

# The Danzan-Ryū Jūjutsu Timeline

This feature of **The Danzan-Ryū Jūjutsu Homepage** will serve as an ongoing record of notable, significant events in the history of the system. This feature will serve as a vector through time to help interested researchers obtain better insight into people, places and events of Danzan-Ryū.

This timeline will consist of a year followed by brief descriptions of events. Where a date is known, that will also be included. Blank years will also appear on the timeline to be filled in at a future date.

As with other projects on this website, this is a collaborative effort (as is the Danzan-Ryū Lineage Tree) between all members of our extended Ohana. To that end, please send in notable events to [DanzanRyu@yahoo.com](mailto:DanzanRyu@yahoo.com). Be sure to include the year of each event submitted. All entries will be subject to editorial approval for content and accuracy. Appropriate events would include:

- Birth/death dates of notable individuals
- Founding dates for organizations
- Dates when individuals received Professorship or other high rank
- Dates of other key events, etc.

I hope you will find this new feature valuable to your overall understanding of Danzan-Ryū Jūjutsu.

1890

- Okazaki Seishiro born in the town of Date in Fukushima prefecture, Japan, January 28.

1898

- Emanuel (later Emil Alexander “Curley”) Freedman born in Ekaterinoslav, USSR, March 21.

1899

- Ray Law born in Roundup, MT.

1906

- Okazaki Seishiro arrives from Japan in Honolulu, Oahu, Territories of Hawaii, September 10.
- Richard Rickerts born in Petaluma, CA, July 18.

1908

- Juan D. Gomez born in Spain, January 22.

1909

- Okazaki Seishiro moves to Hilo, Hawaii.
- Okazaki Seishiro diagnosed with tuberculosis.
- Bud Estes born in Jackson Hole, WY, October 1.

1910

- Okazaki Seishiro begins study of Jūjutsu with Tanaka Yoshimatsu at the Shinyū Kai Dōjō in Hilo.

1911

- Sig Kufferath born in Honolulu, February 16.

1917

- Okazaki Seishiro studies the Hawaiian art of Lua with native Hawaiian David Kainhee.
- Okazaki Genkichi moves to Hawaii from Japan.
- Wally Jay born in Honolulu, June 15.

1922

- Okazaki Seishiro promoted to Shodan.
- Okazaki Seishiro fights and defeats western boxing champion, Carl “Kayo” Morris.

1924

- Okazaki Seishiro leaves Hilo for Japan. He spends five months visiting Jūjutsu Dōjō's and studying their techniques, September.

1925

- Okazaki Seishiro return to Hilo from Japan, February.

1926

- Okazaki Seishiro moves to Maui.

1927

- Okazaki is listed in the Maui directory as “Professor Henry Seishiro Okazaki”. This is the first time he publishes his name as “Henry”.

1929

- Professor Okazaki publishes his book, The Science of Self Defense for Girls and Women.
- Professor Okazaki moves to 801 S. Hotel Street, Honolulu, Oahu, Territories of Hawaii at the former Nikkō residence of Chester Alphonse Doyle.
- Professor Okazaki establishes Okazaki Restoration Sanitorium.

1931

- Professor Okazaki opens the Kodenkan Jujutsu School at the Hotel Street residence.
- Kodenkan first class consists of Okazaki Hachiro, Kawashima Kiyoshi, Benjamin Marks, George Harbottle, William Simao and Y.S. Kim.

1932

- Richard Rickerts, Curly Friedman, Charles Wagner, Harold McLean, Bob Glover and Denzel Muggiey enroll in the Kodenkan.

1936

- Richard Rickerts, Curly Friedman, Charles Wagner, Harold McLean, Bob Glover and Denzel Muggiey receive Shodan.
- Professor Uto, Jujutsu 7th Dan from Japan teaches class at Army-Navy YMCA, September 15.
- Professor Okazaki uses restorative massage to assist Mrs. John Burns through her third pregnancy.

1938

- Richard Rickerts, Curly Friedman, Charles Wagner, Bob Glover receive their Mokuroku, May 15.
- Harold E. McLean dies.

1939

- The American Jujitsu Guild is founded with Charles Wagner as its first president.
- Bud Estes receives his Mokuroku, March 9.
- Ray Law receives his Mokuroku April 22.
- Juan Gomez, John Cahill, Marion Anderson and Tony Muran receive their Mokuroku, May 5.
- Professor Okazaki holds a special memorial service one year after the death of Harold McLean.
- Tom Ball born, September 5.

1940

- Al Holtmann and Elmo Baldwin receive their Mokuroku.

1941

- May: Steve Byzek and Bill Ah Moo receive their Mokuroku.
- Sig Kufferath and Bing-Fai Lau receive their Shodans.
- John Cahill receives his restoration massage certificate from Nikko Restoration Sanitorium.
- December 6: Richard Rickerts leaves Honolulu for the mainland U.S.
- December 7: Japan attacks Pearl Harbor.

1942

- Sig Kufferath, Bing-Fai Lau and Sonny Hapai receive their Mokuroku.

1943

- The American Jujitsu Guild changes its name to the American Jujitsu Institute (AJI).
- Bud Estes receives his Sandan from the AJI.
- Bill Montero receives his Mokuroku.
- Bill Montero receive his Sandan from the AJI and restoration massage certificate from Nikko Restoration Sanitorium.
- Prof. Okazaki arrested and detained, December 13. (ISN-HJ-924-CI)

1944

- Prof. Okazaki paroled February 8.
- Wally Jay, Esther Azumi, Harry Wee, L. Wee and Albert Yee receive their Mokuroku.
- Jack Wheat and Joe Choy receive their Shodans.

1945

- Sig Kufferath receives his Sandan from the AJI.
- Antone Gonzales and Jerome Tarutani receive their Mokuroku.
- Jack Wheat receives his Mokuroku
- Jack Wheat receives his restoration massage certificate from Nikko Restoration Sanitorium.

1946

- B. Ogden, Frank Kam and Walter Burgo receive their Mokuroku.
- Steve Byzek receives his Sandan from the AJI.

1947

- James Lindsey, Glen Watanabe and Mitchell Keahahuna receive their Mokuroku.
- Beginning of the "Special Black Belt Class" at the Kodenkan.
- Pat Browne born Nov. 9.

1948

- February 28: Graduation of the "Special Black Belt Class".
- Professor Okazaki suffers from a stroke.
- The AJJF is informally founded as an organization by Okazaki mainland students spearheaded by Bud Estes, Ray Law, Richard Rickerts and John Cahill.
- Lamar Fisher starts Jujutsu under Bud Estes.

1949

- Julie Vierra, Joe Holck, Carl Beaver and Bernice Jay receive their Mokuroku.
- Bud Estes, Ray Law, Richard Rickerts and John Cahill become the AJJF founding Professors.
- John Cahill receives his Godan from the AJI.
- Sig Kufferath, Steve Byzek receive their Yodan from the AJI, September 18.

1950

1951

- July 12: Professor Henry Seishiro Okazaki dies in Honolulu.
- Libert O'Sullivan receives his Mokuroku from Hachiro Okazaki and Instructor Sig Kufferath.
- Glen Smith receives his Professorship from the AJJF.

1952

- Sig Kufferath elected to Professor by the AJI.
- John Congistre starts Jujutsu under Ray Law.

1953

- First AAU Judo tournament held in San Jose, CA and won by team from Hawaii coached by Sig Kufferath.
- Bill Montero receives his Professorship from the AJJF.

1954

- Sig Kufferath receives his Godan from the AJI, October 31.
- Bill Randle starts Jujutsu under Ray Law.

1955

- Allied Schools of Self Defense of America founded by Bill Montero, Duke Moore and Ray Laymon in 1955 (continued until approximately 1958).

1956

- Marie Law, Lucille Estes, Lamar Fisher and Abigail Cahill receive their Professorships from the AJJF.

1957

- Tom Ball begins Jujutsu with Bud Odom, February.
- James Musselman and Norm Carl Nelson receive their Professorships from the AJJF.

1958

- The American Judo and Jujitsu Federation (AJJF) is incorporated.
- Bert Aspinall receives his Shodan from the AJJF.
- Tom Ball receives Shodan from Bud Estes, May 21.

1959

- Sig Kufferath moves to California from Hawaii.
- Chuck Smith receives his Shodan from the AJJF.
- Rory Rebmman starts Jujutsu under Ray Law.

1960

- Medford Judo Academy opens in Medford, OR.
- Larry Nolte receives his Shodan from Tom Ball through the AJJF.

1961

- Sig Kufferath receives his Rokudan from the AJI, March 31.
- Bill Randle receives his Shodan from the AJJF.
- Redding Judo Academy is established September 1 in Redding, CA.

1962

- John Cahill dies.

1963

- Emil A. "Curley" Freedman dies in Honolulu, HI, January 19.

1964

- Carl Lundin receives his Professorship from the AJJF.
- Don Cross receives his Shodan from the AJJF.

1965

- Chuck Smith receives his Professorship from the AJJF.

1966

- Bill Beach, Ken Regenitter, William Morris, Mickey Davenport and Florendo Visitacion receive their Professorships from the AJJF.
- Ron Jennings receives his Shodan from the AJJF.
- Sheryl Hager starts Jujitsu training.

1967

- Kodenkan Yudanshakai founded by Joe Holck, in Tucson, AZ, January.
- Bert Aspinall, Tom Ball, Bud Fuller and Kitty Smith receive their Professorships from the AJJF.
- Pat Browne starts Danzan-Ryū with Steve Paulding.

1968

1969

- Ray Law dies in Oakland, CA.
- Wally Jay inducted in Black Belt Magazine Hall of Fame as Jujitsu Instructor of the Year.
- John Congistre receives his Professorship from the AJJF.
- Bud Fuller and Kitty Smith found the Nibukikan Dojo.
- Pat Browne receives his Shodan from the AJJF.
- Pat Browne takes over Napierville Judo Club from Steve Paulding.

1970

- Reston, VA branch of Penmar Judo Kai opened by Robert Belzer with sons Steve and Mike.
- Herb Lague receives his Shodan from the AJJF.
- Maureen Browne starts Danzan-Ryū at the Napierville Judo Club.

1971

1972

- Betty Maillette receives her Professorship from the AJJF.

1973

1974

- George Arrington receives Shodan from the AJJF.
- Camp Kodenkan North founded by Tom Ball, August.
- Pat Browne founds the Suburban Kodenkai.

1975

- Maureen Browne receives her Shodan from the AJJF.

1976

1977

- Bill Randle receives his Professorship from Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai.
- First AJJF Black Belt Convention, Calistoga, CA, November 5.
- Sheryl Hager receives her Shodan.

1978

- Gene Edwards and Rory Rebmann receive their Professorships from the AJJF.
- Kodenkan Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Association (KDRJA) established.

1979

- Southern California Jujitsu Association founded by Jim Marcinkus and others.
- Geoff Lane receives his Shodan from the AJJF.

1980

1981

- Bud Estes dies in Hammondsport, NY, June 7.
- Lamar Fisher becomes the Senior Professor of the AJJF.

1982

- Jane Carr receives her Professorship from the AJJF.
- Lucille Estes dies in Chico, CA.

1983

- Pat Browne starts Camp Kodenkan Midwest.
- Pat Browne receives his Professorship from the AJJF.

1984

- Camp Danzan Ryu founded by Dave Fairfield and Ron Beatty to honor the memory of Professor Henry S. Okazaki and to keep alive his spirit of Ohana and Kokua. The Camp is held at Mt. Cross Lutheran Camp in Ben Lomond, CA.
- William Morris dies in Napa, CA, February 18.
- Dennis Estes receives his Shodan from the AJJF.

1985

1986

- James Birmingham receives his Professorship from the AJJF.
- Maureen Browne founds the Fox Valley Judo and Jujitsu Club.

1987

- Wally Jay establishes Small Circle Jujitsu™.
- Ward Melenich founds the Kuroinkan dojo in Duluth, MN.

1988

- Tom Ryan receives his Shodan from the AJJF.

1989

- Tom Jenkins receives his Professorship from the AJJF.

1990

- Richard Rickerts dies, March 6.
- The first Ohana convention is held in Irvine, CA in honor of the 100th anniversary of Professor Okazaki's birth. The event is organized and sponsored by the Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai.

1991

1992

- Ohana convention held in Reno, CA and sponsored by the Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai.

- Don Cross receives his Professorship from the AJJF.
- Mike Belzer receives his Professorship from the Southern California Jujitsu Association.
- Bill Montero dies in Colorado Springs, CO.
- Maureen Browne founds the Martial Arts Training Service dojo.

1993

- Kodengan Jujitsu Okugi® class established and taught by Professors Sig Kufferath and Tony Janovich in Campbell, CA.

1994

- Bert Aspinall dies, April 11.
- Christian Jujitsu Association founded by Gene Edwards, Kalispell, MT, May 5.
- Ohana convention held in Las Vegas, NV and sponsored by the Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai.
- Hawaii Jujitsu Kodenkai becomes the first martial arts academy on the internet.

1995

- The Danzan-Ryu Jujutsu Homepage is founded.
- Robert Hudson and Herb Lague receive their Professorships from the AJJF.
- Juan D. Gomez dies in Orange, CA, October 14.

1996

- Ohana convention held in Santa Clara, CA and sponsored by JA.
- Pat Browne dies in Chicago, IL, May 23.
- Carl Lundin dies in Silverton, OR, May 7.

1997

- Frank and Cynthia Ferris open the High Sierra Jujitsu dojo in Reno, NV.

1998

- Ohana convention held in San Ramon, CA and sponsored by AJJF.
- Helen Rickerts dies.

1999

- Florendo Visitacion dies in New York, NY, January 4.
- Sig Kufferath dies in Santa Clara, CA, May 7.
- Ron Jennings receives his Professorship from Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai, September 4.

2000

- James Marcinkus dies in Los Angeles, February 2.

2001

- Larry Nolte, Dennis Estes and Geoff Lane receive their Professorships from the AJJF.
- Ohana convention held in Honolulu, HI and sponsored by AJI.
- Maureen Browne receives her Professorship from Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai.

2002

2003

- Ramon "Lono" Ancho, Jr. dies, January 27.
- Kodengan Jujitsu Okugi® class taught by Professor Tony Janovich in Santa Clara, CA.
- Ohana convention held in Foster City, CA and sponsored by JA.

2004

- Bob Krull dies in Calistoga, CA, January 4.

- Bill Randle receives Judan from Shoshin Ryu, August 15.
- Jack Wheat dies in Honolulu, HI, November 2.

2005

- Ohana convention held in Tucson, AZ and sponsored by Kodenkan Yudanshakai.
- Clive Guth receives his Professorship from Professor Tony Janovich and the Kodenkan Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Association.

2006

- Sheryl Hager, Tom Hill and Tom Ryan receive their Professorships from the AJJF.

2007

- Ohana convention held in Santa Clara, CA and sponsored by the Kodenkan Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Association.
- Tony Janovich elevated to 10th Dan by the Kodenkan Council of Black Belts and the Kodenkan Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Association.
- George Arrington receives his Professorship from Professor Tony Janovich and the Kodenkan Danzan Ryu Jujitsu Association.

2008

- Imi Okazaki-Mullins dies in Oakland, CA, January 5.

2009

- Robert Hodgkin receives his Professorship from the AJJF.
- Janice Okamoto receives Associate Professorship from JA.
- Lamar Fisher dies in Chico, CA, September 10.
- Tom Ball elevated to Senior Professor of the AJJF.
- Prof. Ken Regenitter dies on November 9 in Shawnee, KS.

2010

- Tom Ball and John Congistre receive Judan and Jane Carr receives Kudan at the AJJF convention in Oroville, CA, April 18.
- Prof. Norman Carl Nelson passes away, June 6.
- Ohana convention held in Anaheim, CA and sponsored by the Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai.
- Profs. Mike Chubb and Rory Rebmann receive Judan at Ohana, August 22.
- Janice Okamoto receives Professorship from the AJJ.
- Barbara Gessner and Sue Jennings receive Professorships from Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai.
- Russ Coelho, Mike Esmailzadeh, Dale Kahoun, James Muro and Richard Pietrelli and named as Professors by Kilohana.
- Lawrence Boydston, Jack Carter, Al Ikemoto, Hans Ingebretsen, Scott Merrill and Stephen Nichols named as Associate Professors by Kilohana.
- Hachiro Okazaki dies in Honolulu, HI, September 6.

2011

- John Congistre becomes Senior Professor of the AJJF.
- Prof. Mike Belzer receives 8<sup>th</sup> dan, Prof. Mike Salter receives 7<sup>th</sup> dan and Prof. Randy Katz receives 6<sup>th</sup> dan all from Prof. William Randle, May 26.
- Prof. Wally Jay passes away, May 29.
- Prof. Joe Holck passes away in Tucson, AZ on Nov. 6.
- James Muro promoted to Judan by Kilohana.

2012

- The American Jujitsu Institute hosts the Ohana convention in Honolulu, July 6-9.



- Prof. Janice Okamoto is promoted to Hachidan by the American Jujitsu Institute, July 8.
- Prof. Ken Eddy is promoted to Kudan by the American Jujitsu Institute, July 8.
- Prof. Bill Beach passes away in Jacksonville, FL, August 16.

2013

- Kodenkan Jujitsu Okugi® is held by Prof. Tony Janovich in Santa Clara, CA January & March.
- Kevin Colton awarded the title of Professor by the American Judo & Jujitsu Federation, April 6.
- Keith Yorio Okazaki, grandson of Prof. H.S. Okazaki, passes away in Honolulu, September 17.
- Denise Gonzales receives Rokudan from the American Jujitsu Institute, December 21.

2014

- Myrtle Oberman (nee Okazaki) passes away, June 2.
- American Jujitsu Institute holds its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in Santa Clara, CA, June 20.
- American Jujitsu Institute awards doctorate degrees in Danzan-Ryu Jujitsu to George Arrington and Patrick Campbell, June 20.
- Ohana convention held in Santa Clara, CA, June 21-22.

2015

- Jane Carr is elevated to the rank of Judan by the American Judo & Jujitsu Federation, March 14.
- Marty Brzykcy and Troy Shehorn are awarded the title of Professor by the American Judo & Jujitsu Federation, March 14.
- David Woodland awarded Godan and Professor by Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai, August 23.

2016

- Ohana convention hosted by the Bushidokan Federation held in Reno, NV, June 17-20.
- Professor James Musselman passes away at age 85. Feb. 17, 1931 – July 10, 2016.
- Professor Betty Maillette passes away at age 92. August 22.

2017

- Prof. Libert O'Sullivan passes away, January 31.
- Judge James Stanton Seishiro Burns passes away, March 9.
- Hillary Kaplowitz named to the AJJF Board of Professors, April 29.
- Prof. Samuel C. Luke, Judan and American Jujitsu Institute president passes away. May 23.
- Prof. Vinson Holck (1952-2017) of the Kodenkan Yudanshakai passes away. November 24.

2018

- Dr. William Gessner prolific DZR instructor and Professor emeritus in physics from Stroudsburg, PA passes away. January 27.
- The new Westside Jujitsu Dojo was dedicated at the Collins & Katz Family YMCA, 1466 S. Westgate Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90025. May 5, 2018.
- Professor William G. Randle celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. May 5, 2018.
- The following promotions were made by Professor William Randle on May 5, 2018: Professor Thabiti Sabahive to Rokudan, Professor Randall Katz to Shichidan, Professor Michael Salter to Hachidan, and Professor Michael Belzer to Kudan.
- Professor Janice Okamoto promoted to Kudan by the American Jujitsu Institute, June 2, 2018.
- Professor Larry Cary, Judan, passes away at age 76. June 23, 2018.
- Professor Lee Eichelberger, Judan, passes away at age 91. October 5, 2018.
- Professor Jerry Kunzman, Kudan, passes away. October 12, 2018.

2019

- Professor Tim Lynch, Hanshi, passes away. December 15, 2019.

2020

- Nerissa Freeman receives her AJJF Professorship. March 7, 2020.

2021

- George Arrington (1970), Robert Hudson (1971) and Jess Green (1971) receive their AJJF 50-Year Club pin recognition. April 10, 2021.
- Professor Tony Janovich awards Mokuroku to Tom Westfall. July 5, 2021.
- Jess Green passes away October 11, 2021.

2022

- AJJF Professor L. Jane Carr, Judan, passes away. March 4, 2022.
- Professor Tom Westfall, on authority from Professor Tony Janovich, awards Mokuroku to Rob Gebhart, Gary Yonkers, Benjamin Dean Labelle, Don Stahlnecker, Dane Nielsen, and Rick Benson. March 12, 2022.
- Professor Tony Janovich awards Mokuroku to Clive Guth, George Arrington, Tammy Graham, Karl Mueller, Jason Romano, and Chris Love. He also promoted Tammy Graham to Rokudan. April 28, 2022.

2023

- The Officers and Directors of the American Jujitsu Institute conferred upon George Arrington the rank of Hachidan. April 16, 2023.
- Professor Tony Janovich awards Hachidan to Clive Guth. April 28, 2023.
- Shoshin Ryu Hombu awards Judan ranks to Roger D. Medlen and Jon Jacques, and Hachidan to Joe Ristrom. July 22, 2023.