



# GMA Newsletter

## March 2017

### Upcoming events:

March 4 <sup>th</sup>	IU TKD tournament
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Demo team 1:30
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	TKD testing 5:30
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	LD testing (beg 9:00-10:30; int/adv 10:30-12:00)
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Stickfighting 1:00-3:30
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Shaolin Warrior outing. Joint class 5:00-6:00
Mar. 25/26	Dr. Yang seminar--Greenwood
March 25 <sup>th</sup>	USHF seminar—Bedford
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Power Rangers Movie outing (see below)
April 8 <sup>th</sup>	GMA Movie Premier 7:00 pm
Other dates:	
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Anticipated date of TKD black belt testing
April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Possible tournament
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Hoosier Open BJJ tournament
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bedford TKD tournament

### Kids No Gi Class Coming in April

On certain Wed nights we will be adding an extra no gi portion to classes from 6:00-6:30. The class itself will be an add on and will be no additional cost, but the “uniform” for the class will be a GMA rashguard and black shorts. We will be placing a special order towards to the end of the month to ensure we get your size.

### Power Rangers--Parents Committee Movie Matinee

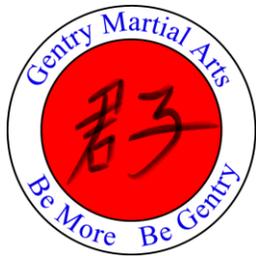
Parents committee will be holding a movie matinee of the new Power Rangers movie at Mooresville theaters on Sunday April 2nd in the afternoon (watch for announcements on the specific time, the theater hasn't set it yet). A ticket for movie admission, popcorn and coke is only 10.00 per person. You save money and Parents Committee still raises funds. Family and friends are welcome! Watch for announcements concerning advance tickets sales. Funds are given back to the students by way of parent committee sponsored special events for the school—like our back to school fun day, holiday parties, etc.

### Class adjustment for Shaolin Warriors

On Thurs March 23<sup>rd</sup> many of us will be going to see the theatrical production Shaolin Warriors at IU auditorium. For those not going, or who simply want to take class as well, we will have a joint class (similar to Fridays) on that night, from 5:00-6:00 (white belts at 4:30 like normal). But please leave the building promptly, as we would like to be on our way to the show by 6:15. \*\*Also, there is a chance of us attending a preshow meet and greet with the monks, so this may also be cancelled.

### Red Carpet Movie Premier Night

GMA movie stars come out on April 8th at 7:00 (camp participants be there no later than 6:30). We will be making a “red carpet” event for our movie camp participants, and the whole school is invited to the premier! Show up a bit early if you want to catch a glimpse of stars arriving. Watch the movie and enjoy popcorn. We will also be watching another full length feature—although it won't be as entertaining as our blockbuster release. Families and friends are welcome. Students are encouraged to bring buddies. Please arrive on time to help with the Hollywood atmosphere. Parents committee will be decorating in the afternoon prior and would welcome help.



## Quotes of the Week

This month's QOW will be finish up the focus points and follow up on related concepts of taking ownership in improving yourself.

## Don't forget GMA website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

Want to be the first to know when the school closes for weather? Need to double check the special events calendar or pics? Check the GMA website and our Facebook group, and sign up for email announcements online. Like the GMA Martinsville Facebook page for other public announcements and promotions. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter @Gentry\_MA for lighter notes.

## Bathroom and other barefoot etiquette

Despite cleaning the mats before classes every day, by the end of the night they are accumulating more and more debris...primarily on the bottom of people's feet. We realize that students sometimes have downtime between classes and stay in uniform...but if you are off the mats for any reason, you need to wear shoes and then put them in the cubbies before walking onto the floor. This is especially true for going to the bathroom. While this seems like common sense, unfortunately, we have gotten to the point where we need to more strictly enforce this.

## Birthdays:

Thomas Jackson	3-2	Kenyan Tackett	3-3	Isaac Workman	3-5
Evelyn Kauffman	3-6	Brendyn Ziegelbauer	3-10	Aleah Spires	3-14
Gunnar Bryant	3-15	Finley Watermn	3-22	Kevin Collier	3-22
Maddox Nikou	3-23	Aidan Skopecek	3-27	Luke Gamble	3-28
Lise Roberson	3-29				

## Training Anniversaries

Mike Dodge (BJJ 11 yrs)	Liam Gadberry (LD, TKD 3 yrs)	Jackson Gadberry (TKD 3 yrs)
Alexis Irwin (LD 1 yr)	Kevin Collier (TKD 1 yr)	Maddox Sparks (LD 1 yr)

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

- March 1, 1907 (-Feb 2 2003) GM Won Kuk Lee (founder of Chung Do Kwan) birthday
- March 10, 1940 Birthday for Chuck Norris
- March 11, 1967 Birthday for Renzo Gracie
- March 19, 1931 Birthday for Ed Parker, Sr. (famous for Bruce Lee demo and taught Elvis Presley)
- March 24, 1950 Birthday for Peyton Quinn—Reality based training pioneer, influence on FAST program
- March 10, 1921 Chojun Miyagi and Gichin Funakoshi (important to our line) hold the famous demonstration for the future Emperor of Japan—putting Okinawan Karate "on the map"
- March 20, 1971 South Korean President Chung-Hi Park declared TKD as Korea's national sport
- March 30, 1990 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles debuts in theaters—creating a craze.
- March 31<sup>st</sup> 1999 The Matrix debuts in theaters—changing the way movie fights are done, and changing perceptions of what we do!

## Faux Dojo and Pseudo Black Belts-- (No, I Am Not Talking About That Other Instructor Down the Street)

I am proud that both my kids are black belts. But Donovan is going for the even rarer achievement of having two blacks belts. No, not in Hapkido, BJJ, or another martial art we offer. He is getting his rank in the recorder (the flute like instrument that sends the melody of hot cross buns through the halls of every home with



elementary children). I shouldn't be too surprised though. In fact, I should be used to it. My dad outranked me when I was going through the ranks as a child. My rank in TKD versus his belt rank in six sigma.

Similarly, I am disturbed at the number of "dojos" that have cropped up recently, but I am not referencing competing martial arts schools. There is a coderdojo where you can learn computer programming. My son's elementary school uses classdojo for "classroom community," including a behavior rewards system known as dojo points. As you can imagine, I am not too keen on these things usurping our terminology, regardless of how well intentioned they are. To borrow a phrase from Princess Bride, I don't think that word means what they think it means.

Dojo means a "Place of the Way". Do equals way, the same do as in Taekwondo, Hapkido, Bushido (way of the warrior), etc. Originally a dojo was a study area adjacent to a temple. The way turned into the martial way, but the dojo continued to imply a place of enlightenment through self-discovery. Something tells me they didn't give out enlightenment points for sitting quietly. Nor do I think that coderdojo uses the term code in the same way that warriors do.

No doubt learning goes on in these faux-dojos. But I suspect the learning is limited to mostly technical matters. A real dojo is still something of a different animal. As martial artists, we salute this difference by bowing whenever we enter or leave the mats. We acknowledge that we are entering a different world. Where outside social status doesn't matter within these confines. Where everyone dresses the same, and the only difference is the belt, which should be based on merit, not nepotism. Where everyone is there to improve together and push each other, where you trust your partner with your well being, rather than competing for class rank or other cutthroat pecking orders. Where you might have to worry about being stabbed in the back literally during a drill, but never metaphorically. Where we will train mind, body, and spirit all at once. We will learn a bearing and a lifestyle that we will carry into all aspects of life, including those other faux dojos.

We martial artists often must laugh at ourselves when we unintentionally bow going into other random rooms. More often than not, however, it is usually when we are thinking of something serious or somber, such as when we are about to walk in to classroom to take an important exam. There is a feel to these places that compels us to bow.

It is worth pointing out that in some regards such protestations about stealing terms from the martial arts is a bit hypocritical. Afterall, the kyu (keup)/dan system used in most Asian martial arts was likely adapted from the handicap/ranking system for the strategy game of go. And the dan ranks that are used to describe the degrees of black belts are also used in other traditional arts of Japan such as tea ceremony and flower arrangement. So one could attempt to argue that they are merely reclaiming generic terms. I think it would be poor attempt, because it assumes they knew that in first place, when most martial artists don't. And it doesn't factor in why they choose those terms in the first place—which is the cool factor.

I find it both amusing and sad that so many people find the concept of belts and dojos as trendy or cool enough to use them in unrelated fields, and yet they have no interest in finding out what it is really like to wear one. Perhaps if they understood the power of being in a real dojo, or understood what it is like to put on a black belt, they would be so cavalier with using the terms elsewhere.