



# Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai Newsletter

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Winter 2018

*"We are what we think. All that we are arises with our thoughts. With our thoughts, we make the world."* -- Buddha

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**\*\*Reminder – Shoshin Ryu  
Memberships expire on December  
31, 2017. It is time to renew your  
membership for 2018.**

## Professor Sam C. Luke

A few months ago, we all learned of the passing of Professor Sam Luke. For many of us, his passing was shocking, depressing, and a whole lot of sad.

For me, Professor Luke was a kind of personification of Danzan Ryu. He was my go to guy for questions about the Esoteric Principles. He was the president of the Danzan Ryu Alliance, an organization that was created to pull all of the Danzan Ryu groups together. He was one of the nicest men I have met in jujitsu.

Professor Kevin Dalrymple remembered him as a persuasive force, "He'd invite me to lunch. We'd sit down, have a nice meal, talk about all kinds of things, then, when it was all over, he'd say, 'Here's what I need you to do.'"

Professor Dalrymple laughed when he thought about it, "That's how he got me to teach in Alaska, that's how he got Professor Carlos Gallegos to put on Camp Kukui in Buena Park, it's how he got people to do lots of things. That and the fact that you just could not say 'no' to the man."

I did not get to know Professor Luke until 2003. I had just starting writing this newsletter and I asked him if I could interview him. He smiled and said he would be happy to. From that point forward, he and I would communicate via e-mail, and I always spent time talking to him at the Shoshin Ryu Reunions he attended and at every Ohana.

As a tribute to Professor Luke, the article below is the interview I did with him nearly fifteen years ago.

## The Jujitsu Life of Professor Sam C. Luke

transposed by  
Bryan Stanley

For fifty-seven years Professor Sam C. Luke has been practicing and preaching the precepts of Danzan Ryu Jujitsu. As President of the American Jujitsu Institute, a Judan, and a member of the Danzan Ryu Hall of Fame, he is one of the foremost authorities on the Okazaki system. During the reunion weekend he sat down and answered some questions. Always thoughtful and gracious, he answered each inquiry with a careful choice of words that gives one the impression that what he has to say is important; it is. More than that, it is like opening a book of experience and leafing quietly through the pages.

(See Sam Luke on page THREE)



Professor Sam Luke and me at Ohana 2010 in Anaheim.



## Vinson Holck (April 26, 1952 – November 24, 2017)

He was the son of the late Joseph Holck and Amy Kalahikiola Montero. Vinson is survived by Joyce A. Burney, his wife and best friend. Vinson was first and foremost a martial artist who began his training at the age of 5 in Hawaii. He retired from the martial arts in 2013 after attaining the rank of 10th Degree Black Belt.

Vinson enlisted in the 162d Fighter Wing of the AZ Air National Guard in his senior year of high school. He was retired from the Air National Guard in June 2006.

In 1973 he became an officer with the Tucson Police Department. He would say that being a police officer was fun, but a place where he faced some of the saddest times in his life. Vinson retired from the police force in 1993.

Vinson is survived by his children, Kai Holck of California, Tiffany Hayes of Alaska, Blair Holck of Gilbert, Arizona, Sheena Carew of Wisconsin, and seven grandchildren.

## 2017 Shoshin Ryu Reunion

As editor of the Shoshin Ryu Newsletter and the 2017 Shoshin Ryu Banquet Director, there is something I have to get off my chest about the 2017 Shoshin Ryu Reunion. During the introductions at the banquet, I forgot to have Ed Bederov mentioned. Ed has been running a Shoshin Ryu dojo for years. He promoted his students at the banquet. I goofed. I am sorry.

As for the rest of "Reunion" Saturday, well, it was a day.

It was nice to get a chance to reconnect with some people that have not been around at our local events. Professors Len Riley, Owen Gallagher, and John Tessier were in attendance. Professor Riley came down from Washington and Professor Gallagher came in from San Antonio. Professor Dave Woodland flew in from Wyoming, which was a surprise and a treat. Professor Roger Medlen drove in from Tempe, Arizona.

On Saturday morning, the events started with a judo contest. A group of judoka went out and threw and pinned one another. It wasn't the biggest contest ever, but the participants didn't mind. They had fun.

From 12:00 to 4:00 were a series of clinics. Four mats were in full operation. Sensei Mike Whitaker put together an A+ list of teachers. They all showed their mettle and dedication to the art, presenting a full range of Danzan Ryu and Shoshin Ryu techniques.

On Saturday night we met at the Orange Hill Restaurant for the Awards Banquet. Other than the earlier mentioned snafu of not recognizing Sensei Ed Bederov, and the fact that the WiFi was too slow and we couldn't play Kahoot, but other than that...it wasn't a bad night.

*\*\*\*If you would like to see some pictures from the Reunion, look at page eight of this newsletter.*



(Professor Sam Luke, Continued from page **ONE**)

### **On starting in jujitsu:**

I was ten years old when I started, now I'm sixty-seven, so fifty-seven years. The whole time has been with the Danzan Ryu/Kodenkan system. I am a student of my father's. When he became an instructor, he dragged me to class. I hated it for a couple of years. You know, having to do something is not quite as good as wanting to do something. My experience was not good to start with because I wanted to play ball with the rest of the kids and going with Dad, and having to do something, was not that acceptable [to me].

### **On his father, Sam S. Luke:**

My dad learned martial arts because he grew up in a very tough neighborhood in Honolulu, the name of it was called "Hell's Half-acre" by the officials of the city – high crime rate, a really tough neighborhood. So my dad wanted to be able to defend himself in case he was accosted or defend the family, the same reason my dad wanted me to take it up was the reason he took it up... I had great respect for my dad as I grew older, and he sent me to other schools to see what it's all about from a different perspective. So I went to the YMCA and was taught by another instructor other than my father, so that I could see for myself that the discipline was the same in another dojo. Originally, I thought that my father was overly strict, but in Danzan Ryu discipline is extremely important.

### **On meeting Professor Okazaki:**

At an early age in my career in jujitsu, maybe at eleven or twelve years old, I used to go with my dad to Okazaki's gym. Okazaki more or less just sat on a chair, and allowed the others in his class to teach the younger ones, and I was in awe at meeting Professor Okazaki. His very presence, his stature, the way he carried himself, it was very impressive. And it is one of the things that has inspired me, having met the gentleman. I did not accept the invitation to work out in Okazaki's gym, I was too in awe at just being there at that early age anyway.

### **On self-defense:**

In all my training I have never had to use martial arts. I think that being able to exude confidence and not being afraid has been very helpful for me to avoid confrontation to the extent that it could be an altercation. I have always been able to talk my way out of things, which is what we are taught to begin with. I think that learning the arts gives you that confidence, and the longer you are in it, the more confidence you have in what you are able to do in self-defense.

### **On a brush with a bully:**

I ran into a guy who was a bully. He pushed me, so I pushed him back. Now a big six-foot-five guy shows up – I'm five-  
(See Professor Luke on page **FIVE**)



Professor Luke, circa 2004



# Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai



## Membership form

Please check one: \_\_\_\_\_ New member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (MI) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: M / F Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Dojo affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Instructor \_\_\_\_\_ Your current rank \_\_\_\_\_

Dues/ fees: \$25.00 per year for children, \$30.00 per year for adult kyu ranks, and \$40.00 for dan ranks. Membership dues include mandatory liability and supplemental medical insurance. Membership is for the current calendar year from January 1 through December 31.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parental consent if under 18 years \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **SRY Membership**  
13033 Glasgow Place  
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Please enclose your check payable to Shoshin Ryu



Professor Sam Luke, Continued from page **THREE**)

seven – and he says, “You’re pushing my friend around.”

I said, “He started it.”

He said, “You know, I’m gonna have to take care of you.”

I said, “Lets have a lot of witnesses.”

He said, “Why?”

“I want a lot of witnesses because I want people to see that you are going to hit me first, and because if I beat you up, I want people to say that I beat you up,” I said, “I’m not afraid of you. I respect you, but I’m not afraid of you.”

“You some kind of martial arts guy?” he said.

I said, “[You] gonna find out. You’re the one threatening me. I won’t admit it; I won’t deny it. But I warned you. You may get a few licks in on me, but I’m going to take care of you real good.”

With that he says, “I don’t think I want to test you out.”

I said, “That’s your option.”

I put out my hand, and he went to shake it, and he felt my hand and said, “Hey, take it easy.” He was backing off now and I said, “You should take your friend and kick HIS butt because he’s the one that is going to get you in trouble.” So he took his friend and left.

#### **On standing up for yourself:**

But if you stand up to a bully and exhibit self-confidence, the bully thinks twice. The bully, by the very nature of being a bully, takes advantage of the weak. If you stand up to them, they back off because they are not that tough. You turn the situation around, and you scare them instead. I would have been less self-confident if I hadn’t taken up jujitsu. Not that I am not afraid, but you use fear and the adrenaline to your advantage. There is always a fear that the other guy knows a hell of a lot more than you do [or] is a lot more skillful than you are. No matter how good you think you are, there is always somebody better. So don’t tempt fate to that extent. Don’t get cocky because you think you know what you are doing. The weakness always shows in your face, your being scared. Because I’ve learned there is always somebody better than you. You can get your butt kicked, but, on the other hand, you go down fighting. I refuse to be trampled.

#### **On learning your art:**

Never stop learning. If you think you have learned enough, it’s a mistake. You want to be the person that is able to teach something new...At this convention there are different arts that are being taught outside of Danzan Ryu. We should take advantage of that exposure. I think anybody who comes to one of these things and doesn’t learn anything more than Danzan Ryu is foolish.

#### **On how to defend yourself:**

...if it is effective, you use it. You just have to be realistic about who you are up against and the situation. You leave no stone unturned. I think it is the simple reaction that is best. You do what you have to do to get out of that problem or confrontation. The simple reactions are the best reactions.

#### **On life without jujitsu:**

I can’t imagine how much different my life could have been without the knowledge and the experience I’ve gained from jujitsu.



## When should We Give Up? (An Editorial)

By

Bryan Stanley

At the end of my favorite book, *Atlas Shrugged*, Eddie Willars is trying to fix a broken train. The irony is he doesn't know what to do. He turns some screws, beats on it with a wrench, curses it, and drenched in sweat, drops down to his knees, and finally gives up.

Eddie Willars and the train are a metaphor for Shoshin Ryu and perhaps the entire Danzan Ryu System. Since the late 1990s, attendance at Shoshin Ryu events has declined. Similarly attendance in Danzan Ryu events, has declined.

What has prompted my metaphor was the abysmal turnout for the Shoshin Ryu Reunion. Over the years we have tried different reunion locations, different times of the year, and different formats, all to no avail. The train keeps pulling into the station, but everyone stays on the platform.

Just a few of the proposed reasons for not attending are: cost of travel, other activities, free time to invest, time of the year, and overall cost. All of them are justifications for why people do not show up to Shoshin Ryu events.

Here is my take on this problem. The golden days of Shoshin Ryu and Danzan Ryu are over. The train that Professors Chubb and Fischer got rolling with Ohana '90, has broken down.

Here is the part that is hard to accept, many of us, myself included, are like Eddie Willars, we want to fix this, but we simply cannot do it. Class sizes are getting smaller, interest in Danzan Ryu is waning, we are getting older, and younger folks would rather play with their phones.

Maybe it is time for us to give up. Maybe the time is here for all of us, to retreat to our dojos and forget about what was. Perhaps it is time to focus on what is, fewer and fewer people are interested in Danzan Ryu. Years ago when a train rolled into a station, the people on the platform jumped on. Now no one even shows up to the station.

In the future there will be contests and reunions, but eventually it will only be a few grey haired codgers with all the trappings of old age. Hopefully we won't be deluded into thinking, "If we just hang on a little longer. If we just turn one more screw, we can get this train rolling again." It's time to accept reality, the train broke down, it is frozen in place; we need to get off and start walking.

I will attend Shoshin Ryu and Danzan Ryu events as long as we have them. But I have given up the belief that they will ever be what they were. The golden days are gone. The train can't be fixed.

*All responses to the above editorial should be sent to [SRYNNewsletter@aol.com](mailto:SRYNNewsletter@aol.com) The opinions above are those of the author and not Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai.*



### Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai

“Come Along” Clinic

Presented by  
Professor Carlos Gallegos

Held at  
The First Baptist Church of  
Westminster

14200 Goldenwest St.  
Westminster, CA 92683

January 20, 2018 @ 2pm to 4pm

Clinic Fee: \$10.00 for all SRY members

### Shoshin Ryu Yudanshakai

Sumo Competition (Ages 4 to 17)

Held at  
The First Baptist Church of  
Westminster

14200 Goldenwest St.  
Westminster, CA 92683

February 24, 2018

Registration at 11:00 AM  
Contest Starts at 12:00 AM

Contest Fee: \$5 for Shoshin Ryu members  
\$30 for non members (Fee includes Shoshin  
Ryu membership)

For more information go to  
[www.shoshinryu.com](http://www.shoshinryu.com)

### Promotions

**Shichikyu:**

Jacob McCoy -- Tekiou Ryu Wyoming

**Ikkyu:**

Richard Bortner -- Tekiou Ryu Wyoming

**Shodan:**

Joe Davis – Golden West

Alicia Laddin – South Coast

Oscar Sifuentes – South Coast

Jerry Peacock – South Coast

Cameron Gillespie – South Coast

**Nidan:**

Remi Pintang – He No De Ryu

**Sandan:**

Dr. Tony Rich – South Coast

Chris Bederov – South Coast

Dale Evola – Golden West

**Yodan:**

Mike Whitaker – Golden West

H. Bruce Stokes, II – Golden West

Nick Simmons – Golden West

**Rokkudan:**

Prof. Dan Kveen – He No De Ryu





Professor Jon Tessier and his class.



The obstacle course for the juniors.



Professors Jon Jacques and Steve McMillan.



Professor Len Riley and his clinic students.



Professor Dave Woodland teaching.



Professor Dave Williams after his clinic.

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