

Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai Newsletter

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Reunion 2006:

From *A* to *B*

by

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The quote on the door card at the Hilton in Pleasanton read, "Travel is more than just *A* to *B*. Travel should open new doors." The intentional pun aside, the quote is an apropos theme for the Twenty-first Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai Reunion.

The yudanshakai mustered from different *As* on the planet to gather at the same *B*. In the case of Professor Rich Charlebois and Shoshin Ryu of Maine, *A* to *B* actually went *A* to *B* to *C* to *D* and required two plane changes and fifteen hours travel.

The array of arrivals came from such exotic places as Los Angeles, Phoenix, Las Vegas, Seattle, San Leandro, Carson City, and Custer. Custer? Exotic? The Random House Dictionary defines exotic as, "Striking or unusual in effect or appearance." The few people who arrived from Custer certainly fit that description.

No matter where yudansha came from, the travel from *A* to *B* was filled with anticipation, the desire to find out what was going to happen at *B*, and in the case of this reunion, what and where the new doors were. Doors that needed only the gentlest push to open, and once opened, they offered re-invigorating energy in which even the most weary traveler would revel.

Undoubtedly the shortest *A* to *B* trip was made by the Rebmann family and the students of Amador Judo and Jujitsu. This weekend's reunion hosts, Patricia and Professor Rory Rebmann, and their first class dojo, paid attention to every detail and it showed. All events started on time, and the men and women from Amador stepped up to make sure that everything went off without a hitch. The yudansha who were there appreciated their effort and efficiency.

The weekend really started on Friday night and many travelers just sat in the lobby and waited to see who would arrive next. Tired yudansha were greeted by friends and in moments reformed relationships forged in years but separated by miles. Every few minutes one could hear, "Hey!" or "Well look who's here."

The reunion followed the traditional format of Saturday clinics and Sunday contest. However, the doors that opened during the Saturday clinics revealed the awesome depth and ability of Shoshin Ryu's instructors. Infused by new blood and fresh ideas, the clinics were fun from beginning to end.

An example of the breadth of classes offered could start with Professor Joe Ristrom, who taught a Kali class that displayed not only his teaching ability but his martial skill.

Professor David Williams presented a class called "Defense Against the Dark Arts." He took common Danzan techniques and applied them to ground fighting situations. The techniques he used were rooted in common sense and displayed the versatility of the art.

(Cont. on page **three**, See **A to B**)

Table of Contents

Reunion 2006: Page One

Sensei Profile Sept./Oct.: Page Two

Yudansha Notes: Page Two

Words of Wisdom: Page Two

Danzan Ryu Hall of Fame: Page Two

Contest Results: Page Four

Promotions: Page Seven

Sensei Profile Sept./Oct.

Name: Mike French

Rank: Nidan in Danzan Ryu Jujitsu and a Shodan in Shorin Ryu Karate

Dojo: Nikko Jujitsu in Santa Clara, California

Number of years practicing the martial arts:

Twenty-five

Styles studied: Danzan Ryu and Shorin Ryu Karate

Favorite food: Sushi

Favorite movie: *Star Wars*

Favorite musical artist: Tchaikovsky

Most memorable moment in martial arts:

There have been several, the last promotion of my instructor to eighth dan. Watching professor Wally Jay stumble to the mat, almost unable to walk, begin a clinic, and suddenly come to life, and bend the fingers of young and old alike.

Favorite thing about practicing Danzan

Ryu: Camaraderie and compassion.

Four famous people for you'd like to invite

to dinner: Leonardo DaVinci, Galileo, Mozart, and Einstein

Biggest inspiration: My father and my mother and now that I have children, my kids. My father and mother bent over backwards to give me opportunities. The kids now have so much promise it's a pleasure now. I understand what my parents went through.

Yudansha Notes

Get Well Soon

Our thoughts go out to Professor Steve McMillan who missed the reunion because he was having minor surgery. Get well soon Prof.

Get Well Soon #2

Professor Jon Jacques was also a no-show at the reunion. His father is very ill and, being a good son, Jon stayed with him. We wish Jon's father well as he recuperates.

So You missed the Reunion Too?

Yet another notable no-show at the reunion was Professor Len Riley. However, he missed the reunion for a much happier reason, his daughter got married. Congratulations go out to Mr. and Mrs. Brad and Crystal Robison. It's not so much that Professor Riley has lost a daughter as he has gained an uki.

Because he was unable to attend the reunion and the banquet, Professor Bill Fischer showed up at Professor Riley's dojo on Monday night, September 4, and Promoted him to the rank of Hachidan, eighth degree. Congratulations Professor Riley on both of your wonderful events.

Words of Wisdom

"If you treat a sick child like an adult and a sick adult like a child, everything usually works out pretty well." – *Unknown*

"If you can DREAM it, you can DO it." – *Walt Disney*

"When you get to the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on." – *Franklin D. Roosevelt*

"The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it." – *John Ruskin*

Danzan Ryu Hall of Fame

Professor Carl P. Beaver 1992

Professor Beaver was inducted into the Danzan Ryu Hall of Fame in 1992. He was born July 27, 1921, and began his life-long study of Danzan Ryu in 1940. He studied both jujitsu and restorative massage while living with Professor Okazaki.

Professor Beaver is a co-founder of Jujitsu America and was technical director of Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai. He was promoted to the rank of Judan in 1990 and elected into the AJI hall of Fame in 1995.

He Passed away December 11, 1995, in Arizona.

(from page one, **A to B**)

Professor Chubb took the application of yubi tori to new heights and tossed Eric Center around the mat like a fly-fisherman casting a fly. If you weren't there, you missed out. He started with a simple premise and built on it for an hour and twenty minutes. Just remember to use an outside block and the rest will fall into place.

Other instructors included Professor Rich Charlebois who ran a symposium on medical issues in the martial arts. Sensei Ryan Rebmann showed how judo can be applied to a street conflict. Other instructors included Professor Kevin Dalrymple, Professor Rory Rebmann, Professor Clyde Zimmerman, and Professor Roger Medlen. Each instructor used their time to open those new doors and make sure that their clinicians at least got a glimpse of what was on the other side.

Sunday's door was the kata contest. This year's contest had fewer participants than previous years, yet the kata teams were just as sharp as always, presenting Danzan Ryu in its best possible light. No shortage of perfect scores was reported during the contest, which is a testament to the precision and ability of the contestants. As an example, in the 9-10 year-old advanced division, the judges asked Victoria Burke and Kendyl Post to do a Yama Arashi variation a second time just because it was done so well and was so interesting. It was like that all day for competitors and judges alike.

After a morning of junior competition, the seniors took the mat. Once again, the number of competitors was down from previous years, but the level of competition and technique was way up. Perhaps the most notable pair was John Boudreau and Dr. Mike Palumbo from Waterville, Maine. For Dr. Palumbo it was his first kata contest, and even though he traveled across the country to compete, he showed no sign of nerves. The team ended up in third place in a hotly contested brown belt division. "This was a great," he said after the contest. "It was a valuable learning experience."

For the first time, the Shoshin Ryu Reunion had a freestyle contest after all the kata teams competed. The juniors took the mat first and the students from Amador really displayed how Judo works in self-defense situations. The spectators were lucky enough to witness great examples of the art from nine and ten year olds that impressed even the most experienced yudansha. Professor Roy Center watched a little girl throw an Uki Otoshi that made him smile, "Wonderful. Wow that was clean," he said to his son Eric.

By the time the seniors took the mat, judges and competitors alike were exhausted. It didn't stop the techniques from flowing forth. They threw each other, choked each other, applied arm bars to each other, and generally had a great time showing everyone who watched what they could do.

For a full list of the winners from the National Championships, please see page four of this edition of the newsletter.

After the doors of competition closed, the last doors of the weekend were opened on the awards banquet. The formal ending to the weekend – the informal end comes after the hospitality suite closes – the banquet is the last chance to hang out with friends and acquaintances before Monday morning whisks everyone away.

This year's banquet was special for a few reasons. Ken Bleadel presented a PowerPoint of Shoshin Ryu dojos, Professors John Congestri and Bill Randle spoke about being in Professor Law's class, and Professor Bill Fischer was emcee.

Other notable events were the induction of Professor David Nuuhiwa and Professor Bert Aspinall into the Danzan Ryu Hall of Fame. Both men dedicated their lives to teaching and learning Danzan Ryu Jujitsu. Professor Nuuhiwa was a student of John Cahill and Professor Aspinall had been a student of Professor Law's.

(See **A to B** on page **four**)

(A to B, cont. from page three)

The winners of the team awards were announced and there was little surprise that Amador won first place. The other two places were wide open and when all the scores had been tabulated, Kaito Gakko took second and Hi No De Ryu took third.

Professor Chubb presented the following awards: Instructor of the Year, Professor Carlos Gallegos; Lamplighter Award, Sensei Gene Mauro; and the Luciani Service Award, Professor Steve McMillan.

Professor Barry Posner gave each member of the Rebmann family and Kathy Congestri a plaque of gratitude for putting together and organizing the weekend. They really did a great job and should be commended for their efforts.

During the banquet, the following people were promoted: Scott Hargis, Bill Wall, Vincent Apell, John Boudreau, and Dr. Mike Palumbo to Shodan; Mike Whitaker to Nidan; Owen Gallagher and David Williams to Godan and Professor; Professor Kevin Dalrymple to Shichidan; and Professor Roy Center to Hachidan.

With no more awards to hand out and the last promotion made, the banquet was over and with it, the final door was closed. All that lay ahead was the long road back to *A*. And the door card at the Hilton proved rather prophetic, the travel from *A* to *B* was more than just movement. What made the travel worthwhile was the new doors we opened when we got there.

Amador Judo and Jujitsu National Championships

September 3, 2006
Pleasanton, California

3-4 yrs.

1st Rishik Manthana
James Stonecipher Amador
2nd Mackenzie Davis Orange YMCA
3rd Lexi Grimes
Joshua Rabe Amador

5-6 yrs. Intermediate

1st Katie Seidl
KiJa Ourdoune Amador
2nd Kushan Bahl
Aaron Conlan Amador
3rd Ethan Chinn
Kyle Mui Amador

5-6 yrs. Novice

1st Tyler Hong
Kayacan Kaya Amador
2nd Justin Javier
Andrew Cherin Amador
3rd Matthew Myers
Grant Atchinson Amador

5-6 yrs. Advanced

1st Camron Fredrickson
Tyarah Trias Amador
2nd Vikram Rajan
Rafael Gamboa Amador
3rd Calvin Chen
Mehtar Durah Amador

5-6 yrs. Novice Advanced

1st Zachary Larsen
Michael Lee Amador
2nd Mateo DeCoite
Jayden Hurskin Amador
3rd Maanav Goyal
Michael Savellano Amador

7-8 yrs. Novice

1st Logan Atchinson
Hayden Adams Amador
1st Jered Valle
Ananya Goyal Amador
2nd Allison Dahling
Aymeric Dandoy Amador
3rd Bryan Address
Angel Juarez Amador

7-8 yrs. Intermediate

1 st Kyle Tadokoro		
Cameron Ourdoune	Amador	
2 nd Jusin Rabe		
Gabrielle Gamboa	Amador	
3 rd Kaavya Nimmakayla		
Manon El Kortobi	Amador	
3 rd Nicholas Chua		
Mateeen Sofla	Amador	
4 th Kaylene Davis		
Harprbet Chamdal	Orange YMCA	

7-8 yrs. Advanced

1 st Sean Franino		
Josh Rodrigues	Amador	
2 nd Collin Kloster		
Luis Angel Marquez	Amador	
3 rd Tiera Sherman		
Aidan Fredrickson	Amador	

9-10 yrs. Novice

1 st Jocelyn Wei		
Austin Wei	Amador	
2 nd Rhett Adams		
Kyle Hansen	Amador	
3 rd Joshua Reiss		
Riya Viadya	Amador	

9-10 yrs. Novice Advanced

1 st Catherine Chen		
Amanda Eugenio	Amador	
2 nd Quenton El Kortobi		
Dorian Dandoy	Amador	
3 rd Grant Olson		
Steven Barsam	Amador	

9-10 yrs. Intermediate

1 st Hannah Chew		
Charlemagne Pelican	Amador	
2 nd Stephanie Lemon		
Emily Shum	Amador	
3 rd Paige Hawkey		
Michael Myers	Amador	
4 th Diego Guardiola		
Nina Merkur	Amador	

9-10 yrs. Advanced

1 st Victoria Burke		
Kendyl Post	Amador	

11-12 yrs. Novice

1 st Nicholas Tod		
Craig Tod	Amador	
2 nd Christopher Hagerty		Amador
3 rd Austin Horning		
Alex Ball		Amador

11-12 yrs. Intermediate

1 st Neal Border		
Nathan Ross	Amador	
2 nd Jordan Nguyen		
Austin Donnelly	Amador	

11-12 yrs. Advanced

1 st Sarah Bachleda		
Emily Bachleda	Amador	
2 nd Alain Tross		
Bryson Sherman	Amador	

13-14 Novice

1 st Alyssa Fraino		
Brenton Hsu	Amador	

13-14 yrs. Intermediate

1 st Nathan Maratea		
Bradley Maratea	Amador	
2 nd Priti Chamdal		Orange YMCA
3 rd Angela Ross		
Connor Higgins	Amador	

13-14 yrs. Advanced

1 st Madyson Post		
Josh Laursen	Amador	

15-16 yrs. Novice

1st Rachael Chinn
 Reggie Smith Amador

15-16 yrs. Intermediate

1st Tony Perazzo
 Michael Mendoza Amador

Senior Rokyu

1st Joe Laursen Shoshin Ryu Maine

Gokyu

1st. Rosa Moreno
 Avi Rosen Kenshokan
 2nd Keff Haggerty
 Louis Nunes Amador

Yonkyu

1st. Rebecca Devuel
 Josh Yoshimoto Kaito Gakko
 2nd Lara Hicks Mesa YMCA
 3rd Sean Hayes
 Jose Martinez Amador

Sankyu

1st Grayson Lindstrom
 Niki Movgahar Amador

Ikkyu

1st Meagan Higgins
 Larisa Lindstrom Amador
 2nd Gerardo Markoch
 Jacqueline Morales Kaito Gakko
 3rd Jon Boudreau
 Mike Palumbo Shoshin Ryu Maine

Shodan

1st Jarra Maratea
 Natalie Laursen Amador

Nidan

1st Bill Hawkey
 Ken Blaedel Amador

Sandan

1st Nate Laursen
 Ashley Rebmann Amador

Freestyle Competition Results**7-8 year olds**

1st Charlemagne Pelican - Amador
 2nd Ethan Epperly - Amador

9-10 year olds

1st Regine Smith - Amador
 2nd Kendyl Post - Amador
 3rd Tyler McLean - Kenshokan
 4th Hannah Chew - Amador

11-12 year olds

1st Rachael Chinn - Amador
 2nd Nathan Maratea - Amador
 3rd Neal Border - Amador
 4th Gabriel Pasillas – Amador

13-14 year olds

1st Bradley Maratea - Amador
 2nd Josh Laursen - Amador
 3rd Reggie Smith - Amador

Sr. Gokyu

1st Avi Rosen - Kenshokan

Sr. Brown

1st Meagan Higgins - Amador
 2nd Ken Hayes - Amador
 3rd Jon Boudreau - Shoshin Ryu Maine

Black Belt Division

1st Jarra Maratea - Amador
 2nd Natalie Laursen - Amador
 3rd Greg Poretz - Kenshokan
 4th Emiglio Rodriquez – Santa Ana

Promotions

Shodan:

Scott Hargis	South Coast YMCA
Bill Wall	South Coast YMCA
Vincent Apell	Downey YMCA
John Boudreau	Shoshin Ryu of Maine
Dr. Mike Palumbo	Shoshin Ryu of Maine

Nidan:

Mike Whitaker	Goldenwest Riverside
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Godan and Professor:

Prof. Owen Gallagher	Capistrano Jujitsu Club
Prof. David Williams	Downey YMCA

Shichidan:

Professor Kevin Dalrymple	Hi No De Ryu
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Hachidan:

Professor Roy Center	Las Vegas, Nevada
Professor Len Riley	Capistrano Jujitsu Club