

The East Valley Kicker

“Choo kukuru ru dee ichi. /The heart is the most essential human quality.” -Okinawan Proverb

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

MARCH 2008

Welcome

-Sheila Ronquillo - adults

-Austin Ronquillo - kids

SPRING CAMP

We are proud to host, together with the support of our dojo families, our first spring camp right here at Kenshin Kan. We highly encourage all of our students in the Kids and Adults programs to participate in this first-time opportunity for a weekend of extra special training right here at our dojo. Please see the registration information packet for all the great activities offered through our Spring Camp.

Thank you very much to those who have volunteered to help! We will be contacting you to confirm those plans closer to the camp if we haven't already. If you are interested in volunteering, sign-up sheets are at the dojo, please put down the times you can be there. Does anyone have a large drink cooler and dispenser we could borrow? (We're looking for boxes for Gladiators Night too.)

Dojo Support

by Jenifer Tull-Gauger

I'll let you in on a secret: I became a black belt six months before Gauger Shihan did. He neglected his training when he had to work night shift. Gauger Shihan and I love karate and the dojo in our own separate ways, and I don't remember considering stopping just because he had. I did receive support to continue my training though. Jay Gandee, my senior, said, "I hope you continue training even though Kirk stopped. Sometimes family members let that stop them from training." I assured him that wasn't going to happen. And it didn't.

I went through a time of being the only adult female in the dojo, but with the support of the gentlemen around me I continued without even considering that as an obstacle. I knew my dojo sisters would come to join us - and I'm glad they have!

When the time came for me to go to Missouri for my black belt test, I noticed Kirk wasn't very happy about it. He complained of the cost and didn't even consider going himself. I

was a fine-tuned instrument on a mission and I saved and scrounged and used our credit card to make the financing possible. I had worked very hard to get that far in karate and I wasn't about to let anything halt my journey.

When I arrived at Summer Camp to test, one of the first things I noticed was Mrs. Laura Amor's hospitality. This was followed by the support of many new friends I met there who were my alliance brethren. That testing weekend I was part of an amazing magic. My senses, fine-tuned from months of training and drills and from nerves, drank it all in.

Much later Kirk admitted he had been jealous of me going to test for my black belt and he apologized for not being more encouraging. His support, though belated, still meant a lot to me.

When I think of dojo support, so many other things come to mind too: The tears in Newland Sensei's eyes when he congratulated me after I was presented with my black belt, along with his words, "you do my heart good," after I demonstrated



my newest kata as a black belt; All of the families who stuck with the dojo and with their training through the transition from the gym to DancEnergy to our current home; Barb Edwards, Sonya Schiferl and Sandhya Doane (karate moms) painting our new dojo to get it ready for classes; Lizzie Robillard-Brimhall sticking through her training from the age of 9 and helping in classes until she went away to college in San Francisco at 18; LaBorde Sensei sticking with us through the years; Kaicho staying up all night talking with Kirk and I so he can see our viewpoint and try to give the advice we need; Mrs. Simmons staying to play gladiators; Mr. Speiser being the drink ninja; Mr. Tefft helping with so many dojo projects; The help of our other black belts in classes and events; Our teens' willingness to head-up events; The Hawkins' generosity in new sofas & everyone's pitching in for sofa covers. Support is an often overlooked benefit of being a part of the dojo. I appreciate this support every day - for me, for the students, and for the dojo.

March 2008



KENSHIN KAN EVENTS

SHIHANS' CELL: (480) 330-8886

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Weapon= Sai & 2-part weapons		<i>Douglas Proce's Clothing Drive Community Service Project Begins this month! Please bring kid's gently used clothes (ages 5 - 18 preferred) or new, unopened, socks/underwear to the bin at the dojo to help Doug help underprivileged youth.</i>				1 1p Test & Certificates*
2	3	4	5	6	7 BBC 7-8pm Nathan's B-Day	8
9	10 Chase's B-Day	11	12 7:10p Teen Meeting during class.	13 Last Day to Pre-Pay for Gladiators Night for only \$20. Monica's B-Day	14 7-10p Gladiators Night \$25 inc: Pizza, Drink, Fun! Early Reg. for Sp.Cmp.	15 Davydd's B-Day
16	17 Dojo Closed, No Classes. Gauger Shihan's B-Day	18 9a Kids Join Adults, Evening Class: 6p Adults & Kids All Ranks.	19 Evening Class: 6p Adults & Kids All Ranks. Last Day to Place Orders.	20 9a Kids w/ Adults, Evening Class: 6p Adults & Kids All Ranks. Adam's B-Day	21 Dojo Closed, No Classes for Easter Weekend.	22 Dojo Closed, No Classes. Nick's & Joshua's B-Day
23 Easter	24 Jeff's & Tull-Gauger Shihan's Birthday	25 Tyler's B-Day	26 Glen Q. B-Day	27 7:30p Black Belt Teachers Meeting during class.	28 4p Spring Camp Begins, Regular Classes Cancelled .	29 7a-9:30p Spring Camp, Regular Classes Cancelled. Mrs. Simmons' B-Day
30 7a-2:30p Spring Camp. 12n Karate Demo & Potluck Open to Public!	31 Weekly Class Schedule for the Spring Begins.					