

2009 FESTIVAL FACULTY

The Gompa

PO Box 1777

Arlington, TX 76004-1777

Ph: (817) 860-0129

Fax: (817) 460-5125

Email: theGompa@aol.com

Website: <http://www.TheGompa.com>

Shifu Castaldo has been with Dr. Painter since 1978. His Daoqiquan specialty is Jiulong Baguazhang. In October of 2004, after rigorous mental and physical testing, he was promoted to the level of Shifu (instructor) of Jiulong Baguazhang in a ceremony held at the annual Founders Day Celebration. Shifu Castaldo oversees the Jiulong Baguazhang program at The Gompa and worked closely with Dr. Painter to develop the new Dragon Rolling the Pearl curriculum. He is also a sergeant in the American Rangers Law Enforcement Martial Training Institute specializing in hand-to-hand combat and pistol methods. Shifu Castaldo is a senior lecturer on motion picture production at the University of Texas at Arlington. Mr. Castaldo has also worked as a film editor and director on a number of feature length motion pictures.

Yee's Hung Ga Kungfu Academy

68 Union Ave.

Clifton, NJ 07011

Ph: (973) 772-8988

Email: pcyee@yeeshungga.com

Website: <http://www.YeesHungGa.com>

Sifu Pedro Cepero Yee is a senior disciple and adopted son of Hung Ga Kung Fu Grandmaster Frank Yee. He is President of Yee's Hung Ga International Kung Fu Association. Pedro C. Yee also teaches and practices tuina therapy and is a registered instructor (AOBTA) and holds a Diplome of Asian Bodywork Therapy (NCCAOM). For the past 17 years his full-time Clifton NJ Branch school has been offering instruction in Hung Ga kung fu, tuina therapy, as well as treating patients. He has been featured in both national and international magazines as well as two covers. At present he is co-starring alongside his teacher instructing form and fighting aspects of Five Animal Kung Fu 7 days a week for at least the next 6 months on Chinese television's (GDTV) morning show entitled "Exercises of the Martial Arts Field."

Kungfu Tai Chi Magazine

Email: geneching@kungfumagazine.com

Website: <http://www.KungFuMagazine.com>

Gene Ching is Associate Publisher of Kung Fu Tai Chi magazine and www.KungFuMagazine.com, the largest English language magazine and website devoted exclusively to Chinese martial arts. He has authored hundreds of martial arts articles and has been publishing his research since 1992. Additionally, he has written well over a hundred martial arts instructional video scripts. Gene has studied the martial arts since childhood. He was Captain of the epee squad for SJSU's NCAA championship fencing team, and bears two fencing master diplomas: a Provost's Arms & Escrime from the USFCA and a Military Provost at Arms from ROTC. Among his teachers are Master Tony Chen, Maestro Michael'saro, Maestro William Gaugler, Master Kwong Wing Lam, and Shaolin Warrior Monk Shi Decheng. He is a disciple of Monk Decheng and bears the Shaolin name "Xing Long" (32nd generation, Dragon).

American Society of Internal Arts

4 Holly Court

Sussex, NJ 07461-1418

Ph: (973) 670-6582

Email: jfd@americansocietyofinternalarts.org

Website: <http://AmericanSocietyOfInternalArts.org>

Website: <http://www.TaiChiFest.com>

Shifu James Donnelly has been training in classical taijiquan under his wife's guidance since 1999. He is both a co-owner and instructor at Internal Gardens School of Classical Taijiquan, as well as a founding director of the American Society of Internal Arts (A.S.I.A.). He is the former editor of the A.S.I.A. Journal, A.S.I.A.'s former membership magazine, and has been published in several newspapers and magazines including Tai Chi magazine, Inside Kung Fu and TCM World newspaper, among others. He is co-producer of the annual Zhang San Feng Festival, the oldest and

largest taiji festival in the country, and in 2007 he was inducted into the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame for his contributions to the internal arts. In addition to training with his wife in the taiji methods of Master Jou Tsung Hwa, Donnelly also studies with select instructors including Doctor Gary Torres, chief disciple of Grandmaster Peter Kwok, and Dr. John Painter, chief disciple of the Li family lineage.

World Tai Chi & Qigong Day

10100 Roe Avenue

Overland Park, KS 66207

Ph: 913-648-2256

School_email: billdouglas@worldtaichiday.org

School_website: <http://www.WorldTaiChiDay.org>

2009 Internal Arts Hall of Fame Inductee, Bill Douglas, is Founder of World Tai Chi & Qigong Day; author of a #1 best selling Tai Chi book (published in several languages); and is Tai Chi Expert for DrWeil.com and Dr. Weil's HealthyAging.com. World Tai Chi & Qigong Day (WTCQD) educates millions worldwide of the health and healing benefits of Tai Chi and Qigong, and how they can save society trillions of dollars annually in lost health costs. WTCQD is held in hundreds of cities in over 65 nations, at such locations as the United Nations Building in New York, and at the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo, Norway. WTCQD's work has been recognized by the United Nations World Health Organization, and officially proclaimed by governors, senates, and legislatures and mayors worldwide. Bill's been a Tai Chi source for The Wall Street Journal, New York Times, South China Morning Post, BBC World Radio, USA Weekend, The Reader's Digest, Parade Magazine, and over 100 media worldwide. Bill's enabled hundreds of Tai Chi & Qigong teachers to partner with local government & media to educate their communities of these tools. Bill was recipient of the "Lou Gehrig Hero Award" (ALS Association); "Extraordinary Service in the Field of Qigong Award" (National Qigong Association); "Leadership Award" (National Tai Chi Chuan Association), and the World Congress on Qigong's "Media Excellence Award"; WorldTaiChiDay.org's "Tai Chi Medical Research Library" is the most popular such site in the world, and is used by govt. institutions and health professionals worldwide.

Coiling Dragon Internal Arts

PO Box 35

North Quincy, MA

02171-0001

Ph: (617) 595-8097

Email: dale_dugas@coilingdragoninternalarts.com

Website: <http://www.CoilingDragon.com>

Coiling Dragon Internal Arts Association was founded by Shifu Dale Dugas in response to his desire to catalog, research and teach the majority of authentic classical and modernized methods of Chinese martial arts he has received, rather than letting the material pass into oblivion. Shifu Dugas has over 25 years of in-depth training in classical Chinese, Chinese/Okinawan, and Japanese martial arts systems. He achieved his Shodan (1st degree Black Belt) in Okinawan Uechi-Ryu Karate-do at age 16. He is well versed in southern short hand systems such as bak mei pai and jook lum gee tong long pai. He was first introduced to the complexities of the Chinese internal arts (xingyiquan, baguazhang, taijiquan), and various qigong methods under Taoist Master Kwan Sai Hung, best known as the protagonist in the book, *The Wandering Taoist*. He has lived and worked in Iwate Prefecture, Japan working for two separate board of education departments after earning a B.A. in Japanese Studies from Earlham College, and appeared on National Japanese TV as well as local Japanese news programs. Shifu Dugas has been studying Jiulong Baguazhang since 1999 when he was first introduced to Shifu John Painter and the Jiulong system via Shifu Jimmy Morris and Shifu Bob Downey of South Shore Internal Arts. In July of 2006 Shifu Dugas was certified as an instructor of Jiulong Baguazhang by Shifu John P. Painter and Shifu Robert Castaldo. Shifu Dugas has made a personal vow to follow Shifu John P. Painter to learn and propagate the Jiulong Baguazhang system after having been exposed to different systems over the years, he feels Jiulong Baguazhang and the Daoqiquan system offer a well rounded curriculum for both the combat warrior, and seekers of the quiet path. Shifu Dugas has over 15 years of uninterrupted training experience in 3 methods of Iron Palm training. In addition to this, Shifu Dugas has extensive practical knowledge of dit da ke (trauma medicinal skills) and how it is applied. Shifu Dugas maintains a well-stocked Chinese herbal pharmacy, and sells both dit da jow and other training supplies via his company, CDIA Supplies. You can visit CDIA Supplies store at <https://www.coilingdragoninternalarts.com/store>.

Doug Gray is a spiritual counselor and consultant, dowser, international speaker, seasoned storyteller, and shamanic teacher of the Sacred Medicine. Born in Atlantic Canada of a Mikmaq mother, Doug reconnected with his native roots while serving as an Anglican Minister in Canada's North. He was mentored by a traditional native elder (Mushum), who introduced him to embracing his First Nations heritage. Doug presents regularly to the American and Canadian Societies of Dowzers, both of which honored him with lifetime memberships. He has also presented to the International Association of Facilitators and presents frequently to teachers' organizations, community groups, and elementary, secondary and university students. Doug is a native non-denominational ordained minister. As well as performing ministerial functions, he teaches native culture and spirituality in a variety of workshop settings. Doug's main focus is following the spiritual laws of the shamanic ways as a guide (to manifest abundance in life, home, and business).

U. S. Kuo Shu Academy

11000 Owings Mills Blvd; Suite #5

Owings Mills, MD 21117

Ph: 443-394-9222

Email: usksf@verizon.net

Website: <http://www.TienShanPai.org>

Website: <http://www.USKSF.org>

Shifu John Green is a 4th degree black sash disciple of 64th generation Tien Shan Pai Grandmaster Huang, Chien-Liang. He has studied the internal arts of taijiquan, xingyiquan, and baguazhang for over 10 years with Shih-Ye Huang and is currently the senior internal arts instructor at the US Kuoshu Academy in Owings Mills, MD. Shifu Green is a multiple tournament internal arts champion at the local, national, and international level. He is also 2-time US Kuoshu Federation Internal Arts Competitor of the Year. Shifu Green is also a certified internal arts instructor through the United States Kuoshu Federation and the Tien Shan Pai Wu Kui Tang. He continues to be active within the internal arts community as a guest instructor/lecturer and tournament judge.

Capital District T'ai Chi and Kung Fu Association

Mailing Address: 29 W. Dillenbeck Drive, Albany NY 12203

Studio Address: 1095 Central Ave., Albany NY 12206 (Behind Little Anthony's Pizza)

Ph: (518) 459-6869

Fax: (518) 459-6869

Email: sales@jiangtaichi.com

Website: <http://www.JiangTaiChi.com>

Master Jianye Jiang began studying wushu at the age of 5, learning from such well-known masters as Yu Mingwei, Yu Hai, Ruizhang Zhao, and Yongxiang Zhou. He received his BA and masters degrees from Qufu University and Shanghai

Physical Education Institute. A teacher of wushu for over thirty years, Master Jiang is also a national and international judge in China and the US, and a board member of the USA National Tai Chi Chuan Federation. In addition to his talents as a martial artist, he is also a master calligrapher and winner of national and international awards. Sales of his calligraphy have garnered more than \$10,000, all donated to the Shandong Disabled Association. He has also acted in movies produced in China, Australia and Japan and has produced over 300 instructional videotapes in Chinese martial arts and qigong.

The Bam's KungFu

8750 Cherry Lane #C15

Laurel, MD 20707

Ph: (301) 776-0909

Email: info@thebams.com

Website: <http://www.TheBams.com>

A seven-time sport karate and kung fu world champion and two-time All-American champion, Willie "The Bam" Johnson is a prodigy and true hero in the world of martial arts. As the creator of Wushudo Universal Martial Arts, Johnson is known for his dynamic, universal approach to developing physical, mental and spiritual fitness.

A graduate of the Beijing Physical Culture Institute of China, Johnson has nearly 30 years of training in the martial arts. He has earned fifth- and seventh-degree black belts in karate and kung fu and studied several other arts such as jujutsu, Thai boxing, boxing, wrestling, tai chi, and kickboxing. In 1991, Johnson made history as America's first nationally ranked Triple Crown martial arts champion. Only three years later, he had the distinction of being the first African-American to be ranked number one in kung fu forms and weapons. He also received the World Title from the World Association Kickboxing Organization.

He is the owner and president of The Bam's Kung Fu Academy in Laurel, Maryland. He is the creator of Predator's Self-Defense Concepts. He received the title of Grand Master from the World Head of Family Sokeship Council for his creation of Wushudo and Martial Mix concepts and curriculum. He was named Instructor of the Year by

the Educational Funding Corporation. In addition, he was inducted into the Black Belt Magazine Hall of Fame and the North American Sports Karate Hall of Fame for his training and development of world champions.

Willie "The Bam" Johnson is the founder and national spokesperson for the Stronger Than Drugs Foundation, which began in 1989. The foundation operates Tha Urban Spirit movement, which is dedicated to helping kids rid drugs from their lives through a martial arts, and Hip Hop fusion curriculum that develops their character through the teaching of martial art principles. These teachings are reinforced through Tha Urban Spirit's Fu-Yah Magazine articles and its mix of tapes and DVDs.

Bam starred as himself on the WMAC Master television show and the Wesley Snipes Masters of the Martial Arts show. He has appeared in four films, including Super Fights and Major League II, 16 stage plays, 11 television shows, and two videos. He has published more than 30 articles in leading martial arts magazines and been featured on the cover of Karate/Kung Fu illustrated and Martial Arts Training. He wrote The Complete Martial Artist published by Human Kinetics and gained recognition as a #1 New Author by Amazon.com.

He is a regional representative of the U.S. Shuai Chiao Association and the Federation of United Martial Artist Crusade Against Crime. He is a member of the Educational Funding Corporation, the Martial Arts Industry Association, the National Professional Martial Arts Association and the Martial Arts Industry Association.

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8750 Cherry Lane #C15

Laurel, MD 20707

Ph: (301) 776-0909

Email: info@thebams.com

Website: <http://www.TheBams.com>

Shifu Kimber Johnson is a 5 time World Champion, an Olympic Gold and Bronze Medalist and a 30 year veteran of the Martial Arts. Her martial arts career began at the young age of 4, when she enrolled into a tae kwon do class. Obtaining a 3rd degree in tae kwon do and a 1st degree in kung fu and now a master instructor, running a successful kung fu/internal arts school in Laurel, MD with her husband, Willie "The Bam" Johnson. A mother of 4 children, who runs their kung fu school along with her husband, she prides herself on staying in shape, being business savvy and working to educate women, young women and girls about the influence of martial arts in a females life. Shifu is an accomplished author, photographer, choerographer, screen writer, and artist. She also has a masters degree in Early Child Education and a bachelor's degree in Child Physcology. She prides herself on teaching children as young as 2 years of age the

martial arts and being a GREAT wife and mom.

Wu Mei Kung Fu Association

219 Sullivan Street

New York, NY 10012

Ph: (917) 885-8598

Email: lohingkwai@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.wumei.com>

7th Generation Master of Wu Mei Pai, Sifu Lo began his martial arts training in 1963 studying with such noted masters as Sensei Iguchi, 6th Dan Judo, 5th Dan karate, all-Asian Judo champion, 1961 & 1962; Sensei Kanakogi, 6th Dan judo, 5th Dan karate, All Asian Judo Champion, 1963 & 1964; and Sensei Tadashi Nakamura, 5th Degree black belt in Kyokushinkai karate. In the early 1960's Sifu Lo also studied Shotokan karate under Sensei Nyjack, Tomiki Method Aikido under Sensei Katsu, and Ed Parker's Kempo Kung Fu under Sifu Bob Hirsch. In the mid 1960's, he was the inner door student of Gin Foon Mark, 5th Generation Master of Kwong Sai Jook Lum Praying Mantis, under the legendary Grandmaster Lum San. Ken Lo performed demonstrations for Sifu Mark in the Philadelphia and New York Chinatowns, and Columbia University in 1969. A student of Zazen at the New York Zendo in the late 60's, Sifu Lo has studied Meditation, Buddhist philosophy, and Yoga since 1968. In 1970 he trained under Master Jack McCrave, 9th Degree black belt in Vadha, an East Indian martial art. Under Master McCrave, Sifu Lo also studied hypnotherapy. In 1973 he was initiated into Maha Yoga and became the disciple of Swami Shivom Tirth Maharaj, spiritual head of Devatma Shakti Society worldwide. In the same year, Sifu Lo met Grandmaster Hsieh Peng. He became Grandmaster Peng's disciple in 1977, and headed the Wu Mei Kung Fu Association in 1985 when Grandmaster Peng retired from active teaching.

Sifu Lo is the founding Director of the Wu Mei Kung Fu Association and is the highest authority of Wu Mei Kung Fu worldwide. Sifu Lo is recognized by the Chinese government as an authentic traditional Chinese Martial arts master. He is also the founding Director of the China Arts Council, whose mission is to preserve and promote traditional Chinese cultural arts in the West. Through the China Arts Council, Sifu Lo has worked with: the Guggenheim Museum, the Prospect Park Alliance, the Chinese Scholar's Garden, the Hammond Museum, the Asian Pacific American Heritage

Festival, Families with Children from China, the Eldridge Street Project, and many other cultural institutions. Having taught martial arts since 1969, Sifu Lo's students are ranked among the top three in national competitions across the country. Sifu Lo is an active member of the Chinese martial arts community, and has sat on the Executive Board of the National Council of Chinese Martial Arts, and on the National Internal Styles Rules Committee of the AAU Chinese Martial Arts Division. Sifu Lo has been the National Vice Chairman, Northeast Regional Director and the Metropolitan Association Chinese Martial Arts Chairman of the Amateur Athletic Union. Sifu Lo is a National Advisor to the USA Wu Shu Kung Fu Federation. He is a respected member of the North American Chinese Martial Arts Federation, the Eastern United States Kung Fu Federation, and the Tai Chi Association of New York. In addition to his martial arts studies, Sifu Lo has studied Chinese poetics from Dr. Lo Wai Luk, Ph.D. Sifu Lo has studied Feng Shui (the Art of Placement), Face Reading, Palmistry and Hand Writing Analysis from Master Eng Suern Gwoo since 1990. Since 2000, Sifu Lo has been studying Tibetan Buddhism from Geshe Michael Roach of the Asian Classics Institute. Ken Lo has been studying Chinese calligraphy and Cha Dao (the Art of Tea) from Master Lo Chien Wu since 1994. Since 2007, Sifu Lo has been studying Poker Game Theory and is in training to become an International competitive Poker Champion using Chinese Martial Art principles.

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Ph: (518) 459-6869

Fax: (518) 459-6869

Email: sales@jiangtaichi.com

Website: <http://www.JiangTaiChi.com>

Shifu Yuzhi Lu was born 1951 and has studied wushu from the age of 12. She received her bachelors degree from the Physical Education Department of Qufu University and was an instructor there for more than 16 years. After that, she continued her wushu studies in Beijing, Shanghai and Shandong Province. She is the wife of Jianye Jiang and co-owns and operates their school, and is involved with the production of their other projects.

Tigerclaw

Email: tn@tigerclaw.com

Website: <http://www.tigerclaw.com>

Marcus Callis began his journey in the martial arts at the age of 6 studying traditional Shito-ryu Karate-Do under Hayashi Sensei. During his 25 years of training he has come to study over 15 styles of martial arts and has devoted his life to the martial way. A former member of the United States Olympic Team, Pan-American Team, and Goodwill Team, he has had the opportunity to train with some of the greatest masters from all over the world. Now Mr Callis is the Managing Director for Tiger Claw, The Masters' Choice of Martial Arts Gear, bringing his life's passion and years of experience to a place where he can work to further the martial arts in the United States. He has worked at Tiger Claw for the last 8 years supplying martial arts schools with products for there students and advice for there owners to further the growth of the arts for generations to come.

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Arlington, TX 76004-1777

Ph: (817) 860-0129

Fax: (817) 460-5125

Email: theGompa@aol.com

Website: <http://www.TheGompa.com>

Dr. John Painter began training in the Chinese arts of taijiquan, baguazhang, xingyiquan, acupressure, Chinese massotherapy, herbs, traditional weapons, and neigong in 1957 with Li, Long-dao from the Emei mountain region of Sichuan Province. Dr. Painter holds a Ph.D. in naturopathic medicine from Sussex College in England. He has been teaching Chinese internal martial arts and qigong for over 30 years. He instructs baguazhang, xingyiquan, qigong and Daoist courses at the Gompa Center in Arlington, Texas. He has been a bodyguard for numerous film and television stars and has appeared in three full-length motion pictures as an actor. Dr. Painter has also been interviewed on national television and magazines like Vogue and National Star, promoting the internal arts. His specialty is baguazhang, a Chinese internal system. As a captain in the American Rangers Martial Law Enforcement Institute, Dr. Painter instructs law enforcement officers throughout the United States in defensive tactics called PKC (TM) based on baguazhang and xingyiquan. Dr. Painter was elected to the Inside Kung Fu Hall of Fame and was called "one of the most sought after Chinese martial arts seminar instructors in America" by Black Belt magazine. After the September 11 tragedy, Dr. Painter became heavily involved with developing special methods for the nation's security law enforcement agencies and has been recommended to the FAA by the US Marshals service as a trainer for the US Air Marshals programs. Doctor Painter is also a member of the board of advisors for the American Society of Internal Arts.

Central Connecticut Tai Chi Chuan

790 Old Colony Road (Route 71)

Meriden, CT 06451

Ph: (203) 235-5703

Email: cctcc@snet.net

Website: <http://www.CentralConnecticutTaiChi.com>

Sifu Ritchie began training in the martial arts in 1969 and started taijiquan in 1973. His first taiji instructor, Ben Wong invited him, to join the Sabah Tai Chi Association, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, East Malaysia, as a special guest. Sifu Ritchie's instructor, in Sabah, was Master Wong Li Sung, under Grandmaster Haung Xing Xian who was a senior disciple of Cheng Man Ching. Sifu Ritchie later practiced taiji with Master Wong Yi in Hong Kong, the Thai Elders (former Cheng Man Ching students) in Bangkok, Thailand and throughout the years with well-known masters in the U.S. Sifu Ritchie has been formally teaching taiji since 1983, founding Central Connecticut Tai Chi Ch'uan (CCTCC), in the town of Meriden, in 1989. The first taiji school in New England to offer complete year-round taiji programs, with 10 instructors, and 12-14 classes each week. Sifu Ritchie has taught taiji for a number of corporate settings such as ESPN, National Arthritis Foundation and the National M.S. Society of Connecticut. Sifu Ritchie has taught as an assistant professor at Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT, where he taught taiji in the PE department and medical qigong lab for students in the Respiratory Care Department of Health Sciences. He is a regular guest lecturer for physical therapy and occupational therapy classes on the subjects of taijiquan and qigong.

Full Circle T'ai Chi Academy

2801 E. Coast Hwy, STE D&E

Corona Del Mar, CA 92625

Ph: 949-673-7705

email: drtaichi@aol.com

website: <http://www.drtaichi.com>

David-Dorian Ross is America's T'ai Chi Champion, whose competitive performances have won him seven US gold medals, two World bronze medals and a World silver medal -- the highest awards ever given to a non-Asian for T'ai Chi performance. He has been called America's best-loved T'ai Chi teacher, and is dedicated to raising the quality of T'ai Chi

in America. He is the owner of Full Circle Fitness, and the Full Circle T'ai Chi Academy. David-Dorian is the executive producer and co-host of the 13-part public television series, "T'ai Chi in Paradise," and the host of the award-winning videos T'ai Chi (The Short Form) and Flow Motion. He is the author and featured instructor in the Chi for Beginners series, produced by Living Arts Video. In 2005, his DVD, Tai Chi Beginners Practice, won the Aegis Award for Best video in the Training/Education category. In 2006, he was again awarded the Aegis Award for Tai Chi Beginners Practice Kit, and also for Tai Chi Daily Practice. He also won two Telly Awards, for Tai Chi Daily Practice, and the Tai Chi Swivel Disk Workout. He is the author of the books The Tai Chi Companion; Power, Freedom and Flow; and Exercising the Soul and he is currently at work on a new manuscript called The Rules of the Road.

Try Out Toys Entertainment

PO Box 460

Center Conway, NH 03813

Ph: (603) 996-1047

Email: play@tryouttoys.com

Website: <http://www.TryOutToys.com>

Michael Glenn Sauvageau is a master sphereplayer extraordinaire, fire performer, juggler, and all around talented and fun guy. An avid juggler since age 5, his life took a dramatic turn in college when he was so captivated by sphereplay that he stopped juggling. For 6 years he isolated himself and was immersed in learning the art of moving one sphere around his body. To share what he learned, he created TryOut Toys Entertainment with his wife, Jennifer. In just over a decade, 225,000 people worldwide have been inspired to play. To help people learn, Michael has also produced and directed two instructional DVDs. A dynamic entertainer dedicated to sharing the fun, Michael Glenn is your friendly neighborhood sphereplayer.

Phoenix Dragon Kungfu

PO Box 272262

Tampa, FL 33688-2262

Ph: (813) 786-5196

Email: drtorres@verizon.net

Website: <http://www.PhoenixDragonKungfu.com>

As the most senior of Grandmaster Peter Kwok's students, Sigong Torres was both Kwok's most advanced and one of his most dedicated, serving as Director of Peter Kwok's Kung Fu Academy for over 7 years, and as Chief Instructor for another seven. In 1982 Torres earned the ranking of 8th degree black belt, the only student to ever be ranked that high by Grandmaster Kwok. Since then, Sigong Torres has been recognized for his extensive mastery of Shaolinquan, taijiquan, xingyiquan, and baguazhang, a result of his knowledge and experience in Chinese martial arts amassed over the past 40 years. As the Kwok system lineage carrier, Torres has been teaching for over 34 years and has students recognized at the rank of both Master and Shifu. In addition to his martial development, he is winner of numerous tournament championships, is a U.S. Chinese Kuo Shu Federation International Tournament judge and coaches World Title Martial Arts Champion fighters. As the director of Phoenix-Dragon Kung Fu Academy in Tampa, Florida, he is a frequent guest lecturer at major universities, and travels and teaches workshops and seminars across the country. His affiliations include lifetime memberships to the Guang Ping Yang Tai Chi Association and the U.S. Chinese Kuo Shu Federation. He is also a member of the advisory board for the American Society of Internal Arts. In addition to his martial background, Sigong Torres is also Doctor Torres. With a masters degree in teaching, a doctor of medicine, a doctor of chiropractic, a degree in physiological therapeutics, acupuncture, and board eligibility from the International College of Applied Kinesiology, Sigong Torres has extensive knowledge of how the above arts promote health and longevity, as well as their martial applications.

International Dachengdao Inc.

86-18 Whitney Ave.

Elmhurst NY 11373

Ph: (646) 279-1428

Email: dachengdao@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.dachengdao.org>

Grandmaster Wang is the 5th generation lineage holder for northern Hao style Plum Blossom Mantis under Hao Wei Zhi as well as the 3rd generation lineage holder for Dachengquan under Wang Xuan Jie, and 6th generational disciple for Sanxi style Xingyiquan and Cheng style Baguazhang under Li Tai Liang. He is the world's leading expert of the Mantis two-hand sword. He is the president of International Dachengdao Inc.; on the Board of Directors for the Civil Aid Society as a director of training; Certifying Master of the International Kung fu Federation; and the NY State Director of the World Stunt Association. He has been featured in several martial arts magazines throughout the world; travels for exhibitions and tournament judging; teaches seminars world wide; and trains stunt fighters for movies. He taught kungfu and art at the Mensa World Gathering in Walt Disney World August 2006, his short film "The Lesson" won several indie festival awards, and he currently owns a school in Elmhurst, Queens.

Middle-Way Meditation Center

9 Terrace Place

Danbury CT 06810

Ph: (203) 791-8611

Email: twjarvis1@gmail.com

Website: Meditation Center

Ven. Ocean-of-Wisdom Sakya (Thich Hai Tri) is a Buddhist priest in the Dhyana tradition. (Thien, Ch’an, Zen, Son.) Rev. Wisdom (a shortened version of his name) has studied and practiced Buddhism since 1988 and has studied in the Vipassana, Tibetan, Zen, Ch’an, Pure Land and Thien (Vietnamese Zen) traditions. Previously a Buddhist Monk, he changed his ordination to Buddhist priest to better meet the needs of the American public. He received Dharma Transmission from Venerable Master Thich Tri Hoang of the Lam Te Thien school, and has studied with Venerables John Daido Looi, His Holiness the Dalai Lama (from whom he received Bodhicitta vows), Geshe Michael Roach, S.N. Goenkaji, Thich Nhat Hahn, and other lesser known but just as compassionate teachers. In 2002 he became Abbot of the Middle-Way Meditation Center and established the Middle-Way Peace Order; an order geared towards peace and the development of western Buddhism. Rev. Wisdom has taught at both theological schools (including Auburn Theological Seminary) and universities. He has given talks and led retreats and meditations at a variety of locales in the US and in Asia including the Hai An Pagoda, the Shaolin Temple of the U.S., Chuang Yen Monastery, SUNY Stony Brook, UCONN, WestConn, Mahayana Temple, Godstow Retreat Center, and Yale. He is the author of numerous articles and is currently working on a book geared towards helping western Dharma practitioners navigate through the many faces of Buddhism in the US.

Wu Tang Physical Culture Association

9 Second Ave 3rd Floor

New York NY 10003

Ph: (212) 533-1751

Email: baguarat@aol.com

Website: www.wutangpca.com

Website: www.qigongforwomen.com

Tina Chunna Zhang has experienced Chinese martial arts and dance since her childhood in Beijing, China and moved to the U.S. in the 1980's. She has studied and trained with the most skillful internal martial arts masters in China. She is a disciple of northern Wu style taijiquan Master Li Bing Ci, the president of Beijing Wu Style Taijiquan Research Center. She also a disciple of Master Liu Jing Ru of classical Cheng Style Baguazhang. She is a high nationally ranked medalist in both taijiquan and baguazhang forms, weapons, push hands, and twice champions in women's sparring. She is the co-author of Classical Northern Wu Style Taijiquan, and "The Whirling Circles of Baguazhang", and the founder and author of "Earth Qi Gong for Women". Shifu Zhang teaches regular classes in New York City, and workshops, retreats in the States, Canada, and Europe.