celebrating 41 years of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu!



CAMP KODENKAN NORTH
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JUNE 24-28, 2015

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Prof Sheryl Hager • Prof Robert Hodgkin
Prof Mike Esmailzadeh • Sensei Tim Merrill • Sensei Robert Reish

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www.ajjf.org/events/campnorth
sensei@wasenshikan.org

Chico Kodenkan Anniversary and Freestyle Tournament

Delina Fuchs

A Brief Dojo History: Chico Kodenkan Martial & Healing Arts Academy, once called The Chico Judo & Jujitsu Academy started by AJJF co-founder, Professor Merlin “Bud” Estes, is arguably one of the oldest continuously running dojos in Danzan Ryu. We just celebrated 76 years of continuous operation. Richard Radcliffe took over in 1978 upon Prof Estes’ request wherein the dojo moved from its first location in Chapman Town to Broadway in February 1978. The name then changed to its present iteration, Chico Kodenkan, honoring its lineage from Master Okazaki’s KODENKAN to Prof Estes’ CHICO Judo and Jujitsu Academy. After Sensei Radcliffe retired I got the gig with my brother Todd Birdseye for a few years until he moved in 2000.

We’ve been in our current location on E. 1st Street, Chico, California since December 2002.

Jujitsu Freestyle and Anniversary: We started our annual AJJF Jujitsu Freestyle Tournament in February 2003 to commemorate our anniversary, this year being our 13th tournament. What was most special to me was that my three Sensei all agreed to attend and demonstrate the martial art that I study with them at our lunch break.

My Aikido Sensei: David Lewis, Nidan

My Iaido Sensei: Shihan Dara Masi,

and my DZR Jujitsu Sensei: Professor Jane Carr, Judan.



The Photos: They tell a story of our dojo and the event. It takes a team of parents, junior Jujitsuka, senior Jujitsuka, and Yudansha from surrounding dojo to make the event successful -- running registration, serving food, judging the event, timing, competing, and finally cleaning up. I think you’ll recognize some, others I hope you’ll get to know

because each one is important to me. Thank you to all of my DZR Ohana for supporting my home dojo and our event this year!

Photos Submitted by: Jae Bloome, Chico Kodenkan student ✨



Contest Results

Chico Kodenkan Freestyle January 2015

Junior Yellow Belt

1. Madi Perez
2. Noah Jones
3. Devon Ritter

RJA
RJA
RJA



Junior Purple Belt

1. Kieran DiDio
2. Casey Perez
3. Ella Davis

RJA
RJA
RJA



Adult White

1. Nick Wheeler

Nibukikan



Adult Blue

1. Jack Terrell
2. Victor Jimenez
3. Mariah Dunbar

Chico Kodenkan
Chico Kodenkan
Chico Kodenkan



Adult Green

- 1. Michael Thompson
- 2. Ilya Landa

Makoto Kai
Elite Self-Defense



Adult Brown

- 1. Steve Manifor

Chico Kodenkan



Black Belt

- 1. Nerissa Freeman
- 2. John Pfund
- 3. Jeff Meyers

Wasenshi Kan
Elite Self-Defense
Nibukikan





A Timely Promotion

Gerry Halligan

The echo of a barely perceptible Kiai moves through Time.

But to whom does it belong?

It is the echo of the Kiai of the late Professor Patrick Browne that reverberates through the Danzan Ryu Jujitsu schools in Western New York.

When queried about about “what is a Professor?”, in his typical direct manner, Professor Browne replied “someone who professes to know.” Accordingly, he knew his subject well. And now the Buffalo area has its own AJJF Professor, Marty Brzykcy, Sensei and founder of Quest Jujitsu. His arts will tell you, he knows.

In the spirit of the founder of Danzan Ryu, Professor Seishiro “Henry” Okazaki and Professor Browne, Professor Brzykcy has endured his share traveling long distances to train, often alone. We are all indebted to these sensei for that.

But that is the price, that transformation demands - great personal sacrifice.

Along with this significant promotion, Professor Brzykcy is preparing several candidates from his own school for Yodan Blackbelt examinations in 2015. Thus contributing deeply to our Kodenkan - the School of the Ancient Tradition.

In closing, just as bird’s wings need the wind to give it lift, profound thanks must be extended to Prof. Tom Hill; Prof Tom Ryan; Prof. Geoff Lane; Prof Dennis Estes; Prof. Bob McKean and AJJF Senior Professor Tom Ball, Judan for their direct, comprehensive instruction throughout the last twenty years.

And in the silence of meditation, gratitude to all the teachers now passed on, for their influence and continual guidance.

Congratulations, Professor Brzykcy, we are all very proud of you!

Submitted on behalf of the Yudansha and Mudansha of the Western New York Danzan Ryu Schools.

Gerald L. Halligan

Kodokan Judo - Nidan

*Kodenkan Danzan Ryu -American Judo & Jujitsu Federation
-Rokudan*

Kodenkan Danzan Ryu - Pacific Jujitsu Alliance - Professor

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2015 Western New York Danzan Ryu Schools Calendar

In the continuing spirit of cooperation, the School Heads of the Danzan Ryu Schools throughout the Buffalo area have agreed upon their general calendar for the remainder of 2015. This will provide participation in AJJF Sanctioned events featuring instructional classes and Black Belt Examinations at the Local, Regional, Divisional and National levels..

This is the fourth year of Grassroots Training Classes which are AJJF Sanctioned multi-school classes held each time at a different school with the respective School Head as the principal instructor. The material covered that evening is the choice of that Sensei and is assisted by the other instructors in attendance. Due to everyone's complicated lives, the School Heads requested that this year, the Grassroots classes would be held quarterly. So these events will be held in March, June, September and November. These are planned to coincide with the two Regional events in May in Reading, PA and October at Rutgers University, New Jersey.

In addition to the Grassroots Training Classes, the School Heads have planned for two AJJF Sanctioned Black Belt Examination Preparation Classes. These Classes are conducted by the Professor and Senior Black Belt instructors. The intention behind these events is to help the Sensei and the candidates being sponsored, review the application and document process

along with the formal exam procedures. The Exam Prep classes will be held before a major Regional or Divisional Black Belt Exam opportunity, such as Regional Spring Clinic hosted by Sensei Jeremy Schoener in Reading, Pennsylvania and the Summer Clinic in Chicago hosted by Sensei Filiberto Gutierrez in July 2015.

With the number of potential Black Belt Exam candidates from all four schools in Western New York and the anticipated opening of a new, fifth School in the area, there are discussions about another Black Belt Exam event in Buffalo possibly in August or September 2015. Formal announcements will be forthcoming. Please check the AJJF National Website regarding all events mentioned.

Our collective Danzan Ryu activities will culminate for the year at the Eastern Divisional Clinic at Palmetto Jujitsu Academy & Healing Arts Center, Lexington, South Carolina, hosted by Professor Tom Ryan in October 2015. And as the year draws to a close, there will be lecture and film class on DZR history on December 4, 2015.

For questions and details contact Prof Brzykcy or Sensei Halligan. ✨

Black Belt Promotions

Shodan

Adam Lindsey, a student of Professor Kevin Colton from Santa Clarita Valley Jujitsu

Nidan

Eddie Farinas Jr., a student of Eric Atienza from Ka Hale Loa'a Kokua

Thomas Meade, a student of Professor Robert Hudson from Ka Hale Loa'a Kokua

Sandan

Timothy Nibert, a student of Sensei John Pfund from Elite Self Defense Academy

Yodan

Sensei Travis Kastigar, a student of Professor Kevin Colton and schoolhead of Golden Oaks Martial Arts

Sensei Mark Roberts, a student of Sensei Jeff Penner from HonshinKan

Godan

Sensei Matthew Moller

Sensei Michael Wheeler

Rokudan

Sensei Scott Redden

Judan

Professor Jane Carr

To the title of Professor

Professor Marty Brzykcy

Professor Troy Shehorn

AJJF Business

AJJF Board of Professors and Executive Committee Phone Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2014

Board of Directors Reorganization

Discussion continues on the specifics of the reorganization of the Board of Directors and who shall be a member of this Board. Prof Estes will present a new proposal incorporating the comments from the BOP.

Kata Manual

The BOP continues to work on the lists of Shinnin no Maki and Shinyo no Maki.

Japanese Pronunciation Guide

Prof Tom Ryan is working on producing this guide to be used with the AJJF Kata Manual.

Council of Senior Instructors

The committee continues work on a Sensei Handbook.

Next Board of Professors and Executive Committee Meetings:
March 11, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Stevens

AJJF Board of Professors Scribe Alternate

Nerissa Freeman

AJJF Board of Professors Scribe

American Judo & Jujitsu Federation Operations Committee (OpsCom) March 12, 2015 meeting San Ramon, CA

New Business

Proposal to officially recognize past OpsCom Chairs as “Past Chairs,” who would act as advisors to new chairs for a period to be determined. OpsCom Chair to take proposal to Board of Directors (BoD).

Proposal for the creation of “Budget Chair,” within OpsCom Finance Committee, to manage all matters of budget information between BoD and regional managers. OpsCom Chair and Finance Chair to discuss proposal.

Discussion regarding as to whether injury reports (via insurance claims) statistics (rank of parties involved, technique/activity at the time of injury, type/location of event, etc...) would be helpful to school heads in mitigating injuries in their dojos or at events. Confidentiality concerns were voiced as were whether the number of claims were representative sample of all injuries (including unreported). Only 4 insurance claims were filed in 2014.

Discussion regarding need for “Membership Committee” to communicate to directly to registrants about AJJF functions and benefits. Questions about how such a committee different from OpsCom Marketing Committee or from role of Regional Managers. Discussion of how such a committee could assist Central Office in timeliness of Dojo Renewals. Further discussion by associated OpsCom chairs/committees needed. Discussion of increasing functionality of AJJF website: expansion of registrant services, such as exam fees and integrating AJJF store.

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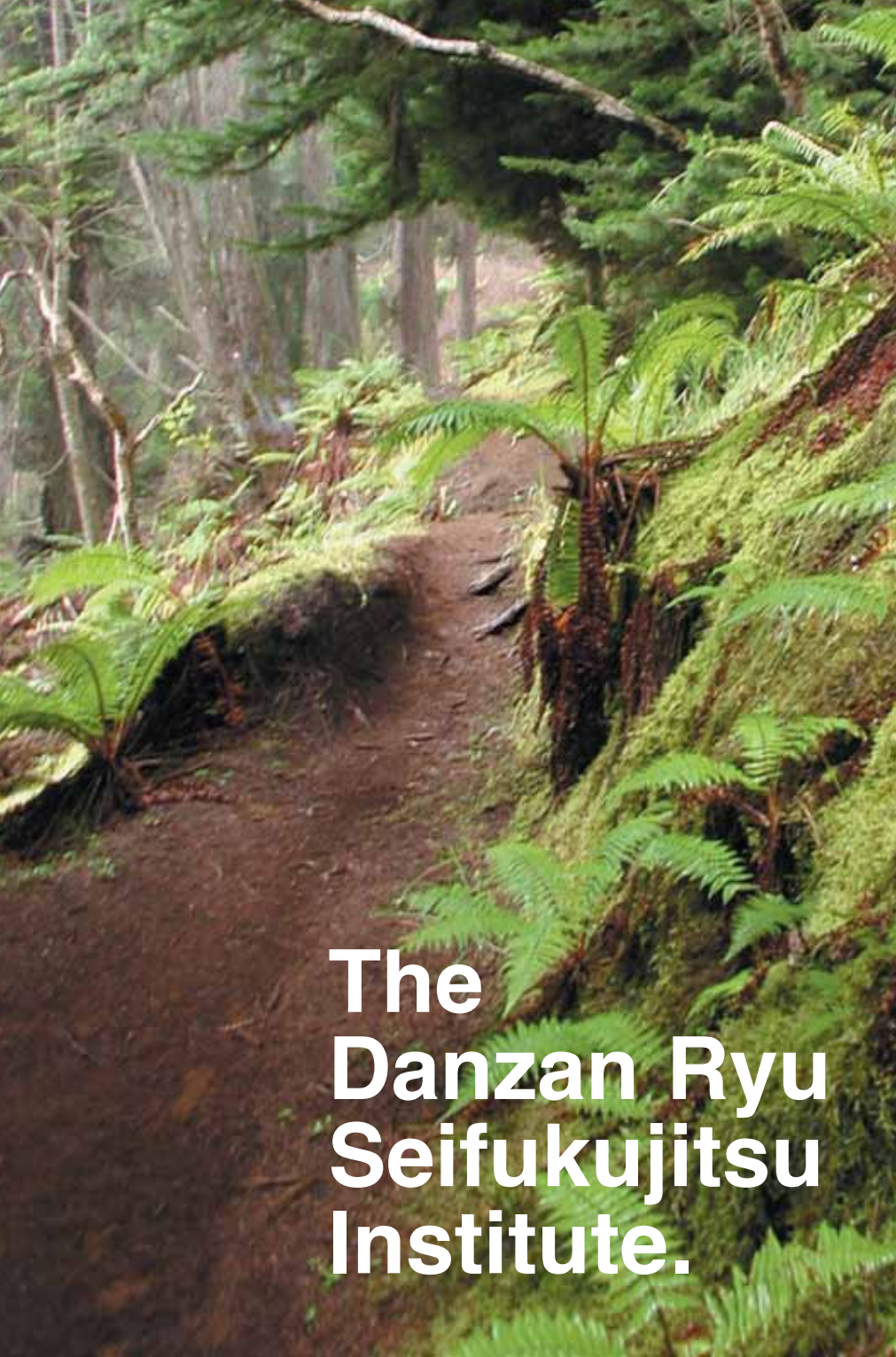
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We encourage all AJJF members to consider the many benefits of Seifukujitsu training. To learn more about the program or for classes forming near you, log on to www.AJJF.org.

