

TANG SOO TIMES

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JUNE 2000

PAL CHE TANG SOO DO

229 SOUTH CHESTER PIKE

GLENOLDEN, PA 19036

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Jun 12 - Gup Test at Dojang. No adult class.
- Jun 16 to 18 - Youth Dan Clinic.
- Jun 23 to 25 - Adult Dan Clinic. No classes Jun 24.
- Jul 1 to 4 - No classes. July 4th weekend.
- Jul 17 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.
- Jul 24 - Black Belt pretest at Dojang. No adult class.

MONDAY NIGHT ADULT CLASS SCHEDULE

- Jun 5 - Regular adult class.
- Jun 12 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.
- Jun 19 - Sparring class. All ranks welcome.
- Jun 26 - Black Belt class. Red belts and above.
- Jul 3 - No class. July 4th weekend.
- Jul 10 - Regular adult class.

MASTER'S CORNER

At times we all question why we do things. Last month was the first time I ever contemplated the question as to why I dedicate so much of my time teaching Tang Soo Do and doing things to better the WTSDA. Through a series of events that only the most senior instructors and masters were aware, I was emotionally let down and depressed. I questioned decisions made by the ruling board of the WTSDA as well as those made by my senior masters locally. I finally decided that at Pal Che we will teach traditional Tang Soo Do and that if you do make it to Black Belt from here, you will be proud of what you have achieved. I will not lower my standards for financial gain nor will I insult the memory of the many traditional masters who have gone before. Tang Soo Do black belts, in post World War II Korea, were feared because of their ferocity. Make no mistake, we can say that Tang Soo Do builds character, unifies the body, mind, and spirit, teaches confidence, etc., etc., etc. But, it is an art of war!! It works on the battlefield, it works on the streets, and it works in the alleys. The reason a Tang Soo Do black belt was feared was because he knew how to defend him/her self when push came to shove. I guarantee, that as a Pal Che black belt, you will know what to do if push ever comes to shove.

A LETTER OF FAREWELL

Eric Chapman requested we publish the following letter as a farewell to all the students here at Pal Che.

This is one of the hardest letters that I have ever had to write. As most of you already know, this will be my last month training here at Pal Che. On July 3rd I will be moving to Florida and getting married soon after. This will be difficult for me to do for two reasons. The first reason is that I just tested for my Black Belt on April 29th. This is a goal that I have wanted for a very long time to achieve, as there have been many setbacks along the way. I started training in Tang Soo Do at another school that was forced to close down very unexpectedly. I had made some good friends there and it was difficult to let them go. I was a brown belt then and I thought the best thing I could do to continue my training was to follow my old instructor to a different school. I trained there for six months where I was very unhappy because I did not get the sense of camaraderie that I had at my old school. I was not sure what to do. I wanted to continue training, but the desire I once had for training was quickly fading away. I did not see a future there, and I was not sure that I would ever achieve Black Belt status.

Then one night I came in to watch a class in this dojang. I knew very quickly that this was the school that I needed to train in. I was able to transfer schools, and I have been happy ever since. This brings me to the second and more difficult reason that this letter is so hard for me to write. The teachers and students at Pal Che have become more than training partners, they have become an extended family. There is a bond that we as martial artists share with one another. We have sweat together, sometimes bled together, and shared moments of joy and sorrow with each other. Some of you have become closer to me than even my own blood relatives. My life will seem somewhat empty without you all here.

I would like to thank Master Raver and Mr. Centrone for helping me achieve the first part of my martial art goal. I would also like to thank them for welcoming me into their family. I will also like to thank all my friends in the dojang. You have all helped me in ways that you could never possibly imagine. I will take a piece of Pal Che with me everywhere I go.

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

For the month of May, we have chosen Colin DiLucido to be student of the month. At his next class we will present him with the Student-of-the-Month Belt. Congratulations, Colin!

LEUKEMIA FUNDRAISER

As many of you are aware, I (Angel Evangelista) run track for Academy Park. Looking for a new challenge, I was introduced to the Leukemia Society of America Team in Training. In this

program I will be running a half marathon (13.1 miles) in honor of my patient hero, Stephanie Nazer. Stephanie is a 9 year-old leukemia patient. In order for me to run this half marathon, I must raise a minimum of \$1500 for Stephanie. Master Raver has promised me that Pal Che will support me in my fund raising efforts. Please help me help Stephanie.

BLACK BELT PROMOTION

We are extremely pleased and proud to announce the following promotion, effective July 1, 2000:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>DAN NUMBER</u>
ERIC CHAPMAN	CHO DAN	32085

FEATURE ARTICLE

Our newest Black Belt will be leaving us to get married and live in Southern Florida. Our direct training with him will cease at that time. If he ever gets back to this area he will resume his training with us, if even for only a short visit. He will no doubt seek out other karate schools in his community at which he may train. Nonetheless, his heritage is with us here at Pal Che. No matter where he goes or what style he studies, he will always be a Pal Che Tang Soo Do Black Belt. I have given him a copy of the Black Belt hierarchy that is posted on the glass-encased bulletin board (as I do to all newly promoted Black Belts). He can't know where he is going if he doesn't know from where he came. The following is an open but personal letter to him.

Being a Black Belt is sometimes a lonesome road. When you are around other Black Belts there is a camaraderie, a closeness, which exists because all have experienced many of the same events at one time or another during their training. Being alone as you will be requires you to walk this lonely road. It will become difficult for you to train month after month, year after year, by yourself. "...The '**DO**,' which signifies a "path" or "way" to polish oneself, has a life of its own, be it the **DO** of Tang Soo, or the **DO** of any of the various other arts. Precisely because it has its own life, **DO** is changing, but only in its outer form. The basic nature of **DO** remains immutable. If the way attracts you to walk it, it flourishes; if not, it wastes away. The **DO** of Tang Soo earnestly seeks people to walk its path..."

You must think of yourself first and foremost as a warrior. Warriors are special people. Since warriors understand the concept of honor, they set ethical standards above most of the rest of society. Since they pattern their lives around the pursuit of excellence, they tend to achieve in their chosen vocations. Warriorship is an extraordinary and powerful way to live, but it is not for everyone. In past cultures one was born into the warrior class, but not today. There is no inherited status. Today, the warrior must set himself apart from the rest of society by his own personal excellence. Start today by thinking of yourself as a warrior and not as someone who does

Tang Soo Do as a hobby. Practice Tang Soo Do and your profession to hone your spirit. The warrior is a man of character, a man of wisdom and insight. Learn to recognize and pursue internal rather than external objectives.

A warrior doesn't train for others to see him. He trains because he is a warrior and perfecting his spirit is his lifetime objective. The warrior needs no one to reinforce his self-image with praise or reward; he is self-contained. As a result he is just as satisfied to train alone, and he is alone in a crowd! Turn your eyes inward!

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

TO LIVE AS A BLACK BELT IS A CODE WRITTEN ON THE TABLETS OF THE HEART.