



Tang Soo Times

Pal Che Tang Soo Do

610-522-9120
229 South Chester Pike
Glenolden, PA 19036

January/February 2007

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Calendar of Events

Friday March 2 Black Belt Pre-Test
Saturday April 21 Black Belt Test (Dojang Closed)

Birthdays

Scott Mueller January 6th
Nick Putiri January 24th
Kim D'Angelo February 15th



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

Rose Hope Stephen Diccico Ryan and Sean Harris

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

Diane Ciliberti has joined us after a couple years away because of injuries. Diane earned her Black Belt while at Shin Karate training alongside Master Melchiorre.

Welcome Back – **Charlie Callahan**

State of the School

The past year at Pal Che has had many changes. Like years in the past, we saw many new students join however, they would soon thereafter leave. For some reason, they seem to leave much sooner than in the past. As I search to find the reason, I've come to learn that it is not us who changed, but rather the students themselves who don't allow themselves enough time to understand our art, and more importantly, Pal Che's approach. 2006 saw two students advance to the rank of Sam Dan, four to E Dan, and one new Cho Dan. We started the school with 83 students, and we begin 2007 with 84. Somewhere along the way at least 20 others started and left. Here is how the roster breaks down.

	2006	2007
Sam Dan	2	4
E Dan	4	6
Cho Dan	18	15
Cho Dan Bo	3	7
Red	11	5
Brown	3	6
Green	11	10
Orange	9	10
White	13	14
Tiny Tiger	10	7
	83	84

2006 Award Winners

Youth Student of the Year
Gianna Rosillo

Youth Rising Star Award
Tyler Wagner

Youth Spirit Award
Donald Roguzewski

Youth Leadership Award
Alison Moll

Adult Student of the Year
Amy Duffy

Adult Rising Star Award
Sang Yeo

Family of the Year Award
Holst/Neuber Family

Adult Leadership Award
George Celona

MASTERS CORNER

LOOK WITHIN

I golf a lot. At least three times a week. The people I play with all have \$500 drivers, the latest utility woods, the latest craze in putters, etc. My driver is 12 years old and I hit it as well as they do with their new clubs. You ask, "So, what does this have to do with Tang Soo Do?"

The answer to this question comes from a quotation by Confucius. He said, "When the superior man fails to hit the target with his arrow, he looks not for faults in his bow but in himself." In the Western culture when an archer ran into limitations with their skills, they designed and fashioned better bows in response. When the Eastern archer ran into these same limitations, their response was to improve their selves.

Look at the bow used by the Western hunters today. It has pulleys, telescopic sights, and vibration suppressors and therefore bears little resemblance used by the American Indian. A bow used in the martial arts, made yesterday, is almost an exact replica of the one used three centuries ago.

The Westerner in the Martial Arts feels it is necessary to invent his own Hyung or add new fancy difficult techniques. They would be better off to simply copy what their instructors are doing – never questioning. Weight training, special warm-up, and cool-down exercises are Western additions to the Martial Arts. Warm-ups are good because they reduce training injuries. However, they do encourage an overemphasis on techniques that are unnatural, i.e. high head kicks.

You can begin a weight training program; you can read Kwan Chang Nim's books on Hyung, Dae Ryun, etc. But, you know what, you still have to be like that archer in Confucius' quote, and get out on the Dojang floor and practice.

The idea of working to perfect one's self is the most appealing, most profound part of the Martial Arts. As you pursue your goal along the Way, you can always have diversions. But, when the Hyung isn't right, the technique doesn't feel right; you can always go back to the book. But, sooner or later, you will have to find the solution within yourself.

Master Raver, January 2007

Hapkido legend Bong Soo Han dies

People | by Mark Pollard | 2007.01.09

Hapkido Grandmaster Bong Soo Han, a pioneer in bringing real martial arts technique to American movies died on Monday at the age of 73 in his home in Santa Monica.

The Korean-born instructor was greatly respected in the martial arts community and often called the father of Hapkido in the Western world for his many years of promoting and teaching the martial art in America. As a senior first-generation student to Hapkido founder Yong Sul Choi, Han is credited with first bringing the art to America in 1967. His contribution to the development of martial arts action in American filmmaking is at least as noteworthy. In 1969, actor Tom Laughlin recruited Han after witnessing one of his demonstrations to assist in giving the star some credible martial arts moves in the film *BILLY JACK*. Han not only choreographed the fight scenes, but also doubled Laughlin onscreen. Thanks in large part to never-before-seen screen fighting moves, this independent cult classic became the first widely popular American-made movie to prominently feature authentic martial arts screen fighting. In the process, Han helped to set a standard for screen fighting in Hollywood that was far ahead of its time.

Han's Hapkido-based fight choreography no doubt influenced Hong Kong action filmmakers. The new fighting art wasn't introduced in Hong Kong's substantial martial arts moviemaking industry until 1972 when Sammo Hung choreographed the action for Golden Harvest's *HAPKIDO*, which in turn paved the way for Korean martial arts stars such as Wang In-sik to further promote their country's fighting arts on film.

After providing fight choreography for *BILLY JACK*, Han began a brief rise to acting stardom when he was invited by Laughlin to play a role in *THE TRIAL OF BILLY JACK*.

But it was Han's brief role as the evil Dr. Klahn in John Landis' now infamous "Fistful of Yen" sketch in *THE KENTUCKY FRIED MOVIE* (1977) that earned the martial artist true celebrity cult status. The character was a parody of Mr. Han, the villain in Bruce Lee's *ENTER*

THE DRAGON, played by Hong Kong film legend Sek Kin. For fans of the movie, it is impossible to forget Han's delivery of the line, "We are building a fighting force of extraordinary magnitude. We forge our tradition in the spirit of our ancestors. You have our gratitude." Not only had Han pioneered martial arts action choreography in the West, but he also briefly became Hollywood's first martial arts comedy actor, a year before Jackie Chan became Hong Kong's preeminent martial arts comedian in *DRUNKEN MASTER*.

Han's filmmaking career only lasted a few more years. His last acting role was in Robert Clouse's *FORCE: FIVE* (1981).

Following his years working in Hollywood, Han remained active in the martial arts community where he continued to promote Hapkido. He ran the International Hapkido Federation in Santa Monica, California and continued to tour the world lecturing on and demonstrating Hapkido until his death.

For both his years of service to the growth of Hapkido and for his leading contribution to the martial arts film genre, Grandmaster Bong Soo Han truly has our gratitude.

Thought for the Month

"If I need to sing like someone else, then why sing at all"

Billie Holiday

Kids Section

Do you know about the Chinese New Year?

Chinese New Years Celebrations will begin on February 18th!

2007 is the Year of the Pig (boar)

It is also known by its former name of Ding Hai.

Chinese calendar has been in continuous use for centuries, which predates the International Calendar (based on the Gregorian Calendar) we use at the present day which goes back only some 425 years. The calendar measures time, from short durations of minutes and hours, to intervals of time measured in months, years and centuries, entirely based on the astronomical observations of the movement of the Sun, Moon and stars.

There are three ways to name a Chinese year:

1. By an animal (like a mscot). 2007 is known as the Year of the Pig. There are 12 animal names; so by this system, year names are re-cycled every 12 years.
2. By its Formal Name (Stem-Branch). The new year is the year of DingHai. In the 'Stem-Branch' system, the years are named in 60-year cycles, and the Name of the Year is repeated every 60 years. 2007 is the 8th year in the current 60-year cycle.
3. Current year is Year 4704 by the Chinese calendar.

<http://www.chinapage.com/newyear.html>