

TANG SOO TIMES

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P A L C H E T A N G S O O D O

229 SOUTH CHESTER PIKE

GLENOLDEN, PA 19036

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sep 4 - Labor Day weekend. No class.
Sep 6 - Labor Day. No classes.
Sep 14 - Special Adult class. Guest Instructor.
Sep 18 - Black Belt test. No class.
Oct 4 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.
Oct 22/23 - Region 8 Championships. No classes.
Oct 25 - Gup test at dojang. No adult class.

MONDAY NIGHT CLASS SCHEDULE

Sep 6 - Labor Day. No class.
Sep 13 - Black Belt class. Red belts and higher only.
Sep 20 - Sparring class. All ranks welcome.
Sep 27 - Regular adult class.

MASTER'S CORNER

One of the benefits on martial art training is the gradual process of learning how to face one's fears. In all of life there are going to be requirements placed upon you that you do not want to confront. The martial arts will teach you that it is necessary to look these confrontations squarely in the eye and take whatever steps are necessary to overcome the obstacle. You will slowly learn that these are not roadblocks in your life but rather opportunities to excel and continue toward whatever goal you are seeking. In Tang Soo Do, some practitioners are leery of sparring, some do not like to break boards, and some do not like all the "book learning" that is required of them. Nonetheless, all these activities are required in a traditional martial art such as Tang Soo Do. Our Attitude Requirements, Tenets, and Codes all speak to these opportunities. The feature article in this newsletter, although written several years ago, speaks to this subject and I believe is appropriate to reprint at this time.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP UPDATE

The 2000 World Championships will be held in Anaheim, California, at the Anaheim Convention Center. The dates are August 11 - 13, 2000. The latest edition of the WTSDA Newsletter has detailed plans for the event as well as listings of local attractions. The WTSDA has negotiated reduced rates at hotels and theme parks.

NEW STUDENTS

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

GREG WILLIAMS
DAVID BUTT

ALEX THOMPSON
COLIN DILUCIDO

CAITLIN LAWLER
ZACH MAITLAND

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.

A SIDE STORY

A 3rd Dan practitioner approached Grandmaster Shin and said, "Kwan Chang Nim, I believe I'm ready to test for Master. I have been training for 15 years, I've been a 3rd Dan for 5 years, and most importantly, I understand the attitude necessary to become a Master."

"What is that attitude?", asked Grandmaster Shin.

"It is having total faith in my techniques, and knowing I can accomplish anything, because I will never accept defeat!", answered the 3rd Dan.

"How stupid an answer!", exclaimed Grandmaster Shin.

The 3rd Dan's eyes filled with tears. He looked down as he said, "I am sorry Grandmaster. After all these years, training and studying Your Way, I have failed You and Our Art. Please, tell me, what is the attitude of a Master?"

Grandmaster Shin lifted the 3rd Dan's head. Looking him straight in the eyes he replied, "It is having total faith in your techniques, and knowing you can accomplish anything, because you will never accept defeat!"

FEATURE ARTICLE

Years ago (1986 to be exact) a new student entered the dojang at which I was training, I was assigned to teach her first class. We became good friends and when this dojang opened in April 1990, she became one of the instructors. I believe most all Black Belts here will remember Ms. Jean Sowa. She submitted this article in September 1993.

Time and again, we are called upon to do the unthinkable, a dreaded task, a difficult decision, and unimaginable feat. It may be your gup number posted on the next testing cycle, the grains of that board before your eyes, the cinder block placed in your hands, the judge calling your name to be next on deck, or to stand before an audience to present your very own thesis.

Do you ever ask yourself, "How did I do it?" I hope you have! Think back to the first moment you stepped foot into the dojang. Your first meeting with Master Raver. Your first introductory class - then your first week in the group class. I remember the feelings of inadequacy. Learning to walk the "C" step, realizing that it is OK to sweat and trying to develop a level of comfort whenever I was forced to kihap, evolved slowly over time. (Did you routinely yell in public before practicing Tang Soo Do?).

It is so easy to walk away. These instructors are asking you (or rather, telling you) to perform foreign actions which appear to have little significance. Why is this man so concerned about pivoting my foot or turning my hip? Why does he keep yelling at me? Did similar questions enter your mind - like they did mine?

So, what keeps you coming back? Why do you try harder to pivot and turn and kihap? What makes you push yourself? What creates your perseverance? If you know the answer, hold on to it. Never let it go. This element of the SELF - an untapped resource, seldom recognized by the average individual and typically never used due to the ignorance of man, will aid you in situations that are overwhelming and burdensome. With Tang Soo Do you can and will find the key that unlocks the door to this prized wealth inherent within us all.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

THE ULTIMATE AIM OF THE ART OF TANG SOO DO LIES NOT IN VICTORY OR DEFEAT, BUT IN THE PERFECTION OF THE CHARACTER OF THE PARTICIPANTS.

1999 UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 4 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.
Oct 22-23 - Region 8 Championships. No class.
Oct 25 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.

Nov 22 - Gup test at Dojang. No adult class.
Nov 25 - Thanksgiving. No classes.
Nov 27 - Thanksgiving weekend. No class.

Dec 25 - Christmas. No class.