

Okinawan Goju Ryu Karate Kenkyu Kai



Winter Newsletter – 2015

In Honor of Sensei

Sadly, our beloved teacher, founder, and leader passed away January 7, 2015, at home with his family beside him. Sensei's family and his extended karate family shared a wonderful weekend together February 6-8, 2015, in honor of Sensei. His formal Memorial was held at the National Cemetery on February 6th, with a full military service. In addition, one of Sensei's student's Cameron Jones, played Amazing Grace on the bagpipes. Sensei Gary Card and his wife Cathy held the reception following the service. They and their friends did a great job!

On February 7th, we filled the floor at Sensei's dojo, Goju Ryu Karate-Do of Bakersfield, and trained in his spirit and honor. It was great to see Sensei's karate family on the floor together. Thank you Sensei Archie, Sensei Charlie, Sensei Gabe, Sensei Bryan, Sensei Jason, Sensei Jared, and Sempai Will for helping with the children's seminar and demonstration. Thank you Sensei Alan and Sensei Gabe for teaching during the adult seminar. Everyone's support is very appreciated.

On February 8th, Sensei's birthday and wedding anniversary, we concluded our weekend tribute to Sensei by having a Celebration of Life where Cameron Jones played the bagpipes, we shared pictures, shared stories, and had birthday cake for what would have been his 81st birthday. We had another cake to celebrate Sensei and Sensei Catherine's wedding anniversary which was also that day. Thank you Sensei Charlie, Julie Tootle, Sensei Alex, and Sensei Ken for all of your help with the celebration!

Thank you all for your support, attendance, assistance, participation, thoughts, prayers, dedication, donations, and involvement. Everyone's support makes a very difficult time a little easier on all of us.

The Future

Our teacher was actually very excited for the future of the OGRKK. Sensei told me personally to move forward even though some people may not yet be ready to move forward. He also told me that some people were very concerned and afraid of change. Initially, when I learned that Sensei was ill I tried to ask him every question I could think of pertaining to the organization. But his overall response to my questions was to do whatever I felt would preserve and grow the organization. Organizations exist to serve the members, not to serve an individual or a single business. It is my intention to provide more types of support, information, as well as training opportunities for all members and member dojo. Any funds that are accumulated will go toward organization expenses, functions, and to support members as directly as possible. Some people do not care for change. For some change is very difficult to accept. However, the only constant in life is change. In order for us to preserve the OGRKK and to grow we need to make changes and to operate as an organization.

OGRKK ORGANIZATONAL STRUCTURE

In accordance with the OGRKK Constitution, Article IV. 1, 2, 3, & 4; states in part that the Chairman shall appoint the Executive Committee, Secretary (Administrative Director), and Grading Panel. Below are Sensei Wilson's appointments:

Chairman	会長	Steven R. Wilson, 7 th Dan, Shihan
Administrative Director (Jimukyoku Cho)		Diana L. Wilson
Chief Instructor (Shuseki Shihan)		Steven R. Wilson, 7 th Dan, Shihan
Assistant Chief Instructors		Gabe Wolcott, 5 th Dan Charlie Tootle, 4 th Dan Bryan Travis Smith, 4 th Dan
Executive Advisory Committee		Steven R. Wilson, 7 th Dan, Shihan Alan Robison, 5 th Dan, Shihan Philip LoBue, 5 th Dan, Shihan

Tracie McAlister, 5th Dan
Gabe Wolcott, 5th Dan

OGRKK Grading Panel
(Shikaku Shinsain)

Same as Executive Advisory Committee

Webmaster

Jason Krohn, 3rd Dan

PRIMARY LINEAGES IN GOJU RYU

Higa Seko (November 8, 1898–April 16, 1966) Sensei's organization is called the Goju-ryu Kokusai Karate Kobudo Renmei. Higa Seko Sensei trained with Higaonna Kanryo Sensei and was Miyagi Chojun Sensei's Kohai (junior). Higa Sensei primarily trained with Miyagi Sensei prior to WW 2. Higa Sensei had opened up a dojo in Shioizumi Village, Naha, in 1931, and moved the school to Matsushita Village also in Naha two years later. Higa Sensei was awarded the Renshi (teaching) grade from the Dai Nippon Butokukai upon his return from the South Pacific island of Saipan, where he taught Goju-Ryu from 1937 to 1939. In 1956, Higa Sensei became the first vice president of the All-Okinawan Karate-Do Renmei, an organization that represented the major Okinawan karate styles. His most famous students include Seikichi Toguchi Sensei (founder of Shireikan Goju Ryu), his son Seikichi Higa Sensei, Kanki Izumigawa Sensei who spread Goju-Ryu in mainland Japan, Kawasaki area, and Seiichi Akamine Sensei. Today Higa Sensei's lineage is preserved in the organization called Goju Ryu International Karate Kobudo Federation (GIKKF) under Eiki Kurashita Sensei.

Ei'ichi Miyazato Sensei (July 5, 1922 – December 11, 1999) began training with Miyagi Chojun Sensei in 1937 at age 15. Following Miyagi Sensei's death Miyazato Sensei taught at the Garden Dojo which was Miyagi Sensei's backyard, until he built the Jundokan Dojo in 1957. Miyagi Sensei's family gave Miyazato Sensei all of the Hojo Undo equipment from the Garden Dojo. Today you can still go there to see and use Hojo Undo equipment that Miyagi Sensei used. Miyazato Sensei taught many famous students including Sensei An'ichi Miyagi, Morio Higaonna, Teruo Chinen, Koshin Iha, Masaji Taira, Seikichi Kinjo, Tetsu Gima, Tsuneo Kinjo, and others. His dojo is now owned and operated by his son Yoshihiro Miyazato. However, several of the seniors such as Sensei Kinjo and Gima still teach there regularly. Miyazato Sensei was also a famous Judo-ka and held the rank of 7th Dan in Judo and the rank of 10th Dan in Goju Ryu when he passed away. Miyazato Sensei is one of the very few students who trained with Miyagi Sensei before and after WW 2. Miyazato Sensei's family and Miyagi Sensei's family were very close. Miyazato Sensei used to visit Kei Miyagi (Miyagi Sensei's son) in Tokyo when he would travel to Japan. Miyazato Sensei also purchased Miyagi Sensei his first Gi. Because Miyazato Sensei taught An'ichi Miyagi and Morio Higaonna, this is our lineage and the version of Goju Ryu that we practice.

Meitoku Yagi Sensei (March 6, 1912 - February 7, 2003) family lineage can be traced back to the 36 Chinese families that immigrated to Okinawa in 1392. His family can also be linked to Jayana Uekata, who was highly respected as a budoka in the Ryukyu Islands in the 17th century. Yagi is the 21st generation from that family. Yagi Sensei claims that he began training under Miyagi when he was 14 years old, in 1926. However, my personal research which includes interviews with three first generation students indicates that he actually began training when he was 16 or 17 years of age, which would have been 1928 or 1929. My personal research also indicates that he trained seriously from age 16/17 to age 21 and then rarely trained with Miyagi Sensei after that. After Miyagi Sensei's death in 1953, Yagi Sensei opened his own dojo in the Daido district of Naha. He named his school of Goju-ryu Meibukan, meaning "house of the pure minded warrior. Meitatsu and Meitetsu. Currently Yagi Meitatsu is the president of the International Meibukan Goju-ryu Karate Association (IMGKA), and Yagi Meitetsu is the president of the Meibukan honbu dojo. Meibukan Goju Ryu is personally my least favorite lineage and version of Goju Ryu. Yagi Sensei also created five kata and added them to the Meibukan curriculum. Yagi Sensei really wanted to be the successor to Miyagi Sensei, but at a meeting of Miyagi Sensei's students nobody nominated Yagi Sensei as the successor. Meitoku Yagi Sensei, his sons, and his students all claim that he is the true successor to Miyagi Sensei. Personally, I feel he is a successor as he was a first generation student. However, I feel both Higa Seko Sensei, Ei'ichi Miyazato Sensei, and Kei Miyagi Sensei were all more qualified to be Miyagi Sensei's successor than Yagi Sensei was. Again, this is my personal opinion based on my own research.

Of course there are many sub-branches and down lines to the above lineages. However, what is important for us to know is that the instructors who came from the Jundokan is our lineage. Uehara Ko Sensei, Koshin Iha Sensei, An'ichi Miyagi Sensei, Morio Higaonna Sensei, Masaji Taira Sensei, Kinjo Sensei, Gima Sensei, Ganaha Sensei and other senior instructors from the Jundokan who trained directly with Miyazato Sensei are all a part of our karate lineage although we have never belonged to the Jundokan.

So what are the differences between the pre WW 2 students and the post WW 2 students and the training they received? The primary focus in training from 1916 through at least 1936 included Sanchin kata and the student learning one to three other kata. There were no formal Junbi Undo, no Gekisai kata, no Tensho, and no Sanchin with backward stepping (only the turning version existed then) until after 1936. After the war Miyagi Sensei really went to work formalizing the style of Goju Ryu. Pre WW2 students often had a kata selected by the teacher that the teacher felt fit their body type the best. Post WW2 students had much more standardized and formalized training. There were periods following the war that every student learned the same kata and kata were no longer individually selected for each student. It also appears that Bunkai changed significantly when karate became available to the general public. Bunkai began changing in as early as 1905 and continued to change. There is a lot of difference

between teaching a long-term trusted student one on one, compared to teaching high school kids, or even adults in a large group.

OGRKK KOBUDO PROGRAM

We have formed a Kobudo Division within the OGRKK. Now other martial artists who do not train in Goju Ryu karate are welcome to join to the organization to learn Kobudo. We now have an additional 75-130 kobudo members. Below is our official Kobudo Curriculum:

KIHON WAZA

Kihon, Kihon Ido, Renzoku, and Yakusoku for each weapon.

BO KATA

1. Kina No Kon Bo Sho
2. Ryubi No Kon
3. Choun No Kon
4. Sakuagawa No Kon
5. Tsuken No Kon
6. Shishi No Kon

TONFA KATA

1. Kina Tonfa Sho
2. Kina Tonfa Dai

NUNCHAKU KATA

Ko-Bu Nunchaku

SAI KATA

1. Kina Sai Dai Ichi
2. Kina Sai Dai Ni

IYERU (Eku)

Tsuken Akachu No Iyeru Di

KAMA

Kina No Nicho Gama

Okinawan Goju Ryu Kenkyu Kai

Annual Gasshuku



DATE: April 17, 2015 to April 19, 2015

LOCATION: Lindsay Wellness Center, 860 North Sequoia,
Lindsay, CA 93247

SCHEDULE: Friday Evening 6 pm - 8 pm- Adults & Advanced Youths
Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. All Ages and Ranks
Saturday Dinner 7 pm China's Mexican Restaurant
(170 N Sweetbriar Ave, Lindsay, CA 93247)
Sunday 9:00 am–12:00 pm Adults & Advanced Youths
Sunday 1:30 p.m. Grading-22114 Avenue 208, Lindsay

FEES: Adults \$100 Youth \$50 Dinner \$25

REMIT TO: Philip LoBue, 22114 Avenue 208, Lindsay, CA 93247

DEADLINE: April 6, 2015 Please Register before or by April 6th

HOTELS: Lindsay Super 8 Olive Tree (559) 562-5188
(390 North Hwy 65, Lindsay, CA 93247)
Best Western Exeter Inn (559) 592-8118
(805 S Kaweah Ave, Exeter, CA 93221)

WE SINCELY HOPE EVERYONE CAN ATTEND!

OKINAWAN GOJU RYU KENKYU KAI

2015 Annual Gasshuku Registration Form

Name _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone Number _____
Email _____ Dojo _____

Hold Harmless Indemnification

I the undersigned hereby voluntarily register to attend and participate in the above name Gasshuku willingly, fully recognizing that karate is a physical activity that may result in injury or accidental death. I am my heirs hereby waive, hold harmless, and indemnify the Okinawan Goju Ryu Kenkyu Kai, Steve Wilson, all OGRKK officers, Philip LoBue, members, all guests instructors, participants, and the Lindsay Wellness Center from any and all liability, responsibility, or fault from any and all injuries or accidents that may occur. I also fully understand that no medical or health insurance is provided and that I am responsible for my own medical expenses derived from any and all injuries, illnesses, or accidents that may occur that require medical treatment. Again, I accept fully responsibility for any and all injuries, accidents, or illnesses that may occur from my participation and I completely hold harmless and indemnify the OGRKK, Steve Wilson, Philip LoBue, all Officers, Instructors, Participants, and the Lindsay Wellness Center.

Participant Name or Legal Guardian if under 18		Date
Adult Gasshuku Fee	\$100	Enclosed \$ _____
Youth Gasshuku Fee	\$ 50	Enclosed \$ _____
Extra Lunches for Non-Participants	\$ 10	Enclosed \$ _____
Saturday Evening Dinner	\$ 20	Enclosed \$ _____
TOTAL		ENCLOSED \$ _____

Remit payment in full too:

Philip LoBue, Philip LoBue, 22114 Avenue 208, Lindsay, CA 93247

PLEASE REMIT PAYMENT BY OR BEFORE APRIL 6TH!