



Oct 16 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!

Congrats to our newest Lil Dragon graduates: A big accomplishment for the lil guys: Parker Bentley and Mason Blackman.

Good luck to our black belt candidates:

Good luck to our TKD students who are testing for black belt in Oct: Kyler Chylaszek (2nd), Aleah Spires (2nd), Cathy Petraits (2nd), Jackson Gadberry, Donovan Sieg, Karen Baum, and Thomas Neidigh.

A Huge Thank You and Good Luck to CAT

If you haven't heard, the Biddle's family is expanding, and Cat is taking another job that allows her to work from home and stay with baby. We are interviewing for a replacement, and Cat will be helping with the transition. We thank her for everything and wish her luck. Make sure you get the chance to do so also in the next couple of weeks.

Upcoming events:

***** RAK's are due at beginning of the month******

Oct 1 st	Black belt prep 9:00-10:30
Oct 1 st	Demo Team 10:30 - 12:30
Oct 1 st	Stickfighting 1:00-3:30
Oct 6 th	MANDATORY DEMO TEAM PRACTICE 7:45-8:45
Oct 7 th	Fall foliage demo 6:45 on the square. Practice here from 4:30 No TKD, LD, or HKD class
Oct 9 th	Fall Foliage Parade (see below for details)
Oct 15 th	USHF seminar, IU
Oct 21 st	TKD testing, 5:30
Oct 22 nd	J.R. West HKD seminar, Fort Wayne
Oct 29 th	TKD black belt stripe testing 9:00-11:00
Oct 29 th	TKD black belt testing 12:30 (time is subject to change)
Oct 30 th	Halloween party 5:30-7:30 pm
Nov 6 th	Master Chen Tai Chi workshop, Wisconsin

PLEASE NOTE CLASS CANCELLATIONS:

No BBC class on Oct 8th on account of demo practice.
No classes except BJJ on account of the demo on 10-7
No TKD class on the 21st on account of testing.

Parent committee news/notes

The school Halloween party will be Oct 30th from 5:30-7:30. 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.

While we know for a fact that our students can be scary, we encourage our students to dress as heroes, role models, or something fun.

FALL FOLIAGE PARADE

As usual, we will be doing the fall foliage parade on Oct 9th. We will be *in place* at the Martinsville High School parking lot by **12:00**. We are division 4, unit 18 (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 10:30 am.

GMA Wishes Happy Birthday to:

Heaven Rash	10-3	Nate Wilson	10-10	Tim Meier	10-9
Mr. Sieg	10-12	Paige Kachelmeyer	10-13	Holly Ann Brown	10-14
Emily Olson	10-16	Dylan Hall	10-20	Liam Rayes	10-24
Garrett Patterson	10-31				

Training Anniversaries

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

Haley Sieg (TKD 12 yrs)	Reece Satter (TKD 8 yrs)	Keegan Spires (TKD 7 yrs)
Nico Inman (TKD 5 yrs)	Gauge Clephane (TKD 3 yrs, BJJ 2)	Kathryn Clephane (BJJ 3 yrs)
Karen Baum (TKD 3 yrs)	Martina Ruba (TKD 3 yrs)	Aiden Dodds (TKD 2 yrs)
Adriana Dodds (TKD 2 yrs)	Sophia Gillick (TKD 2 yrs)	Hunter Szekley (TKD 2 yrs)
Emily Olson (TKD 2 yrs)	Richie Long (HKD 2 yrs)	Jack Higgins (LD 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.	



Why Are There No Peach Basket Purists? Why Are Martial Arts So Lucky?

In last month's rant I related some of my interactions with people at the fair and their exaggerated claims of martial arts credentials (I am being kind) and how it is stolen valor. I received a lot of feedback, and some were incredulous that such interactions could actually happen. Sadly, those were the tip of the iceberg. I have plenty of other stories that didn't relate to stolen valor, but do make another interesting point about training in the martial arts:

Dr. Yang had one person want to be a live in student at the retreat center. Among other prior training regimens, this person had been staring directly into the sun, because his white Shaolin monk master had told him it would improve his night vision.

At IU, we had a person who studied NEO TRADITIONAL savate. (French kickboxing supposedly brought back by sailors and developed on ships). Needless to say, no one had heard of this, and we were a bit perplexed by the oxymoronic nature in the name. (Apparently, this is what someone envisions savate would be like today, if it had continued to evolve as a sailor art and not turned into a sport, so they practice things like using boat hooks.) I must admit the martial arts geek in me finds this an interesting intellectual exercise or question, but not enough to dedicate any real practice time to it. One obvious question is why conjecture about how an art would have evolved and yet ignore the obvious, actual evolution of sailing and ships, making things like boat hooks much less relevant (although they are still used). Or why one would practice these things in Indiana.

My friends have a "colleague" who, between training and injuries, has supposedly lost all feeling or feedback in her hand. She can move it and grab things—strangely she was sharing this fact at a sword workshop. But according to her, she had to retrain herself to pick up a drinking glass, as she would previously grab it so hard she would shatter it.

My personal favorite is the one lady who shared with me that she already knew to treat her hands and fingers as though they were swords, and she knew about "nerve bunches." Fortunately, she remembered the lessons she learned in her backyard when confronted by a knife wielding attacker. She proceeded to stab her fingers (based on the gesture, it was just two) into his abdomen, and proceeded to pull out his kidney- from the front no less. Her fingers looked perfectly normal in length to me, as I was focused on them as she waived these lethal weapons around in front of my face.

There is a part of me that says people are people, and there are all types of people in all walks of life, activities, etc. That includes the Kool-Aid drinkers, the attention seekers, the delusional story tellers, and the eccentrics for the sake of being different to the point of just being weird. But it really does seem that martial arts gets more than their fair share. Are there basketball players out there who insist that they are doing is traditional basketball and call themselves purists because they use peach baskets as hoops? Is there a football coach out there that runs the same offense that was handed down for generations....it originates back to when the idea of a forward pass was you ran downfield to a spot and turned around and waved your hands to say you were ready for the pass. (?) Do people go home and prepare teriyaki by throwing their knives around because they saw it like that at Benihana, so it is clearly the way they do it Japan? (The last one reminds me of an older, non-athletic lady who told me she wanted to learn real martial arts, like how they do kip ups to get off their backs in the movies). As I said, it really seems like martial arts gets a disproportionate characters. As a good friend very poignantly phrased it, "It does seem like every small town has at least one ninja."



I believe that the real reason why the martial arts have a disproportionate amount of poppycock is that for most people, violence and fighting is just an abstraction. People are free to develop crazy ideas and form opinions that will remain untested, because in a civilized (and also very litigious society), they won't get called out. And sadly, there are people who are even more uninformed who won't bother to question, and might actually buy into it.

Many of my grandmaster instructors are from a time when challenge matches were still a thing. I am sure it helped cut down on the frauds if you ran the chance of receiving a serious beat down. The martial arts could in a way police themselves. People might view that as barbaric, but one could make the case that allowing the shenanigans that are being taught, practiced, or perpetuated as legitimate to continue is even more irresponsible.

There are relatively few people out there who have really swum in the deep waters when it comes to fighting, training, and self-defense (notice I made a distinction among those?). As Rory Miller puts it, "I have heard a BJJ expert say that being back mounted is the worst possible position to be in during a fight. If this makes your top ten, you need to get out more." I would like to think I am out of the kiddie pool, but admittedly I haven't swum in the ocean like others.

But I have made sure that my teachers and mentors have, and that our students are getting stuff that hasn't been merely speculated on. Hopefully, our students can appreciate that, and that they won't be as easily misled by the kidney pulling, two fingers of death. ---BLS