

TANG SOO TIMES

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PAL CHE TANG SOO DO

229 SOUTH CHESTER PIKE

GLENOLDEN, PA 19036

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr 28 - Black Belt Test. No classes.
May 7 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.

MONDAY NIGHT ADULT CLASS SCHEDULE

Apr 2 - Regular adult class.
Apr 9 - Regular adult class.
Apr 16 - Black Belt class. Red belts and higher.
Apr 23 - Regular adult class.
Apr 30 - Regular adult class.
May 7 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.

MASTER'S CORNER

We all have responsibilities, whether they be with our jobs, our schools, our families, or in the dojang. Specifically, I'm talking about the dojang. I have a responsibility (and an obligation) to you to be at as many of your classes as possible, and at the same time teach you Tang Soo Do. Also, it has been said that the dojang teaches you about life. I believe that. Many times people refuse to take responsibility for their actions, e.g. the woman who spilled coffee on herself and then (successfully) sued a take-out restaurant for serving hot coffee. In a dojang, if you don't keep your hands up while sparring, you will get kicked. That teaches you very quickly that you need to take responsibility for your actions. It also teaches you that for every action there is a reaction, for every cause there is an effect. If you don't study you won't get good grades, if you don't work hard you won't get a raise, etc.

You have a responsibility (and an obligation) to me and specifically to this dojang. Black Belts need to teach - this is a requirement for promotion as outlined in the Dan Manual. Advanced color belts (brown and above) need to read their Gup Manual to determine what all they should be doing for their dojang.

If any student is going to miss class for a lengthy period of time i.e. longer than a week, they should notify the office so we know. If a student is going to quit, they should have the integrity to stop in the office to tell me rather than just disappearing. There is something to be learned by sitting across the desk from me, looking me in the eye and telling me you are quitting. Besides, if you ever decide to return to training, it's a lot easier to return if you left on honorable terms.

NEW STUDENTS

We would like to welcome the following new students to our Dojang and to the worldwide family of Tang Soo Do:

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|----------------|-------------------|
| OMAR ASSKARYER | DANIELLE LANCIANO |
| CHRIS HEGLAND | JACQUELINE KOSLUK |
| BRITTANY LAUN | |

We also welcome back TONY SUNDO who trained with us before. He was an orange belt but will be returning as a white belt.

Train often and train hard. You are on the steep portion of the classic learning curve and every class should reveal something new and exciting to you. If you ever have any questions, do not hesitate to ask a senior student.

A SPECIAL CLASS

On Thursday March 8 Sensei Charles MacDonald, a 4th Dan in Judo, shared his martial art with us. This was the third time we were treated to his instruction. He is the father of Amy Diehl, a brown belt at our school.

FEATURE ARTICLE

In continuing with our series on martial arts history, this month we will feature a true story about a Hwarang warrior who lived after the Silla (668-918) and Koryo (918-1392) dynasties.

Unfortunately, the Hwarang life style and the martial arts fell out of favor during the Yi Dynasty (1392-1910), and adherence to the Hwarang code declined. Several noted Korean heroes, however, did choose to live by this code such as the great Admiral Yi Sun-Sin (1545-1598). He was reputed to have invented the first armored battleship (Kobukson) in 1592, which is said to be the precursor of the present day submarine.

Admiral Yi is held in such high esteem that when the Japanese fleet defeated the Russian navy in 1905, the Japanese admiral was quoted as saying, "You may wish to compare me with Lord Nelson (one of England's greatest naval officers), but do not compare me with Korea's Admiral Yi Sun-Sin...He is too remarkable for anyone."

In 1597, Admiral Yi became a victim of Japanese espionage within the Korean Royal Court. As a result, he was unjustly relieved of command and placed under arrest, taken to Seoul in chains, beaten, and tortured. Spared the death penalty because of his years of service to the king, he was demoted to the rank of common foot soldier. Yi Sun-Sin responded to this humiliation as a most obedient subject and demonstrated a remarkable ability to maintain his pride in the face of unwarranted demotion.

When the second Japanese invasion came, the Korean fleet was completely defeated. With the news of this disastrous defeat, a loyal advisor of the king called for Yi Sun-Sin's reinstatement. Yi was left with only 12 boats, but in spite of this, attacked and destroyed a Japanese fleet of 133 ships. Admiral Yi Sun-Sin was a shining example of the Code of the Hwarang. He has come to

be known as one of the greatest naval warriors in world history.

The dedication and self-sacrifice of the Hwarang were clearly based on principles much stronger than ego and self-interest. The basis was the Sesok-Ogye (now the five codes of Tang Soo Do), the code of the Hwarang. As students of Tang Soo Do, we should always endeavor to live by the codes and improve our moral character. We should also be very proud of the examples set by the founders of our art and those who lived by the code of the Hwarang. The Hwarang not only set a standard for the ethics and conduct of the Japanese samurai which followed hundreds of years later, but offer a cultural guideline for today's Tang Soo Do students to examine and follow in their lives as martial artists.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

SELF-DISCIPLINE IS NO MORE THAN THE ABILITY TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT RATHER THAN WHAT IS EASY OR WRONG.