

The T.K.D. Flash

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THE SEASON

With December, we enter what is now somewhat inclusively referred to as the Holiday Season. For YHE, it's Christmas, and for others, other things. In any event, Taekwon-Do, on its mission of community responsibility and family

support also dials down the pace of its activities such as tests and tournaments in favor of other things such as service to others and seasonal parties. Nevertheless, in our schools, our families and our communities we are mindful of the many gifts we have received, including Gen.

Concord TKD held a Color Belt test on Saturday, October 24th. **Nicholas Pimenta** promoted to Gup 9 Yellow Stripe. Hard-working boys **Lucian Albota**, **Felix Wetzel**, and **Andrew Aedo-Fagundes** moved up to Gup 8 Yellow Belt, along with **Sera Baang** and **Bri Baang**, a fun set of energetic and competitive sisters. Successful candidates for Gup 7 Green Stripe included **Rami Benhamida**, **Oscar Cavallo**, **Jacob Healy**, and **Austin Kim**. **Joe Brooks**, who swept medals at Nationals in July, promoted to Gup 5 Blue Stripe. **Lea Bodmer** and **Neha Sha** tested for Gup 4 Blue Belt, along with **Patrick Rafter**, whose two young sons recently started to train as well. And proud new Gup 2 Red Stripes include **Maxwell Kim**, **Jessica Marden**, and siblings **Andrew Pak**, **Anna Pak**, and **Joshua Pak**. Congratulations, all! Picture to the right: Neha Sha's knife hand splits wood. *Roselyn Romberg, D.F.P.*



Sr. Master **Stan Martin** hosted a color belt testing on Saturday October 24. Color belts from Wyoming schools participated in the testing. The high test score metals were very nice with Lee Meeks, Yellow Belt, winning for Ho Sin Sul, **Deven Neal**, White Belt, winning for best pattern, and **Rick Binks**, Blue Belt, winning for best break. We had participants from 6 years old to over 60 with a dynamite display of technical talent and sportsmanship. --Submitted by Sr. Master Stan Martin.



Choi, Hong Hi's gift to us of his life's work, our Art. Here at the Flash we are grateful for our good fortune in covering a great "beat" with skilled news staff and contributors who care. We are most grateful, at the end of our 27th year of publication, for our readers, who make this enterprise a joyful undertaking.

YHE

UPCOMING EVENTS

On December 5 **Sereff Taekwon-Do** will host a color belt test.

On December 5 there will be a **Black Belt Testing at Big Dog Taekwon-Do** in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Ms. **Marianne Armstrong**, Promoter.

On February 20, 2016, Sr. Master **Bill Stephenson** will host a Class C Instructor Seminar, to be taught as one of this excellent series by Grand Master **Mike Winegar**.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

On November 14 USTF-Utah had its **Fall Black Belt Test** at Salt Lake City, Utah.

November 19 brought another Black Belt and Gup Testing at **Offutt Air Force Base**. Promoter, Sr. Master Ricky Todd. Article page 11.

On November 14 **Concord Taekwon-Do** hosted its annual tournament, the Concord Invitational.

The **New England Regional Black Belt Test** was conducted November 22.

NEXT MONTH

Who will be Stringer of the Year? Who will win "Best Article by a non-Stringer? Which is the Photo Image of the Year? Tune in to the January issue.

On Death and a Publication

By F.M. Van Hecke

We publish to a community. A community is defined by its heritage and its current membership. What separates the one from the other is death and what binds them is knowledge.

Death has its own dynamic, being inevitable but unpredictable as to its mechanisms of place, time, and method, and living members theirs, being interconnected with associations, past victories and defeats, functions, roles, spouses, children, grandchildren, stories, messages, likes and dislikes.

Death is also enervating. When one dies, one can no longer act, and those closest (spouse, children) are grieving. To ask them at that time to recall in communicable form the deceased's associations, past victories and defeats, functions, roles, names of spouses, children, grandchildren,

stories, messages, likes and dislikes hazards imposition in the moments of sorrow.

And to be contacted months after death with an adult child's request to publish something about the object of their loss, long after the news has been disseminated and perhaps even been commented on by others is to revisit old news and, potentially, reopen old wounds.

Newspapers, wire services, newsletters, magazines know this. If you read the obituary section, of course, the funeral services have done much of their work for them, sitting down at time of "arrangements" to ask the nuts and bolts questions that will lead to an article. They'll even ask if you want to say more. Many folks don't.

But, let's face it, it's hard to sit down with people who may be in a remote place, who may have no immediately felt compulsion to communicate, and put together the story of a life.

That's why almost every publication worth its salt maintains a file of "canned

On November first The Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton, hosted a Black belt Test in Grafton, Wisconsin. Presiding were Sixth Dan **Mike Van Pietersom**, Sixth Dan **Rick Bauman**, Fourth Dans **Marc Mikkelson** and Wisconsin State Director **Jacqueline Karpinsky**, and Eighth Dan F.M. Van Hecke. Testing successfully to First Dan was Miss **Valerie Locklair**, to Second Dan Mr. **Dan Kelly**, to Third Dan Mr. **Mike Herzfeld**, to Fourth Dan Mr. **Mark Johnson** and Ms. **Christin Locklair**, and to Fifth Dan Mr. **James Pals**. Fourth Dan Dr. **John Butitta** ably cornered the event. Below, the Board and Corner in the back row (Mr. Van Pietersom not shown), the candidates in the front row.



About to explode and exploded: Valerie Locklair, left, and Jim Pals, right, at the Grafton Black Belt Test November 1.



obituaries,” so if some national sports figure, ’60’s TV star, or local bigwig, passes on the reporter has at hand the necessities to publish the news of that figure’s death.

The truth is that many of us labor hard in our local communities on behalf of Taekwon-Do, on behalf of our local schools, students, communities, but are not likely to be personally associated with a Flash Stringer. Does that mean that your life has not been important, that we ought not read about it, have a chance to express our condolences to your loved ones?

I think not.

[I know, I know, you’re thinking YHE is licensed to practice Law, spent a lifetime thinking about death, crime, loss. So I’m “older.” But even the young can die, feel loss, can lose their message when their voices are silenced.]

So, what do I propose? I’d suggest that we adopt a common sense policy of requesting that EVERY PERSON WHO READS THIS

PUBLICATION feel free, at any time, to submit a pre-written “canned obit” and contact name (for a post-mortem update) so that we can promptly recognize your life in Taekwon-Do as soon as we learn of your death.

To pre-submit would be a gift not only to your family but also to your fellow USTF members who would like to recognize you and perhaps express their sorrow at your loss to those you leave behind.

YHE will even provide a short list of typical questions and instructions for submissions to guide you if you want; just e-mail us at the address on our masthead.

Now, if you have not presubmitted, but are, for example, the child of a USTF member-decedent, contact me promptly after the event and I’ll still try to get the word out. But wouldn’t you rather not have to answer a bunch of questions at that time?

Thanks for your kind attention to a difficult topic.



Sr.Master Van Hecke:

Sr. Master **Stan Martin** conducted a Black Belt testing on October 31st. Mr **Tony Giese** hosted the testing at his school, Casper National Guard Armory. This is the home of **Wyoming Taekwon- do Club**. Special guests were Grand Master **Renee Sereff** and Sr. Master **Kirk Steadman**. There were 13 candidates testing: Mr. Giese for 6th Dan, Ms. **DeeDee Connell**, Ms. **Gyna Kuhl**, Ms. **Amy Willcox**, and Ms. Christina **Rosenof** for Fifth Dan, Mssrs. **Rick Spann** and **KC Gandy** for Second Dan, and **Lindsey Erickson**, **Nicole Anderson**, **Andrea Schulz**, **Maria Schulz**, **Kacela Skiles** and **Coulter Pari** for First Dan. (Group, left above.)

High test scores (left to right) were Andrea Schulz--Best Break, KC Gandy--Best Ho Sin Sul, and Amy Willcox -- Best Pattern. (Right)



There were many presentations -- the 1st Dans were presented with Sr Master Martin's challenge coins, the 6th and 5th Dans were presented with Eagle plaques from their individual instructors. A special presentation to Mr Giese was a



Taurus 92, 9 MM, (below) and to Grand Master Sereff a plaque that denotes her leadership for females in TKD (First Female Grand Master and, as the General would say, "Lady General"), picture left.

At the end of testing small children from testing students gave each testing candidate a rose to present it to someone that helped them reach their goals. A champagne toast and cake followed this Great day for the USTF and



Wyoming schools.

--Sr. Master Stan Martin

At the Black Belt Test in Wyoming on October 31, Mrs. **DeeDee Connell** presented Sr. Master Martin and Master **Robin Johnson** framed picture plaques for their help in reaching her 5th Dan goal, and she also presented Amy Willcox and Christina Rosenof plaques that match the Sheridan TKD club.



Left, Master Johnson with his picture plaque, and, above from left to right, Ms. Willcox, Mrs. Connell, Ms. Rosenof.



On October 31 there was a tournament at the Sheboygan Falls YMCA, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. A bit of the pretournament lineup “buzz” at left. Ms. **Caren Johnson**, Fourth Dan, was Chief Referee, and Mr. **Marc Mikkelson**, Promoter. Ms. **Jacqueline Karpinsky**, Wisconsin State Director, was Tournament Director.



Tournament Travel

As 2015 comes to a close, it has been an exciting year for the USTF and **Axe Taekwon-Do** located at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska. Our school travelled throughout the year competing in many of the USTF sanctioned events: Arvada, Colorado in March for the Maestas Taekwon-Do tournament, Boston, Massachusetts in July for the USTF Internationals, Casper, Wyoming in September for the Casper Taekwon-Do tournament, Kirksville, Missouri in September for the Kirksville Taekwon-Do tournament, and finally Broomfield, Colorado in October for Sr. Grand Master Sereff's tournament.

Axe Taekwon-Do is committed to show support to the USTF and Sr. Grand Master Sereff. I believe it is important for our students to attend as many USTF events as possible to include tournaments, seminars and courses. In my estimation, we travelled over 6700 miles this year (Yes, most of the students drove to Boston!). Pictures from each event are posted on Facebook, and everyone is welcome to view and copy pictures as they like. My students and I are already planning for a busy 2016 with the USTF World Camp being added to our travel plans. The USTF and Taekwon-Do are still as exciting as ever! If you find yourself needing motivation-travel! The energy is contagious; your students will enjoy meeting their brothers and sisters in Taekwon-Do.

As an informational note, in case the reader was wondering, we are not a flashy class filled with wealthy students. The majority of my students are military, retired military and military children training in a military youth center. Travel can be expensive but with proper planning costs can be minimal and affordable for all. I am hopeful that other schools will join us in 2016 and make it another remarkable year!

Sr. Master Ricky J. Todd

Director, USTF Region III and
Distinguished Flash Stringer

Master **Paul White** invited Sr. Grand Master **Charles E. Sereff** and Grand Master **Renee' Sereff** to his Black Belt Testing on Saturday the 7th of November. The testing was held at the New Life Church where Master White teaches. The two candidates were Mrs. **Aleene Ortiz-White** for IV Dan and **B. Clarke Vestal** for III Dan.

Mrs. White has been retired for around 20 years when she decided to start training in Master Whites class a couple years ago. As a former judge, she displayed the same spunk she ruled her courtroom with and did a fantastic job! Mr. Vestal was the pastor for the church that Sr. Grand Master Sereff attended and was also responsible for having a class at the church until his retirement. What an inspiration! Master White has some of the students that attended that class.

The church gymnasium was full of Instructors, Students and family all wishing the best for these two candidates. Sr. Grand Master Sereff promoted both on the spot! A good day!!

Photo right: Sr. GM Sereff, GM Sereff, and Master Paul White in blues, Mrs. Aleene Ortiz-White and Mr. B. Clarke Vestal in uniform. Below, Mr. Vestal with former instructors at the church including Mr. Tom Ruby, Mr. Jennings, Mrs. Jennings and their daughter Yu Rim.



Grand Master Renee' Sereff, D.F.S.



Kirksville Taekwon-Do held its fall testing on November 7th. Senior Master **Ricky Todd** of Axe Taekwon-Do presided over the testing board as seven candidates demonstrated their skills. Mr.



Kelly Koenig and Mrs. **Lisa Eastin** transitioned to 5th dan; Ms. **Megan Matheney** earned her 4th dan stripes; Mr. **Eric Amini-Rad** landed a 3rd degree black belt; Ms. **Tigist Eastin** and Ms. **Genet Eastin** both claimed new status as 2nd dans; and Mr. **Andrew Phan** entered the rank of 1st degree black belt. Pictures: Mr. Kelly Koenig powers through eight boards with a 180 reverse back kick. Row 1: Sr. Mstr. Ricky Todd; Sr. Mstr. Bill Stephenson; Sr. Mstr. Dustin Stephenson (accompanied by Dane Stephenson); and Mstr. Lenard Graham. Row 2: Lisa Eastin; Genet Eastin; Emily Garth; Andrew Phan; Tigist Eastin; and Kyle Morganstern. Row 3: Dale Woods; Deb Goggin; Megan Matheney; Kelly Koenig; Matt Matheney, Sr; Matt Matheney, Jr; Eric Amini-Rad; Chad Smith; Phil Ordonio; and Bill Byrn.



Lisa Eastin, Flash Springer



On November 7th USTF-Utah held their annual **Utah Championships** in Sandy, Utah. Spirits were high among competitors who came from across Utah and Rock Springs, Wyoming. Focus was given to students learning how to be tournament officials. Many colored belts were excited to try being scorekeepers and time-keepers for the first time. We are looking forward to our next event, the Utah Cup, which will be held next May. Look forward to seeing everyone there!

Corinne Sroykum, Stringer



Photos: Gup Nine Aiden Wilhelmsen shakes the judges' hands after patterns competition and Black Belt pattern competition winners, from left to right Jase Pennock II Dan, Paul Beard II Dan, Sara Hill IV Dan, Chris Wadium VI Dan, and Robert Riley, VI Dan.



At the Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton, under a board consisting of Fifth Dans **Mary Lubner** and **James Pals**, First Dans **Valerie Peters**, **Alyssa Jankowski**, **Patrick Jankowski**, and **Valerie Locklair**, and Eight Dan F.M. Van Hecke, cornered ably by **Elliot Humiston**, **Shantanu Chaudhuri** obtained Gup 3, **Yash Jha** Gup 5, **Juhi Jha** and **Andrew Klein** Gup 6, **Shaunak Chaudhuri** Gup 7, and **Daniel Peters**, **Gabriel Peters**, **Kashyap Patel**, and **Aniela Van Hecke** Gup 9. Pictured at left, Gabriel Peters is the Fourth generation in his family in Taekwon-Do and Aniela Van Hecke the third generation in hers. Picture credit: Kathleen Van Hecke.



On Thursday, November 19th, 2015, **Axe Taekwon-Do** at Offutt Air Force Base in Bellevue, Nebraska hosted a quarterly testing. Twenty six students tested for various ranks from 9th gup, White Belt Yellow stripe through 1st Degree Black Belt. The testing board was composed of Sr. Master **Ricky Todd** VIII Dan, USTF Region 3 Director and Ms. **April Bowling**, 5th Dan. Mr. **Patrick Finan** IV Dan, USTF Armed Forces Director served as the testing director.

Promoted to 1st Degree Black Belt was Ms. **Brianna Grant**. The following gups were promoted: Red Belt Black Stripe: **Lizzie Chamberlin**. Blue Belt Red Stripe: **Ryan Chamberlin**, **Helen Fleming**, **Kathleen Fleming**, **Kevin Fleming**, and **Melanie Ostrander**. Blue Belt: **Carlee Swann**, **Cate Wagstaff**, **Lizzy Wagstaff**, **Luke Blasey** and **John Fleming**. Yellow Belt Green Stripe: **Jack Blasey**, **James Grgas**, **Melody Param** and **Matthew Brockman**. Yellow Belt: **Ethan**

Brockman and **Paul Grgas**. White Belt Yellow Stripe: **Ryan Brockman**, **Amaya Crowder**, **Elijah Jake**, **Cassy Kribell**, **Lizzy Linder**, **Keenan Matos**, **Kiel Matos** and **Mia Nieves**. Above, Brianna Grant with twin front snap kick, below, the group.

Sr. Master Ricky J. Todd, D.F.S

