



# Goju-Ryu Karate-Do Kyokai NEWSLETTER December 2003

## KENZO UCHIAGE

It is with great sadness that I, Sebastian Pirrone, must share the news that Mr. Kenzo Uchiage has died. In the Goju-Ryu world, Mr. Uchiage was a 9<sup>th</sup> Dan and head of the Uchiage-Kai. He died on Oct. 23, 2003 in Japan.

His son, Takeshi Uchiage, JKF 7<sup>th</sup> Dan of Canada shared this news with us through his student, Mr. Gene Tibon of the U.S.A. You may obtain more information through Mr. Tibon at [emtibon@hotmail.com](mailto:emtibon@hotmail.com). Our deepest sympathies to all the Uchiage family.

## 2004 INTERNATIONAL INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT

We are pleased to announce that the GKK will host the 2004 International Invitational Tournament on Saturday,

March 20, 2004 at Bedford High School. More information will follow from Mr. Mark Cramer.

## AN INTERVIEW WITH MR. DAN TAYLOR

By Kenneth Field

1) Please give me some basic information on yourself: age, education (both martial arts and traditional), current location, etc.

**Answer:** I am 51 years old, (DOB 10-14-51). I have a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Law from California State University, Fresno, California. I have a Roku Dan in Karate-Do, a Renshi Title, and a Go Dan in Nihon Jujutsu. I live in Visalia, California, and teach Karate-do for the City of Visalia Recreation Department. I am a former law enforcement officer. I now operate a small real estate appraisal firm.

2) How did you become involved in the martial arts in general and Goju in particular?

**Answer:** I began training when I was 13 with and at the insistence on my father, who was a law enforcement officer and a student of Jujutsu. He was also a close friend of the local Judo instructor and I began Judo classes with him as well as

wrestling in high school. While in the service, I was a member of the U.S. Army Wrestling team. I began training in Chinese Kenpo with a member of the team. I attended a seminar of a local Goju-Ryu instructor who was under Gosei Yamaguchi. I joined his club and have practiced Goju-Ryu ever since.

3) How has the study of martial arts affected your life outside the dojo?

**Answer:** The goal of Budo is to live an honorable life. The dojo is the place not for practice but for learning. Practice is performed in our everyday life. We take the principles that we learn in the dojo and apply them in our daily life. Karate-Do teaches us a principle of discipline, which we, who call ourselves traditionalists, use as a guide in all things requiring decisions of right and wrong. Budo, therefore, develops character through discipline and focus.

4) Is there a particular philosophy that guides your life?

**Answer:** "The Dao that we can talk about is not the Dao we mean." This maxim, mechanically, would be like trying to explain a newfound taste, color, smell, etc. It cannot be done. We can talk around it. We can get very close to it. But we will never

specifically define it. "IT" of course, refers to "the way" or "the path." The deepest meaning of this Daoist saying ultimately refers to the importance of the journey and not the destination. Everyone has the same destination. However, everyone has a completely different starting point and, consequently, we will all encounter completely different obstacles. We should therefore, be tolerant of those who we know to be on "the path" especially when we find it to be different than our own.

5) Do you have an accomplishment related to your study of the Art that you are particularly proud of?

**Answer:** It's more of a highlight than an accomplishment. While I was a member of a different organization, I was fortunate to be invited to be a part of a U.S. National Karate-Do Team that was to travel to Japan for the annual Hayashi-Ha World Karate-do Championships in Osaka. It was a very exciting adventure and learning experience. I was there for three weeks and traveled extensively training at many dojos. It was an opportunity of a lifetime, for which I am very grateful.

6) Is there an aspect of the martial arts that intrigues you?

**Answer:** When I started, I, like most people, was fascinated by the "tricks" of self-defense. As I learned the basics, I became obsessed with competition. When I became "seasoned" I enjoyed the philosophical aspects of Budo. However,

now that I am old, I am most intrigued by the fact that I can still put one foot in front of the other without falling on my face.

7) How long have you been involved in the martial arts, and how do you maintain interest over the years?

**Answer:** I am beginning my 38<sup>th</sup> year of practice. I have absolutely no idea why I keep doing this. As corny as it sounds, there is something within me that won't let me stop. I get just as excited practicing Kihon as I did when I first started. I am equally confused by the fact that everyone does not feel the same way.

8) How do you see your future in the martial arts and the organization?

**Answer:** I am simply a student of Karate-Do. Nothing more. I have no aspirations for anything else. I enjoy teaching and will continue to do that as long as I can. If I can be of assistance to the organization in any way, I am happy to help. I feel very fortunate to serve the GKK.

9) What wisdom would you pass on to other students, both old and new?

**Answer:** In life: Talk less, listen more. What separates us from other species is ego, which we can never completely do away with, but must spend our lives controlling.

In Karate-Do: Practice all 12 Goju-Ryu Kata every single day. Do each and every one of them as though you are a finalist in the world kata championships. Find at least 30 minutes every day to practice kata.

10) This last question is my catch all. Is there something you wish I'd asked you? Something that has been on your mind a lot of late, and not necessarily related to the martial arts? I sometimes find that things I thought completely unrelated to karate-do often end up related.

**Answer:** I thought it might be important to explain why I chose to belong to the GKK. Here is a very short synopsis.

I was a member of a different organization for many years. They became very expensive to belong to, and had begun a path different than where I felt I needed to go. In short, I wanted to have a dojo that did not focus on competition or fighting but rather, emphasized the development of the whole person, through the traditional teachings of Budo as I had learned them. I needed a support and resource organization to make this happen the way that I wanted it to. Finally, I wanted everyone who wanted to participate in such a program to be able to do so at a cost that virtually everyone could afford. After much searching, and subsequent communication with Mr. Stamper, and after having attended a seminar with Yamakura Sensei, the GKK appeared to be exactly what I was looking for. I feel fortunate and honored to be a part of the GKK.



### ARMENIAN SCHOOL JOINS THE GKK

The GKK is proud to announce that the **Krunk Dojo** in Yerevan Armenia is now a member of the GKK. Mr. Artur Manasyan operates the school and is a Ni-Dan with about 15 students. Mr. Kevin Forsythe, our Assistant Director, facilitated the membership. We wish to extend a warm welcome to our most recent member school. We also wish to thank Mr. Forsythe for his efforts.

### GKK HOSTS NEEDED

The following is a letter received by our Director, Mr. Stamper, from one of our member dojos in India. Two Sensei's, Mr. Babu and Mr. Swaminathan, wish to visit the U.S. and hosts will be needed. If you feel you can be of service and help, please contact Mr. Stamper. The letter is as follows:

Kyoshi Richard W. Stamper  
4450 Luann  
Toledo, Ohio 43623, U.S.A.  
Respected Kyoshi Richard W. Stamper San,  
Greetings,

It is my wish that this letter will surely find my sensei in point of health under the mercy of Almighty.

Your letter dated 19.10.2003 has reached me and thanks for the same. I have decided to come to my Sensei's Dojo in Headquarters long with my Arcot District Instructor M. Swaminathan in the month of April or May 2004. I need your highly valuable invitation mentioning that you are

inviting me and my Arcot District Instructor M. Swaminathan. This invitation will help me to get Visa from American Embassy and on the other hand to get sponsorship from friends and relatives.

I am grateful that you have sent ID and membership certificate to my Arcot District Instructor M. Swaminathan. He came to my dojo and showed me all the papers. Along with this letter I am sending the instructors name and their Dojo particulars to enable you to bring them into web site.

Kindly send me two Emblem and one black belt of size #5 for me. I am also in need of video cassette Volume II and Book Vol. III. I am also in need of certificate, mentioning my name and world National Director on the certificates.

Kindly mention whether my letters and mails are received by you.

Dr. Tetsuhiro Hokama, IOGKO-President PhD visited Chennai and I have participates in his karate and kobudo camp. I will be thankful if your friend completed the Dojo for my stay and intimate to me when time comes. Thanking you,  
Yours sincerely,  
M. Babu

Courage is the ACT  
of being  
the only one who knows  
you're SCARED  
to death

### E-NEWSLETTER

As this year closes and the New Year draws near, I would like to again extend the option of receiving this newsletter by e-mail. All that is required is to drop me an e-mail with your e-mail address and tell me you want to receive the newsletter electronically only. To those of you who have already changed over, thanks and I hope you are enjoying the convenience. To those of you who do not have e-mail, your copies will continue to be mailed during the last week of each month. Please feel free to send along any and all information, events and stories that you may feel the rest of the membership might be interested in. If you would like to include photos, please do. I am not sure how they will reproduce, but it might be something I can work on to liven up the newsletter a little. The photos will also help to put faces with names. Let's try it out.

### **Editor's Note:**

I wish to thank all who have helped by sending along items for the newsletter. It is your interest and input that keeps this newsletter going. This is your newsletter, I am just part of the machine that puts it together. Your help is needed.



**Seasons  
 Greetings  
 To  
 All  
 GKK Members and Families**

**DECEMBER 2004**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FUNCTION</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
3	Nat'l GKK Team	6:30 pm	Sho Yo Kan Dojo OHIO
10	Nat'l GKK Team	6:30 pm	Sho Yo Kan Dojo OHIO
17	Nat'l GKK Team	6:30 pm	Sho Yo Kan Dojo OHIO
24	Christmas Eve		
25	Christmas Day		
31	New Year's Eve		
<b>Jan 1,2004</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b>		

**Mr. M. Yamakura**

Chairman  
 P.O. Box 32509  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73123

**Mr. R. Stamper**

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