



# Traditional Karate Center – Matawan Gojukan

347-G Matawan Road – Town Square Shopping Center, Matawan, NJ 07747

January 1, 2021

Dear TKC Dojo Family & Friends,

Happy New Year to you and your family! By the grace of God, 2021 will see an end to restrictive lifestyles and fear of the virus that altered life as we know it last year. Sadly, too many people who rang in 2020 with hope never had opportunity to do it again last night. We all need to find inspiration and motivation to take positive control of ourselves and move forward confidently.

To help that, I speak to the TKC parents with a New Year's resolution and challenge: join us for karate classes. Don't let the kids have all the fun. No charge for new (TKC parents) students until March 1<sup>st</sup>... *IF YOU LAST THAT LONG!* A challenge has been dropped!

I'm anxious to put 2020 behind us as 40 dojo members left including the deaths of two, older students. Godspeed and eternal rest to Dr. Charles Favario and Mr Peter Boton; you are both dearly missed members of our TKC family.

TKC ended 2020 on several strong, positive notes: myself, my family and some dojo families safely navigated COVID-19; students graded very well; COVID-safe promotion went smoothly and, stop the presses... ended on time! TKC seeks growth to thrive and lead by example – face adversity with grit and indomitable spirit – we never give up. Other martial art schools closed, but not TKC Dojo!

Tuition details: Today is January 1<sup>st</sup> so our TKC Annual Fee of \$25/student was added to tuitions. Tuitions drawn today – a holiday, will post on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. As stated over the past 4 months in conversations and email: tuitions has increased effective today. Attached, you will find TKC Rates & Disclosures. Note: it is posted on our website with PFD FILES under the MORE INFO tab.

**TOMORROW MORNING:** While regular training resumes Tuesday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, we have a timeless, annual tradition at TKC – Shinnenkai. For those who are new, the first Saturday in January we reopen the dojo in Japanese style with a workout, a run outside around the complex, followed by a Shinto clapping ritual for luck, and a shared meal. Due to COVID, the meal will be pre-made, brown paper bagged packed: bagels, juice, fruit and a sweets courtesy of A POSITIVE LIFE (NPO). Please be at dojo in full karate uniform and running shoes (NO slides, CROCS, flip flops, etc... I run barefoot EVERY year like I did in Japan) for a 10 AM start time for our New Year's workout. We run at 11 AM and you're in your car by 11:15 AM. In Japan, Shinnenkai is about mutual concern and taking the time to express well-wishes others – family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, etc. In Japan, usually a meal and drinks are shared. This annual ritual can take weeks as people warmly include others. As a side note, one year we went 'all Japanese' with oshiruko (sweet, red bean soup) with mochi (rice paste ball) in it and saki for adults... it was not popular so we switched to bagels and fruit with juice.

Training schedules are attached for the next FOUR months – I've been busy. Additionally, there are extra comments, reminders, etc. on the bottom panel of each month. Parents – I cannot continuously take phone calls and texts asking about regular schedules. We gave out printed copies last month and texted them and still calls kept coming. They are attached here. They are now in our PDF FILES under MORE INFO on our website so you can check them via any electronic device. Please utilize these tools.

Competition team deadline to join is March 13<sup>th</sup> for anyone not currently training – lost time to prepare can never be made up. The deadline for existing members' Coach Fee is Feb. 20<sup>th</sup>. USA-NKF Nationals are back in Chicago (Schaumburg, IL) July 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>.

From the moment TKC reopened after the initial lockdown, we ceased charging for bottled water; however, NO student has gone without one when needed. Some students drink several bottles per class. Our old \$5/month, water club option has changed to a better annual charge of \$20/family (NOT individuals) due by March 1<sup>st</sup> saving you \$40 over the course of the year. Participation is optional. If not, always provide a water bottle for them or purchase on an as needed basis.

As always, contact me without delay if you have questions or concerns: **(732)888-4852**.

**With sincere hopes and prayers for your health, safety, peace, joy and prosperity in 2021, I am**

Michael Buttermark, *Shihan*

