

Introduction to The Danzan-Ryū Jūjutsu Homepage

with Frequently Asked Questions

Welcome to The Danzan-Ryū Jūjutsu Homepage!

Since its origin in July of 1995, this page has become the **world's most popular** source for accurate information regarding the martial and healing arts of **Prof. Henry Seishiro Okazaki**. You will find a wealth of information here regarding this popular and effective martial art and restorative system. In addition, this site contains news, commentary and opinion from all over the Danzan-Ryū community.

Frequently Asked Questions

The following is a list of interesting questions and answers about Danzan-Ryū Jūjutsu and Seifukujutsu. This list will grow over time, so check in often. Also, if you have questions you'd like answered on this page, send them DanzanRyu@yahoo.com.

What does Danzan-Ryū mean?

Generally, it means "Hawaiian style". The individual Japanese terms are: **Tan/Dan**, which means "sandalwood"; **San/Zan** means "mountain" and **Ryū** means "stream", "sect" or "cult". Taken together, **Danzan** is the term that Chinese people use for Hawaii. (In Mandarin, it is pronounced **T'an Shan**. Hawaii is also sometimes called, **T'an Heung Shan**, which means "sandalwood scented mountains".) Danzan-Ryū Jūjutsu founder **Prof. Henry Seishiro Okazaki** named his system in this way to honor his Chinese martial arts teacher, **Wo Chung**.

What does Kodenkan mean?

This term literally means "ancient tradition school". This was the name that Prof. Okazaki gave to his Jūjutsu training hall, or **Dōjō**. The term **Kan**, in this instance, means a physical building. The **Kodenkan** stood at 801 South Hotel St. in Honolulu, T.H. This was also the location of the Nikko Restoration Sanitorium in which Prof. Okazaki practiced his **Seifukujutsu** restoration therapy. The original building was razed many years after the Professor's death in 1951 and replaced by a more modern building. This building now houses the Nikko Restoration Clinic of Prof. Okazaki's son, **Hachiro**.

Should the Okazaki Jūjutsu system be called Danzan-Ryū or Kodenkan?

The system is correctly called **Danzan-Ryū**, since **Ryū** means "style" and **Kan** means "building". There are many non-Japanese people who refer to this style as Kodenkan Jūjutsu, because that was the place in which they learned the style. It is clear, however, that **Ryū** in this case (as it does with martial systems such as Daito-Ryū, Goju-Ryū, Tenjin Shinyo-Ryū, Kosogabe-Ryū, etc.) refers to the style. The best authority on this, of course, is Prof. Okazaki himself! He writes in his 1929 book, The Science of Self-Defense for Girls and Women, that his Jūjutsu style is called **Danzan-Ryū**.

What is the ranking system used in Danzan-Ryū?

Prof. Okazaki used four colors of belts in the **Kodenkan Dōjō**: White, Blue, Brown and Black. His black belt ranks only went up to Fifth Rank. (There were unconfirmed reports of Seventh Rank given to the

Professor prior to his death.) Today, there a host of different belt ranking schemes, depending on the organization or Dōjō.

What is the Professor rank?

Originally, Seishiro Okazaki was called "**The Professor**" as a term of endearment by those who respected him and knew of his selfless giving to the community. It originally held no titular significance to Jūjutsu. During his lifetime, there were no other people called Professor; he was the only one. After Prof. Okazaki's passing, his organization, the **American Jujitsu Institute (AJI)** held an election in 1952 to select a replacement Professor. The candidates were William Ah Moo and Sig Kufferath. (John Cahill was also an original candidate, but he was deemed to be ineligible since he no longer lived in the islands.) Kufferath won the election by a large margin. He remained the only Professor until the late 1950's and early 1960's when others were given this title. Today, the title is awarded to those people of high rank (5th through 7th Dan depending on the organization) who have made exceptional contributions to the art. Prof. Sig Kufferath passed away in 1999.

Who is the current headmaster of the system?

Prof. Okazaki died in 1951 without assigning a successor to his system and so the question of headmaster is a source of some controversy in the Danzan-Ryū world. In 1952, an election by the American Jujitsu Institute was held to determine who would replace Okazaki as Professor. The candidates were Bill Ah Moo, John Cahill, and Sig Kufferath. (Cahill, who had moved to the mainland was removed from the list of candidates since since the AJI by-laws required the Professor to be a resident of Hawaii.) Kufferath won the election by a margin of 17 to 3 and became the first Professor after Okazaki. Many people have considered that this event made Kufferath the Sōke (inheritor) of the system, although Kufferath never claimed Sōke-ship. Since Okazaki's son Hachiro is still alive, the inheritance question is moot. (Hachiro Okazaki does not teach Jūjutsu, but he continues the family restoration massage business.)

The fractionalization of the system into several disparate organizations further clouds the issue. Each organization holds allegiance to their own hierarchy and thus there are many system heads. The Sōke question has risen several times over the years and most recently was brought to the forefront in 1999 following the death of Prof. Kufferath.

For more information, see the document: [The Succession of Danzan-Ryū Jūjutsu](#).

What are the different Danzan-Ryū organizations?

The original Okazaki organization was called the **American Jujitsu Guild**, in 1939 changed its name to the **American Jujitsu Institute (AJI)**. It became officially incorporated on July 29, 1947 in the Territory of Hawaii. In 1958, several Okazaki students (principly Merlin "Bud" Estes and Ray Law) who had moved to the mainland incorporated the **American Judo and Jujitsu Federation (AJJF)** in the state of California. Other Danzan-Ryū related organizations which have been formed include: **Kodenkan Yūdanshakai** (Prof. Joe Holck), **Southern California Ju-Jitsu Association** (Prof. William Randle), **Christian Jujitsu Association** (Prof. Gene Edwards), **Shoshin-Ryū Yūdanshakai** (Prof. Michael Chubb), **Hawaiian Jiu-Jitsu System, Inc.** (Prof. Bill Beach), **Jujitsu Institute of America** (Prof. William R. Beach) and **Kodenkan Danzan-Ryū Jujitsu Association** (Profs. Sig Kufferath, Lono Ancho, Tony Janovich and Doug Kiehl).

What is Ohana?

This is an Hawaiian term which means "**Family**". The way the term relates to Danzan-Ryū is that since 1990, a multi-organizational convention has been held every two years to honor Prof. Okazaki and his martial and healing systems. These conventions consist of seminars, tournaments, banquets and lots of

sharing. The first Ohana celebration was hosted by Prof. Mike Chubb and the **Shoshin-Ryū Yūdanshakai** in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Prof. Okazaki's birth. Subsequent celebrations were held in 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2001, 2003 and 2007. The next Ohana will be sponsored by the **Shoshin Ryu Yūdanshakai** and will be held in Anaheim, CA on August 20-22, 2010.

What is Okugi©?

In 1948, Professor Okazaki held what he called the "Special Black Belt Class" for his instructors in order to bring everyone together to standardize teaching methods. He had intended to repeat this class every ten years, but passed away in 1951. In 1993, Prof. Sig Kufferath (a graduate of the 1948 class) and his senior student, Prof. Tony Janovich repeated this class and named it the Kodenkan Okugi©. Prof. Janovich repeated this class in 2003. (Note: This name is copyrighted and may not be used by other groups for similar classes.)

What is Seifukujutsu?

This term **Seifukujutsu** literally means "adjustment and restoration techniques". It is often referred to as "massage", but it is much more than that. A typical Seifukujutsu treatment begins with a full-body, deep tissue massage which is primarily done with the therapist's **elbow crux**. The main idea here is to 1) balance the major energy flow lines of the body and 2) break down muscle tissue so that it may build itself up stronger over time. In addition to this basic treatment, Seifukujutsu includes therapies for specific ailments.

Although he is oftentimes remembered for his martial arts, **Prof. Okazaki** made his living as a massage therapist. In fact, his clinic was at the front part of the building that housed his **Kodenkan Dōjō**. Today, that building has been replaced by a more modern one and the family business is carried on by his son, **Hachiro**.

Important Note: *The correct term for this method is **Seifukujutsu**, or simply **Restoration Therapy**. Since the Okazaki family still runs their business, use of the Okazaki name in reference to massage should only refer to the clinic at 801 S. Hotel St. in Honolulu, HI. Other Seifukujutsu programs should **not** use the Okazaki name, since it implies affiliation with the Okazaki's family business.*

Back to [Home Page](#).

Copyright © 1995, 2009 George E. Arrington III