

# The T.K.D. Flash

A Publication of the Association of Academies of Martial Arts

The National Newsletter of the United States Taekwon-Do Federation

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As we come to the end of 2020, the USTF has much to be thankful for. The framework built by General Choi and Sr. Grand Master Charles Sereff has prepared us for the future through example! Although many of our schools have had to close, many events had to be cancelled and still classes, testings and workshops go on in the park, in garages and social media until the time we can all get back to gathering without fear of spreading the COVID-19. Perseverance is just a part of what we all are. During this difficult time, safety is our primary



We are pleased to announce the completion of the first USTF Referee Seminar held in 2020 on November 7 due to COVID-19! With safety our first priority, masks, social distancing, sanitizing, limiting students, hand washing and only allowing two at a time to register, we did it! Special thank you to Grand Master **Kirk Steadman** for instructing and to the father and son **Michael Bennett** and **Bryce Bennett** for sparring so we could practice our skills in rings! The City and County of Broomfield had just issued a Safer At Home order but did allow business to operate at 25% so we were able to hold this event. Representatives from

Colorado, Wyoming and Texas attended. We had the students sit in chairs, pick up their chairs to move into ring positions, then pick up their chairs and go sit down in order to limit the amount of people touching anything!! The cooperation of the students was fantastic! We have a whole new group of Class C, Class B and Class A Referees after the event! Our goal is to hold the events that were cancelled in 2020 later in the year 2021! USTF Strong!! [Photos, Mr. Freddie Cowns referees the Bennetts; GM Steadman instructs.]



*Grand Master Renee Sereff, D.T.S.*

On November 14 a Black Belt test was held at the Academy of Martial Arts, Grafton, Wisconsin. Presiding were Masters **Mike Van Pietersom** and **Rick Bauman**, Fifth Dan **Mary Lubner**, Third Dan **Nick Moralez**, and Sr. Master F.M. Van Hecke. At the Corner was Fourth Dan **Matthew Thur**. Sixth Dan **James Pals** provided assistance.

Successfully achieving First Dan were Mr. **Noah Friberg**, age 15, and Mr. **Gabriel Peters**, age 11. Free sparring was waived due to COVID restrictions, Ho Sin Sul was conducted

with family members of the parties testing, and step sparring was “socially distanced.” Above, the group photo and, next page, a few more pics.



concern for our families, instructors and students. Sr. Grand Master Charles Sereff wanted to make sure we passed on his message for this holiday season, “ Stay Safe and Stay Home”! One of the real joys of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to say Thank You and to wish you the very best for the New Year!

*Grand Master Renee Sereff*

**2020 Kids’ Art Contest  
Winners!**

**The Flash Annual Taekwon-Do Kids’ Art Contest** for 2020 has resulted in many entries from around the world. A distinguished panel of critics spent many hours in determining both Winners and Honorable Mentions. The results follow and are

adjudged in **The Big Decision** in this issue’s final pages.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Look forward** to the January issue, which will share information of upcoming USTF events for 2021. Also, in January we will again select our **Photo Image of the Year**. Much to look forward to.

On November 12th **Axe Taekwon-Do** in Bellevue, Nebraska hosted a combined black belt and color belt promotion testing. Nine students tested for various ranks from 8th gup Yellow belt through 5th degree black belt. The testing board was composed of Sr. Master **Ricky Todd** 8th Dan, USTF



Region 2 Director, Master **Kevin Bushor**, 7th Dan, USTF Nebraska State Director, and Ms. **April Bowing**, 6th Dan. Mr. **Keith Buckley**, 4th Dan served as the testing director.

The following black belts were promoted. Mr. **Sean Toppi** was promoted to 5th Degree Black Belt. Ms. **Melody Param**, Mr. **Anthony Garber**, and Mr. **Kiel Matos** were promoted to 2nd Degree Black Belt.

The following color belt students were promoted: Blue Belt Red Stripe: **Haylie Lewis**. Blue Belt: **Collin May**. Green Belt Blue Stripe: **Marcus May**. Green Belt: **Marsaili Kelly**. Yellow Belt Green Stripe: **Ryleigh Lavine**.

Our school spirit remain high. We remain loyal to the USTF and Taekwon-Do!

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

[Note: group photo above and more great pics on the following page.]

Photos from the November 14 test at AMA Grafton. Left, Gabriel makes his break and right, Noah splits his suspension break.





Some breaks from the November 12 Axe Taekwon-Do test. Above, Mr. Anthony Garber. Low left, Mr. Sean Toppi. Low right, Ms. Melody Param.



## The Big Decision

The TKD Flash Kids' Art Contest of 2020 is now over. This year the TKD Kids' Art Contest assembled a distinguished panel of critics from around the world to evaluate all 732 entries. From among the deluge of entries, only a few of the very finest, the veritable *creme de la creme*, are displayed in this issue.

Again, numerous cafes of artinal coffee accompanied by the finest in varietals and *pate de foie gras* and caviar *hors d'oeuvres* and Domino's Pizza (the 2-for-1 Cheesy Crust Deal) were consumed during the 102 hour marathon session in conference room 17E of the **Flash Building** in downtown Manhattan. Determining the relatively few Honorable Mentions, in particular, sparked vigorous debate over many hours. Deliberations were held under tight security interrupted only by injunctive litigation and personal breaks.

Among the distinguished panel were **Horst Koehler**, Arts Section Editor of *Der Deutsche Zeitung*, **Amanda Reckenwith**, Curator of the Zlingbluther Collection at the Town of Furple Art Museum, **Cecile Shoily Branton-Forstcase** of Devonshire's Razzmattazz Artisans' Collective, and **Ramon Eduardo Fernando Menudo**, Director Ejecutivo, Museo del Pradorado, assembled upon the call of F.M. Van Hecke, Chairman *pro tem* of the Arts & Graphics Evaluation Subcommittee of the Representations Department of the TKD Flash.

The Federal District Court for the Southern District of New York was induced to intervene on behalf of a class of entrants who asserted that the kids' contest should be limited to relatively young kids and, besides, entries couldn't just be drawn on boards, don't you know, paper had to take some role in the process. Respondents pointed out that wood was a key component of the paper making process. At an *in camera* proceeding, Judge **William Ruttipattuti** induced the parties to reconcile, threatening to otherwise enjoin the entire contest to the January issue. The matter was settled by awarding Honorable Mentions to the Respondents.

More controversy was sparked by a motion submitted by Ms. Reckenwith to award by family or affinity groupings rather than individual entries. When the uproar in response subsided, members of the committee, after attending to their injuries, adopted the measure.

Honorable Mentions were awarded to contestants James Fiomento, Zoey Feister and Julie Jezak. Third Place was awarded to contestants Zachary, Brandon, and Savannah Kelley, based in large part on the strong entry of Savannah Kelley. Second Place was awarded to contestants Aniela and Matilda Van Hecke for their masterpieces in linear representation. First Place and Grand Prize Winners were Sophia and Nina Chythlook due to originality, whimsy, and ability to draw in the cold. Congratulations to all participants.

Upon completion of the marathon deliberations, Madame Cecile was heard to remark: *Je ne sais pas pourquoi je fais ça chaque an née*. In a hearty rejoinder, Senor Menudo responded, 나는 개인적으로 훌륭한 음식과 음료를 위해 왔습니다. The Flash extends its gratitude to these titans of the artistic world for their input and will send bills soon.

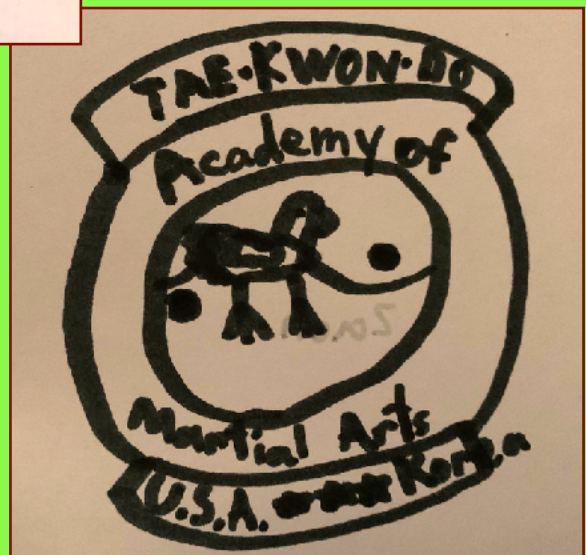
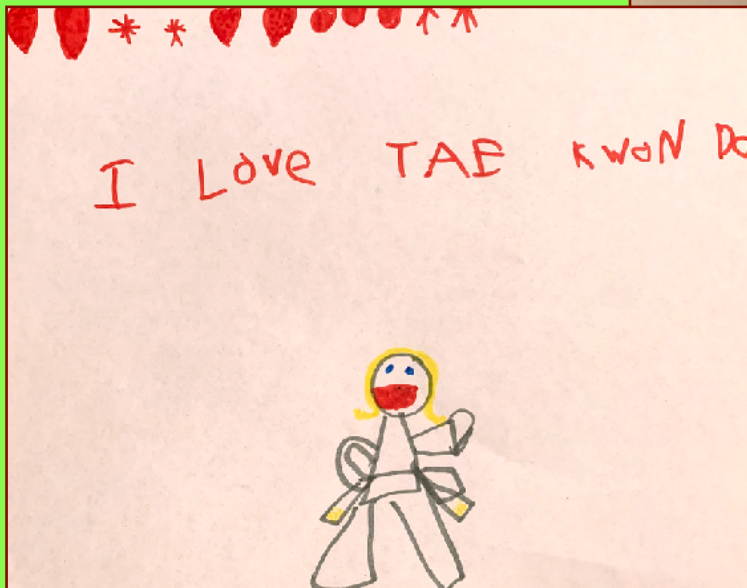
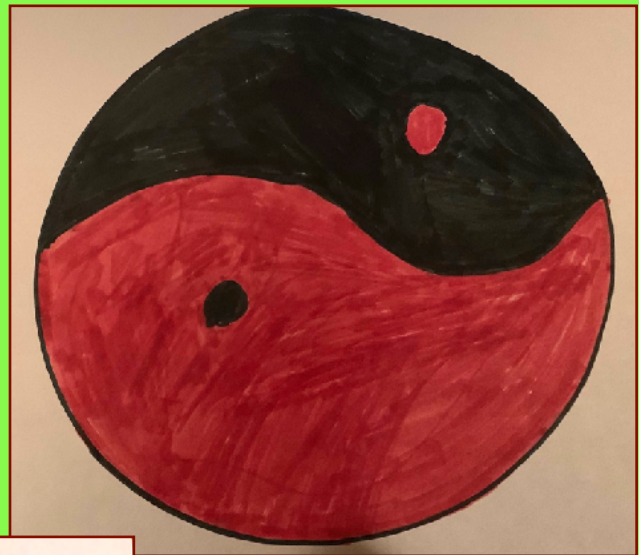




**James Kiomento, Zoey Feister and Julia Jezak** drew caricatures of themselves on boards for their Black Belt tests (held in Cadillac, Michigan, earlier this year) at **Lone Wolf Taekwon-Do**. Somewhat more mature than other entrants, they all share an Honorable Mention.



**Brandon Kelley**, age 9, Gup 3, does his rendition of Yin and Yang in school colors, his brother **Zachary Kelley**, age 11, Gup 2, replicates the AAMA gup school patch, and **Savannah Kelley**, age 6, Gup 9, expresses her feelings about Taekwon-Do. (A detail, left, below, better reflects her true hair color, which was diminished in the reduction of the original.) All study at the Academy of Martial Arts in Grafton, Wisconsin.





**Aniela Van Hecke's** fighting hawk reflects a sense of action and animal ferocity. She is 12 years old and a Gup 2 student.

Aniela's sister **Matilda Van Hecke**, age 10 and Gup 3 and also a student at the Grafton Academy of Martial Arts, replicates a modern cartoon style with this young lady Taekwon-Do practitioner.







**Sophia Chythlook**, age 9, is a 5th Gup at **Fairbanks TaeKwon-Do**, the *Ecole des Beaux-Arts* of the North. Her imaginative fight with the virus adds a sense of humor to her artistic effort. Her sister **Nina Chythlook**, age 11, same rank, same school, tells of her Taekwon-Do journey in “Stairs,” below. Congratulations, ladies!

