

The East Valley Kicker

"Munoo yuu iyuru mun. / Speak well of others." -Okinawan Proverb

2401 E. Baseline Rd. Ste. 98, Gilbert, AZ 85234 www.EVMA.net Dojo Ph: (480) 892-4240, Shihans' Cell: (480) 330-8886

FEBRUARY 2009

Welcome

- Kassam Abu tarboush-lil' dragons

Belt Rank Certificates

We have a new policy on kyu rank certificates! If you do not attend a certificate ceremony to receive a kyu rank certificate within one year of your test, the certificate will be classified as unclaimed and no longer available free of charge. If you still want your certificate after a year, it will be \$5, plus a \$5 service fee (\$10 total).

The old policy still continues: Kyu rank (yellow-striped belt through the last brown belt) certificates are available to any student who passes their test, continues to stay an active student, and attends a Certificate Ceremony dressed in full white gi. If you need a replacement or duplicate certificate, they are \$5 each (\$10 if over a year old).

February Teen Meeting

On Sat. Feb. 28 at 12:30pm, we will have a Teen Meeting for our students. This will be a potluck lunch where everyone brings their favorite food.

THE HISTORY OF THE DOJO BY JENIFER TULL-GAUGER

Terms like "dojo," "dojo t-shirts," "dojo family" and "dojo mates" become familiar to newcomers the more they're used. It took my mother-in-law a very long time to become familiar with the word "dojo." Technically it means "place of the way" and we often think of a *place* when we hear "dojo."

Michael Newland opened our dojo almost 15 years ago when he started teaching karate in World Gym. They outgrew the gym and moved into a location next to Barro's Pizza. Gauger Shihan and I started karate there in a dojo that was a bit smaller than our current one, with a blue mat with a padded post right in the center. That was at the height of growth for the dojo with over 100 students.

The dojo fell upon hard times, attendance dropped, and we ended up moving back to World Gym. It was like

moving from a nice house into an apartment; not that enjoyable. But this was a great lesson for Gauger Shihan and me. We learned what a dojo is really all about. It's not about a place with a nice mat. It's about people - supporting each other, being there for each other, working together as a group for the common good of all, and training together. You can have the nicest location in the world, but if nobody's training there, it's no good. You can have just a patch of dirt and, with the right people, have an awesome dojo.

Newland Renshi handed the dojo over to us in 2002 in order to find balance in his life. In Autumn 2004 World Gym closed unexpectedly and Gauger Shihan and I stood up to the challenge of finding a new location. We held classes at Val Vista Lakes' Clubhouse for a week or so, then at DancEnergy studio for a

few months before opening the location we are currently in. It was like moving from an apartment to a nice house. (Many of you were there, you know.) I remember James Ambagis asking me, when he went to his first class in suite 98, how long we would be there. I told him it would be for a lot longer than we were in DancEnergy.

As martial artists we are constantly working toward improvement. So we know when change comes, it is a good thing because even if it doesn't seem like it at the time, it is opening up new avenues of improvement. Gauger Shihan and I assure you that in these uncertain times we are committed to continuing to work with you and teaching karate. We aim to continue offering to the community traditional martial arts as an avenue to life improvements - and that's for the long haul.

February 2009



KENSHIN KAN EVENTS

SHIHANS' CELL: (480) 330-8886

Weapon of the month: Nunchaku

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 <i>Skylar's B-Day</i> <i>Phoenix's B-Day</i>	3 <i>Jack's B-Day</i>	4	5	6 <i>Priya's B-Day</i>	7
8	9	10	11	12 Last Day to Place Century Orders This Month	13	14
15 <i>Varun's B-Day</i>	16 Presidents' Day Dojo closed, no classes	17	18	19	20 7:10p Certs & Test (full white gi)	21
22	23 <i>Brianna's Birth- day</i>	24 <i>Rhys' B-Day</i>	25	26 7:30p Teach- ers' Meeting	27	28 9:55a BBC (no weapons today). 12:30p Teen Meeting