

American Ju-Jitsu Association News Letter

Winter, 2001



EDITORIAL

Can I Be A Visionary?

By PROF. GEORGE KIRBY

I was sort of stumped as to what to write about for this issue of the newsletter. Over the past two to three years I apologized for poor AJA service and hoped for improvement. I did not think a rehash of that would be an exciting topic – just a replay. Then I received an e-mail from Benn Haryo (Indonesia) asking what I thought about Ju-Jitsu becoming an Olympic sport. That got the old wheels working. I realized that part of my role as Chairman of the Board of Directors is to give the AJA some guidance – a sort of “state of the AJA” speech. So here goes:

The AJA has made some tremendous changes this past year! The old BOD has been increased from 5 to 7; new blood is always good. Wade Susie and Karen Curley are the “secretary”. They have taken a real burden off of my shoulders and are handling their responsibilities well. They keep on top of everything. Marc Tucker, a professional financial manager, has come on board (pardon the pun) as the AJA treasurer. Fiscal accountability is tremendously important and Marc is bringing records up to date so that we know what our costs and available funds are.

Our administrative staff has also become more upbeat. Have you seen our new newsletter? (Obviously — since you are reading it.) All I can say is “Kowabunga dude!” It could not get much more professional looking. *Wow!* Thank Thomas Salander, the new editor, for volunteering his professional skills to finally give us a classy newsletter. Mark Jordan is assuming *all* membership matters (dojo and individual) so that these records can be more efficiently managed — and he has the skill to do it. Also, thanks must go to Donna Mathews, who has successfully taken over certification. I have actually only had one or two inquiries regarding certificate problems since she took over and she has gotten on them right away. It is a pleasure not to have to deal with complaints on a

We want Ju-Jitsu to become an Olympic sport as an art, not as a knock-down drag-across-the-floor match.

weekly or monthly basis. (Whew!) Last, have you seen the new AJA website at:

www.americanjujitsuassociation.org

. Tony Damingo, the webmaster, has done a tremendous job. (Note: He still needs a lot of information from sensei so check the website to see what he wants from you.)

All in all the AJA *has* turned the corner and I can assure you that in 2001 you will get the support you need!

So what would I like to see happen in 2001? First, I would like to see the AJA again pursue the dream of having Ju-Jitsu become an Olympic sport as an art, not as a knock-down drag-across-the-floor match. Prof. Tony Maynard has a lot of experience in this area. I think Sensei Linda Della Pelle (Western Region Tournament Coordinator) also has a lot of administrative and organizational ability that could be helpful in this arena. (Sorry, another pun.) (This is the first time Linda is hearing about this.) We also need to stop having “local” tournaments. We need to call them “western/eastern/central/etc. regionals or nationals” and open them up to outside dojo who are willing to follow our rules.

Second, we need to expand AJA membership – dojo and individual members. This is critical to our success as a representative of the art. There are a tremendous number of dojo out there – just check them out on the internet. I would like to see a team of members solicit all these dojo to secure AJA membership. At the very least, our insurance package is hard to beat. Sensei of AJA dojo need to require that ALL students above white belt become AJA members. (I have done it for years and it is easy to do once it is established in your dojo.)

Third, the AJA *must advertise* itself! Someone (secretary/newsletter editor?) needs to send blurbs of AJA activities into Black Belt and other martial arts magazines. Good advertising of AJA activities is our best recruitment device.

Please see VISION, page 7

REGIONAL

Western Regional Tournament

Universal Jujitsu Dojo of Claremont, California, hosted AJA's Western Region Fall 2000 Freestyle Kata Tournament on November 19th. With support of the Yudansha and Mudansha from six Southern California dojos, the Fall 2000 AJA Tournament was a success!

White Belt Division

- 1st Patrick Tsao
- 2nd Joshua Stanton
- 3rd Andrew Lim

Green Belt Division

- 1st Cesar George
- 2nd Gabriel Deja, Sr.
- 3rd Eric Goodwin

Purple Belt Division

- 1st Chris Perry
- 2nd Andrew Sycip
- 3rd Bessie Sycip

Brown Belt Division

- 1st Graham Stanton

Black Belt Division

- 1st Jorge Corona
- 2nd Art Corona
- 3rd Chris Zivelonghi

Overall Champion

Jorge Corona

The location of the Spring 2001 AJA Tournament is yet to be confirmed. This spring's event will be the last tournament planned by Linda DellaPelle in her term as Western Regional Tournament Coordinator. Jujitsuka and their families truly enjoy the opportunity to come together to compete in a spirit of goodwill. "I have enjoyed a very positive experience during my two year term as coordinator" said Sensei DellaPelle.

PROFILE

How Many Black Belts?

By KAREN CURLEY

Sensei Wade Susie's ju-jitsu class at the White Marsh YMCA Dojo is a little unusual. While he always has some of each of the lower ranks studying with him, he also has 12 active black belts who train with him each week. His classes include students who range from white belt through 5th degree black. Among them, they hold 32 degrees of black belts (one 5th, two 4th, five 3rd, one 2nd and two 1st degree black belts). Sensei Susie manages to encourage the white belts in their first lessons while challenging the black belts to learn new techniques and improve their skills. He is careful to include techniques appropriate for lower ranks as well as moves that keep the higher ranks on their toes.

It is most unusual for a Sensei to keep so many of his black belts training with him for so long as active students. This is due to Sensei Susie's enthusiasm which makes the class fun and energizing while he imparts his "pearls of wisdom" and philosophy about living a life according to the principles of the Budoshin warrior. I think I can speak for all his black belts in saying that we are proud to train with Sensei Susie.

Dojo: White Marsh YMCA Martial Arts Dojo

Location: Baltimore, Maryland

Sensei: Wade Susie

Styles: Budoshin Jujitsu, Chin Na Karate

Contact: kcurley@clark.net

Would you like to profile your dojo, your sensei, an instructor or a student? See submission information at the end of the newsletter. — editor

IN MEMORIAL

Rev. Terry Greenwood

We all have a limited time for life and we know not the day or hour of our departure. Such was the case for Terry Greenwood, Ju-Jitsuka, Sensei, Lutheran Priest, and dear friend to many in the Towson, Maryland area. Supportive of the Northern Region, we could always count on Terry to be there for us.

I received a call three weeks ago from a former student of Terry's telling me of his passing with little detail. I have heard nothing since. Terry had moved to Hawaii to establish a business, to change his life, and, I think, in search of a new church. He died of an apparent heart attack and his earthly remains were cremated. I was told that his ashes were to be returned to Baltimore. I shall remember him with fondness.

For those of you who are religious keep the repose of his soul in your prayers and may the perpetual light shine upon him.

Dennis McCurdy, Hanshi

Northern Regional Director

LOCAL

New Dojo Opening

On the 14th of November, 2000 O'Sensei Harold (Hal) Brosious will officially opened the Combat Ju-Jitsu Inc. Do-jo at 308 Texas Ave, Suite # 205, Round Rock, Texas (about 15 miles north of Austin). Telephone is (512) 255-4212.

E-mail address: ketsugojujitsu@earthlink.net

Classes will be offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm and on Saturday mornings from 10:30 am until 12 noon. Sundays will be set up for special workshops. Fee is \$70.00 per month. Students may attend any and all classes. Visiting students are always welcomed.


O'Sensei Brosious, Judan Ketsugo Ju-Jitsu is a member of the American Ju-Jitsu Association and serves on the black belt board of the Nippon Ketsugo Kai, as well as the International Black Belt Federation as Southwest USA Regional Director and Senior Exec Board Member – Council. Harold is also the Texas Technical advisor for the Universal Fighting Arts Federation.

NATIONAL

Training Opportunities

January 18, 2001

Classical Budo Dojo Anne Arundel Community College (AACC) in Arundel, Maryland, will host a Martial Arts Night on January 18. From 7pm to 9pm. Martial Arts taught at AACC (Aikido, Ju-jitsu, Kendo, Iaido, Tae Kwon Do) along with Pilates will be demonstrated and free refreshments will be served.

 Reginald L. Heefner
6103 Alpine Street
District Heights, Maryland 20747-1249

February, 2001


Tora Kai will also be hosting a 1 or 2 day seminar with Master Ernesto Presas, Jr.. For more information contact Timothy Lynch

 tjohnlynch@hotmail.com

October 6, 2001

Camp Budoshin The AJA's premiere training camp. For more information contact Professor Kirby:


 senseigk@budoshin.com

 www.budoshin.com/camp_ju.html

November 3, 2001

Professor George Kirby, the founder of Budoshin Jujitsu and Chairman of the American Jujitsu Association (AJA) will be presenting a seminar at the Arlington YMCA Jujitsu Dojo, Arlington, Virginia, 9am to 4pm. For more information contact Thomas Salander:

 salander@aol.com

 members.aol.com/koshinage

TRAINING REPORT

Professor George Kirby

With Sensei from Arlington, Reston, and White Marsh, and six dojo represented, the Metropolitan Washington area welcomed Professor George Kirby to his second annual training seminar at the Arlington YMCA Jujitsu Dojo in Arlington, Virginia.

Prof. Kirby, founder and head of Budoshin Jujitsu, began with a lecture and demonstration about free-style kata competition (Budoshin does not have sparring). Free-style kata is a judged event that places a Tori on the mat with one or more Uki attacking. Only the Tori is scored with the Uki(s) there to provide an opportunity for the Tori to demonstrate his or her art of Jujitsu. This includes — for Yudanshia — being blindfolded (Uki can only do grabs)!

Prof. Kirby then moved on to training exercises for improving timing and reaction time. These were followed by counters to various holds. During the lunch break, Sensei Bruce Jones provided a demonstration of Jutte in homage to Prof. Kirby and the work he has done to educate the Jujitsu community on the use of this weapon of self-defense.

A tired but enthusiastic group left at the end of the day, many already making plans to attend next year's seminar!

Registered participants:

Felicia C. Ansty	Aaron Kromer	Andrew Rosa
Todd Bell	William Lissauer	Thomas Salander
George E. Boden	Bill Macy	Andy Spera
Kevin Brennan	Matthew Mulbrandon	Mark Suhre
Robert L. Connolly	William Needer	Wade Susie
Brent Corba	Cory Nishi	Stephen Tenney
Karen Curley	Toby Nishi	Don Wynn
Mark Dick	Daniel Orkwis	Jeff Wynn
Dante Gilmer	Tom Petrowski	Charles Youman
Bruce H. Jones		

O'Sensei Harold Brosious

O'Sensei Harold Brosious of the Har-Bro Do-Jo #1, School of Ketsugo Ju-Jitsu Self Defense, of Round Rock, Texas did several workshops during the first weekend in November. Starting on Friday, November 3 he gave his first seminar at Harvard Westlake Ju-Jitsu school, run by Mark Jordan of the Budoshin Ju-Jitsu, in Studio City, California.

On Saturday, November 4 he was at the Har-Bro Do-Jo #2, hosted by Prof. Walt Lenoir in Thousand Oaks, California. Also attending students from Har-Bro Do-Jo's #1, #6, and #10. Wrapping up the weekend on Sunday, November 5 he taught at the Valley Ju-Jitsu School in Northridge, California, which is run by Prof. Dave Bellman of the Mushin Ryu Ju-Jitsu system.

Participants:

Gary Binas	Dan Howard	John Mulhall
Phil Connolly	Arie Izhak	Joe Perez
Marco Cordon	Walt Lenoir	Brad Renison
Jason Cotter	Eric McLean	Adam Scott
Kevin Coverly	Kurt Mautner	Carolyn Tynan
Chris De Palma Jr.	Ed Morlan	Shin Yatomi
Chris De Palma Sr.	Dave Morris	

"I personally thank everyone for allowing me to put on the workshops" said O'Sensei Brosious.

Colored Belt Ranking System

By BEN HARYO

Nowadays, nearly all Asian (and even some non-Asian) Martial Arts uses some kind of belt ranking system. Usually novices wear white belt, then progress through several colors (mostly yellow, green, orange, blue, brown), until they reach the coveted "black belt". After reaching "black belt", they will get "Dan Ranks", ranging from 1st Dan to 10th Dan. Of course, very few people reach 10th Dan, because this rank indicates grandmastership. In reality, even the most prestigious teachers sometimes stay in the 7th – 8th Dan for the rest of their lives. Usually the 9th and 10th Dan are reserved for the founder of the style and his immediate successor.

There was no colored belt rank system 100 years ago!

If people hear that you practice martial arts, the first thing they might ask is : "What belt are you?". Such is the popularity of belt ranks. However, despite what you may have heard, 110 years ago there was no belt rank system in China and Japan. Belt rank systems were created by Prof. Jigoro Kano, the founder of Jūdō. Before Prof. Kano, Japanese martial artists did not have any belt system or even a rank system. Everybody simply learned from a Master, memorized everything the Master wanted them to learn, and if they had to leave the Master, he might give the student a hand-written scroll containing a list of techniques they had learned. Or maybe he would not give the student anything at all, despite all the years spent training with him.

It is well-known that Japanese Masters gave teaching licenses and secret scrolls of teaching to a select few only, usually to the people they deemed worthy to succeed him. The most famous example is Master Sokaku Takeda of Daito Ryu fame. It is said that he reportedly had 60,000 students, but only about 20 of them received "teaching license" (called "Kyoju Dairi") from him and amongst the 20, only two of them received a certificate of full proficiency (called "Menkyo Kaiden") in his Jūjutsu system. The rest of them only had their names written on a "student's list" scroll which was kept by Master Takeda himself. They got no certification whatsoever. And the Master had every right to decide which student learned which techniques. He had the monopoly to teach only a handful of techniques to most students and to save the most powerful ones for his successors. This was done to ensure that the essential techniques of the art remained in "good hands".

In China, it was also not uncommon for someone to follow a Master for 10 years and not get any certification or any rank

designation whatsoever. A Chinese Master usually gave their secret books of arts and techniques only to their immediate family or to the students he deemed worthy to succeed him. This does not mean that the rest of the students were illegitimate, though. Even though they did not have a "certificate" or "black belt", they considered themselves legitimate because they could perform the forms and techniques of their particular style. So the emphasis was not on "formal certification" but on "actual skills". But, just as in Japan, some particular forms and techniques were hidden from most students and were given only to a select few. While this kind of secrecy is understandable (the Masters only gave their secrets to their most trusted students), this kind of over-zealousness in guarding the system's secret (and often their most effective) techniques caused many students to quit because they believed they had been neglected and fooled by their Masters.

The belt systems grows out of Jūdō

In 1900, Prof. Kano, who was also a high officer in the Japanese Ministry of Education, designed a system of belt-ranking to promote his martial arts of Jūdō amongst young people in his country. Prof. Kano had learned the Western Education System and he decided that he needed to design a logical curriculum based on identifiable goals, where each goal would be achieved in rank progression. He also decided that each rank needed some sort of symbol to signify the student's achievement. From there he designed his now-famous belt-ranking system.

At first, his system only included two grades : Mudansha (non-graded) and Yudansha (graded). The Mudansha wears a white obi (to signify that he has not learned anything yet) while the Yudansha wears a black obi (to signify that he had learned some techniques). It is said that the very first person Prof. Kano promoted to black obi was Mr. Yamashita in the 1880s. The belt system grew slowly right after that. In addition to the Mudansha-Yudansha system, Prof. Kano created the Kyu-Dan system. He broke down his curriculum into techniques, which then he assigned to Kyu ranks. For example, at the fifth Kyu a person will learn breakfalls, etiquette, basic throws, and basic grappling. At the fourth Kyu he will learn a bit more, and he will learn more and more everytime he passed a Kyu rank. At the rank of Ikkyu (1st Kyu), he has learned most of the basics and is ready for the more advanced techniques and Katas. After he finished the central Katas of Jūdō (Nage No Kata, Kime No Kata, Katame No Kata etc), he might wear the Black Belt to signify that he had mastered all the basic techniques within Jūdō and is ready for more improvements, refinements and variations of the basics.

Please see HISTORY, page 7

Jujutsu, The Resilient Martial Art

By BEN HARYO

With the rising popularity of Jujutsu these days, it is not surprising to see many Jujutsu clubs have sprouted everywhere, all over the world. Which is a good thing, because this makes us a big and happy family.

However, some individuals claim to be “Samurai” and teach “Samurai martial arts of Jujutsu”. This is not true from a historical standpoint. Emperor Meiji abolished the Samurai institution in 1868, and after the failed Samurai revolt by Saigo Tanomo in the 1870s the Japanese government established a standing army modeled after the western army. Prior to 1868, all Samurai warriors studied “Koryu Jujutsu”, which means “old style Jujutsu”. So only Jujutsu styles founded *before* 1868 can be considered as real Samurai Jujutsu. These styles include, but are not limited to, Yoshin Ryu, Daito Ryu, Kito Ryu, Tenjin Shin’yo Ryu, Shibukawa Ryu, Miura Ryu, and a myriad of other styles. Modern Jujutsu styles, those founded *after* 1868, cannot be considered as “real Samurai Jujutsu”. Rather, they are referred to in Japan as “Gendai Budo”, which means “Modern-Day Warriors” or “Modern Martial Arts”.

However, we can be sure of one thing. *All* modern Jujutsu styles are patterned after the old Jujutsu styles. *All* modern Jujutsu styles use techniques that are similar (albeit somehow modified) to the Jujutsu of old. The way we do Koshi Nage today is not much different than the way they were doing it in 1868. Even the names of most techniques are unchanged.

The old Jujutsu styles offer a syllabus of effective self-defense techniques. Modern Jujutsu styles also offer effective self-defense techniques, but they also offer much more. The modern masters of Jujutsu have learned to adapt the ancient Jujutsu to the realities of today’s environment. We are no longer facing Samurai warriors wielding spear and Samurai sword. Today we are facing thugs wielding knives, guns and baseball bats. We are no longer riding horses, today we are driving a car and therefore we need to learn self-defense inside and outside a car.

All those adaptations ensure that the Martial Art of Jujutsu is always progressing, always changing, without forgetting its roots. We are still using the same techniques that the Samurai of old used, but we are adapting those techniques to modern realities. We may not be “real Samurai”, but we keep the indomitable spirit of the Samurai inside our hearts.

The fact that Jujutsu can be applied in modern day self-defense situation is a testimony to its resiliency. Many martial arts of old such as Kyujutsu (archery) and Naginatajutsu (halberd) have become nothing more than cultural heritage. But Jujutsu is still “Alive and Kicking”. It was a martial arts then, and it is still a martial arts now. Be proud that you are a Jujutsuka.

Ben Haryo, Sensei, 2nd Dan Wado Kai, 2nd Dan Yonryu Goshin Budo Jujutsu. He may be reached via e-mail at: tukangbanting@yahoo.com

TERMINOLOGY

PROLIX (PROH-LIKS) Tediously lengthy; wordy; the use of more words than is necessary to express an idea. The Latin root for this word, “prolixus” literally means “poured fourth.”

My reason for choosing this word is that I found it very applicable to many seminars or workshops that I have attended over the years. So often an instructor talks on and on about how a technique should be done, but in doing so they repeat the same thing over and over. When this happens the students that are attempting to learn it find that by the end of the seminar or workshop, they have only learned a few techniques due to the instructor’s wordiness.

I feel that an instructor is teaching at a workshop/seminar for students to learn new techniques. The instructor is not there to make a student know each and every technique perfectly. It is up to the respective Sensei to help the students practice at a later date in the Dojo. Notes, videos, CD’s are always good to use as reminders. Just trying to remember everything that is taught will definitely not work out for everyone. So when attending a workshop/seminar go prepared. It is also wise to check out the validity of the instructor that will be teaching at any and all workshops/ seminars.

Remember that old adage “A word to the wise is sufficient.”
O’Sensei Harold Brosious, Judan, Ketsugo Ju-Jujitsu

AJA membership renewals are now due.

AJA membership is required of all ranked students in AJA dojos. If you are not currently an AJA member, please contact your sensei, or Mark Jordan, AJA Membership Chairperson:

Mark Jordan
P.O. Box 4261
Burbank, California 91503-4261
e-mail: majik8@usa.net

PROMOTIONS: MUDANSHIA**Hachikyu**

Bernstein, Jeff	12/5/00	Tora Kai Academy
Eberhardt, Jay	12/5/00	Tora Kai Academy
Lewis, Mary	12/5/00	Tora Kai Academy
Leamon, Forrest	12/5/00	Tora Kai Academy
Korba, Brent	12/5/00	Tora Kai Academy
Nichols, Tim	12/5/00	Tora Kai Academy
Suhre, Mark	12/5/00	Tora Kai Academy

Shichikyu

Bennington, Margie	fall 2000	Classical Budo
Bennington, Tom	fall 2000	Classical Budo
Brandt, Will, Jr	fall 2000	White Marsh
Carle, Matthew	12/21/00	Arlington
Matticote, Zach	fall 2000	Classical Budo
Schrager, Jennifer	12/21/00	Arlington

Rokyu

Gawell, Rachel	fall 2000	Classical Budo
Hollenbach, Rebecca	fall 2000	Classical Budo
Robey, Claire	fall 2000	Classical Budo
Tenney, Stephen M.	10/10/00	Arlington

Gokyu

Dister, Nathan	fall 2000	Classical Budo
Durrell, Jonathan	fall 2000	Har-Bro #2
French, Helen	12/21/00	Arlington
MacLean, Bryan	fall 2000	Har-Bro #2
MacLean, Eric	fall 2000	Har-Bro #2
McComas, Dave	fall 2000	Classical Budo
Overby-Lee, Justin	fall 2000	Classical Budo
Popovic, Phil	fall 2000	Har-Bro #2
Renison, Brad	fall 2000	Har-Bro #2
Scott, Adam	fall 2000	Har-Bro #2
Spera, Andy, jr.	fall 2000	White Marsh
Tynan, Carolyn	fall 2000	Har-Bro #2

Yonkyu

Cotter, Jason	fall 2000	Har-Bro #2
Morris, Dave	fall 2000	Har-Bro #2
Violanti, Andrew	fall 2000	White Marsh

Sankyu

Boden, John	10/23/00	White Marsh
Connolly, Robert L.	10/10/00	Arlington
Dick, Mark	fall 2000	Reston
Patrick, Kathleen	fall 2000	Reston

Nikkyu

Basch, Anthony Lower	8/20/00	Reston
Blaney, Frank	5/12/00	
Chapman, Evan	fall 2000	Har-Bro #2
McCoy, Rickey Jr.	fall 2000	Watkins Ju-Jitsu

Ikkyu

Hirshon, Jon Mark	9/1/00	Classical Budo Dojo
Levin, Mary Ellen	11/3/00	White Marsh
Levin, Ryan	11/3/00	White Marsh
McCoy, Rickey Jr.	fall 2000	Watkins Ju-Jitsu
Perez, Joe	fall 2000	Har-Bro #2

PROMOTIONS: YUDANSHIA**Shodan**

Bollini, Jacob Jr.	2/5/00	Watkins Ju-Jitsu
Conroy, Jancel	8/1/00	Reston
Enders, Tim	10/14/00	Maru Martial Arts

Fair, Michael	2/5/00	Watkins Ju-Jitsu
Mautner, Kurt	fall 2000	Har-Bro #2
McCoy, Rickey Jr.	12/12/00	Watkins Ju-Jitsu
Morlan, Ed	fall 2000	Har-Bro #2
Potter, Chris	10/3/00	Watkins Ju-Jitsu
Roy, Geno	fall 2000	Har-Bro #2
Shotton, Jason	8/5/00	Watkins Ju-Jitsu
Watkins, Amanda	8/5/00	Watkins Ju-Jitsu
Wynn, Don	8/1/00	Reston

Nidan

Bingham, Jack	2/5/00	Watkins Ju-Jitsu
Hilton, Ronald	12/18/00	Watkins Ju-Jitsu
Jarrell, Craig	12/17/99	American School of SD
Pauley, Craig	12/17/99	American School of SD
Potter, Chris	10/3/00	Watkins Ju-Jitsu
Roy, Roland	fall 2000	Har-Bro #2

Sandan

Bua, Anthony	6/26/00	Aiki Ju-jitsu
Depalma, Chris	fall 2000	Har-Bro #1
Needer, Bill	10/20/00	White Marsh
Parks, Mike	6/2/00	White Marsh
Pryor, Roger	11/14/00	

Yodan

Gordon, Darrell	12/17/99	American School of SD
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Hachidan

Maynard, Tony	9/7/00	American School of SD
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PROMOTIONS: INSTRUCTOR CERTIFICATE

Bingham, Jack	2/5/00	Watkins Ju-Jitsu
Conroy, Jancel	8/15/00	Budoshin JJ
Gordon, Darrell	12/17/99	American School of SD
Hilton, Ronald	12/18/00	Watkins Ju-Jitsu
Jarrell, Craig	12/17/99	American School of SD
Newcomer, Ryan	9/12/00	Maru Martial Arts
Pauley, Craig	12/17/99	American School of SD
Potter, Chris	10/3/00	Watkins Ju-Jitsu
Pruitt, Bob	12/13/99	BJJY
Wynn, Don	8/1/00	Budoshin JJ

PROMOTIONS: ADDITIONAL

Gene Roos, Aiki Jujitsu Dojo, received Kudan Certification from the European Jujitsu Union, July 7, 2000.

Reggie Heefner, Classical Budo Dojo: Anne Arundel Community College, was promoted to Rokudan in Judo by the United States Judo Association (USJA).


NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS


Without news from you, our newsletter has nothing to print. Commentary, opinion, history, and techniques are all important, but our first priority is providing news about the activities of AJA members. What makes our content unique is *you* and what you do. This is why the newsletter exists.

Do not be shy (be **bold**!).

We prefer plain text (.TXT) in electronic format, either through e-mail or on floppy disk. You can also send articles for consideration through the U.S. Postal Service or via fax.

 salander@aol.com

 AJA Newsletter
c/o Thomas Salander
519 North Livingston Street
Arlington, Virginia 22203

 voice: 702-243-0206
fax: 703-243-0204

Spring 2001

Promotions and Training announcements: April 4, 2001
All other submissions: March 26, 2001

Summer 2001

Promotions and Training announcements: July 11, 2001
All other submissions: July 2, 2001

Fall 2001

Promotions and Training announcements: October 10, 2001
All other submissions: October 1, 2001

Winter 2002

Promotions and Training announcements: January 2, 2002
All other submissions: December 17, 2001

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Last, someone has to dedicate him or herself to fundraising for the AJA. This can be a tremendously frustrating effort until the ball gets rolling. However, one funding source usually leads to others. Last year (2000), the Budoshin Ju-Jitsu dojo in Burbank and Santa Clarita, secured between \$200-300 in donations for raffle prizes at Camp Budoshin. This did not include gifts of bottled water and a several hundred dollar discount in the usage fee for the city facility because we are a non-profit organization. One year we even raised about \$1,000 for advertising in the Camp Budoshin program. If we can do that locally, imagine what could be done nationally – if someone with the expertise and/or time is willing to do it.

These are my visions, my dreams. Will they come to pass? Only you know because it is your commitment and dedication which will determine success or failure. We can do this together.

It would be nice to see Ju-Jitsu become an Olympic sport. It would be nice to see our membership double or triple in size in 2001 alone. It would be nice to see a news brief in every issue of Black Belt, etc., with the AJA headlined or mentioned in it. It would be nice to run more national activities, such as conventions, seminars and competitions with solid funding from donations.

Right now it is my vision. Make it yours *and make it happen!*

Professor George Kirby, 9th Dan, is the Chairman of the AJA Board of Directors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sensei Thomas,

My name is Pam Sealey and, even though I am no longer able to practice the art of Ju Jitsu, I do have my husband and son who are members of our great Ju Jitsu club of Sakura Ryu Ju Jitsu in Cleveland, Queensland, Australia under the expert guidance of Shihan Reg Ellis. My purpose of this email is that I am trying to obtain as many patches from various Ju Jitsu Clubs around the world to make a tapestry for my son. My son is now 12 years old and holds a junior blue belt with brown tip. My idea is to present this tapestry to him when he is granted the nomination to obtain his 1st Dan, which will be only after he is 18.

I have been emailing various Ju Jitsu clubs from around the world with my humble request for their clubs' patches. So far I have received some answers along with their generous offer of their patches. I have been overwhelmed by these clubs who have taken my request and have forwarded to me patches along with quite moving letters.

I do hope that you can help me by putting my request into your newsletter. I believe that our children are our future and they will hold our love for Ju Jitsu and pass it on to the next generation. I will be very grateful for any assistance I may get.

We all honor our martial arts and live by the code. I do hope you are able to assist me in this endeavor.

Yours in Ju Jitsu
Pam Sealey
18 Workington Street
Alexandra Hills 4161
Queensland
Australia

HISTORY from page 4

With the addition of Kyu Ranks, it was necessary for Prof. Kano to add the number of colors in his belt system. I do not know all of the details about the belt system Prof. Kano used (because there were not one but many), but my sources indicate that the belt rank system employed in the 1920s was White, Blue, Purple, Brown and Black. There were two Brown Belt levels, which makes a total of five Mudansha levels (five Kyu levels from Gokyu to Ikkyu), which corresponds to Prof. Kano's teachings (Go Kyo No Waza, the five teachings of techniques).

Belt Rank Systems Being Adopted by All

Belt rank systems did not start to catch on amongst other martial arts until the Dai Nihon Butokukai (Japan Martial Arts Virtues Society, founded in 1895 by members of Japan Imperial Family) required their members to adopt Prof. Kano's belt rank system. This requirement was established in 1905. And so, most of the schools registered on the Butokukai (including many Kendo and

Jūjutsu schools) adopted this system. In the 1930s, even the Karate art from Okinawa began to adopt the belt-ranking system. Some Jūjutsu schools decided to stay in their old system, but nearly all newer Jūjutsu systems (Gendai Jūjutsu-Modern Jūjutsu), especially those founded by Westerners, adopted Jūdō's belt rank system.

With the standardization of belt-rank system, learning martial arts has become an easier proposition. Gone are the days where a student could spend 10 years+ learning under a Master and get nothing. Using the belt rank system, you will, at the very least, get a Kyu rank. Gone are the days where a Master will teach you only the handful of techniques he wanted to teach you. Under Prof. Kano's curriculum, you will learn a specified number of techniques on each rank, giving you identifiable goals for your next promotion. This is a huge improvement. In the ancient days, every teacher, even from

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the same Ryu, could teach a different syllabus to different people, which makes standardization of teaching material very difficult. With the Kyu-Dan system, standardization of techniques within a Ryu is easy. With a standardized curriculum, you will learn the same techniques with other students at your rank, no matter where you practice. For example, the throwing techniques you learn at 3rd Kyu level at Yokohama is the same one that was taught to the 3rd Kyu level at Hiroshima, Kobe, Tokyo, and any other part of the world.

Even the Non-Japanese arts started to use it!

Since they have standardized the belt ranks (and their curriculums), Japanese Martial Arts such as Jūdō, Karate Dō and Aikidō have been successfully imported all over the world. This testifies to the effectiveness of the belt rank system. Non-Japanese Martial Artists recognize this too, and they have begun to adopt the Japanese belt rank system, albeit with different colors and different "philosophies" assigned to it. Silat from Indonesia, Tae Kwon Do, Hapkido and Tang Soo Do from Korea, Kung Fu from China and many other martial arts nowadays have been using the Japanese belt ranks for years.

Therefore, it is logical to state that the Kyu-Dan belt ranks system is Prof. Kano's second most important contribution to the martial arts world, in addition to Judo. (Some people argued that Prof. Kano must also be honored for his efforts to preserve Jujutsu, but that is a different story). So every time we tie up our Obi, no matter what color, no matter what style of martial arts you practice, let us say a prayer to Prof. Kano, may his soul find peace in the hands of God. Amen!

VIDEO LIBRARY

Dr. Ivica Zdravkovic, Serbian Budo Council — Jujutsukai, wrote to us with a suggestion for a library service from the AJA. What Dr. Zdravkovic had in mind was not a lending library of books, but an on-line video library with clips showing the various AJA dojo. In his words:

"It would be great to see all those wonderful people doing their noble arts... This sort of sharing knowledge is, in my humble opinion, one of the best ways we could use the Internet."

As an example—and to get things started—he sent to us two clips of him demonstrating some techniques. You can view these clips (temporarily) at the following web site:

members.aol.com/koshinage/video.htm

Dr. Zdravkovic is right in the notion that the Internet provides a unique opportunity to provide a service not easily delivered through other medium. This could be a way to get to know other dojo, sensei, and students. It could add value to AJA membership. It could be a way to enhance our educational options.

Are you interested? Is this idea worth pursuing? If it is, what format should it take? The answer to that question determines the structure, much like deciding how the shelves should go up and items checked out in a library. There is a more important question, and that is about what actually goes on those shelves. What do you want to see? The dojo? The students? The instructors? The sensei? Do you want to see a class in progress? Demonstration of techniques? Finally, the most important question, would you submit your own clips?

Tell us what you think.

NEXT ISSUE

Ben Haryo returns with an article on the meaning of some Jujitsu Ryu names and the kanji used to represent them.

"Knowing a little bit about the Japanese language and related Kanji characters will certainly be an enriching experience for the serious non-Japanese students of the Japanese martial arts. At the very least, we must know the meaning of the Kanji characters which we used to spell our Ryu-Ha (style of martial arts)."

柔術