

# ZANSHIN



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE YOSHUKAN KARATE ASSOCIATION

Winter 2019

## Sensei Devorah Dometrich Promoted to 9th Dan, Hanshi Grade



We are pleased to inform all Yoshukan Students that our Kobudo (Okinawan Weapons) teacher, **Sensei Devorah Dometrich** has been promoted to 9th Dan, Hanshi (Grand Master) by her Shibu (Branch Instructors) and Senior Teachers.

Sensei Dometrich was a direct student of **Hanshi Eisuke Akamine**, 10th Dan of

Okinawa. She, along with our karate-do Grand Master, **Sensei Masaru Inomoto**, trained under Sensei Akamine for many years and held 8th Dan grades on his passing in 1999. As is tradition in martial arts organizations, when the master passes, it is left to the organization to recognize their senior teacher's promotion.

Our Kobudo association, the RYU KYU KOBUDO HOZON SHINKOKAI (Okinawan Weapons Preservation Society) is comprised of 29 Shibu and Senior Teachers across: Canada; USA and New Zealand. Kancho Robertson is a Shibu under Sensei Dometrich.

The entire group of 29 were contacted and unanimously agreed to promote Sensei Dometrich to this rare senior level.

Comments from her teachers included:

*"I am totally for Sensei being promoted!!!"*

*"Definitely overdue to promote Sensei to 9th or 10th degree. She has devoted her life to spread the teachings of Akamine Sensei. "*

*"I certainly agree that Sensei Dometrich deserves the promotion along with our respect and admiration."*

*"Thank you again for organizing this recognition for Sensei's immense contribution in martial arts",  
"This is a wonderful honor to bestow upon our teacher."*

*"We are very pleased to hear of this development and completely support and celebrate it...This is an unquestionably well-deserved honor. We are grateful to be included among the signatories"*

*"Thank you for including me on Sensei's well-deserved promotion. One of the best and technical kobudo instructors that I have ever met. She has been an invaluable asset to me"*

Our karate association joins these other senior teachers in a heartfelt congratulations to our weapons teacher....Banzai! Banzai! Banzai!



### KANCHO CORNER

## Black Belt Hall of Fame



As many of you know, **Sensei Louise Provencher** and I have been inducted into the Canadian Karate Association BLACK BELT HALL OF FAME. The ceremony is in Ottawa on May 11, 2019 and I am very pleased that 30 friends and family will be joining us for the ceremony. Receiving this honour causes me to reflect on my half-century of martial arts study and thousands of fellow martial artists I have been privileged to meet.

Early in my martial arts study, my first karate-do teacher, **Sensei Mike Litwinczuk**, once told me why he taught martial arts. He said *'I teach karate because I have never found any other pursuit that got to the core*

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## Kancho Corner

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of person's character the way karate does'. After 50-years of study, I could not agree more. I have found that while there are myriad hobbies and past-times we all pursue, the study of martial arts lays a person's character to bare.

The very pursuit of an activity that requires tenacity; respect; courage; introspection and sensitivity causes each of us to 'polish' our very essence. I can say with certainty that the study of martial arts has been a godsend to scores of students that have realized happier, more fulfilling lives because of their studies.

As a business person I have also been blessed with exposure to world-class leaders. One outstanding CEO in particular, **Connie Bentley**, once said to me, 'I am so fortunate to be in a position where I can positively affect the lives of so many'. Her example of leadership is what each of us as martial arts teachers need to always remember. We are in the same position to positively affect the lives of our students.

Finally, it will be a great pleasure for me to enjoy the upcoming celebration with my fellow inductee, Sensei Louise Provencher, a well-deserved recognition of her leadership in the Canadian karate community...and on a personal level, having Sensei Litwinczuk join us at our table! Other luminaries joining my table will be **Sensei Bob Smith** (3-time Canadian champion and an idol of mine as a young student); **Sensei Jim Ashley** (President of the Yoshukan Karate Association); **Sempai David Francis** (one of my closest friends and a great Yoshukan

teacher) and my family; **Sensei Betty Gormley, Sensei Renée Robertson; Sempai Jake Robertson** and my brother, **Neil Robertson** (who has been there for the 50-year ride!).

Thank you to each of you for being part of this milestone and celebration. You have taught me while I was teaching you...



As most of our students know, Sensei suffered a stroke last summer and is on the road to recovery. We wish him a strong and quick recovery and are sending 'ki' his way! Recent photo of Inomoto-Sensei with Cyna-Sensei in Japan



### CANADIAN KARATE ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME MAY 11<sup>th</sup> 2019



 <b>JEAN FRENETTE</b>	 <b>ARMIE RIZZO</b>	 <b>JEAN-GUY ANGEL</b>	 <b>CLAUDE LAROUCHE</b>	 <b>LOUISE PROVENCHER</b>
 <b>ROBERT LOYER</b>	 <b>PASCAL RENAUD</b>	 <b>MICHEL LAURIN</b>	 <b>EARL ROBERTSON</b>	 <b>FLORENT BOURCIER</b>



**Crown Plaza in (Hull )**  
2 Montcalm Street, Gatineau 819-778-3880  
17h30 Rencontre / Meet and Greet --- 18h30 Repas / Meal  
Tarif / Fees: 70\$ Kids (10 or less) 40\$



TOM FLEMING HANSHI 450-374-7435 [flemingkarateclub.com](http://flemingkarateclub.com) / FRANÇOIS D.BEAULIEU KYOSHI 613-294-3684 [clerouxkaratedojo.com](http://clerouxkaratedojo.com)



This past October the NDG Dojo capped off our year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary with a special morning training session with Kancho Robertson and an afternoon round-Robin workshop and demonstrations by our students and our sensei(s). It was my great honour as the NDG Dojo Chief Instructor to host this event and to pay homage to the dojo founder Sensei Mike Litwinczuk, his top student and founder of our Yoshukan Karate system, Kancho Earl Robertson, and all the sensei who contributed to the growth and success of Our Dojo, in particular Renshi Louise Provencher.



**Renshi Provencher introducing demo fighters Sensei Tchibozo & Sensei Mercier-Nguyen. (Photo: M. Bauernberger)**



**Kancho Robertson bonding with the Yoshukan kids as Renshi Provencher proudly watches. (Photo: R.Kalinowicz)**



**Kancho serving Anniversary cake. (Photo: M. Bauernberger)**

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## NDG Dojo

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**NDG participants at the Jeux de Sud Ouest (Feb 2019)  
The Twins Rosali & Kristina Boyd on the Podium.  
(Photo: R.Kalinowicz)**

The other girls on the pic on the Podium with NDG twins are Mélody Monfiston 1st and Zia Perrée 2nd places..... both selected for junior nationals

Marek Lavarenne going to Nationals (These 3... first year trying provincial team and made it to go to Nationals in May) 12-13 year old - Youth category.

Samy Ziani 2nd in Canada last year was selected also, but his mother is a teacher and made a statement. My kid is not going to compete during end of year ministerial exams... next year, he will own the division!

The Nationals are taking place in Edmonton May 3-5th... I will go cheer them on.

We also have Aida Van Mierlo Roy... not from our school... but training with us for the last 3 years..... finished 3rd last year at nationals... she was at PanAms in Brazil last August. We hope for gold this year.

Both Guy Viau and Marianne Boulé who are retired National team athletes (trained kumite at Gadbois) are coaching with the Provincial team.... they will coach Mélody, Zia and Marek from Gadbois.

— Renshi Louise Provencher, 6ème Dan



**NDG participants at the Jeux de Sud Ouest (Feb 2019)  
Noam Lefebvre - NiSeishi. (Photo: R.Kalinowicz)**

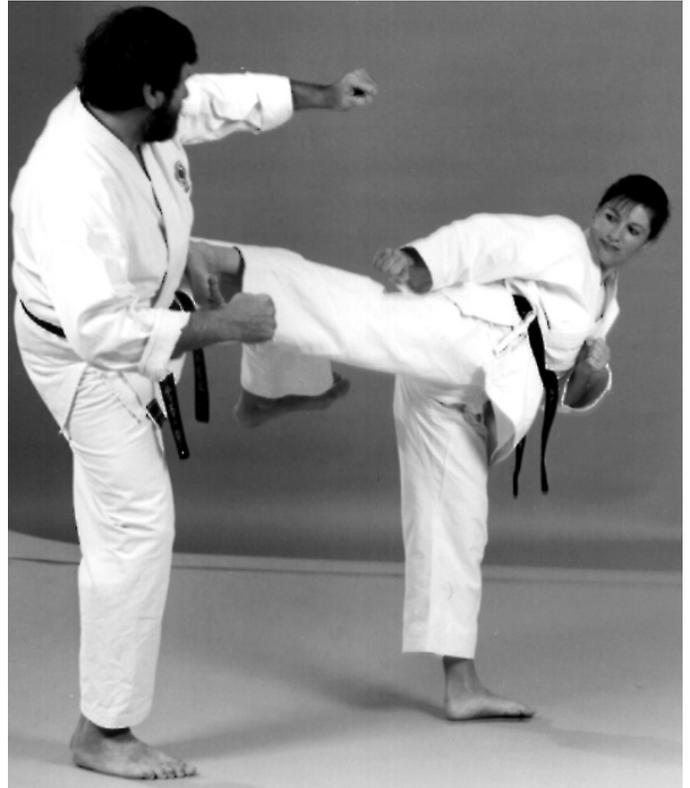


**The NDG students participated in the Yohukan Competition, an annual tournament hosted by Renshi Provencher at Centre Gadbois. Pictured – Audrey Kembel-Wong & Myriam Broccollini. (Photo: R.Kalinowicz)**

# ARCHIVE PHOTOS



Sensei Peter Bakimohalis with his new sat



Sensei Provencher demonstrating Ushiro-geri to Sensei Thierry DeBeur



The 'Boys' at Miyajima Island, Japan



Renshi Louise Provencher at her Kobudo examination



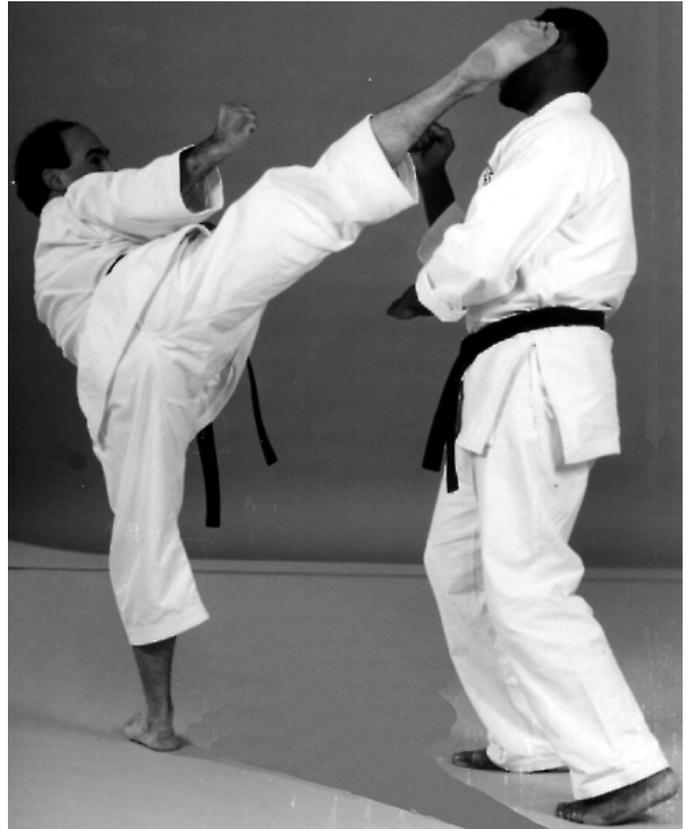
**Hanshi Masaru Inomoto**



**NDG Dojo 50th Anniversary Sculpture presented to Kancho**



**Quebec Instructors showing off their new Yoshukan T-shirts...impressively designed by Sensei Simon**



**Sensei Peter Bakimohalis demonstrating Mawashi-geri with Sempai David Francis**



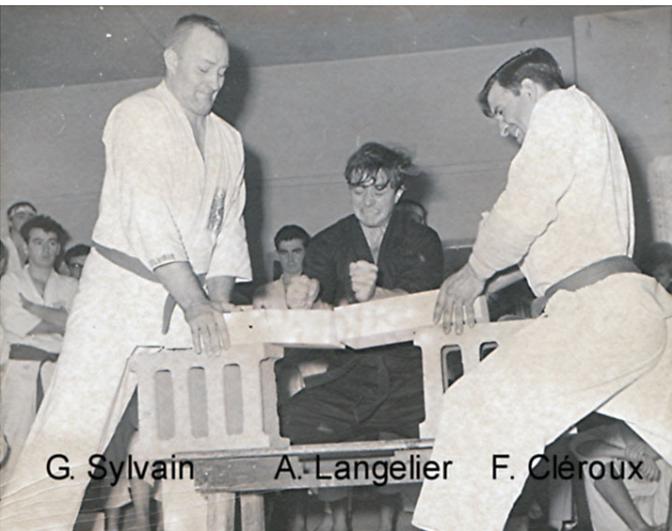
Kancho demonstrating bo-waza



Sensei Renée Robertson at National Championships



Yoshukan Quebec Black Belts



One from the history books! Sensei André Langelier breaking two cement blocks held by Sensei Georges Sylvain and Sensei Fern Cleroux



2018 Yoshukan Black Belt Camp



Kancho with Sempai Dr. Raymond Tempier



Shihan Robert Kalinowicz teaching



Sensei Devorah Dometrich instructing Shihan Zeljko Violoni in the finer art of Nunchaku waza



Kancho with Sensei and Association President Jim Ashley



## Yoshukan DVDs – White Belt to 5th Dan

All kata; Bunkai; Kumite; Ukemi; Kobudo and Gosin Jutsu demonstrated by Kancho Robertson and Yoshukan Instructors. DVDs show complete system from White Belt to 6th Dan Black Belt levels in the Yoshukan System.

**\$25 Each or \$45 for 2 or \$60 for all three. Please add \$15 for shipping & handling charges. Payments can be made by credit card or check made out to: Yoshukan Inc.**

# ZANSHIN

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