

# TANG SOO TIMES

ISSUE NO.195

610-522-9122

DECEMBER 2007

PAL CHE TANG SOO DO

229 SOUTH CHESTER PIKE

GLENOLDEN, PA 19036

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONDAY	DECEMBER	24 <sup>TH</sup>	CHRISTMAS EVE DOJANG CLOSED
TUESDAY	DECEMBER	25 <sup>TH</sup>	CHRISTMAS DAY DOJANG CLOSED
MONDAY	DECEMBER	31 <sup>ST</sup>	NEW YEARS EVE DOJANG CLOSED
TUESDAY	JANUARY	1 <sup>ST</sup>	NEW YEARS DAY DOJANG CLOSED
SATURDAY	JANUARY	12 <sup>TH</sup>	HOLIDAY /2008 KICK OFF PARTY
SATURDAY	JANUARY	19 <sup>TH</sup>	EAST COAST CHAMPIONSHIP / VALLEY FORGE

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER 22 <sup>ND</sup>	ALISON MOLL
DECEMBER 25 <sup>TH</sup>	COIN MCCULLOUGH
DECEMBER 31 <sup>ST</sup>	KAREN ANDERSON

## HOLIDAY PARTY-2008 KICK OFF PARTY

The date and location for the 2008 Party has been set for Saturday night January 12<sup>th</sup>. The once again this year will be held at the Glenolden American Legion located on Glenn and Boone Ave. in Glenolden. Please contact Liz Kunze at 610-534-0995 for tickets. Make sure your put your order in soon!

## BLACK BELT CLASS'S BACK IN JANUARY

Beginning Thursday night January 24<sup>th</sup>, we will begin holding Black Belt monthly classes once again. All Black belt and Cho Dan Bo's can attend provided they have attended a minimum of two classes per week the previous month. In other words, in order to attend the January class, you will have to attend a minimum of eight classes in December. No exceptions, these classes are for the students who want to train but those who just want to be a Black Belt. The list of eligible students will be posted in early January.

## Master's Corner

Recently I bumped into an old student at a local store. I didn't immediately recognize him but after a few glances I realized he had been a student when he was about ten. His face looked the same but he sure did grow up. I said hello and he immediately said "Hello Sir" and bowed. He is now 19 years old and told me he thinks of our school often. I asked him to come back to train again. He said he wished he never quit. We spoke a bit more and I asked why he had quit. He said he was a kid at the time and his mom let him quit.

Students often tell me they will be back someday. This very rarely happens but many promises are made.

I am a father of a 16-old and if I don't force him to do what is good for him, then who will? I made the conscious choice when he was 5 that he should start Karate. He did, reached Orange belt, and then quit before he turned 8. You may ask how I did let this happen. I thought, at the time, that I would allow him to discover "his own thing," since Karate was mine. In the years since his last day at the school, he has gone on to quit many other activities, and now we find it hard to motivate him to take on new interests. Simply put, discussing quitting should never have been an option. I should have done whatever necessary to keep him engaged. Yes, he still does well in school, but something is lacking in his life. Pal Che is my second home, as it is for many of our students. I place as high a value on the Martial Arts as I do school, in school children don't learn how to defend themselves or ward off peer pressure; in school physical activity has been limited to a few hours weekly and mostly it is not concentrated physical activity. So Martial Arts truly go hand in hand with school.

Martial Arts teach you how to learn. Martial Arts is taught in many ways - with mental, physical, and spiritual lessons in each method. We enable our students to develop confidence through many mini successes and failures. Each day is a lesson. So don't think of Martial Arts as an extra curricular activity; think of it as a life-enhancement program.

Don't let your children quit! Martial Arts training are invaluable! I know this because many our students have become teacher, lawyers, accountants, soldiers, nurses, and entrepreneurs; we have many success stories. Stick around long enough and you will see how the Martial Arts will enhance your child's life and you would never consider stopping. Martial Arts is simply the best thing you can give them.

## **NEW STUDENTS**

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

Anthony DellaBarba

Amine Moukrem

Karim Moukrem

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.

**THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH**

***“You are what you repeatedly do, excellence then is not an act, but a habit.”***

*Aristotle*

**KID'S PAGE**

## LEGENDS AND HISTORY

### WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SAMURAI ?

The Samurai dominated Japan for hundreds of years, waging war and keeping the warrior code. But after a bloody period of Japanese history, something amazing happened - a long period of peace. Unfortunately, this meant that the samurai couldn't do what they did best; wage war. Instead they took jobs in government and politics, making sure to practice the way of the warrior in their jobs and at home.

But Japanese life was changing and the samurai were becoming outdated. As Japan opened up to the outside influences and became more modern, the samurai became less and less important in Japanese culture. Still, the samurai tradition continued until 1867, when Emperor Meiji tried to abolish the samurai way of life and set up other non-samurai armies. The last shogun, or military leader gave up his job, and it looked like the samurai were through. But it wasn't over for the last of the samurai. They got angry and tried to rise against the emperor. Unfortunately, they fought in vain. In 1877, the last samurai died in battle against the Japanese government.

Their way of life was gone forever, but the samurai warriors lived on in legend, art and storytelling. Some families that used to be samurai in the past still hold an important place in Japan. and some samurai warriors are considered national heroes. Over the years, the samurai have become more than just warriors-they've become symbols of honor and heroism for the people all over the world.

But even though the samurai were surely honorable and lived by the Bushido ethics, it's easy to forget samurai were people too. Samurai weren't always heroic or even violent. They were fathers, sons, workers, artists, musicians and warriors.