



Oct 25 Newsletter for Gentry Martial Arts

DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR TRICK OR TREAT GUEST PASSES

For any ninja turtle, master of spinjitsu, or sword wielding trick or treat that comes to your door, we have guest passes you can give them to try the real thing. Even if you don't recognize them, if they use your pass, you still get the referral credit and receive a free month!

Good luck to our black belt candidates testing at end of the month

Upcoming events:

Oct 3 rd	NO BJJ CLASSES (BJJ Summitt in Philly)s
Oct 6 th	Hapkido testing (no regular class) 7:30
Oct 8 th	Lil Dragon testing. No regular dragon classes
Oct 11 th	Black belt prep 9:00-10:30
Oct 11 th	Fall foliage demo 5:00 pm Demo meets here at 3:00
Oct 12 th	Fall foliage parade (see details below)
Oct 18 th	Stop Bullies FAST class 9:00-11:30
Oct 18 th	Stickfighting 12:00-2:30
Oct 18 th	TKD black belt open mat-breaking and other practice 2:30-?
Oct 19 th	Indiana Open Push hands here 1:00-3:00
Oct 25 th	TKD black belt testing 9:00-10:30; stripe testing 10:30-12:00
Oct 30 th	Halloween Party—6:00-7:30. No classes
Nov 1 st	USHF seminar in Bedford
Nov 2 nd	Push hands seminar, Bloomington
Nov 7 th	TKD testing
Nov 8 th	TKD tournament in Indy

Halloween Party info and help

The school Halloween party will be Oct 30th from 6:00-7:30. As always, we will need help with set up starting at 1:30 pm and take down. We will not overwhelm a few volunteers with all the work, so sign-ups for set up/clean up and helping during the party will be out until Oct 15th, and the party is contingent upon having enough support. Students are encouraged to bring in a bag of candy anytime between now and then so treat bags can be prepared. Please have in by Thurs, Oct 23th. Parents, we will be stuffing the bags also on the 23th around 5:45, so if your kid is in class please come in and help. While we know for a fact that our students can be scary, we encourage our students to dress as heroes, role models, or something fun.

FALL FOLIAGE PARADE

As usual, we will be doing the fall foliage parade on Oct 12th. We will be *in place* at the Martinsville High School parking lot by **12:00**. We do not have our place assignment, so just look for the other hero shirts. We will announce in class/Facebook if we get it. All participants need to be in dobok pants, belts, and Hero in training T-shirt. If it is cold, a long WHITE sleeve T-shirt or sweatshirt can be worn UNDER the Hero in Training T-shirt. Parents will be expected to pick up their kids promptly *when we are finished with the parade, not when the parade ends*. Keep in mind that the parade will be going long after the first groups are finished, and that the parade will affect the travel routes back to the school.

Make sure to bring acceptable footwear to class to practice marching outside the week prior. Preferred footwear for the parade is white tennis shoes or TKD shoes (lighter, easier to kick for 2 miles!)

Anyone wishing to help with the float can meet at the school at 10:30 am.



GMA Wishes Happy Birthday to:

Gideon York	10/4	Wesley Hoffman	10/05	Adrain Martin	10/07
Liam Canada	10/9	Leia House	10/9	Nate Wilson	10/10
Master Sieg	10/12	Mason Kreamer	10/13	Jonas Stewart	10/14
Holly Brown	10/14	Charlie Malcom	10/15	Avery Jette	10/16
Jared Hamilton	10/21	Weston Swafford	10/22	Brandon Rogers	10/22
Tucker Martin	10/24	Jencyn Lee	10/24	Isabella Shrake	10/26
Nick Lieffers	10/27	Luke Voorhees	10/28	Eleanor Berninger	10/31

Training Anniversaries Special Congrats to those who started with us a year or multiple years ago.

John Hirt (TCC 9 yrs.)	Liam Canada (TKD 5 yrs.)
Alayna Gregory (TKD 4 yrs.)	Lily Rogers (LD 1 yr.)

Quotes of the Week--Perseverance

This month we have a several key events that are great examples of perseverance and offer great lessons to our students. Marching our legs off in the parade will be a real test for some of us. We also have black belt testing, which is a great example of perseverance in the martial arts, over the long haul. This month, we are hoping all our students will learn a bit more about the importance of not giving up.

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

Oct 1, 1913 (-Jan 29, 2009)	Birthday BJJ founder Helio Gracie
Oct 9, 1932,	Birthday Judo Gene Lebell
Oct 18, 1961,	Birthday Jean Claude Van Damme
Oct 27, 1936,	Birthday HKD founder Ji Han Jae
Oct 28, 1929 (-May 4, 1938)	Birthday founder of Judo and innovator Jigoro Kano
Oct 20, 1957,	Arguably the first modern Karate tournament- the All-Japan Karate Champ. Is held.
Oct 14, 1972,	Kung fu the TV series debuts.
Oct 11, 1997,	Pride Fighting Championships debuts.

Other martial arts films include *The Transporter* and *Kill Bill*.

How the Charlie Kirk Assassination Demonstrates the "Rules" on Violence are Changing.

The Murder of Charlie Kirk is one of the most impactful events we have experienced in quite some time, with many people asking how we got to this point or how it could happen. I am going to offer a possible explanation for how we indeed got here. The "rules" for using violence against speech has changed, and understanding this shift has occurred could be important for your safety moving forward. I am certainly not condoning or excusing the act, but understanding the rationale—not necessarily for the shooting but for the justification of acts like it—is something I haven't seen articulated much. And to reiterate, recognizing this shift is becoming increasingly relevant to your personal safety.

In a 2017 study, one in five (1/5) students said using violence to stop a speaker from speaking [on campus] was sometimes acceptable. Another study found 30% of undergraduates thought it was ok to use physical violence to stop someone from spewing hate speech. These findings were nearly 10 years ago...do you think those numbers have gone down? Mean words have been increasingly labelled as a form of violence, and if you subscribe to that view, you now have an ideologically justified reason to respond to such words with physical violence. A Berkely Op Ed asserted that using physical violence to stop speech deemed hateful (and of course, who defines that), is a matter of self-defense.



When someone is teased or roasted, it is not uncommon for the recipient to declare that they ‘feel attacked.’ Nowadays, for some people, their feelings are reality, and they consider themselves literally attacked and therefore justified in crossing the line to physical violence. Even if you vehemently disagree with that logical leap, it is important that everyone realizes that it has been made (and is being increasingly made,) and you should recognize the implication it has for personal protection strategies.

If some people think it is ok to punch a fascist, bigot, whatever in the face, and if anyone who disagrees with them is a fascist, bigot, whatever, then it is increasingly possible to find yourself being labelled as someone who needs to be punched in the face, who needs to be defended against.

A phrase I use in our Be Safe FAST class a lot (I think I stole it from Marc MacYoung) that there aren’t a lot of predators out there, but there are lot of people out there who will kill you if piss them off enough. We used to think that only applied to someone who got emotionally charged about some type of transgression—infidelity, a money dispute, maybe a road rage incident. Now it applies to situations where one person involved thought they were just having a legitimate conversation. And the conversation doesn’t even have to be with the person who attacks you, but anyone within earshot!

I also want to speak to the other side of the coin, to those that think words ARE violence...I have for a while now expressed my concern that college students who have been coddled into this line of thinking on campus, are not prepared to go into a broader world where the rules about behavior and violence are very different. So, if you tip toe up to that line of real violence or even cross it, don’t be surprised when it comes back at you...FAFO.

And more importantly, you don’t get to have it both ways...if you create a culture where words are violence and if violence, is justifiable because you are triggered, then don’t be surprised when you get your teeth knocked in for calling someone a bigot, racist, fascists, etc. There was a time when, say, insulting someone’s wife would get you punched in the face (and people would say you deserved it) ...not because the words were necessarily considered violent, but because violence was a more acceptable method to enforce etiquette. It seems like we are reverting back to that era, only with a very different version of, or lack of concern for the etiquette part.

In no way am I now advocating for responding with violence if you happen to be unfairly labelled. I am of the opinion that the sticks and stones mantra needs to be reviewed by many people of all ages, and I do not consider myself that fragile to think that words are violence, so I hope I don’t ever fall into that trap myself. My goal is for everyone, on both sides of the perspective, to think about their personal safety. I had made a note to comment about this but never got around to it, but the murder of Charlie Kirk has brought it back to the forefront, and so with great sadness I can now make a more timely commentary.

My stats come from a great book called *The Coddling of the American Mind*, that I have stated before, not only explains my biggest challenges or changes to teaching self-defense to college students in the past 30 yrs, but also offers a great lens to interpret a lot of things happening in today’s society, including recent events. The rules to justify violence have changed. This is the new reality. It might be an alternative reality to what many reading this live in, but we need to recognize there are people who do subscribe to this rationale, and members of these opposing dimensions will interact with one another. I hope everyone learns from this tragedy, and everyone stays a little bit safer.