

# KODENKAN YUDANSHAKAI

## ATARASHI DENTO

NEW TRADITIONS

SEPTEMBER 2021

Paul Haber, Shihan, editor

A newsletter serving  
Members and  
Associates of  
the Kodokan  
Yudanshakai  
in the traditions  
of Professor Henry  
Seishiro Okazaki and  
Dai Shihan Joseph  
Holck



Welcome to the newsletter  
dedicated to you, the member  
or associate of the Kodokan  
Yudanshakai

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### WHAT'S NEW?

By the time this is published, some of this information will be old news, but...

Quarterly Kyu testing on 8/15/21 was cancelled, because there were only a few testing candidates and they were tested in class. Congratulations to those of you who advanced in rank in August.

The KDK Board of Directors meeting is proceeding as scheduled on 9/18/21.

See Upcoming Events for more news.

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## *MEET THE SENSEI*

Julian Pimienta

O'Sensei (5<sup>th</sup> Dan) Danzan Ryu Ju-Jitsu



I started martial arts training in 1975 as a part of the Nogales High School Judo team. Kodokan Judo was more common at that time and the team competed throughout the state in local competitions and in neighboring states in regional competitions. I moved to California in 1988 after graduating from college. By the early 1990's, I decided to get back into the martial arts and started looking for a Judo Dojo to join. I found a Jiu-Jitsu program in Long Beach at the Lakewood Budokai. It was convenient as I worked and lived in Long Beach. I also started working out in Judo at about the same time and my evenings went from not enough to do to very busy. I worked out in Danzan Ryu Ju-Jitsu then drove to Judo to work out. My career as a Mechanical Engineer started to demand more of my time as work got very busy, so I was forced to choose one art to focus on. I chose Danzan Ryu Ju-Jitsu. I worked out with the Lakewood Budokai Dojo under Kelton Shihan

until it was time to move to Tucson, Arizona at the end of 2006. I started working out at the Ott YMCA in 2007 and assisted in teaching the children's Jiu-Jitsu class under Parker Shihan until he retired, and then under Heacock Shihan until he retired. In 2018 I took over as Director of Martial Arts at the Ott YMCA and teach the children's Jiu-Jitsu class.

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## *UPCOMING EVENTS*

September 18, 2021- **Board of Directors Meeting** 2:00-3:30 PM Location TBD

October 10, 2021- New date for the **KDK Fall Picnic** at Hoffman Park (4875 E Cecelia)..

November 6-7, 2021- **Yudansha candidate testing**. Times and location TBD. Due to limited training time, there is an **alternate testing** scheduled for 12/4/21.

11/13/21 **KDK Board of Directors** meeting. Possibly at MATS, but stay tuned.

12/5/21 - **KDK Holiday Party**- stay tuned for time & location. Save the day!!

1/22/2022- **Annual Promotion Ceremony and Banquet and Celebration of 55 years of the KDK**. Location- St. Frances Cabrini hall.

**OHANA 2022** will be held in Foster City California in late July/early August of 2022 and will be hosted by Jujitsu America

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## *KANJI KORNER*

By Dave Heacock, Shihan

## **JAPANESE ANATOMY TERMS FOR MARTIAL ARTS**

With this edition of the KDK newsletter begins a series of articles covering Japanese names for human anatomy and some strikes commonly made to them. It will not be a comprehensive list of medical terms, but will concentrate on those that may be helpful in understanding your defensive arts and in teaching students.

Many of the terms have a “regular” definition but also a usage specific to the fighting arts. Here are two examples. First, the word *kata* (型) has common meanings of model, type, style, template, size, and form (that is, a customary procedure). Yet, as all practitioners know, it also indicates a “standard form of movement, posture, etc.”; a series. Second, the term *uke* carries the idea of getting, receiving; but it can also mean moving or taking action.

In addition, I will include wordings derived from homonyms (sound alike terms) that may unlock a fuller meaning of your technique. The custom of using single syllables of a *kanji* in lieu of entire words in compound terms can enable one to explore further.\* At times my interpretations may seem a stretch. However, I ask the reader to remember that as in many of the world’s so-called higher knowledge traditions, martial arts often employed common words to disguise “hidden” or deeper connections, often as images.

The English terms will be in bold, all caps. The Japanese adopted Chinese characters for their formal writing,\*\* but developed two systems for writing out the syllable sounds of their spoken language. While both may be used, I have divided them into two types (as applicable): *kunyomi* (native Japanese reading of a Chinese character) and *onyomi* (Chinese-derived reading of a kanji). The *kun* generally will be in *kanji* as well as *hiragana* syllabic characters. The *on* will generally be given only in *katakana* in accordance with established usage. When it may help to clarify a term, I give a description of the radicals which are used to build a *kanji*.

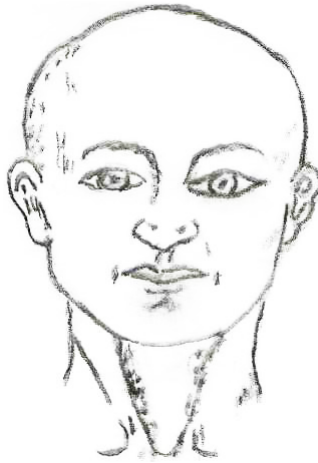
Caution: The information given in these pages is for educational purposes only. Seek a qualified instructor before attempting to use any technique described. Any injuries arising from practice or use against others are the sole liability of the reader.

As always, these are my own understanding. If you disagree, have alternate interpretations, comments, or would like to see topics addressed, I can be contacted at [sattvadmh@aol.com](mailto:sattvadmh@aol.com).

\*In the throwing form *deashi harai* (verb: *deru* 出る go out, come out, start out, protrude + noun: *ashi* 足 foot, leg, gait), the first *kanji* with one syllable pronounced is understood by its written character.

\*\**Kan* (漢 China, Han dynasty) plus *ji* (字 character).

# THE HEAD



## HEAD

Kun

*Atama* (頭 kanji “bean” radical at left + kanji “big shell” radical); also pronounced: *kashira* and *kaburi*

On

*Tō* (tou) トウ, *zu* ズ, *to* ト

Kun

*Kashira* (顛 tiger over rice field over dish, plate + kanji “big shell” radical) head, skull; also pronounced *atama*

On

*Ro* 口

Kun

*Kubi* (頸 [furthermore over the ground + kanji “big shell” radical]) neck, head

Also: 頸 (“number one” radical over “curving river” over construction + kanji “big shell” radical)

On

*Kei* ケイ (for both)

On (only)

*Tōbu* (toubu) (頭部, トウブ head + part, component) head, cranium

**CRANIUM [skull minus the mandible] (see also HEAD and SKULL)**

On (only)

*Nōtōgai* (*noutougai*) (脳頭蓋, ノウトウガイ brain + head + cover, lid, flap) cranium

Kun

*Tōgai* (*tougai*) (頭蓋 head, brain + cover, lid, flap) cranium, skull (anatomy)

On

*Zugai* ズガイ

**SKULL [cranium plus the mandible]**

Kun (only)

*Hitogashira* (人頭 man, person, human being + head) skull, cranium

Kun

*Kashirabone* (頭骨 [*kashira* + *hone*] head + bone) skull

On

*Zukotsu* ズコツ

On (only)

*Rokotsu* (顱骨, ろこつ, ロコツ head, skull + bone) skull

Kun

*Tōgaikotsu* (*tougaikotsu*) (頭蓋骨 head + part, component + bone) skull, cranium

On

*Zugaikotsu* (ズガイコツ)

**TOP OF THE HEAD**

Kun

*Hiyomeki* (囟) top of the head, skull

Also: 顛 (skull, top of head *over* heart radical (no. 61), mind, spirit, meaning of a phrase + kanji “big shell” radical)

On

*Shin* (シン), *shi* (シ) (for both)

Kun (*hiragana* only)

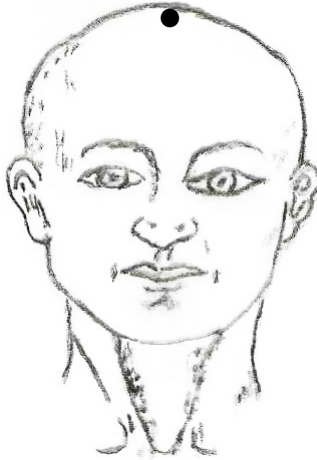
*Nōten* (*nouten*, のうてん) (脳天 brains [lit. meat of the head], mind + sky, heaven) top of the head, crown of the head

On (only)

*Rochō* (*rochou*) (顱頂 head, skull + crown (of head)) top of the head, vertex

On (only)

*Tōchō* (*touchou*) (頭頂, トウチヨウ head [*atama*] + crown (of head) [*itadaki*]) top of the head, vertex



### TEN TŌ (TOU)

點頭 (テントウ) (dot, spot, point + head) top of the head

In traditional lists of vulnerable points for striking, this is generally at the top. That it has been passed down in *onyomi* form allows for multiple interpretations based on sound alike words.

### TEN

*Ten* (*onyomi* てん or テン; *kunyomi* 頂 *itadaki* crown (of head), summit (of mountain))

*Tenjō* (*tenjou*) (天上から pronounced: *ten ue kara* sky + up, above + from) from above  
Indicates the direction from which the strike (*ateru*) is to be delivered—that is, once opponent has fallen or is bent lower.

*Tenketsu* (点穴 dot, spot, point + hole, opening, hollow) pressure points; vulnerable body cavities (martial arts)

Essentially this is the site of the fontanel, the open place at the top of a newborn's skull before the bones grow together. (Note: some say the target is just behind this). In Chinese, Indian, and other body energy/meridian systems, this is considered the spot at which all the nerve lines come together—a particularly effective place for disrupting body-wide systems.

*Teppen* (天辺 [てっぺん] sky, heavens + area, region, side, edge) top of one's head

Here we see the idea derived from meditative systems that this is the spot where one can both receive from and go out to Heaven or the spiritual realm, further emphasizing its importance.

## TŌ (TOU)

*Tō (tou)* (トウ) *onyomi* for 頭 (*atama*) head

Single syllable form for *toukaku* (頭角 head + corner, angle) top of the head

*Tō (tou)* (トウ) *onyomi* for 当 (verb: *ateru* 当てる) to hit; right, appropriate

This could be seen as either the instruction to strike or as the “right, appropriate” spot on which to make a strike

*Tō (tou)* (トウ) *onyomi* for 痛 (verb: *itamu*) ache, be in pain, feel (have, suffer from a) pain

The object of striking that point!

On (only)

*Tō (tou)* (トウ) 閨 (gate surrounds sun doubled) gate of heaven, main gate of palace

See above under *Teppen*.

*Tō (tou)* (トウ) also figures in as the final *onyomi* syllable in two suggestive combinations:

*Nōshintō* (*noushintou*) (脳震盪 brain + to (make something) quiver, to shake + to melt (steel, etc.), liquefy, soften, disarm) concussion (of the brain)

*Shintō* (*shintou*) (震盪 to (make something) quiver, to shake + to melt (steel, etc.), liquefy, soften, disarm) shock, shaking; concussion.

A strong blow to the top of the head, especially at a point where the body’s energy lines meet, would likely bring about a concussion

In the next installment I will give anatomy terms and striking details for points on the side and back of the head.

All translations and characters are from:

[www.jisho.org](http://www.jisho.org)

[www.romajidesu.com](http://www.romajidesu.com)

Kenkyusha’s New School Japanese-English Dictionary (1968)

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## EDITOR'S EDGE

As we continue to discuss the styles developed from the *Naha-te* lineage, we once again draw heavily from Christopher M. Clarke's *Okinawan Karate: A History of Styles and Masters, Volume 2*, as well as other sources, as indicated.

### HIGA SEIKO

Last time, we learned about **Miyagi Chojun**, the founder of *Goju-ryu*. One of his most senior students, **Higa Seiko**, was born November 8, 1898 in Higashi-Machi, Naha. He was the second son of **Higa Seshu**, a close friend of **Kanryo Higashionna**, whom you'll recall was **Miyagi's** teacher. His family was also related to **Itosu Anko** of *Shuri-te*, who also taught young **Higa**, when his father was a policeman in *Shuri*.

**Higa** began studying at the age of 13 and continued learning under **Higashionna** until the old master's death. At that time **Higa** began training under **Miyagi**, who was only about 10 years older than **Higa** and had been studying about nine years longer than **Higa** had. Training began with kata *Sanchin* with open hands, and striking with *nukite*, or spear hand. It is said that **Higa** only learned the one kata under **Higashionna**; most of his training time was spent on conditioning.

After graduating from the Prefectural Fisheries High School in 1919, **Higa** taught elementary school for a short while before resigning to join the police force. He was probably recommended to the force by **Miyagi**, who was the karate teacher for the police academy. He served as an officer for about 10 years, but resigned when he was assigned to a distant rural area. This caused some friction with **Miyagi**, since he resigned without consulting his teacher, who had gotten him the job. The result was that **Miyagi** expelled him from the dojo. An exacerbating factor was that **Higa** had opened a dojo in the same city where **Miyagi** was teaching and both were trying to make a living teaching the art.

In 1937, Higa moved to the island of Saipan, where he did business, and began teaching there amidst the large population of Okinawans and Japanese. He returned to Okinawa in 1939, and in 1940 was one of the few Okinawans honored for their karate expertise when he was awarded the title *Renshi*. His former teacher, *Miyagi*, was promoted to the higher rank of *Kyoshi*.

**Miyagi** apparently did not approve of Higa's karate. He said **Higa's** grasp of the art was weak, yet the mutual respect was strong enough that he named him as one of the few instructors qualified to teach. They later apparently reconciled, and remained friends until **Miyagi's** death in 1953.

With the help of several friends, **Higa** opened his own dojo in 1947, and after **Miyagi's** death some of the seniors reassembled, reorganized *Goju-ryu* under the *Okinawa Karate-do Gojukai* (Okinawan Karate-do Goju Association), and awarded each other rank. **Higa** was named President of the Association, despite opposition from **Miyazato Ei'ichi**, who claimed **Miyagi** had named him successor. Later **Higa** was also elected vice president of the island-wide *Okinawa Karate-do Federation*, of which **Chibana Chosin** (*Shuri-t*) was president.

**Higa's** technique was said to be fast, powerful, well-controlled, very energetic and excellent. **Higa** died of a lung infection on April 16, 1966. He was only 67.

### YAGI MEITOKU

**Yagi Meitoku** (1912-1998) was the most senior of Miyagi Chojun's students in the generation after Higa. Yagi was born in Naha on March 6, 1912. He is believed to have begun training with Miyagi between the ages of 13 and 17.

**Yagi** reportedly is descended from the original "**Thirty-six Families**" of Chinese settlers sent by the Chinese emperor to settle in Okinawa in 1392. These families took prominent roles in trade and court in Chuzan, one of the three kingdoms which controlled Okinawa in the 14th century, previously controlled by a number of local chieftains or lords under a central king.

Exactly what **Yagi** learned from Miyagi is unclear, but after **Miyagi's** death, **Yagi** won both praise and denigration. Some said he was "unqualified" to teach *Goju-ryu* because he had only studied under **Miyagi** for a short time. Others, including Higoanna Morio (now a 10th Dan and world-respected instructor), suggest that Yagi trained from around 1925 until 1938. At that time Yagi entered the police force, with Miyagi's recommendation, and was subsequently stationed some distance away from his teacher.

It is said that Yagi, - like many of Miyagi's students, spent most of his training time on exercises and *kata Sanchin*. Only four *kata* were used - *Sanchin*, *Seisan*, *Seienchin* and *Tensho* - until years later, when **Miyagi** began to teach him the entire system, including *Kururunfa*, *Seipai* and *Shisochin*, and, because of **Yagi's** "great natural ability," the most difficult *kata*, *Suparempai*.

In 1956 Yagi established his own school, the Meibukan, in Naha, while also rising through the ranks of the Customs bureau, eventually retiring as its Superintendent. In 1986, Emperor Hirohito awarded him the Fourth Rank Order of Merit.

**Yagi** was said to have been strict and demanding in training, but kind and down to earth. His classes consisted of numerous exercises and *kata* practice, with pre-arranged sparring, but no free sparring until much later.

Even though **Yagi** performed *kata* in a much softer manner than other Goju-ryu practitioners, his punching strength was legendary. He was nicknamed the “*makiwara*-breaker.” He died on February 7, 2003, at the age of 91.

### MIYAZATO EI'ICHI

One of **Miyagi's** most devoted students was **Miyazato Ei'ichi** (1921-1999), born in Naha on July 5, 1922, and a descendant of a family with a rich martial arts history. While in school, he not only studied *Goju-ryu*, but simultaneously trained in Judo, and he became an Okinawa judo champion.

Miyazato later reported what it was like to train in Miyagi's dojo. He said there were only about ten students training in those days. There was no comfortable dojo and they trained on the ground. However there were plenty of supplementary training tools, such as *Makiwara*, *Chiishi*, and *Sashi*. They would go for a run, then return to the dojo and train with the equipment and practice *Sanchin kata*.

Except for a short tour in the military, he trained with **Miyagi** from 1935 until the master's death in 1953. He, like so many of **Miyagi's** students, joined the police force. Like several of his fellow students, **Miyazato** claimed to be Miyagi's successor. He was given Miyagi's training equipment, which he moved to his own dojo. He was also appointed as Miyagi's replacement as the head instructor of the police academy, where he remained until 1971.

He opened his own school, which he called *Jundokan*, which means “House to Follow the Footsteps of the Father.” Unlike some *Goju* stylists, **Miyazato** allowed some light sparring, but did not favor current competition rules, saying they were “silly and unfair”. His classes were very informal, with no formal class structure, nor did he approve of “styles”, saying they were “silly”, and said everyone should just practice Te like in the old days. Miyazato emphasized strength training, especially for the legs, hips and waist. His own techniques were deceptively soft, and seemingly ineffective, until applied; they were actually penetrating and powerful.

**Miyazato** was another “victim” of the political in-fighting or “turf wars” in Goju-ryu following Miyagi's death, with several karateka claiming to be Miyagi's successor. However, he was awarded the Distinguished Martial Artist award in 1994, as well as an award from the ministry of education in 1998. He died on December 11, 1999, at the age of 77.

Now, let's discuss some more recent Goju-ryu practitioners. The following excerpts are provided by Wikipedia:

### HIGAONNA MORIO

**Higaonna Morio** (born December 25, 1938) is a prominent Okinawan karate practitioner who is the founder and former Chief Instructor of the International Okinawan Goju-ryu Karate-do Federation (IOGKF). He is a holder of the highest rank in Goju-ryu karate - 10th dan. **Higaonna** has written several books on *Goju-ryu* karate, including *Traditional Karate-do: Okinawa Goju Ryu* (1985) and *The History of Karate: Okinawan Goju Ryu* (2001). Martial arts scholar Donn Draeger (1922–1982) reportedly once described him as "the most dangerous man in Japan in a real fight."



Higaonna was born on December 25, 1938, in *Naha, Okinawa*. He began studying [Shōrin-ryū](#) karate at the age of 14 with his father and then with his friend Tsunetaka Shimabukuro. It was Shimabukuro who recommended that Higaonna learn Gōjū-ryū karate at **Miyagi Chōjun's** garden *dojo* in 1954, one year after **Miyagi's** passing. At that time, classes were taught by Chojun Miyagi's oldest student, Eiichi Miyazato. Here Higaonna also met **Miyagi An'ichi**, who taught the younger students and whom **Higaonna** recognizes as his first instructor in the *Gōjū-ryū* system.

**Higaonna** followed Miyazato to his new Jundokan dojo which opened in 1957, and the same year he earned a black belt. In 1960, he moved to Tokyo to study at *Takushoku University*. On December 30 of that year, Higaonna was promoted to the rank of 3rd dan at the first all-style *dan* grading of the *Okinawa Karate-do Renmei*. He was invited to teach at Tokyo's *Yoyogi dojo*, where he attracted a large following of *karateka*. He was awarded the rank of 5th Dan in April 1966. In January 1967, Higaonna Sensei received his *Menkyo Kaiden* (teaching license)

In April 1967 Higaonna Sensei assumed the position of karate Shihan (Master Teacher) in the *Nihon University College of Humanities and Sciences*. In May 1968, **Higaonna** Sensei accepted an invitation by the YMCA and traveled to Spokane in the USA to conduct a series of demonstrations and lectures on the subject of karate. The trip was a success and **Morio** Sensei received an award from the Mayor of Spokane for his well-acclaimed efforts to promote karate in the USA.

On 10 October 1970 **Higaonna** was invited to represent Goju-Ryu Karatedo at a special demonstration during the first World Karate Tournament organised by WUKO. This event took place in the *Tokyo Budokan* in Japan. Morio Sensei received a special letter of appreciation from WUKO for his demonstration. **Higaonna** Sensei was once again invited to demonstrate in the Third World Karate Tournament organised by WUKO in 1972. Once again Sensei received a special letter of appreciation from the organisers.

His accomplishments over the years are too great to list completely. He is probably the most famous *Goju-ryu* practitioner today, thanks to his books, seminars, and frequent travels.

On 8 May 2013, the Okinawan Government presented **Higaonna** with an award and title recognising him as an ***Intangible Cultural Treasure of Okinawa***, a recognition of his many years of dedication and preservation of Goju-ryu Karate, which itself was an important part of the Okinawan culture and history. A title such as this is the highest an individual may receive in Japan for the martial arts and it has been awarded to only a handful of grandmasters in the modern history of Japan.

Higaonna currently lives in Japan and remains active in karate, teaching in his home in Tsuboya, Naha, Okinawa.

## CHINEN TERUO

There are presently many Goju-ryu instructors throughout the United States, as well as the world. One that your editor had the honor to meet and practice under for a very short time was **Chinen Teruo**, whom I met through the auspices of our own **David Parker**, Shihan. **Chinen** was born on June 8, 1941, in *Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, Japan*, and

is of Okinawan and Japanese ancestry. His father, **Chinen Sesho**, was an Okinawan martial artist who served in the Imperial Japanese Navy and trained in various Okinawan weapons. His mother was Japanese. His granduncle **Chinen Masami** belonged to the line of masters of the *Yamanni ryu* kobudo school.



Although Okinawan, **Chinen's** father adopted Japanese ways and this included the naming conventions applied to his children. Therefore, Chinen was named Teruo, rather than something containing Masa, the Okinawan pattern for the given name.

Chinen's father died in 1944, when the captain of his ship decided to sink the vessel rather than surrender to the Allied forces. When he was five years old, his mother and several siblings returned to Shuri briefly, then settled in *Naha*, where his uncle worked as a policeman. His mother found work on the USAF airbase. **Chinen's** home in *Naha* was just three houses down the street from **Miyagi Chojun's** dojo. Despite his family's history in another style of *karate*, he began to study in **Miyagi's** style.

In 1954 **Chinen** began training in Goju-ryu karate under one of **Miyagi's** senior students, **Eichi Miyazato**, whom we discussed earlier. After about six years of training, **Chinen** was promoted to black belt. In 1959, **Chinen** left Okinawa to teach karate in Tokyo, where he joined his friend **Higaonna Morio**, who had opened a dojo there, known as *Yoyogi Dojo*. **Chinen** has credited **Higaonna** with teaching him the technical aspects of *Goju-ryu* karate.

In 1969, **Chinen** traveled to the United States as a technical advisor to the Spokane School of Karate-do in Spokane, Washington. Prior to leaving *Yoyogi Dojo* for Spokane, **Miyazato** promoted **Chinen** to yondan (4th degree). What was initially planned as a three-month visit led him to settling in Spokane, which became the base of operations for his karate organization. He taught, acted as a technical advisor for Higoanna's

International Okinawan Goju-ryu Karate-do Federation (IOGKF), and traveled to Europe and South America. In 1987, Chinen founded his own organization and was no longer associated with IOGKF. Around 1988, **Miyazato** promoted **Chinen** to the rank of 7th *dan*.

In 1995, Chinen became ill from undiagnosed diabetes, but continued to travel across Europe and North America teaching karate (including a seminar or two in Tucson) and he continued to lead *Jundokan International*. Speaking in 1997 about the future of karate in the USA, he said: "I hope the next generations will not only improve technically, but also know how to share their knowledge. People must pass on the traditions and not lose them. In the old days in China and Okinawa, the teaching was done behind closed doors. Now, thanks to the media, Karatedo is no longer a secret. There's more sharing now."

Chinen died of diabetes and kidney disease in Spokane, Washington on September 9, 2015, at age 74.

Today, *Goju-ryu* is among the best-known styles of Okinawan *karate*. Next time, we'll learn about Goju's "older brother", the almost unknown style of *To'on-ryu* (pronounced toe-on, according to Clark). This style was founded by **Kyoda Jyuhatsu**, who also studied under **Higashionna Kanryo**, who also taught **Miyagi**.