

HISTORY OF THE KODENKAN YUDANSHAKAI

In 1962 Roy Holck founded the Kodengan of Tucson Jujutsu School; the arts of Judo and Karate were already well established as sports in the Tucson Valley. Roy Holck felt that Jujutsu had something more to offer the public than the medals and trophies earned in competition sports. Upon receiving military transfer orders in 1964, Roy Holck requested his brother Joseph Holck to come to Tucson, AZ to take over and continue the school he had started.

Danzan Ryu as translated and interpreted by Joseph Holck means in a deeper sense "steps to greater heights." The system teaches the student to think beyond the achievement of higher ranks in the martial arts. Instead, the student learns to develop and grow throughout the steps in life itself.

As in the steps of life everything grows. Growing out of the original Kodengan of Tucson dojo Joseph Holck and his family in 1967 founded the Kodengan Yudanshakai, "School of the Ancient Tradition Black Belt Society". The purpose of the organization was to preserve and promote the traditional values, teachings, and principles of Professor Okazaki's Danzan Ryu system while at the same time fostering a strong martial arts community.

Originally, the principles of Professor Okazaki were only taught through Danzan Ryu Jujutsu. Dai Shihan Holck felt that these principles could be perpetuated in other martial arts as well. Through the Kodengan Yudanshakai these principles are now also taught in Shorin Ryu Karatedo, Matsuno Ryu Goshinjitsu, Matsuno Kajukenbo Kai, Praying Mantis Boxing Kung Fu, Batto-Do, Kodengan Bokkendo and Shukokai Karate by instructors who believe as Dai Shihan Holck did, that the development of a contributing member of society is more important than any trophy or championship.

Some of the distinguished members of the Kodengan Yudanshakai throughout its history are Prof. Sig Kufferath, Prof. William Montero, Prof. Jack Wheat, Prof. Antone Gonzales, and Prof. Carl P. Beaver Sr.

In 1994, Dai Shihan Holck retired from active teaching and appointed his son, Vinson, to oversee the running of the organization. In 2012, the Kodengan Yudanshakai promoted Vinson Holck to the rank of 10th Dan, and vested him with the title of Dai Shihan.

In March of 2013, the Kodengan Yudanshakai was incorporated as a 501.3.c non-profit, governed by a Board of Directors. The Board's primary function is to support the dojos and Instructors of the organization in their mission to perpetuate the traditional values, teachings, and principles of Professor Okazaki and the traditions of the organization.

Since its inception in 1967, the Kodengan Yudanshakai has expanded and grown significantly from its Tucson, AZ origins. The organization currently has three dojos in Tucson as well as dojos in Sierra Vista and Prescott Arizona, Long Beach California, Silver Springs Maryland, and Vancouver Washington.

To quote Professor Okazaki, the founder of Danzan Ryu Jujutsu, "The fundamental principle acquired through the practice of Jujutsu has been elevated to a finer moral concept, the way to gentleness. It may well be said then that the primary objective of practicing Jujutsu is perfection of character. Danzan Ryu Jujutsu teaches the student the importance of one's religion, earth and nature, love of parents and family, respect for teachers and to live in harmony with society." These concepts have been introduced to thousands of students, both children and adults, since the Kodengan of Tucson was established in 1962.