



Tang Soo Times

Pal Che Tang Soo Do

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

September 2006

Issue No. 183

Calendar of Events

Saturday	September 2 nd	Dojang Closed Labor Day
Monday	September 4 th	Dojang Closed Labor Day
Saturday	September 16 th	Dojang Closed Black Belt Test
Friday	September 29 nd	Gup Test
Thursday	October 5 th	Kick A Thon / Break A Thon
Friday	October 20 th	Region 8 Championship
Saturday	October 21 st	Region 8 Championship

Birthdays

Shannon Keeley	1
Bill Blessington	3
Karen Fagen	8
Alicia Vargo	24
Bryan Neuber	24
Tracy Donnelly	27
Phil Pollock	28



Bulletin Board

New Addition - Powerful Word Of the Month

This month we will be adding a new feature to our curriculum. Each month will highlight a "POWERFUL WORD OF THE MONTH", in an effort to reinforce the values and lessons we try to teach at the Dojang already. To aid in getting the word across to students, we will handing out quick and easy handouts for review and discuss the word of the month at each class with a quick mat chat.

Kicks For Carley

On Thursday night **October 5th** we will hold our annual Kick A Thon. Each year we try and find a cause that is near and dear to us. In past years we have held the Kick-A-Thon for St. Jude's Children Hospital, Maggee Rehabilitation, and most recently, Alex's Lemonade Stand.

This year the Kick-A-Thon will be held for Carley Cleaver a recent student here at our school. Carley began training with us a little over two years ago in our Tiny Tiger Program. She then graduated to our Youth Program where she earned the rank of 6th Gup, Green Belt.

Earlier this year, Carley was diagnosed with Lukemia and has been in and out of Children's Hospital receiving chemotherapy treatment.

This year will are adding a new event to our event, breaking. Gup students over the age of 18, and Black Belts over the age of 13 will be asked to get pledges for each break performed or a float donation for the event. You will be asked to set up three stations and perform breaks at each. A \$30.00 minimum donation is required.

For youth students, the Pledge per Kick method will be in place. There will be no class on the night of the event and we hope to make this a fun night for everyone.

Notes

Two years ago, I employed the Educational Funding Company to collect monthly tuition. After one year, I decided, for personal reasons, to return to the old style of tuition payment. This traditional style, of no long term agreements, on a pay as you go basis, is totally dependent upon the student upholding their end of the agreement. For most students and parents, this does not seem to be a problem. However, their are quite a few students and parents, who have yet to grasp the concept of reciprocal obligation. We provide a service, in this case, classes, and you pay a fee to train. It is that simple.

The monthly tuition at Pal Che, is far below the national average that Martial Arts Schools charge. Some people believe that the more you pay the higher the quality. If you have ever witnessed a Black Belt Test or attended a tournament, you know that this is not the case. Masters Raver built this school with the understanding that we would only accept monthly payments from students who wanted to be here. To learn with us, to sweat with us, to succeed and fail with us. You all remember the sign he wanted to post; "Come In If You Want To". I have continued to run the school in the same fashion, breaking many of the rules for business success in the process. But when tuition payments are skipped, forgotten, or in most cases ignored, it hurts. Please make your monthly payments promptly. If there is a problem, I will as always work with you. Don't avoid me because you have not paid, come to class and talk. It's always easier that way, for both of us.....

Monthly Dues should be mailed to:

Pal Che Tang Soo Do
P.O. Box 165
Glenolden, PA 19036

Master's Corner

February 1997

Since we have several students new to the martial arts there are many stories told over the years by Instructors to teach their students what the martial arts are all about. Some are true, some are merely stories. The true story which illustrates ideal warrior honor is that of the 47 faithful ronin of Ako. You gup students should make a point to read that story or at least have it told to you. Most all Black Belts will be able to relate it to you.

However, the story I'll tell in this article is that of the confrontation between a rogue samurai (a ronin) and a master of the Japanese tea ceremony.

It seems the ronin was passing through a village and while in the crowded square, turned abruptly, banging his scabbard against the tea master's hip. "You banged my sword, the ronin said coldly. "That is a grave insult, and I will kill you for it."

The tea master knew immediately the ronin really meant to kill him, and he was gripped with fear. "I meant you no insult, Noble Sir. Please excuse my clumsiness and let me live. As you can see, I'm not a warrior and I have no sword."

The ronin could smell the man's fear, and it excited him. "Then get a sword and meet me on the road tomorrow at noon. There, I'll let you die like a man. But, if you don't show up, I'll find you wherever you are and cut you down like a dog." He turned his back on the stunned tea master and walked away.

The tea master was beside himself with fear. What can I do, he thought. I'm a dead man. Then he remembered hearing that another ronin, a famous master swordsman, was also in the village. Perhaps he will help me, he thought. So, he sought out the swordsman and told him his story. He explained that he had money to pay for his services and offered to hire him for protection.

"I don't hire to commoners," the swordsman said coolly. "Use your money to buy a sword and fight your own battles."

"Then, will you teach me swordsmanship? I can pay you handsomely."

"I don't teach martial arts to commoners either. Besides, what can you learn in a day?" the swordsman said. Even though the man was a commoner, the samurai realized he was an innocent victim needing help. He finally agreed to teach the tea master what little swordsmanship he could in a day. The tea master bought a sword, and the two men began their practice that afternoon. But alas, the poor man was hopelessly inept. After several hours of watching the tea master struggle through hundreds of awkward practice cuts, he shook his head and sighed.

"Tomorrow you are going to die," the swordsman said with calm conviction. The tea master was crushed. He was physically and emotionally exhausted. He dropped his sword to his side and stood there staring at the ground, shoulders sagging and sword hanging loosely from his hand. The samurai pondered him for a moment then said, "Let's have tea." The tea master looked up in puzzlement, but he carefully sheathed his sword and began unpacking his tea set.

The two men settled beneath a tree, and the tea master began his familiar routine. The swordsman marveled as the man gracefully poured water into the bowl containing the bitter, green powder. As he artfully whisked the mixture into a frothy brew, the swordsman saw a remarkable transformation occur. Gone was the tired, broken man who stood before him only moments ago. Now the tea master's back was straight, his shoulders square, and his head erect. Before the swordsman now sat the solemn, dignified master of an ancient ritual.

The tea master poured the tea into a cup and, turning it in the ritual manner, offered it to the swordsman. His face was the picture of calmness, and looking into his eyes, the swordsman knew immediately the man was in mushim.

"Stop!" the swordsman said firmly. "Do you want to kill your enemy tomorrow?"

"You said I was going to die."

"You are, but do you want to die like a warrior? Do you want to kill your enemy?"

"Yes," the tea master said calmly.

"Then do what you are doing right now."

"But I'm doing nothing right now."

"Exactly! Your mind is empty. You neither desire life nor fear death. Tomorrow when you meet your enemy, I want you to empty your mind as you have now and raise your sword above your head. When he attacks, do nothing but cut and die."

The tea master being a master, understood.

The next day the ronin was surprised to find the tea master standing in the road, waiting for him. When he approached and the man raised the sword above his head, the ronin chuckled to himself. But as he got closer, he began to feel uneasy. He expected to see the man shaking in fear, but the tea master's sword was still, and his face was grimly calm. He stopped a few paces away and searched the tea master's eyes. He saw nothing...only death.

The ronin's mouth went dry. After a moment he said, "I cannot defeat you." With that he turned and walked away.

This story illustrates power in its most naked form. Personal power is a quality few but warriors understand. It has little to do with physical strength or technical proficiency. Personal power is quite simply the force that results from freeing yourself from the fear of failure, no matter what the consequences.

Instructor's Angle

Wake Me Up When September Comes

Alright, so I changed the lyrics around a little. But that's because we shouldn't wait until *September Ends* to get started, we should start now. Like you, I have slept through this summer. Between Camps, Tournaments, Vacations and the heat, it has been a brutal. But now is our chance to start fresh.

Unlike most sports or recreational activities, Karate does not have a "season". We preach all the time that the Martial Arts are a way of life, and as such, we train continuously throughout the year. But although there are no "seasons", there are many highs and lows over the course of our training year, and many chances to re-dedicate yourself to your goal. September is one such opportunity.

Labor Day has always signified the end of summer, the beginning to the new school year, and Football, and although we are sad to see summer end, we eagerly looked forward to all the possibilities the remainder of the year has in store for us. Like the start of the New Year, the first day of spring a new season is beginning. It's time! For some of you student's who have been around awhile, pay close attention to the inflow of new students. Watch how they can't wait to learn everything, measure their desire and training enthusiasm against your own.

Close your eyes and remember how it felt to be the new white belt, and then renew your passion for the art. Pick one thing you want to get better at, whether it be your side-kick, sparing, a particular hyung, or work on your Korean Terminology. Vow to get in better shape before the Holidays rather than wait until after. Dedicate yourself to preparing for the Region 8 Championship in the Pocono's and show up with the mindset to win! Not just compete. Rededicate your time and energy to yourself. Stop sleeping through your training and wake up to all the potential the next few months have in store for you.

WIDE SECTION

Coming Soon: Specialty classes for youth Black Belts!

Hey students, and parents, keep your eyes peeled for a schedule change coming. A new class is going to be added especially for our youth black belt students. Watch the bulletin board and read the newsletter for updates.

POWERful word of the month:

COURAGE

What does courage mean to you?
Have you ever seen anyone use courage before?
Have you ever used courage before?
What situations need courage to get through them?

Bring your thoughts with you to class for the next MAT CHAT!

Thought for the Month

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel"

Maya Angelou