

Zen Letter #4
December 17, 2008

"The purpose of life is a life with a purpose." ~ Robert Byrne

Hello everybody! I wanted to drop a quick line to you and say a few things about what's happening at Zen Dragon.....first of all, Parents~Thank you for printing and reading the last few letters with your kids. The more supportive and knowledgeable you are together, the greater chance of success. If a parent has a "whatever" attitude, with my experience, the child is less likely to succeed. I hope you know, I am here for you and your family, whenever you might need me . These hours I put into these letters, I give to you with great joy and hope in my heart.Now, I do know that some parents never even told their kids about these "Zen Letters", let alone discuss them together. Hmmmm, - no one is in trouble, but PLEASE share and spend time with them on the subject of Martial Arts. I Promise you, you will not regret it. When I asked the kids class to put up their hands if they knew about the 3 letters I sent, maybe, 30% put up their hands. This is not how we build up their spirits and help them be the best they can be. Again, I am here to help you and teach your children some valuable character traits, (focus, honor, honesty, goal setting, loyalty, compassion, confidence, etc).....but I do need your help. Thank you~ there will be a pop quiz 😊 Help Keep Zen Dragon Great!

"It is a funny thing about life: If you refuse to accept anything but the best you very often get it. ~ W. Somerset Maugham

1) Chess Night is this Friday from 5:00 to 7:00 (Dec. 19 2008) ~ This event is free and for any student of Zen Dragon who wants to attend and is interested in Chess. It will be FUN! ~Bring a pillow to lay on while playing on the floor. Parents, please be on time to pick up your child.

2) Please notice the days that the dojo will be closed over the Holidays (Dec. 24th thru Jan. 1st) We are open again on Saturday, Jan 3rd 2009! Happy New year! ~

3) Do not forget the contest of \$40 dojo dollars, up to \$160 dojo dollars and \$200 cash- etc. (see last letter that you printed out and saved for details or write me)

4) Now, here is the BIG news! Zen Dragon is hosting a seminar with Grand Master Fumio Demura. The date is January 31st at the school. The cost is \$125.00 . There will be ONLY 30 tickets sold. Mr Demura is a living legend in his 80's who still travels all over the world to do seminars ~ (Germany, Japan, Israel, Spain, Italy, NYC, etc) This will be his first trip, and maybe only, to Chambersburg. Tickets WILL sell out, do not miss this chance to learn karate from a GrandMaster. I looked up Mr. Demura on the Wikipedia Encyclopedia, to help you understand the rich history of this man,. Here is what it said:

Background

At the age of 8 he began training in the [martial arts](#) under Asano Sensei, and started training under Ryusho Sakagami Sensei in Shito Ryu Itosu Kai karate when he was 12. Demura received his 1st Degree [black belt](#) in 1956 and won the East Japan Karate Championship in 1957. In early 1958 Demura began training in [kobudo](#), a style of Okinawan weapons training, under the direction of [Sensei](#) Shinken Taira. Demura is renown for his abilities as a weapons instructor and taught famous martial arts movie performers such as [Bruce Lee](#). In 1961 he won the All-Japan Karate Championships. Four years later, in partnership with Dan Ivan, Demura came to the [United States](#) to teach and promote Shito Ryu Karate.

In the following years Demura gained international renown with his innovative martial arts demonstrations in southern California and [Las Vegas](#). He also became the Chief Instructor of Shito Ryu Itosu Kai USA. During his time in [Las Vegas](#) he trained [Stephen Segal](#).

Demura has received numerous awards and recognitions from the American and International martial arts communities. In 2005 he celebrated his 40th year in the United States as a martial artist and teacher. Genbu Kai International split off from Itosu Kai International in 2003 after the 2001 political dispute in which he was expelled from Shito Ryu Itosu Kai. He is currently the President and Chief Instructor of Shito Ryu Genbu Kai International.

Demura lives in Southern California, but spends much of his time touring (in the USA and abroad) as a teacher and guest official. He teaches Karate to different students in many U.S. states and in more than 24 countries.

Despite having lived in the United States for over 40 years, Demura remains a Japanese citizen but can speak english very well. After recovering from minor heart problems he has been traveling around the globe much of the time, visiting Genbu-Kai dojos, conducting Karate and Kobudo seminars and making movies.

Film Appearances

- [The Warrior Within](#) (1976)
- [The Island of Dr. Moreau](#) (1977)
- [The Karate Kid](#) (1984)
- [The Karate Kid, Part III](#) (1989)
- [Shootfighter: Fight to the Death](#) (1992)
- [Rising Sun](#) (1993)
- [The Next Karate Kid](#) (1994)
- [Masters of the Martial Arts Presented by Wesley Snipes](#) (1998)
- [Mystic Origins of the Martial Arts](#) (1998)
- [Modern Warriors](#)(2002)
- [XMA: Xtreme Martial Arts](#) (2003)
- [Ninja](#) (2009)

So there you have it folks! - Chess club~contests~ holiday vacations~ and a seminar! Please always feel free to write me with any questions, or talk to Heidi or Sara in the dojo. 2009 promises to be a FANTASTIC year...Aim High my friends! Peace and Zen to you! David Bowers (now go print this out and share it...remember, pop quiz.)