

The East Valley Kicker

"Choo kukuru ru dee ichi. (The heart is the most essential human quality.)" -Okinawan Proverb

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SEPTEMBER 2007

Welcome!

- Alexander Aragon-Sierra - kids
- Michael Smith - adults
- Jodi Vella - adults
- Joseph Vella - kids

This Month's Raffle

We are raffling off a bo case (holds 2 staffs min.) for only \$5 per ticket! Winner will be drawn at the Oct. 2, 5:30 pm Demo.

Parent Pointers

Parents who stay and watch their kids in karate class on a regular basis can help their kids get the most out of their training. You can reinforce the lessons taught here. However, unless the instructor has specifically asked for your participation, it is most helpful to your child if you play the role of silent observer during classes.

CPR & First Aid

Join us for an afternoon of learning from Heartsavers - On Sat. October 13, starting at 1:00pm, the class will cover infant, child and adult CPR & first aid certifications. The cost is \$30 per person. Open to the public!

St. Jude's Fundraiser

We are currently putting together a fundraiser for 10/27!

R. B. Sensei's Send Off

by Jenifer Tull-Gauger



Many dojo family members joined the party to send off Elizabeth Robillard-Brimhall Sensei (formerly known as Miss Lizzie) to the San Francisco Art Institute. This was bittersweet for Gauger Shihan and I because we will miss her, but we are focusing on the great qualities she has demonstrated.

Elizabeth joined our dojo's kids program when she was nine years old. As a teen she moved into our adult program, earning both a first and second level junior black belt.

Lizzie demonstrated perseverance as she continued attending the dojo regularly on weekends after moving to Phoenix, throughout her private high school studies at Xavier, and during her theatre department's plays. When she got a boyfriend, she brought him right along with her to class. She even continued her martial arts training through learning to drive, getting her license and getting a summer job after high school graduation. When Ms. Robillard-Brimhall turned 16 she earned her adult Nidan, or second-level black belt, along with the title of Sensei. Miss Lizzie created our dojo t-shirt design with the saying: "karate goes further than the dojo." This is fitting as she has gone further than the dojo, bringing her karate with her.

This is the kind of dedication, perseverance, loyalty, gratitude and commitment to ones training that we hope for from all of our students. If those students who start in the kids program continue through the years, only to stop their training when they go off to college and the "real world" we can send them off with confidence, knowing we have equipped them as much as we could to handle their own lives to the best of their ability, with confidence, sincerity, perseverance, respect, self-control and overall good character. One of our dojo's biggest successes is

sending people like Robillard-Brimhall Sensei off into the world. Here's her goodbye:

Dear Tull-Gauger and Gauger Shihans,

Leaving the dojo after all these years of training, learning and fun is hard for me to do. You are both like parents to me. In fact, this entire dojo has become my family. I have lots of parents here looking out for me and helping me out including you two, Mrs. Simmons, Mr. Speiser, Mr LaBorde, and "the Joes." I've got tons of brothers and sisters as well - some I need to look out for and some look out for me as well. Without Karate in my life, I would have turned out very differently.

At the dojo, I have found both self-confidence and humility. I have learned to listen carefully to everyone and to never be afraid to speak up or ask questions when I need to. I wish I could write a letter to very single person in this dojo because they have all affected my life in a very positive way.

Going off to college is something I have achieved after years of hard work and discipline. Karate has helped keep me motivated and focused. Despite the negative influences I often found outside the dojo, knowing that I have a dojo family who wants me to succeed, who need me to be reliable, and in some cases, who look up to me, has helped keep me away from drugs, alcohol, and smoking. I have been able to take a more active role in my academics and school activities.

Thank you for everything you have given me. Thank you for every compliment and every correction. Thank you for being my teachers, my parents, and my friends. I will miss training in the dojo every week, but I promise you that the Dojo Kuns, the Guiding Principles, and all the lessons I have learned here will stick with me throughout my lifetime. I truly love this dojo and I am happy to know that it will continue on as a great center of integrity, learning, perseverance, honesty and love.

*Thank you for everything. Love,
Lizzie Robillard-Brimhall (Sensei)*

E.V.M.A. EVENTS, SEPTEMBER 2007



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<u>Sai, tonfa, & es- crima</u> = weapon of the month. Bring your two- piece weapons.						1 Dojo closed for Labor Day weekend. <i>Ryan V. Birthday</i>
2	3 Dojo closed, no classes. Labor Day	4 <u>Parent Demo.</u> 6:00pm, Raffles. <i>Maryana's B-Day</i>	5 Fall Schedule Begins	6	7	8 <u>BBC</u> 9:05 - 9:50am (adult only class can- celled today.)
9	10	11	12 Shihans visit Zaharas Ele- mentary (Teacher letters are available!)	13 Last day to Pre-Pay for Fun Friday for \$20.	14 Fun Friday, <u>Karate Factor</u> 7:00 - 10:00pm, \$25 per person (like Fear Factor for karate students)	15 Last day to place Century orders & Pre-Pay for Tournament <i>Matthew E. B-Day</i>
16	17	18	19 <u>Teachers & Assistants Meet- ing</u> , 7pm during adults class.	20	21 <u>Certificates & Testing*</u> 7:00pm *wear full white uniform.	22 <u>Dojo Tour- nament</u> , Regis- tration 10:30am, 1st Event 11am. No Classes.
23 <i>Ryan M. B-Day</i>	24	25	26 Padded Weapons Spar- ring 6pm, weap- ons class. <i>Daniell's B-Day</i>	27	28	29 No yoga today.
30 <i>Andrew's B-Day</i>						