



# Oct 14 Newsletter for Gentry Martial Arts

## DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR TRICK OR TREAT GUEST PASSES

For any ninja turtle, master of spinjitsu, or sword wielding trick or treater that comes to your door, we have guest passes you can give them to try to the real thing. Even if you don't recognize them, if they use your pass, you still get the referral credit and receive a free month!

## Good luck to our black belt candidates

Good luck to our TKD students who are testing for black belt on Oct 4th: Cathy Petraits and Finn Vandewalle

**Congrats to our Lil Dragon Graduates:** Fisher Dunscombe, Michael Hargis, Dylan Hall, Hanna Resler, and Korbyn Baker

## Upcoming events:

**\*\*\* RAK's are now due\*\*\*\***

Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup>	NO TKD class, other classes meet as scheduled.
Oct 4 <sup>th</sup>	TTCA tournament and black belt testing, IU Southeast, 10:00pm
Oct 10 <sup>th</sup>	MANDATORY DEMO TEAM PRACTICE 6:30-8:00
Oct 11 <sup>th</sup>	Fall foliage demo 4:00-5:00 on the square . Practice here from 1:30-3:30
Oct 12 <sup>th</sup>	Fall Foliage Parade (see below for details)
Oct 16 <sup>th</sup>	Parents committee meeting 5:15
Oct 17 <sup>th</sup>	TTCA testing, 5:30—no class
Oct 18 <sup>th</sup>	FAST stress shooting 9:00-1:00
Oct 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tai Chi push hands workshop 1:30-3:30
Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>	Tai chi workshop 10:00-12:30
Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>	Leadership Team 12:30-2:00
Oct 25 <sup>th</sup>	Halloween party 7:00-9:00
Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	TKD BB stripe testing 9:00-11:00
Nov 1 <sup>st</sup>	Stick fighting 12:30-3:00
Nov 8 <sup>th</sup>	Lil dragon testing
Nov 9 <sup>th</sup>	GM William CC Chen Tai Chi seminar.
Nov 15 <sup>th</sup>	USHF Seminar, IU 9:00-5:00

## Parent committee news/notes

The school Halloween party will be Oct 25<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-9:00 As always, we will need help with set up and take down. Students are encouraged to bring in a bag of candy anytime between now and then so treat bags can be prepared.

There will be a meeting on Thurs Oct 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 to help plan for the Halloween party and other agenda items.

## Tournament news and notes:

- Remember to wear your Team Gentry/ Hero in Training and GMA Parent t-shirts to show your support.
- Make sure all gear is clean and white.
- GMA group photo will be taken at 9:30 at venue of the tournament. This is the photo to be used for the local paper, website, etc. There will likely be a line into the room at that point, so don't be stuck in line while we are doing the photo. Please be in full uniform at that time.

## FALL FOLIAGE PARADE

As usual, we will be doing the fall foliage parade on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>. We will be in place at the Martinsville High School parking lot by 12:30. Watch for additional announcements as for unit/division (in case you need to ask, but look for the other hero shirts). All participants need to be in dobok pants, belts, and Hero in training T-shirt. If it is cold, a WHITE long sleeve T or sweatshirt can be worn UNDER the Hero in Training T-shirt. Parents will be expected to pick up their kids promptly *when we are finished with the parade, not when the parade ends*. Keep in mind that the parade will be going long after the first groups are finished, and that the parade will affect the travel routes back to the school.



Make sure to bring acceptable footwear to class in order to practice marching outside the week prior. Acceptable footwear for the parade is white tennis shoes or TKD shoes (lighter, easier to kick for 2 miles!)

Anyone wishing to help with the float can meet at the school at 11:00 am.

### GMA Wishes Happy Birthday to:

Heaven Rash	10-3	Zach Dyer	10-9	Nate Wilson	10-10
Mr. Sieg	10-12	Dylan Hall	10-20	Conner Sweeney	10-28
Garrett Patterson	10-31				

### Training Anniversaries

Special Congrats to those who started with us a year or multiple years ago.

Haley Sieg (TKD 10 yrs)	Reece Satter (TKD 6 yrs)	Dominick Spires (TKD 5 yrs)
Keegan Spires (TKD 5 yrs)	Nico Inman (TKD 3 yrs)	Gauge Clephane (TKD 1 yr)
Kathryn Clephane (BJJ 1 yr)	Karen Kachelmeyer (TKD 1 yr)	Katy Pickering (TKD 1 yr)
Gavin Richardson (LD 1 yr)	Martina Ruba (TKD 1 yr)	Britton Siebert (LD, TKD 1 yr)
Olivia Siebert (TKD 1 yr)	Leif Silvers (LD 1 yr)	Jaden Zweck (BJJ 1 yr)

### Quotes of the Week--Perseverance

This month we have a several key events that are great examples of perseverance, and offer great lessons to our students. Marching our legs off in the parade will be a real test for some of us We also have black belt testing, which is a great example of perseverance in the martial arts, over the long haul. This month, we are hoping all of our students will learn a bit more about the importance of not giving up.

### This Month in Martial Arts History (selected from "Dates with Destiny" in *Martial Arts Success* by John Corcoran.

Oct 1 1913 (-Jan 29 2009)	Birthday BJJ founder Helio Gracie
Oct 9, 1932	Birthday Judo Gene Lebell
Oct 18, 1961	Birthday Jean Claude Van Damme
Oct 27, 1936	Birthday HKD founder Ji Han Jae
Oct 28, 1929 (-May 4, 1938)	Birthday founder of Judo and innovator Jigoro Kano
Oct 20, 1957	Arguably the first modern Karate tournament- the All Japan Karate Champ. Is held.
Oct 14, 1972	Kung fu the TV series debuts
Oct 11, 1997	Pride Fighting Championships debuts.

Other martial arts films include *The Transporter* and *Kill Bill*.

### *I am not called to be successful but faithful—Mother Teresa*

While social media has many positives, including being able to get both good and bad news out to the public quickly, it also has had some unintended, negative consequences. As things go viral online, the real virus is spreading in the work ethic of youth. The term overnight success has been around for a long time. I am certainly not the first to point out that often, there are countless sacrifices and hours of work behind the scenes prior to the "big break" which positioned them to seize the moment when the opportunity presented itself. The fame might spread overnight, but the reason for the success was a long time in coming. Now with social media, it is easier than ever to be discovered. Some deservingly so. For example, I love the "Enter the Dojo" martial arts satires, which would never have become viable without youtube. But regrettably, it also has become easier to become famous without the prerequisite hard work or even real talent. Just have a cellphone catch you doing something funny, stupid, or controversial, and *viola*, instant fame. Fame is no longer a byproduct of mastering your craft, it has become the goal in and of itself, regardless of how it is achieved or if you are noticed for all the wrong reasons. It is exactly what a generation that was already too focused on instant gratification and reward didn't need.



Over the years we have gathered some accolades as a school. This summer we won readers choice for the 8<sup>th</sup> time in 10 years. As that is voted on by the community, I take pride in that one because it means we have earned it. In a lot of ways, it is like the martial arts...put in a lot of time and hard work, and perhaps a teaching or black belt certificate may follow. *Perhaps* you are recognized for your effort and respected by your peers or lower ranks for that dedication. Unfortunately, a lot of people try to take the easy way out and hope the process works in reverse—buy a piece of paper and hope the respect comes automatically attached to it. They want instant respect and recognition without the prerequisite work. And sometimes you get noticed for all the wrong reasons, at least to people who know better.

I know of one school in Indianapolis whose staff list under credentials as being black belts registered with a particular mail order organization. I have a video clip of a new expose where a reporter registers a dog as a fifth degree black belt, complete with rank certificate, with the same organization. One of our third degree black belts just left for college and visited a school in hopes of finding a place to train while on campus. On his first night visiting he was offered a job teaching there. Students at this school come to class one time a week and yet still earn black belts in just a year.

And then there is the Hall of Fame, or should I say, many Hall of Fames. (I just learned there is a Pagan Martial Arts Hall of Fame. How? Because someone boasted of being in it!). Occasionally we have had instructors approach us to explore the possibility of teaching at our facility. Some are polite and genuine but most have made good stories. On more than one occasion their credentials listed on their business card include induction into a martial arts hall of fame. Now, we have been offered induction to similar halls of fame multiple times but never accepted. Why? First, I wasn't paying the several hundred dollar "induction fee." Although, if I brought something like 8 students to the induction banquet, at something like 50.00 per plate, then at least my banquet would be free...because after all, it is my big night so I shouldn't have to pay for it. What a deal, right? Second, I could never decide which box I should check in regards to induction category: competitor of the year (whether I had won or even competed or not), instructor of the year, black belt of the year, or lifetime achievement to name a few. Yes, we get to choose. Mr. Miller and I have often kicked the idea around of selecting one of our lil dragons students to be inducted under the lifetime achievement category—and yes, since they ask us to nominate others, we easily could. Needless to say, non-legit hall of fame listings pretty much immediately disqualify them from a teaching position.

As I previously stated, this is a society problem and not just a martial arts problem. Before my ebook *Drops Against the Stone* had sold enough to even pay for the cover art, I received an offer to be join the National Academy of Best Selling Authors. Our school has been chosen for a Martinsville Award as an industry leader. With enough money we can get a crystal trophy that says so, complete with instructions on "several ways to leverage your company's accomplishment." It came with an id code for direct access to our award options on their website.

In the world of instant gratification and going viral, it seems like there are plenty of short cuts to try to gain instant recognition, whether it is deserving or not. No one seems to remember there is a difference between being famous and infamous. In the long run, those pricey awards will be viewed as a cheap way to get to the top.

In leadership team we talk about there being two types of leaders: the positional leader and the natural leader. The natural leader is the person who everyone naturally follows and gains respect. The positional leader inherits his authority and may demand respect but not necessarily command it. Ideally, both leaders are one and the same person. I hope GMA and our students are natural leaders in the martial arts. We will continue to work hard and EARN our accolades the right way. Some recognition may come, sometimes it may not, but I believe we have earned the respect of those who know what we are about. Our school will remember that the level of fame and the level of quality and expertise are not always tied together. And hopefully our approach to the martial arts will have taught us that should we ever get our big break, it should be on account of black belt effort and indomitable spirit that positioned us there. And whether we ever get "discovered" or not, I hope our students and more people in society discover the most healthy way to achievement is by not catching the viral bug. --BLS