

# Way of the Warrior Healer

*Kimo Williams*

How does healing the body of a friend or enemy possibly relate to the study of Jujitsu? This was a question examined by some of the Professors and Senior Instructors of the AJJF at this year's Camp South, hosted by Fudochi Dojo in the mountains of San Diego County.

The weekend got under way at noon on Friday with three Nidan exams and one Shodan exam at Prof Hudson's Fudochi Dojo (congratulations to the candidates on a great job). Upon completion, the growing group of jujitsuka took to the road and wagon-trained its way to the "secret mountain location" known only as "Camp Fox" (Okay, a few Boy Scouts may also know of it), where we would bed down for the weekend.

After an early dinner, students and Senseis from over 20 dojos answered roll-call in the main hall and then proceeded to delve into the round-robin instruction of Senseis Ted Himmah, Robert Hodgkin, Frank Ferris, Kevin Colton, Randy Schuster, Jeff Penner, Tim Merrill, and Professor Bob Hudson. Under a clear, star-filled sky, Camp South gave those who came true insight into the depths of our unique system.



*Gathering at Camp Fox*

For the 75-plus attendees, insight into the dual roles of warrior and healer would lead to a greater understanding of the classical arts of Danzan Ryu. "Master Okazaki had more space dedicated to healing than to Jujitsu at the original center in Hawaii," Professor Hudson informs us during a morning group discussion. "He would keep nine treatment rooms and several hot and cold hydrotherapy tubs filled with patients seeking relief from



*Prof Hudson discusses the inner weather report*

a wide range of problems." Without a doubt, Professor Okazaki's legacy is a fusion of both martial and medical arts.

After his late-night arrival, the well-traveled Prof Tom Ball joined the group for breakfast. He then proceeded to teach a full day and evening of clinics, before catching a Sunday morning flight out. All of us in attendance are grateful for the time and effort Prof Ball gave to be with us and to share his knowledge so willingly. Mahalo!

Profs Ball and Hudson led a group class in Okazaki Massage and its traditional role in the dojo. Under their tutelage, the mass of students took to the floor and shared the time-honored tradition of rubbing out each other's bumps and bruises the old way: no table, no oil, no charge. No ka'oi!

To one extent or another, classes at Camp South attempted to reveal the correlation between Budo and Kappo. That is, between the intention of the modern warrior and the spirit of the ancient healer. "What exactly do you mean by 'Warrior?'" asked one student. "Simply doing what needs to be done with courage, confidence and intention," replied Prof Hudson.

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“Whether it’s battle, business or any of life’s formidable challenges.” For many students, the discussion marked the first time the two concepts had been put together in an applicable manner.

Ultimately, the weekend provided in-depth views into Professor Okazaki’s system of healing,



Instructors: Prof Hudson, Bob Hodgkin, Kevin Colton, Ted Himmah

the concept of kuzushi, the importance of intention, and, as always, the endless perfection of the arts that embody the internal and external expression of Danzan Ryu.

As with all gatherings of this type, participants sacrifice much to share their time. Many come from distances requiring air travel and added expense. But for those who came, as Prof Estes was known to say, what they got were the very things that make the practice and pursuit of DZR special: connection, community and kokua. Barring my own bout with stomach flu the final day, I would have to agree... it’s always time well spent. See you all next year! ✨

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John Cippola, and all the Buffalo students: too many to name, but all deserve recognition. But most of all, a special thanks to Sensei Gerry Halligan, for being a true pioneer in our art and Federation. He has provided what not many have: a thriving home for our Federation and Danzan Ryu in Buffalo and the Northeast US.

In Pennsylvania, we dined and visited the dojo of Sensei Tom Hill. Although we represented dojos from four different states, it was as though we knew what each other was thinking, and we knew what each other’s challenges were. Someone commented that, although we only see each other a few times a year at best, we maintain a

conversation that is ongoing and never misses a beat.

In New York City, the Uke’s hometown, we sweated up a storm. Sensei Seiler’s efforts are gaining momentum. There is a great group growing in New York, including Geri, Sandy, and a growing kyu rank arsenal. Many eager faces watched our techniques with hunger and appreciation. Looking forward to the progress of DZR in New York, the Uke vows to return. I will never forget the applause that my colleagues and I received at the end of our clinics in New York. It rattled even the subway system.

The Uke travels on. ✨

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