

# TANG SOO TIMES

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PAL CHE TANG SOO DO

229 SOUTH CHESTER PIKE

GLENOLDEN, PA 19036

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jul 1 to 4 - No classes. July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.  
Jul 17 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.  
Jul 24 - Black Belt pretest at Dojang. No adult class.  
Aug 11 to 13 - World Championships. Anaheim, CA.  
Aug 21 - Gup Test at Dojang. No adult class.

## MONDAY NIGHT ADULT CLASS SCHEDULE

Jul 3 - No class. July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend.  
Jul 10 - Regular adult class.  
Jul 17 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.  
Jul 24 - Black Belt pretest at Dojang. No adult class.  
Jul 31 - Black Belt Class. Red belts and above only.  
Aug 7 - Regular adult class.

## MASTER'S CORNER

When I was training as a gup student, the belt colors were white, orange, green, red, and black. A red belt student (3<sup>rd</sup> gup) was considered an advanced rank. When the WTSDA was formed they added a brown belt and a blue belt. We now consider the red belt to be an advanced rank. To attain this rank, a student needs to do techniques correctly. I have noticed that students are doing some basic techniques incorrectly, even though they were shown the correct way when they were taught the technique. I cannot allow this to continue. All instructors have been told to begin immediately correcting all students so that their techniques are done according to the way the ancient masters determined the most efficient and powerful way of execution of technique. Students who test for red belt must have crisp, focused, and powerfully executed techniques. All instructors will be polled for their input on which students to test, and for red belt and higher, the results must be unanimous for that person to be allowed to test. Karate is not a game. It might be cool to tell people you take karate and watch the expression on their face, however, I still believe the Black Belt is special and a person holding that rank is special because of the dedication and unwavering perseverance required. When a person from Pal Che achieves Black Belt, they will be special. Too many instructors allow students to test and settle for mediocrity. In deference to my masters and all masters who have gone before, I cannot allow this to happen at Pal Che.

## NEW STUDENTS

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

MADISON SMITH	MARISSA SMITH	HOWESTA TAHIRY
NICHOLAS ROBINSON	ANTHONY DILUCIDO	REBECCA SESSOMS

We also welcome back CHARLES KLEMENTOWICH, student no. 193, who trained with us several years ago.

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.

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH

### YOUTH BLACK BELT CLINIC REPORT

Pal Che had three students attend the 2000 Youth Black Belt Clinic. Cho Dan Bo Phil Pollock submitted this report.

The weekend of June 16 thru 18 I had the opportunity to participate in the youth Dan clinic. This year it has been made a requirement for seventeen-year-olds and under to attend the youth clinic rather than the adult, and it did not turn out bad at all. The three attendees from Pal Che were Allen Anders, Matt Byrne, and myself. It was truly an experience being able to meet practitioners and masters from various dojang across our region.

For me it was the first time I had the chance to attend a lecture by Grandmaster Shin. He focused on the importance of bowing. You do not need your master or the person for whom you are bowing to notice. This gesture is an "extension from your heart." It is a deep sign of respect. Secondly, it is respectful and proper to bow to your own master; it is cordial for you to show the same respect for a master under whom you do not train. So, in situations like this clinic, do not forget to bow and show respect to other seniors, but also to "extend your heart."

This year's youth clinic theme was, "In Neh," which signifies endurance and focused on integrity and indomitable spirit. This theme goes hand in hand with things I need improvement. Since this was my first clinic, this was advantageous. Constantly instructors were motivating the students by mentioning these themes. The entire weekend required persistent effort, concentration, and spirit. There was no room for what we would call "slackers."

### ADULT BLACK BELT CLINIC REPORT

On June 23-25, I attended my first adult black belt clinic. The theme for this year's clinic was *IN NEH*. According to

Grandmaster Shin, "In Neh signifies endurance and indomitable spirit which is more powerful than mere physical strength." This clinic proved to be a test of our endurance and indomitable spirit. The first morning started out at 6:30 AM with a one-mile run, calisthenics, and meditation with Grandmaster Shin. As the saying goes, "We did more work by 10 AM than most people do all day!" After breakfast we attended seminars with topics such as street defense, Kickboxing, and knife fighting. These seminars were very informative and helped us to expand on things Sah Bum Nim teaches us in class. After the seminars came the dreaded "forms with Grandmaster Shin". During this time we had to do Bassai at least 20 times by Grandmaster Shin's count. Each move was counted out by the sound of a giant drum. The second day was a repeat of the first day. We had to do the dreaded Bassai again, this time in the sweltering heat of the gym. I could feel the energy build in the room when Grandmaster Shin announced "This is the last one!" I felt a tingle up my spine when I realized we were training the same way the Hwa Rang Dan trained hundreds of years ago. I started to think that they probably heard the same ominous sound of the drumbeat that we were now hearing. I felt a real sense of pride to be part of such a prestigious lineage. The weekend really opened my eyes. I felt that I really tested my own endurance and I did things I never thought I could do. It was like Master Raver always tells us, testing the limits of your endurance and spirit is like "putting a deposit in the bank". I have no doubt that one day I will be able to "draw on" that "deposit" I made that weekend and it may just save my life or at the very least get me through my Cho Dan test in September!

### **FEATURE ARTICLE**

"With Rank Comes Obligation" is the subject of this month's feature article. The student gup manual clearly states that a requirement for red belt is: "...voluntary participation in all Dojang activities, exemplary conduct, and exhibit high character..." For blue belt this same manual says, "...display extraordinary leadership and dedication to the art, Dojang, and Association..." For black belts, the Dan manual states that the requirements for promotion, among other things, are: "...have distinguished leadership ability and be a credit to his Dojang and Association..." It also states they must "...demonstrate positive contributions and attitude towards the Dojang, Art, and Association..."

I see many of these requirements lacking in a number of our high-ranking students. For a typical organization such as the Lions Club, it is said that 80% of the work is done by 20% of the membership. That's fine there, but in a Dojang there should be equal participation by all high-ranking students, especially by the Black Belt Club members. What I see happening is that most everything is being done by just a few people. At every Black Belt presentation, I read from the Dan Manual, Grandmaster Shin's quote, "If you can move others ahead, keeping your ego in hiding, contributing your own excellence towards the enhancement of others, then you will be on the right path of reaching the

ultimate goal of the Martial Arts." Blue belts, and especially Black Belts, should jump at the chance to either teach, or help teach, beginning students.

Warriorship is a unique calling. The obligation of a warrior is to the millennia of warriors who have gone before and the obligation to protect the lineage by readying future warriors. All Black Belts as well as blue belts at Pal Che are warriors. Obligation to a warrior in Japanese is *giri*. *Giri* translates literally as "right reason." It means duty, but it really means much more. *Giri* can best be defined as a moral obligation to fulfill one's duty. It works like this: whenever someone does something for you, you assume an obligation to repay him. You carry this obligation as a burden until you relieve yourself of it by repaying the individual in a manner commensurate with what he did for you. The Japanese would say you carry his *on*. Fulfilling that obligation is *giri*. *Giri* is the glue that binds warrior societies together. If you think you have no obligation to the Hwa Rang Dan, Pal Che, Grandmaster Shin, or to the white belts, then you really have no business being here.

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

**THE TRUE VALUE OF TANG SOO DO IS NOT IN THE DEE YOU WEAR, BUT THE CHANGES THAT HAVE OCCURRED WITHIN YOU IN YOUR QUEST FOR THEM.**

**J. C. SHIN**