

TANG SOO TIMES

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OCTOBER 2007

PAL CHE TANG SOO DO

229 SOUTH CHESTER PIKE

GLENOLDEN, PA 19036

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday	November 22	Thanksgiving School Closed
Friday	November 23	School Closed
Friday	November 30	Gup Test/ Black Belt Promotion

November Birthdays

Amy Duffy	6 th	Holly Smelstoys	16th
Dan Lyons	8 th	George Celona	30th

Region 8 Championship Update

Over the weekend of October 19-21, our school once again participated in the Region 8 Championship at Fernwood Resort in the Pocono's. On Friday night our White Tiger Demo team competed in the David versus Goliath portion of the event called creativity. Our school was well represented with an outstanding performance put on by our students led by Mr. Celona. Next, our Black Belt students held their own against some of the best competitors in the WTSDA with Alison Moll and Michael D'Angelo winning medals.

Saturday began with the youth Gup divisions competing in Weapon, Form and Sparring. Throughout the morning, medals were being handed out to Pal Che Students from Orange belt to Red. Double medal winners included Eddie Pearce, Donald Roguszewski, and Tyler Wagner along with triple medal winner Gianna Rosillo. Other medal winners were Alylssa Leaver, Clayton Francis, Colin McCullough and Jillian DiLucido. Saturday afternoon's competition belonged to the adults Bernie Ladem and Ed Farmer competing in their first championship. (If I missed anyone I apologize).

I would like to thank the students and family members who did not compete for their support and sacrifice. Overall we had a great turnout. I hope to see even more students take part in the next Regional Tournament in January held in Valley Forge.

Demo and Creativity Team

Each Wednesday night, Mr. Celona holds practice for the Pal Che Demo Team. This group of students practices each week to not only train for performances in and out of the dojang, but also, practice techniques, weapons, and forms, not included in the regular curriculum. The team is open to all students and all ranks.

This class will add a new excitement to your training while at the same time sharpen your skill and knowledge of Tang Soo Do.

Sign up today!

NEW STUDENTS

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

Matt Calimer Vinny Mango and welcome back Dan Ward Sr.

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.

Masters Corner

Many, many years ago there was a man who lived his life in a temple training in the Martial Arts. At one point his teacher and all of the elders at the temple decided to send this man on a quest. They gathered in a room and invited him there to tell him the news. Upon being summoned, the student was both elated and fearful as he appeared before the elders. The instructors were clear on the instructions and told the student that he must travel across the world to a temple in a far-off foreign land to complete the rest of his training. They told him this would be the quest for knowledge and when he arrived at the far-away temple the teachers there would share with him all their secrets.

As you can imagine, this student was very excited. He prepared and went on his way. His travels were filled with many trials and tribulations; he battled many vagabonds, warriors, gypsies and street thugs along his way. After almost one year on foot he finally arrived at the distant temple, tattered, weathered, but a different man. He was greeted as a champion and was led directly into the chamber of elders.

(CONT) He was instructed to sit while the rest of the elders gathered and came to the room. Once everyone was in attendance he was handed a beautiful, leather-bound book with the title "The Book of Knowledge." The warrior took a deep breath, looked around, and smiled as he opened the book.

The book had only one page which was a mirror. The warrior looked at it, and saw only himself. He became frustrated and asked "Is this a joke?" The elders said "You are the only one besides us who has made the journey and survived. You are the living example; you can now take our place as the elder and run the temple so we can leave." The warrior was very frustrated and threw the book to the ground, breaking the mirror. Loudly he said, "I am happy to be able to have lived the lessons, but I will not waste my time in this jail when so many things are still to be learned." He then got up and left.

This story is a fine example of the quest for Martial Arts training. In the 21st century, students are not as patient as they once were and they do not realize that lessons are not always as evident as they would like. The lessons are in the time spent, the experiences, the failures, the losses, the successes, the bumps and bruises, the pain, the frustration, the confusion and the trust in their teachers. They also lie in perception - whether a struggle, a confrontation or a situation is taken as a lesson or dismissed as something other than that. Lessons are constantly presented to us, if we chose to learn. In our modern society we are accustomed to finding information at the click of a keyboard and getting the information in a nano-second. It is amazing that any of the actual physical skills are still around. The road to success is paved in sweat, hard work and determination. A very wise man once told me, "The only thing worth anything is something you worked hard for." If something comes easy it is not all that valuable. Trust in your teacher, but work hard and live the lessons - train to live - live to train. Be the example - live the Black Belt, don't just tie it around your waste.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"It is better to trust and be disappointed once in a while than to distrust and be disappointed all the time"

Abe Lincoln

LEGENDS AND HISTORY

HOW DID SAMURAI FIGHT?

Samurai were martial arts masters. They were skilled in hand-to-hand combat, but also used weapons such as the *yumi* (longbow) and *yari* (spear). No samurai was complete without his Katana (Japanese longsword) and *wakizashi* (short sword). Together, these formed the *daisho*. The term means “big and small” in Japanese, and the *daisho* was a powerful symbol of the samurai’s skill in battle.

Some samurai would go to battle on horses; others would charge against their enemies armed with spears and shields. However, samurai liked one-on one combat the best. When faced with an enemy in battle, they would call out their family name, a list of accomplishments and their military rank to let their opponent know just who they were messing with.

Though the samurai were honorable and truthful, they were also violent. Victorious samurai would cut off their enemy’s heads after winning in battle. And samurai who lost their battles also lost their lives. For the samurai, death in honor was better than life in shame. They just couldn’t stand to lose-and they paid for their code of ethics with their lives.

Next Month: What Happened to the Samurai?

THE FIVE CODES OF TANG SOO DO

OH PU

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1) LOYALTY TO COUNTRY | <i>NARA E CHUNG SUNG</i> |
| 2) OBEDIENCE TO PARENTS | <i>BOO MOO E HYO DO</i> |
| 3) HONOR FRIENDSHIP | <i>BOUNG WOO YOO SHIN</i> |
| 4) NO RETREAT IN BATTLE | <i>IMM JUN MOO TOI</i> |
| 5) IN FIGHTING CHOOSE WITH
SENSE AND HONOR | <i>SAL SANG YOO TAEK</i> |