



Ka Leo O Kodenkan

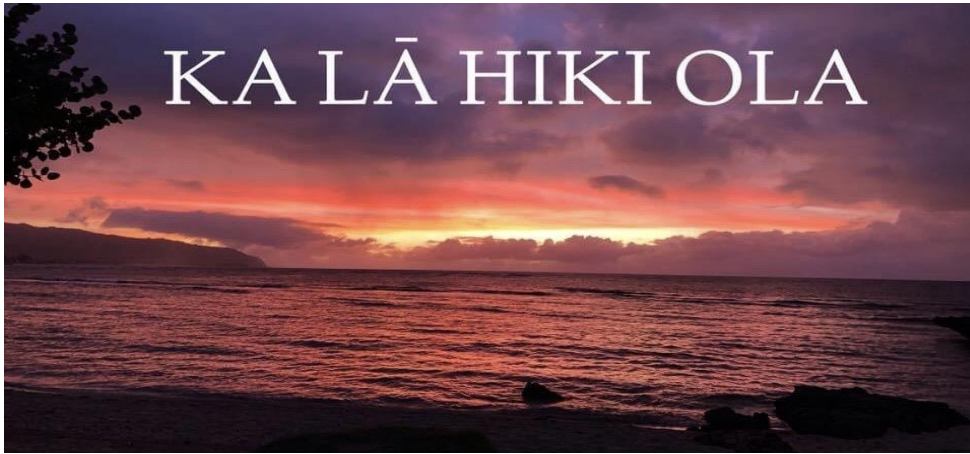
American Jujitsu Institute

Since 1939

Volume 2020

“Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka Aina I Ka Pono”

Issue 1



AJI is leading the way in the fight against Covid 19

KA LĀ HIKI OLA...

The dawning of a new day...

Ua Kuluma Ke Kanaka I Ke Aloha...

It is natural to behave in a loving way...

The Esoteric Principles of Professor Henry Seishiro Okazaki encourage us all to live a life of value, hope, and promise.

We are also guided by the spirit of Professor Samuel C. Luke to be the Aloha you wish to see in the world around us. Many of our members are doing outstanding work in the service of others during the coronavirus outbreak.



One good example is AJI Black Belt and EMT Kendell Elento. Inspired by the mentorship he received in AJI, he has been serving as a First Responder and spokesman for Emergency Medical Services in the City & County of Honolulu. He is one of several AJI members who have become familiar faces to residents during the Pandemic. Kendell has appeared throughout



the past eight months to help educate the public on how to properly use PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) as well as to share the latest measures EMS is taking to keep everyone safe. Kendell started training as a high school student at ETS (Elite Training Systems) in the Kailua Kodenkan taught by Professor Kainoa Li, Sensei Kawika Harbottle, and Sensei John Rieck. He was also consistently guided and mentored by our late Professor Samuel C. Luke, Professor Daniel Saragosa. Hoping to follow in the footsteps of his teachers, Kendell became a Lifeguard and then an EMT. He graduated as Valedictorian at the top of his class and now serves statewide. Kendell is also the current AJI Heavyweight Submission Grappling Champion. “There are many paths my life could have taken, and many of them were not good. I am very thankful to everyone at the AJI for helping me grow as a person and be able to help others.” - Sempai Kendell Elento, Shodan, AJI





President's Message
by Professor Daniel W. Saragosa

Wishing the very best to our families and friends. This certainly has been a unique year with the great challenges facing the world in the form of a World-Wide Pandemic. We pray that your family and friends are in good health and that you have not been directly impacted by virus.

We all eagerly await the arrival of a vaccine. At one point, 100% of our schools were shut down. As the months have gone by, we have received numerous inquiries as to when and how to reopen schools. This has been a real challenge to all of the private, commercial and public dojos. We are happy to report that we at HQ have not received a single report of someone contracting the virus in any of our schools. Some schools were innovative at the onset, using ZOOM and other social media platforms to conduct classes. Reports are that students in those venues were quite happy with having the ability to interact with their instructors and other students, and of course, train.

While the AJI could offer no specific guidance on reopening of schools, we did put out suggestions on our Facebook page, which, judging by comments, many found helpful.

“Chief Instructors should make their decisions based on the best information available from the CDC and State and Local Authorities. The effects of COVID-19 is different for many regional areas and as such, each area should be guided by the best practices, protocols and regulations within their respective localities.”

Some Schools have reopened without issues. Others continue to hold classes using social media tools, and many still remain closed. The safety of those in your charge is paramount, so be safe and take all necessary precautions.”

We also cited legal issues and issued a statement from our insurance policy which clearly indicated that they would not cover any bacterial or viral infection, regardless of how contracted.

We are truly hopeful that this will all pass and that we can resume some semblance of normalcy in the near future. In the meantime, take care of yourselves and your family and be well.

Daniel Saragosa
President and COO
American Jujitsu Institute

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SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY in the face of ADVERSITY



By Professor Glenn Medici; Kodenkan of Phoenix

What can be learned from the present circumstances in which we find ourselves? As though he were addressing an answer to this, psychologist William James stated, *“Act as if what you do makes a difference. It does.”*

Most of us have experienced adversity sometime in our lives. Some have endured more; some, less. The true test lies in how such adversity affects one’s character. Does it make us better? It can. Does it make us bitter? It can. Does it allow us to have more empathy and understanding for the suffering of others? It can. It all rests on choice. We can make the choice to become more authentic -- more fully ourselves – as a result of being refined by the current adversity. This is a process akin to the refining of gold.

This pandemic is similar to the Spanish Flu pandemic of the early 1900’s. To get through the devastation wrought by the Spanish Flu, people all over the world pulled together. We have the opportunity, once again, to apply this remedy.

Hopefully, we will. Toward this end, it is reassuring that Americans have always thrived on adversity ... and on reaching out to help those who are suffering and in need.

This is the very essence of social responsibility. Just what is social responsibility? Interestingly enough it’s not a term you hear in the media these days. As a citizen, we have an obligation to do everything within our power to protect everyone around us from needless harm. This is the essence of social responsibility.

This outreach includes family, friends, neighbors and strangers, as well. Mother Teresa summarized this concept well when she declared, *“I want you to be concerned about your next- door neighbor. Do you know your next-door neighbor?”*

Professor Okazaki’s Esoteric Principles eloquently outlined these very truths. Professor Okazaki enjoined each of us to *“be ever mindful of his obligations to the general public”*.

He went on to say, “*As a member of a nation, one must be grateful for the protection that one derives as a citizen; one must guard against self-interest, and foster a spirit of social service.*” These words were relevant many years ago, and they continue to apply to the world-situation today.

So, what is this spirit of social service? you might ask. The spirit of social service is another way of describing social responsibility. For example, by following the CDC guidelines, we are being socially responsible. As always, our actions impact others in either a negative or a positive fashion. When acting in a socially-responsible fashion that impact on society is a positive one.

American men of my generation were subject to the military draft to fulfill our country’s need in wartime. It was not convenient to serve in the military. It also was not optional. It was what a young male did as a good citizen. This was social responsibility performed in the spirit of social service.

I’ve observed members of the younger generation in Arizona complain about the inconvenience of wearing a mask, social distancing, and not being allowed to party down in crowded Scottsdale nightclubs. It seems ironic for them to complain about such “inconvenience” with no regard for what they have been spared -- when they were not asked, or expected, to pay for the freedoms they enjoy in this country by serving in the military. In addition, this same group has expressed being angry and offended when the Arizona Governor shut down the bars and gyms in order to comply with CDC guidelines. It leaves one to wonder about where-or-when an awareness of social responsibility might enter the discussion.

Recently, the motorcycle rally in Sturgis, South Dakota, reportedly drew some 460,000 vehicles – with an unknown hundreds of thousands of people – congregating and partying in crowded proximity for ten days. Certainly, this blatantly defies CDC mandates, as well as logic, common sense, and social responsibility. During this challenging time when social responsibility is a vital and essential number-one goal, “HOORAY for me and the heck with you” appears to be some folks’ motto of the day.

The truth is that – for some people – the pandemic appears to have created more paranoia about their mortality, and less concern about others’ safety and well-being. I’ll admit that I’m more watchful of strangers and other people these days. This seems like a careful and wise approach to me. At the same time, I feel that we need to focus on the big-picture perspective of societal good – rather than our own individual worlds -- to become more tolerant of others and better citizens of the World.

Let’s face it, life as we knew it has changed. The old-way-of-being will, probably, not return. Very simple tasks – e.g., going to a doctor’s office, shopping in the supermarket, going out to dinner – are fraught with confusion and the lack of clarity about what to do and how to do it. Certainly, the re-opening of schools will continue to be challenging; but, certainly, essential.

What can we do? We can work together. Social responsibility can serve as a guiding force. We can each do our part to behave in socially responsible ways – with an eye to the common good, in the spirit of social service. Truly, we are all in this TOGETHER. We can work towards the common goal to succeed ... TOGETHER.

I want to propose that we, as AJI MEMBERS all around the world, hold firmly to our abundance of Aloha spirit during this pandemic. I encourage each AJI member to actively work to deepen the feelings of Ohana that bind us together as family. When we focus on what each of us can do in the present moment, it takes our minds off from not only fear and panic, but also negativity and uncertainty.

As Professor Okazaki stated in the Esoteric Principles, “*service to humanity is the fountain of mutual existence*”. When we work together in socially responsible ways – looking out for the well-being of others, checking on others’ welfare, offering to be of service, willingly keeping socially distant, cheerfully wearing masks -- we can affect massive positive changes in the World. This is what we CAN do. This is the spirit of social service. This is being socially responsible. And, by so doing, we bring to life the essence of our tradition – we LIVE our Founder’s Esoteric Principles through our everyday actions.

WHO ARE WE?

By Professor Gary Jones, House of Kodengan



I own a chronic pain clinic. I only take the toughest cases I can find. Those who come to me are often seeking to avoid surgery. Others come when surgery does not work. And then there are those who have been everywhere, out of money, and thinking suicide.

Actually, I did not choose this vocation. It chose me. The very little information about the healing side of Professor Okazaki’s healing system indicated that he did massage. In those years that was all that I could find. My two jujitsu teachers did not teach the healing side. So, I sought out internationally recognized trainers in clinical orthopedic manual therapy. The result is a high success rate in pain removal.

I am driven by three obsessions. One is the need to know more, be better in skill, and answer the question of why. Most of the medical community are only interested in symptoms. Too often the doctor says, “You just got old” Or “You just wore it out”. But the real question is why did this happen? Aside from accidents, or injury, or disease, the body is just out of alignment.

When a person comes to my clinic, I do an assessment of what I see. What I do not see is black, white, brown, republican, democrat, etc. What I see is eyes in pain. So, who are we? Can we not reach out to others in friendship, and compassion?

I think this about the soul of the Esoteric Principals that was taught to me by Professor Sam C. Luke. So my question to AJI members is will you reach out to change someone’s lives? Even the smallest jester can often alter a person’s heart and they will know THIS IS WHO WE ARE!

Respectfully,

Professor Gary Jones



SENSEI'S RESPONSIBILITIES – A Personal Perception



By Professor Ken Eddy, Mizu Shin Tao

Being a sensei is much more than teaching an art. When you take an individual as a student, it is a life commitment. You have committed to this person as long as they are willing to train with you. You must think long and hard about this commitment. Most instructors take whoever comes to their dojo as a student, without ever considering the self-commitment he/she is making. Most instructors just teach the techniques and not the life style. The dojo is a sacred place as the name implies, (way place), (a place of learning). In the United States most dojos do not teach the values and etiquette of the culture around them. The people come to

learn a martial art and are only taught the mechanical techniques of the art, (a cart with no wheels).

A traditional martial art school takes you far beyond the physical techniques to the most important aspects of the teachings, the esoterics of the art. You only teach the student that has progressed emotionally as well as physically to a level that is appropriate for their individual development. You should be able to apply your art in a manner that exhibits the abilities learn in the dojo to the outside world. This does not mean the physical techniques. This is in reference to the esoteric principles one should be learning and experiencing in the dojo. The qualities of respect, benevolence, kindness, (this does not refer to nice), honesty, courage, etc.

The sensei has a responsibility to convey the principles of life as well as of the art being taught. The principle of “Responsibility” is instilled into the teachings and given to the student as they progress. This is done to make the student self-reliant so they can be in control of their own lives. Respect is conveyed by being demonstrated in the dojo to further their ability to appreciate the respect of others outside the school. Benevolence is practiced by showing well-meaning in your actions. Kindness is shown to the student through honest criticism and guidance during the class activities and social events. (Let us not confuse kindness with being nice, they are not the same thing). Being nice includes polite, and tolerant, actions. Kindness is sometimes hurtful, but is meant to help the student or others understand their misconduct, faulty actions, etc. This is meant only for the betterment of the student... not to cause embarrassment or personal harm!

You are not raising a child to remain a child. You are not holding their hand through their lifelong journey. You are giving them the tools to be self-reliant and able to function independently in their adult life and culture. They will only learn to “feed” themselves if you give them the tools and then let them do the work!

In jujitsu, you are taught the principles of martial techniques and, after years of training, they may learn the methodology for protecting themselves and others, but it is the esoteric they learn that help them survive in the outside world. Everything you learn in the dojo should be able to be used throughout life.

One Man's Opinion: Instructors of many Calibers



By Professor Carlos Gallegos, Kaito Gakko

Some instructors go with the flow and others against it.

Some break the flow and others harness it.

Whichever one you are we must remind ourselves not to bully or injure students or make our dojos a painful experience for our students.

We are to teach harmony, forgiveness, and happiness. We are to teach our students defense against danger, defense against foe, and defense against aging.

A student once asked his instructor, “You profess peace, harmony, and forgiveness yet you teach us about defense and war. How is it that you teach both, aren't you going against your own philosophy?”

His instructor replied, “Isn't it better to be a warrior in a garden, than a gardener in a war?”

As teachers we have the power to make a student love or hate martial arts. Of the many responsibilities we have, we help to shape a student's life with the gift of martial arts.

Virtual Training

One of the ways we have been able to still be of service to our students during the Pandemic is through Zoom Classes. During the summer Professor Kevin Dalrymple, (He No De Ryu) asked us (Kaito Gakko) if we wanted to join their Zoom Martial Arts class that Sensei Remi put together. I said “yes, we would be honored.”

We were extremely excited for the class because it would join our Dojos together. So far, we have met seven times and the class has been a great success!! These classes bring together young and old, novice and seasoned students. I want to send a special thank you, to Prof. Dalrymple, Sensei Remi, and to all of our students.

Professor Carlos Gallegos

Medford Judo Academy in the 1960s



As recalled by Professor Ron Jennings, KaishinKai

The Medford Judo Academy in Phoenix Oregon burned to the ground during the September 2020 Wild fires. It made me reflect on my many years as a martial artist and my 'early years' at the Medford Judo Academy. I was a student there for six years; 1962-68.

I wrote the following to the dojos web site some time ago to share as appropriate with the students at the dojo as a piece of history as seen by a former student. I am sharing it again as DZR HISTORY since the dojo is now gone. Although few may recognize the Names from years ago, I thought some of those Names memories were worth sharing.

It was in the spring of 1962 when I went to the Medford Judo Academy to sign up for lessons. I had just bought my own car and could now drive to Phoenix from Medford. The first class I watched was a blue belt promotional, either Tom Kennedy or Leonard Wood or both. I was so impressed by those 'old guys' getting a blue belt I resolved to join and catch up with them. Tom was in his sixties at the time. It was a challenge I never met. No matter how hard I tried, Tom and Leonard always stayed a rank or two ahead.

The lead instructor at the dojo was a young man named Larry Nolte. He had just taken over from another instructor, Dr. Paul Rutter, a chiropractor. Larry was a good-looking hunk of a man the girls all went 'ga- ga' over. He had a movie star profile like a Fabian or Elvis, with dark hair, muscles, and a Black Belt. Larry was very physical and he nearly killed everyone with exercises and hard workouts. Very few of us could keep up with him but he inspired us to try. In the dojo there was a Black Belt sheriff's officer, Jack Wheeler; an impressive brown belt, Ed Stewart; and a female brown belt, Diane Fletcher, that I never saw work out. I believe Martha Humphries got her green belt about that time. I remember going to a party at Martha's folks' house and was blown away by the rag time piano playing of a red headed larger than life logger named Darwin Moore.



Ed Stewart introduced me to Tanto No Maki in a quite memorable way. I took a backhand swing and he countered with a blow to the shoulder that sent me flying at least ten feet. I wasn't hurt but was quite embarrassed. He was an excellent instructor and I learned a lot from him. Ed eventually married Martha and with a new baby they ended up living in the Southern Oregon College married student housing for a while. Married student housing was at a premium and there was a long waiting list. Ed helped arrange for me to move into his apartment after he finished school, under the condition that I had to accept the apartment without it being cleaned and repainted. That way we bypassed the waiting list. In afterthought, I should have waited. I don't believe Martha had ever done chores at home with her mom or as a wife. That apartment needed to be shoveled out to get it clean.

Classes at the dojo were very structured and focused on learning a few techniques very well before being introduced to others. You weren't shown much above your rank level until Larry felt you were ready. As a green belt I remember going with Larry and others on a visit to Grants Pass where someone had a workout room in his house. When asked what he would like to cover, he said Oku. Larry said no, because they had a green belt with them (me). I was so disappointed. Larry finally relented and we actually got to work the first three techniques. It was six months after I got to third brown before I saw Oku again. As it turned out there were not enough people at my rank and a Police Class at Eagle Point interfered with continuing the colored belt classes. There were a couple of new green belts and Larry said I needed to help them get to brown so we could practice together. What I thought as a real delay in my training turned out for the best as my Shime became pretty good as well as my Nage really improved. ...

By the time I got to Shodan Tom and Leonard made Sandan, but it was no longer an issue. (I noted on the MJA web page history their rank as Sandan doesn't show.) The dojo was getting much bigger and there were a lot of classes available. Monday night was for colored belts, green and above; Tuesday was Nage night for blue belts that I got to teach; Wednesday nights was for judo randori; Thursday was sensei's class; Saturday was kid's classes; and once a month we got to go to Chico for a six hour Black Belt class taught by Prof. Estes and Prof. Fisher. We even had an introduction to karate by a fantastic artist, Harry Kim.

Except for having to work on Saturday and keep up with my college lessons, I didn't miss too many classes. During that time period I also worked as the dojo janitor to help pay my dues. In terms of missed classes there was the one instance worth mentioning. I would carpool down to Chico with Larry and we needed to leave Ashland by 11:30 P.M. in order to get to the old Chapman school where the Black Belt classes were held. Prof. locked the door at 6:00 A.M. so everyone needed to be there and ready.

As I remember, Larry needed to stop for coffee or at least some sort of break on the way and we were a few minutes late. Being late for one of Prof. Estes' classes was unacceptable and the door stayed locked. During the six hour ride home we all gave Larry a pretty hard time. We weren't ever late again. Earlier, I mentioned the rag time piano playing logger, Darwin. Well, Darwin was in and out of the dojo but we trained together for many years. He was indeed a big man and tossed me around like a rag doll. I remember one specific night we worked Deashi Harai for the entire class. It was one, two, thud as I kicked at a tree trunk of a leg. That was followed by one, two, and splat as I hit the mat. Over and over again and again we went at each other. I was successful only once and got a good clean throw. That one good one was worth it all. Darwin and I tested for Nidan at an AJJF convention. It was the AJJF's first ever national exams. They weren't sure exactly how to do it. We were in a double sized motel room and almost every senior Back Belt in the AJJF was on the exam board.

There must have been 20+ Black Belts. This included Prof. Ken Regennitter from Kansas and Prof. Florendo Visitacion from New York. The arts we had to perform were randomly selected. Actually, they put slips of paper with numbers on them into a can and we each drew five numbers for each list, Yawara through Shinin. I tentatively passed but needed to send in a current First Aid card before the AJJF sent me the Nidan Certificate. Darwin didn't make it and I don't think Darwin continued much after that. Another significant training partner was named Johnny La Tourette. As brown belts we spent many hours at the SOC gym practicing how to spar and kick. Johnny was tall, thin, and so very limber he needed to be tied in knots before he gave in. We trained on and off the mat and finally got our Black Belts together. After getting his Black Belt Johnny became a little overbearing and seemed to have lost the any degree of humility. He was good and was more than willing to tell you so. It was difficult to maintain a friendship.

After I got to Black Belt there was a whole new crew in the dojo. A high school student, Steve Barlow and his sister Vera became dojo icons. I helped train them too and I still hear about Steve and Vera when I visit the dojo. After I graduated college in 1968, I moved to Coos Bay Oregon and opened my own dojo. I have been a school head and active in Danzan Ryu ever since.

I found there was more to Danzan Ryu than the AJJF and now belong to several national Danzan Ryu organizations. My rank tends to be relative to each organization. I've trained with a great number of exceptional instructors and based on my lesson from Larry, never asked for rank or recognition. However, I received both from hard work and dedication to the art. When I received recognition as a Professor of Danzan Ryu, Imi Okazaki Mullins, youngest daughter of Professor Henry Okazaki, bowed to me as she handed me a red and white belt and said "My father would be proud." I would have not been so honored without the foundation training and early lessons I received from sensei (now Professor) Larry Nolte.

2020 Version of Kamp KaishinKai & Shinin Clinic Held at KaishinKai

On Sunday, August 16, 2020 KaishinKai Dojo hosted an abbreviated version (4-hr.) of our yearly summer camp, Kamp KaishinKai. To do this, only a group of five students were allowed to attend due to group size restrictions during the Covid-19 pandemic.



Professors Ron and Sue Jennings hosted at the KaishinKai hombu near Grand Mound, Washington. Attending were: Seattle KaishinKai Sensei Chris Eller, along with other instructors from his Seattle Dojo including Olivia Latham and Luke Gentry. Other participants included Will Northup and Anthony Chan.



To achieve the social distancing requirements, we had all classes outside with students easily able to put plenty of distance between each other in front of our dojo.

This provided us an example of how Sensei Chris Eller and his students have been able to successfully continue practicing during the pandemic.

Classes included exercises, jo, honbo, bo and sword. All students wore masks and hand sanitizer was easily accessible for all for students when exchanging weapons during the course of training.

There was no direct contact between students as striking routines were practiced at a distance. Sensei Luke Gentry led numerous jo and bo routines, while Sensei Olivia Latham, 5th Dan in Iaido, primarily educated students on sword katas and proper protocols and handling of the sword. Sensei Chris Eller led students through warmups, bo techniques and ended the day with a KaishinKai kata, kara kata ichi. Professors Ron and Sue Jennings were in the role more as observers today to let the Seattle group share their knowledge and practice routines.



It was a fun and educational day for all and good to see our friends after being apart too long. The fact that the camp was held on the hottest day of the summer with our temperature reaching 104 degrees in the middle of the afternoon, made us glad there are many tall trees offering the needed shade.



We were so glad we were able to hold a semblance of summer camp during this challenging year. Thanks go to Sensei Chris Eller and his students for being able to make this happen with safety for all being foremost and a demonstration of their commitment to the Danzan Ryu Jujitsu system.

Next year we plan to hold Kamp KaishinKai on August 13-15, 2021, assuming the pandemic is in control and it will be safe to host.

On Tuesday, September 8, 2020 we were fortunate to be able to hold a 4-hr. Shinin Clinic for black belts at KaishinKai Dojo. In attendance were: Professors Ron and Sue Jennings, Chris Eller, Olivia Latham and Luke Gentry.

In observance of the pandemic safeties all wore masks and observed social distancing.



We were able to cover the last half of Shinin, starting at the bottom of the list and working our way up. Olivia Latham, recovering from a rotator cuff injury participated on the sidelines, sharing notes of other instructors for comparison, as well as updating her notes



on the arts. Professors Ron and Sue gave pointers and clarifications on the individual arts, as well as demonstrating a few specifics on each other. Chris and Luke who have both been tested negative for the virus recently through their jobs as physical therapists, were able to perform a hands-on, (masks on too), practice of the list.

From the training that both Professors Ron and Sue have had from numerous instructors throughout the Danzan Ryu Jujitsu family, different variations were made available for the students to incorporate into their knowledge and notebooks.



It was a valuable review and practice of the arts that we've not had much opportunity to work lately.

With Luke Gentry moving to Idaho soon we will not have the opportunity to work with him for awhile, so this was a special class for all of us.

At the end of class, Sensei Chris Eller and Sensei Olivia Latham presented Sensei Luke Gentry a sword as a

going away gift. It hurts all of us to lose Luke from the Seattle Dojo, but it's close enough that he'll be able to still visit regularly. Luke's been a special part of Seattle KaishinKai and contributed greatly to our KaishinKai family. He will be missed.

We look forward to more workouts, but will take it slowly and carefully for the time being.

Professor Ron Jennings KaishinKai Dojo



Northwestern Division AJJF Fall Seminar in Newark, New Jersey



Professor Ken Eddy

Looking back to last fall of 2019, I had the honor of representing the AJI at this event that was hosted by Prof. Barbra Gessner. This was her 39th year hosting this event.

The event was from Friday October 31st and ended on Sunday afternoon November 2nd.

Barbaras' students, Graham, Rick, and Edi were responsible for mats, registration, meals, and anything else you might need. What a great bunch of students. The event was well attended and very organized.

Some of the guest instructors were Prof. Bob Hogkins, Prof. Tom Hill, Marty Bryzkey, Sensei Doug Muller, Sensei Hillary Kaplowitz, Sensei Lanny Reed, and Dr. Kevin Schnitzer. All of the clinics were well done. The dinner was on Saturday evening at a place called the "Teriyaki Buffet" and it was very surprising to me. They had Crab legs, shrimp, raw oysters, clams, mussels, crawfish, salmon, some kind of crabs plus everything that most other Oriental buffets would have as well as the most important thing...a large variety of ice cream. It was only dwarfed by the company of the many participants at the event. This event had no competition events which I felt was a benefit as they focused on Danzan Ryu and exposed their participants to instructors with several viewpoints. The clinics were very good. On Thursday, after a class for Rutgers' Jujitsu Club, (Prof. Gessners' Club), we went back to the hotel and Prof Gessner, my roommate Johnny (sp.), talked for quite awhile and finally



crashed at 4:15 AM. Prof.

Gessner took

Johnny and myself to Sandy Point Park to see the old fort and military facility as well as the lighthouse. I was astonished the we could see Manhattan across bay from to point. What a great day. Thank you Prof. Gessner for having the AJI at your event.



Dojo Updates & Promotions

Kodenkan of Phoenix update

By Professor Glenn Medici, Kodokan of Phoenix

As mandated by the State of Arizona and CDC guidelines KODENKAN of Phoenix is officially on hold-status until such time as jurisdictional agencies dictate otherwise. This dojo has been temporarily closed since March 3, 2020 due to the pandemic and will remain so until further notice.

For Danzan Ryu Jujitsu, we are unable to comply with CDC requirements at this time due to the nature of the close-contact work required to learn the art. No Danzan Ryu will be taught at this dojo until such time as we can comply with CDC regulations.

We do feel that we will be able to teach elements of Shorin Ryu Karate, Matsumura-Seito, safely following the CDC guidelines. Presently this has been on HOLD-STATUS until insurance and legal reviews are completed, and we have received further instruction from the AJI.

KODENKAN of Phoenix does not feel that martial skills can be effectively learned from video format. We feel that a direct hands-on approach is necessary in order to learn and perfect martial skills.

That being said, we are presently dusting off Shorin Ryu and Kobudo *katas* ... and awaiting further word.

Mizu Shin Tao Promotions

By Professor Ken Eddy, Mizu Shin Tao

Associate Professor Tom Rennie and Associate Professor Jason Spencer were both Promoted to Hachidan and full Professor This took place in January of this year. Jefferson Thomas was also promoted to Nidan

New Dojo in Hollister, California



Congratulations to Sensei Greg Garcia & Sensei Mark Prader on the Grand Re-Opening of the Enterprise Academy of Martial Arts Dojo in Hollister, Ca. Left to right: Professor Don Crummer, Sensei Greg Garcia, Sensei Mark Preador Professor Kainoa Li, and former Olympic Tae Kwon Do Coach Grandmaster Joong K. Nam. Both Sensei Garcia and Sensei Prader were on the AJI Team USA with Professor Li for the World All-Styles Championships in Caldas de Rainha Portugal. All three brought home the Gold for our Country. Although the Pandemic has been very difficult on everyone, their

school has really paved the way in utilizing Zoom and FaceTime to keep students engaged and training.

New Dojo in Albany, Texas



Congratulations to Sensei John Rieck. After over a decade of dedicated training in Hawai'i with Professor Kainoa Li, Professor Rick Alemany, Professor Daniel Saragosa, Professor Dennis Eli, Professor Joe Moreira, Sensei Patrick Campbell, Sensei Richard Stockton, Sensei Kawika Harbottle, and Professor Samuel C. Luke, he US Army moved SSG Rieck to a new duty station in Texas. Fortunately this coincided with fellow student and airline pilot Blake Picquet and his family also having to move back to Texas. Blake and his daughter were part of the AJI Team USA that competed successfully in Portugal last year. Rieck and Blake's daughter Paige have both won Gold at the World All-Styles

Championships in Portugal while Blake earned Silver.

He is the current AJI Open Black Belt Division Sport Jujitsu Champion.

Sensei John Rieck also is an instructor of Modern Army Combatives for the US Army. Sensei Rieck is also a former recipient of the awards for AJI Student of the Year and AJI Instructor of the Year.



New Dojo in San Jose, California

Welcoming Master Joong Nam and Silicon Valley Tae Kwon Do Headquarters as members of the AJI in San Jose, Ca.

Pictured left to right are Sensei Mark Prader, Grand Master Joong K. Nam, Professor Kainoa Li, and Sensei Greg Garcia. GM Nam was the Official Olympic Tae Kwon Do Coach for the Team since the introduction of Tae Kwon Do as an Olympic Sport in 1988. He is also the current official Korean representative of the World Taekwondo Moo Duk Kwan (Mudeogwanwan) Federation.

Grand Master Nam has been a long time friend of the AJI and attended our Ohana Event. We are honored to have him with us.



AJI members assist in public service Protect Hawai'i Campaign

In alignment with the Esoteric Principles of Professor Henry Seishiro Okazaki and Hawaiian values, several AJI members served in a collaborative effort to help the people of Hawai'i work together in the fight against Covid-19.



The project is for the State of Hawai'i and the City & County of Honolulu to promote the hope that Hawai'i's people can work together to prevent spread of the virus as well as help avoid further lockdowns by wearing our masks, practicing social distancing, and washing of our hands with Aloha.

There is cultural symbolism involved in the series.

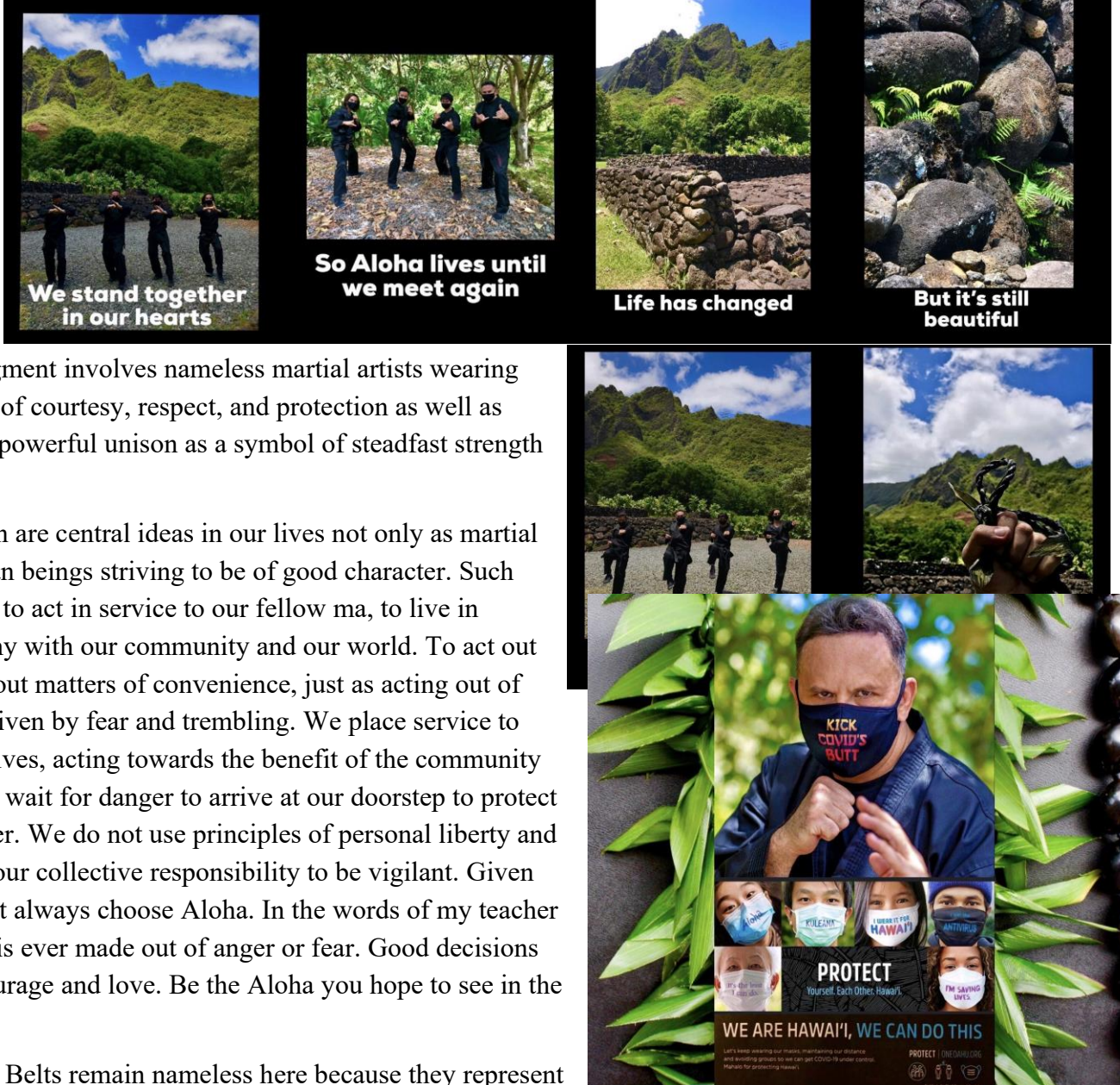
There are waterfalls and crashing waves for the washing of hands.

There are waving coconut palm trees and hula dancers for social

distancing. Our segment involves nameless martial artists wearing masks as a symbol of courtesy, respect, and protection as well as having us move in powerful unison as a symbol of steadfast strength & unity.

Duty and obligation are central ideas in our lives not only as martial artists, but as human beings striving to be of good character. Such principles guide us to act in service to our fellow ma, to live in respect and harmony with our community and our world. To act out of duty is never about matters of convenience, just as acting out of obligation is not driven by fear and trembling. We place service to others above ourselves, acting towards the benefit of the community at large. We do not wait for danger to arrive at our doorstep to protect and serve each other. We do not use principles of personal liberty and freedom to ignore our collective responsibility to be vigilant. Given the choice, we must always choose Aloha. In the words of my teacher "no good decision is ever made out of anger or fear. Good decisions are made out of courage and love. Be the Aloha you hope to see in the world around us."

The five AJI Black Belts remain nameless here because they represent all of us. We are grateful to serve to help make our world a safer, freer, and more Hawaiian place to call home as we all make our way through this together. – Sensei Greg D. Garcia



Recent Promotions and Acknowledgements

Name	Affiliation	Rank	Date
Stephanie Raymondo	Waianae Jujitsu Dojo	Godan	10/6/2019
Denise Gonzales	Alameda Judo/Jujitsu	Shichidan Professor	12/1/2019
Graciela Casillas	Alameda Judo/Jujitsu	Shichidan	12/1/2019
Robert William Hodge	Alameda Judo/Jujitsu	Godan	12/1/2019
Kawika Harbottle	Elite Training Systems	Sandan	12/18/2019
Greg Scott Ross	Elite Training Systems	Sandan	12/28/2019
David Woodland	Dai Kazokushin Budo Kai	Rokudan Associate Professor	1/18/2020
Ramon Gallegos	Kaito Gakko Fullerton	Shichidan Professor	1/18/2020
Ron Jennings	Kaishin Kai	Kudan	1/18/2020
Sue Jennings	Kaishin Kai	Shichidan Professor	1/18/2020
Terry Adlawan	Alaska Jujitsu Institute	Shichidan Professor	1/18/2020
Carlos Gallegos	Kaito Gakko	Kudan	1/18/2020
Dale Kahoun	Mushinkai Judo and Jujitsu Dojo	Hachidan Professor	1/18/2020
Donald Crummer	KSDI Waimanalo	Shichidan Professor	1/18/2020
Dr. Marlene Medici	Kodenkan of Phoenix	Rokudan Associate Professor	1/18/2020
Gary Jones	House of Kodenkan	Judan	1/18/2020
Glenn Medici	Kodenkan of Phoenix	Kudan	1/18/2020
Hans Ingebretsen	Shinbukan	Hachidan	1/18/2020
Harry Saltares Moreno	Ju-Ka-Kung-Kenpo de Puerto Rico	Shichidan	1/18/2020
Jason Spencer	KoRyuKan	Hachidan Professor	1/18/2020
Jefferson Thomas	Mizu Shin Tao	Nidan	1/18/2020
Mack Chaffin Waters	West Texas Kodenkan Jujitsu	Nidan	1/18/2020
Mike Bern	High Desert Martial Arts	Godan	1/18/2020
Randy Carrasco	Kaito Gakko Villa Park	Shichidan Professor	1/18/2020
Tom Rennie	Mizu Shin Tao	Hachidan Professor	1/18/2020
Eric Cordona	Ju-Ka-Kung-Kenpo de Puerto Rico	Nidan	2/23/2020
Emmueal D. Ortega	Hawaiian Go-Shin Ryu Kenpo Jujitsu	Shichidan Professor	4/19/2020
Scott Budnik	Kenpo Karate Club	Rokudan	4/19/2020
Tom Shaw	Kenpo Karate of Lake Tahoe	Godan	4/19/2020
David E. Somers	Sincere Heart Martial Arts Foundation IM	Rokudan Associate Professor	7/26/2020
Marco Longo	Dojo Te Ken Jitsu Kai (Italy)	Nidan	9/6/2020