



# GMA NEWS July 20

**Congrats to our Newest Black belts**— Miss Nina Payne, Mr. Donovan Sieg (2<sup>nd</sup>), Miss Aleah Spires (3<sup>rd</sup>), Ms. Cathy Petraits (3<sup>rd</sup>) and our newest junior master (4<sup>th</sup> dan), Mr. Ryan Jerome

## Upcoming events/Class adjustments

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| July 6 <sup>th</sup>  | Hapkido belt testing   |
| July 8-9              | HKD day camp 9:00-3:30   |
| July 10 <sup>th</sup> | TKD testing 5:30   |
| July 11 <sup>th</sup> | Demo Team 9:00-10:30   |
| July 11 <sup>th</sup> | BB prep 10:30-12:30  |
| July 11 <sup>th</sup> | TKD Black belt and bb stripe retesting/make up, BB ceremony 1:30-? |
| July 11 <sup>th</sup> | Virtual attendance reward party 6:00-8:30                          |
| <b>July 13-17</b>     | <b>TKD camp 9:00-3:30</b>  |
| July 18 <sup>th</sup> | Lil Dragons Testing (9:00-10:30; 10:30-12:00)                      |
| July 18 <sup>th</sup> | Demo Team 12:30-2:00   |
| <b>July 28-29</b>     | <b>Weapons specialty camp</b>                                      |
| <b>July 30-31</b>     | <b>BJJ Camp rescheduled date</b>                                   |
| Aug 1 <sup>st</sup>   | FAST stress shooting 9:00-12:30                                    |
| Aug 1 <sup>st</sup>   | FAST adult basics 1:00-4:30  |
| Aug 2 <sup>nd</sup>   | Mulan movie outing. Details TBA                                    |

## Mulan Private Showing

One of the first things that got cancelled for us during the covid shutdown was Mulan. With a rescheduled release date this month, we have rescheduled our private showing at Showtime Cinemas in Mooresville on Sunday, Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will have our own theater and our own arrival time at approximately 1:00. As before, students (up to two per family) will get in free (but still need to register). All other family members will be \$6.00. You must sign up/pay (cash only) at the front desk before the event. If you paid in advance before, we still have it (if you can't make it this time, please let us know so we can refund it). Space is limited but should be enough for everyone. At the time of making this, there is a chance it will be postponed again, so pay attention to class for further adjustments or exact times and other details.

## GMA Wishes a Happy Birthday to:

|                   |      |             |      |                |      |
|-------------------|------|-------------|------|----------------|------|
| Mr. David Yoshida | 7/8  | Nina Payne  | 7/11 | Michael Adams  | 7/13 |
| Alayna Mitchell   | 7/18 | Andy Farmer | 7/20 | Mr. Mike Dodge | 7/24 |
| Caleigh Allender  | 7/30 |             |      |                |      |

## Training Anniversaries

Congrats to those who are celebrating a year, or multiple years, of training. We appreciate their hard work, dedication, and friendship.

|                              |                             |                              |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Richie Long (TKD 15 yrs.)    | Luke Wilson (BJJ 7 yrs.)    | Nate Wilson (BJJ 7 yrs.)     |
| Kyler Chylaszek (BJJ 5 yrs.) | Launa Perryman (TKD 5 yrs.) | Phil Salamander (TCC 5 yrs.) |
| Andrew Skopecek (TKD 4 yrs.) | Aidan Skopecek (TKD 4 yrs.) | Wesley Parsley (TKD 4 yrs.)  |
| Ashton Allen (TKD 3 yrs.)    | Noah Alisup (BJJ 2 yrs.)    | Levi Myers (TKD 2 yrs.)      |

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

July 1935. Mikonosuke Kawaishi introduced the concept of various colored belts to his judo school in France.

Subsequently adopted by all martial arts around the world.

July 20 1973 Bruce Lee's death

July 21 1899(-Oct 27 1986) Birthday of arguably the founder of Hapkido, Yong Sul Choi

July 24 1936 Birthday of Dan Inosanto (kali, jkd)

July 27 1923 (-April 25 1994) Birthday of Karate legend, founder of Kyokushinkai karate, May Oyama (Korean)



## Quotes of the Week

As the year is halfway over, it is time to assess our yearly goals and talk about sacrificing in order to “win”.

## Showing Your Support to Your Teachers-- in a Pandemic or Otherwise\*\*

One of the last things to return to normal in the martial arts world after covid stay at home orders is seminars and other special events. Many were cancelled well in advance because of logistics and the unknown future, let alone of the question of travel and people from various locations coming together en masse. I missed several “must attend” events in May and June alone. Certainly, I am sad to be deprived of valuable learning, but as a student, it is disappointing in another way. With some of my teachers or mentors from afar, attending seminars is a big way I show loyalty and support to them. In some cases, it helps support other instructors, teammates, or colleagues who took effort and financial risk to host it. It is hard to think of these seminars as an obligation when you get such great training, but it is an easy way to say thank you to a lot of people who deserve it. As I am writing this, I am also discussing this weekend’s travel plans to go to Cincinnati to attend a BJJ seminar with our mentor Kristian Woodmansee, who is in Philadelphia. Getting a chance to train with him in person when he is only 2 hours away is a no brainer, but it also the least we can do to help those involved make the event a little more successful.

My excitement for this weekend was matched by forlorn last weekend, as it was the first time in 40 years that GM Chen hadn’t done a tai chi seminar in Bloomington, and I have the T-shirts to prove I have been almost everyone one since 1997. It is chance to see familiar faces from across the Midwest who also attend every year. But every year I also look around the room and take note of who is *NOT* there. Way more often than it should be, that includes the person who received their teaching certificate the year before.\*\* Someone who had been very conspicuously present until they got what they wanted, but now are gone. \*\*\* Master Chen has switched to holding classes via zoom during the pandemic, and I signed up for a few that didn’t conflict with our classes. I got several points from those lessons, and was glad to support his efforts, especially when he was locked down in the then epicenter of New York. I once again saw very familiar faces from the Midwest also supporting him, and some of the usual suspects were still conspicuously absent.

I realize that not everyone can make every event and life creates conflicts. But the events I am talking about are things you do your best to work around if you are a dedicated student. Your presence is not only about support, but giving up an entire weekend or making the travel also says a lot about priorities. As another example, there is a surprisingly large group of Dr. Yang certified chinna instructors in the central Indiana area. We all worked through the levels together, but because we had schools of our own and the like, we hardly ever got together and practiced here in Indiana. We joked about how we would all travel to Boston to hang out together when we only lived an hour apart. Here we had conflicts, but the camps in Boston were something we all rallied around because it was that important.

When one of our instructors takes the time to come to across the country (or world), how much more should we show our appreciation with our time. The lawn or house project can wait a weekend when my teachers are in town. The cynic might point out that the instructor is getting paid for the effort. Yes, there is a money side to martial arts nowadays, especially when it those who teach for their livelihood, but giving your time, effort and a monetary donation is more about the continued relationship than a reoccurring transaction. Those who are paper chasers, who get what they want and then disappear (and maybe reappear when it is time for something else) are the ones who debase the relationship to merely commercial. Ironically, often they are the ones who will be quick to justify no longer supporting because the instructor is “only about the money,” ignoring the fact they hurried to “purchase” their paper so they could teach as a side hustle.

As mentioned, covid has created an interesting side bar this conversation in regards supporting martial arts schools. During the shutdown, there were many social media posts about still supporting food servers or other businesses that were impacted by the closures. There were larger public campaigns and fundraising efforts for some. I didn’t hear of martial arts schools being included in that upswell of support, but I did see a few posts telling people to continue to support their school or bjj gym or it might be not be there when it was time to return. To be clear, we never posted that, although we were touched by the sentiment of a few people who reached out to do just that. We continued to have a regular schedule and continued teaching the same lessons plans online as we would have in person, and we expected to be paid for our service in those programs. Other programs like BJJ and HKD we automatically put on hold because we were not able to provide a service to them. But we still put up videos and gave them at home tutorials that we hoped they did.

A famous karate master instructor said, “Some instructors are interested in your money. I am interested in your loyalty and attention. I run a much harder deal than most teachers.” It is important to remember what seminars and special events are really about.

\*Once again, it is interesting how something I had already contemplated discussing became more relevant or timely from a covid lens.

\*\* This is what I was thinking about pre covid even.

\*\*\* I am grateful that doesn’t include our own Ms. Petraits, who has continued to be a dedicated and supportive student of GM Chen long after being award a teaching certificate.