

July 2018 Newsletter
Goju-Ryu Karate-Do Kyokai

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Ambler Area YMCA GKK Event

By Bill Kane

Ambler Area YMCA GKK karate held a spring testing event on Friday & Saturday, June 1&2nd. A total of 16 people received promotions with the assistance of 8 black belts and Sensei Kane. A number of students were unable to attend formal testing and will be examined individually in the coming weeks. 5 new students received their GKK patches. Congratulations to all.



From Your Web Team

By Eric Naujock and Helen Muth

Helen and Eric have been listening to folks and researching the current pain points on the website as well the new vision for the website.

Here is where we are with the requests we already told you about in May.

Mobile design - Use it on your phones. (In the short term, Eric corrected the web site so now you can view the articles, log in and see the menus from your tablet or mobile phone.)

Documentation - Yes, how do you use the thing? (Helen has been personally trying the different features of the website, i.e. adding articles to see just what steps are required)

Improved contact information - How to reach people better.

Online catalog - A catalog of products that we offer and the pricing.

Online Store - The next step after the catalog is working.

Social media Tie-ins - Get the content on the site into the social media streams. (Eric has researched some add-ins to the web site to enable this)

Easier access - This one is a bit harder to define. (See status on mobile design)

Other ongoing activities:

GKK Leaders content update - Helen has reached out to all our members of Rokudan and above for any updates they would like to see.

GKK Dojo directory - Helen has also started reaching out to dojo leaders for their dojo's most recent contact info

How can you help?

If you are super technical, we would be happy to get some programming help in the fall so we can move up to the new Joomla 4. If you are happy to just use the web site, please continue to do so and provide feedback to us on how we are doing and what you would like to see. If you have never used the web site, please check it out.

Chairman's Award - Chen Niv

By Nimrod Z. Astel

Chen Niv Sensei began his way in the Aum Dojo and the GKK in 2006 with prior record in Kyokoshin Kai Karate.

As an IDF officer in an Elite unit, Mr. Chen Niv also came with prior record in Krav Maga and close quarter combat.

Mr. Niv has a Teaching and college degree in Physical Education, specializing in Kids with special needs, as well as a Master Degree in Education Administration. For the past 30 years he works as a full time high school teacher.

After intensive training period, Chen Niv Sensei was awarded Sho Dan Rank at the GKK 50 years anniversary in 2009. Also, he was certified as a karate instructor by law.

On July 2011 Mr. Niv was awarded Ni Dan Rank.

On July 2014 Mr. Niv was awarded San Dan Rank.

On July 2017 he was certified as Renshi.

Chen Niv Sensei is our most senior and dedicated instructor and a pillar in our dojo.

He is the Mentor and Live spirit of all our Kids and Youth and therefore in charge of their programs.

On Feb 2018, Sensei Chen was also certified as an instructor in a very special program named "Kids Kicking Cancer", in which now as a volunteer he is about to start a program in our dojo for kids who need support during their struggle for life.

He is a man with a compassionate heart and a soul teacher.



Chairman's Award Anthony Lugo

By Frank Matt



Anthony started karate with me April 2011 in our Corinth New York dojo. He originally began training in professor Hyem's dojo in Harlem New York.

Anthony was a first kyu at that time, and I saw him as an outstanding student. I spoke with Mr. Stamper because Anthony had about eight years in goju training; Mr. Stamper gave me his vote of confidence that I may decide when to bring him to shodan.

I worked with Anthony making some minor adjustments and the result was a no brainer. He was more than ready for shodan. As our Corinth dojo grew bigger we had no room for more students. We were at the YMCA and there were other programs going on so I couldn't add another class. I asked Anthony how he felt about starting a class of his own in the Saratoga YMCA branch. Anthony went for it and got it going. It was a little tough at first for a lack of students, but I told the directors at that branch to have a little patience and it did well and still does.

Anthony never gives up any chance to learn, and make his students better in every way. I'm very proud to have him as a student and more important, a friend.



From Anthony Lugo:

Thank you Sensei Frank and the GKK. It is an honor to receive the 2018 Chairman's Award. I am truly humbled. And thank you all who took the time to congratulate me. You know, to be quite honest, it's the first such award I've ever received. I have never considered myself a role model. I've mentioned to others to be a good role model for their peers and children to follow. Lol.

I recall a friend of ours, John Douglas, receiving a Chairman's Award from a prestigious group several years ago for the charity work he did. He was inspired and still is, to help children find their passion and a career minded goal at an early age. Pretty inspiring to me if I may say so. We need men like John to inspire our children in this day and age. I consider him a good role model.

If I have become a role model, it is not in my own accord. I learned from people and many resources. I learn a great deal through scripture and karate as to my outlook on life. As I get older, I've made it my goal each day to be a better man than I was yesterday. To love God and love people. To never go to sleep angry, always do my best and never give up. To read scripture daily, reference the seven virtues of the samurai daily, and always have a smile. A smile is a sermon. It speaks to everyone who sees you smile. And it is contagious! Additionally, there are many individuals who I consider to be good role models. Individuals I admire and learned from.

These are the things that have helped me become who I am today. So, I accept this year's Chairman's Award humbly and as a tribute to the individuals I admire and in many ways have helped me become the man and karateka I am today. And there are many!



Bushi Damashii NY June Promotion

By Anthony Lugo

Congratulations to those who went for promotion in June (6/24/18)...

David Barone - Hachi Kyu
Aiden Cole - Ku Kyu
Lorelei Brennan - Ju Kyu

They did very well as expected. We're very proud of them. On to the next chapter.



Today I said good-bye to another one of my students going away to college, Anastasia Ivanova. Anastasia joined Bushi Damashii Goju a little over four and half years ago. She was a shy and reserved young girl who didn't speak much. I could barely get her to kiai. She has grown into a strong spirited young lady with confidence that could conquer the world. I am so proud of who she's become, how much she has accomplished and how well she has done. I feel like I'm losing a student, friend and daughter. We will miss her.

Anastasia: Be strong and of good courage. You are made to conquer and will do great things. I wish you all the best in life.

M. Yamakura
Ed Myers
Dwight Scales
Eric Naujock
Bill Kane
Deb Crawford
Angie Monday
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