

TANG SOO TIMES

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PAL CHE TANG SOO DO

229 SOUTH CHESTER PIKE

GLENOLDEN, PA 19036

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Feb 26 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.
Mar 12 - Black Belt pretest. No adult class.

MONDAY NIGHT ADULT CLASS SCHEDULE

Feb 5 - Regular adult class.
Feb 12 - Regular adult class.
Feb 19 - Black Belt class. Red belts and higher.
Feb 26 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.

MASTER'S CORNER

When we published the 100th edition of our dojang newsletter, I promised that I would refrain from using pre-published articles in the newsletter so that it would remain fresh. However, at a recent adult class in which 6 black belts were in attendance, I asked several questions regarding the martial history of Korea. No one knew the answers and the articles had appeared in several newsletters over the years. One of the questions asked was, "Who are Kwi San and Chu Hwang?" This story appeared in June 1993 and August 1999. This got me to thinking that if we do not run these articles from time-to-time, new students will never be exposed to the martial history of Korea (or any Oriental martial history) unless they take it upon themselves to research items. Therefore, selected stories will be repeated every so often. The story of Kwi San and Chu Hwang is therefore repeated in this edition.

On another note, the Black Belt club has been reorganized with various committees and their chairs named. The list has been posted on the bulletin board. If there are any committees in which you are interested, please sign up for them. You do not need to be a Black Belt club member to participate. The actual Black Belt club membership is limited to cho dan bo and higher.

We also have a sign up sheet posted for anyone interested in becoming a member of the dojang demo team. You are welcome no matter of your rank. Attendance at practices, of course, will be required.

NEW STUDENTS

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

DOMINIQUE MCGUOIRK CHRISTINA MCGUOIRK WILLIAM BEARD

JIM FOX

ALYSSA BELVILLE

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.

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Phil Pollock, Cho Dan, submitted the following. Many things can remind you of karate if you just look for them.

Recently in school, Monday, January 8th to be exact, my 12th grade English class was reading and discussing The Canterbury Tales written by Geoffrey Chaucer. During this we stopped on a particular line: "That if gold rust, what then will iron do." My teacher had stopped on this and commented, "Isn't this a nice quote?" and just continued on reading without calling for any discussion. Well, apparently it struck me. I wrote it down in my assignment book so I would be able to remember it and bring it in to Pal Che for thought.

The line, "That if gold rust, what then will iron do," written in old English verse applies very well to the teachings we learn. Obviously we can figure out that gold is on a higher level than iron. Gold is more valued and more reputable. However I'm not going to look at it that way. To give the full meaning behind this line, I have to look at "gold" as a role model to "iron." We, as martial artists, are the "gold" of society. Now I'm not saying we're better or should be better than the "iron," meaning the rest of the community, but I'm saying we're expected to be better. If we, the "gold" were to "rust", meaning go bad, cross the line of justice into injustice blindly, or just fall in with the wrong crowd, what will the "iron" do? How can they look up to us as role models if the "gold" is tainted. As martial artists we carry a heavy responsibility to society, and as Black Belts, I hear that as one gets responsibility one picks up weight. That responsibility is to uphold the virtues of Tang Soo Do - honor, respect, integrity, justice, and humility. It's not easy doing what we do because doing the right thing is about ten times more difficult than doing what you know is wrong or easier.

GUP PROMOTION ESSAYS

As you all know, as students test for higher ranks (brown belt and brown with stripe) they are required to submit written theses on subjects of my choice. Here is an essay submitted by Colin DiLucido in partial requirement for promotion to 4th gup (brown belt). His subject was, "It is far better to spend a few hours of intensive, vigorous practice than to while away many hours in mediocre activity."

During a good practice I am showing respect to my teachers and classmates by having a serious approach, giving 100% effort, paying attention, and showing self-control. During this class I would be able to get through basic techniques so I can learn new

things. I would remember the new things because I was paying attention during class.

In a not so good practice session, little things like stances, chambered hands, etc. need to be corrected because I am not focusing on class. In this scenario there is not time to learn new things in the session. I don't remember things because I am not focused.

The second is by Amy Diehl. Her thesis was on this quote by Master Joan Becker, "There is more to training in Tang Soo Do than just doing techniques. Tang Soo Do transcends techniques."

I believe this quote means that training in Tang Soo Do is not all physical - it goes beyond that. It is about training our minds to push harder, not give up, and to overcome obstacles. Tang Soo Do transcends techniques because it is a way of life that is with us in the karate studio when we are sweating and pushing our bodies to the limits, as well as outside the studio where we are overcoming the everyday obstacles in our lives.

FEATURE ARTICLE

This is going to be a short feature article but it is the repeat of the story about Kwi San and Chu Hwang.

How did the Five Codes of Tang Soo Do originate? Two Hwa Rang warriors, Kwi San and Chu Hwang, wanted to seek Won Kwang's advice on how to purify their minds and regulate their conduct. Won Kwang was a renowned Buddhist priest in Silla. Both warriors felt that Won Kwang's advice was necessary to teach them the proper conduct and mental attitude so that they would not offend higher nobles and officials. They finally called on the venerable priest, Won Kwang, and begged him to offer them some precious words which would be their lifetime commandments. His response: first - loyalty to your emperor; second - filial piety; third - honor friendship; fourth - no retreat in battle; and fifth - in killing, choose with sense and honor. They were told to carry them out without neglect.

Thereafter, both Kwi San and Chu Hwang carefully followed the teachings of Won Kwang. When a large number of Paekche troops invaded Silla, Kwi San and Chu Hwang joined the battle under the leadership of General Muun, the father of Kwi San. In mid-battle General Muun ran into an ambush and fell from his horse. Kwi San rushed to his father's rescue killing a great number of the pursuing enemy, and crying out to his followers, "Now is the time to follow the commandment to not retreat in battle." Then Kwi San gave his horse to his father and fought courageously beside his friend, Chu Hwang. Finally, both Kwi San and Chu Hwang perished on the battlefield "...bleeding from a thousand wounds."

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

TOMORROW'S BATTLE IS WON DURING TODAY'S PRACTICE.