



*The Newsletter of*  
**The International Association of  
 Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists**

Fall 1999

## LABOR DAY EVENT WAS FUN FOR ALL

**T**he annual International Association of Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists weekend of workshops and meetings took place September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> in San Francisco.

The seminar series began with a self-defense seminar which was open to the public. Our instructors for the evening were Cori Coture and Eric Wade of Bay Area Model Mugging (BAMM). BAMM began in 1985 teaching women's self-defense in a supportive environment. They focus on real life situations and keep participants adrenalized (as one would be during an actual confrontation) throughout the drills. More than thirty people attended the outstanding Friday night seminar.

After the BAMM seminar, we went to a local Mexican restaurant for food and socializing.

Beginning early Saturday morning, Darl



**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN SAN FRANCISCO  
 OVER THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND**

**5th  
Degree**

**Late Breaking News**

**Teresa Galetti earns her  
5th Degree Black Belt**

*(Continued on insert)*

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**Statement of Financial Activity**

For The

*International Association of Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists*  
For The 9 Month Period Ending September 30,1999

|   |                              |                         |                |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Receipts:</b>                        |                              |                         |                |
|   | Membership Fees              |                         | 1,505          |
|   | Contributions from Sponsors  |                         | 143            |
|   | Donations from shirts & pins |                         | 0              |
|   | Corporate Sponsors           |                         | 0              |
|   | Refunds                      |                         | 0              |
|   |                              | Total Receipts.....     | 1,648          |
| <b>Expenditures:</b>                    |                              |                         |                |
|   | Start-up Costs & Admin       |                         | 575            |
|   | Dues/Contributions           |                         | 500            |
|   | Newsletter                   |                         | 542            |
|   | Postage                      |                         | 54             |
|   | Promotions                   |                         | 0              |
|   | Seminar Costs                |                         | 0              |
|   | Insurance (D&O)              |                         | 1,130          |
|   | Telephone                    |                         | 0              |
|   | Banking Fees                 |                         | 0              |
|   |                              | Total Expenditures..... | 2,801          |
| <b>Net Change in Financial Position</b> |                              |                         | <b>(1,152)</b> |
|   | 12/31/98 Cash Balance        |                         | 2,573          |
|   | 1999 Activity (above)        |                         | (1,152)        |
|   | 9/30/1999 Net Assets         |                         | 1,421          |

**London's Burning, Europe's Grooving**

The British Jiu jitsu club *Ishigaki* was organizing during a whole weekend last June a special meeting for its 5th Birthday. Several gay and lesbian martial arts clubs coming from Northern Europe were invited to this international event.

With more than 60 members, *Ishigaki* represents the first and biggest martial arts gay club in the UK. It was created 5 years ago by 3 black belt senior martial artists. Initially perceived as a "curiosity" by straight Jiu jitsu clubs, *Ishigaki* has now gained admiration and respect thanks to its level of practice and professionalism. It thus rapidly appeared as a real reference in the British martial arts world, though its members had to fight against prejudice.

*"We are a real Jiu jitsu club",* insists Simon Powell, co-chairman and trainer, with a touch of pride. *"I can go in any Jiu jitsu club in the world, my black belt is always worth something: for me, this is a real pride",* declares Jim, another trainer of the club, during the Birthday party. *"For us, martial arts are above all a lifestyle. We intend to remain an open club and we are particularly attached to this family atmosphere which characterizes us. We help people who feel insecure to get more self-confidence. But we still*

(Continued on page 4)

**Meet a Member:  
Ken Craig**

Written by David Wilson



(Continued on insert)

I was first exposed to martial arts as part of my training while serving in the British Army. The unique and novel way of using one's body to defend oneself intrigued me. It was after further investigation when I discovered the mental,

**INTRODUCING NEW  
MEMBER  
IRINA LOTOVA**

In attendance at the Federation of Gay Games meetings in Berlin this October was a martial artist from St. Petersburg, Russia. She came from St. Petersburg to learn more about the Federation and look into organizing local gays and lesbians into local sports clubs.

Irina is a 6th Kyu in Oyama's Karate Kyokushinkai and has been training for about 5 years. We welcome her to

## FEDERATION OF GAY GAMES ANNUAL MEETING IN BERLIN, GERMANY

This year, the last of this century and the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Federation of Gay Games held its annual meeting 18-22 October in Berlin, Germany. Team Berlin hosted the week-long board meeting, held at the Rathaus Schöneberg, site of the West Berlin city government prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Early in the week Mrs. Ingrid Stahmer, the Senator for Education, Youth and Sport, welcomed the Federation directors and guests to the city at a reception in the Berliner Rathaus, site of the former East Berlin city government.

IAGLMA members Teresa Galetti, Allen Wood and Kathleen Webster attended the meeting and, in general, returned satisfied that the majority of the Federation board is serious about the commitment expressed at its midyear meeting in April 1999 to change its leadership and to examine its internal management structure according to fair and open process.

For the first time since the formation of the Federation of Gay Games, an entirely new executive committee was elected. Susan Emerson of the British Gay and Lesbian Sports Federation is the first European woman to serve as co-president. Bill Wassmer of Team Seattle was elected to the male co-president position.

While in Berlin, Wassmer announced ambitious marketing plans to raise the Federation's profile. "People still don't have a clear idea who the Federation is apart from the Games themselves," said

Wassmer. "We're somewhat like the International Olympic Committee. Our mission is to guarantee that the Gay Games happens every four years. As the Gay Games becomes more well-known, sponsors who are interested in the gay and lesbian community will seek us out in greater numbers, and it's the Federation's responsibility to ensure continuity from Games to Games."

Outreach was a major theme of this year's board meeting. Croatia, Slovenia, Poland, Russia, Latvia and the Czech Republic were among countries represented for the first time. The Federation also established a scholarship program to help people from previously under-represented countries attend the quadrennial Gay Games, next scheduled for Sydney, Australia in November 2002.



**Teresa Galetti, Irina Lotova & Kathleen Webster  
at FGG Meeting in Berlin, October 1999**

In Gay Games VI news, Sydney 2002 announced its new slogan "Dreams Do Come True." The Gay Games VI sports, cultural and registration plans are already further advanced than previous Games. After an encouraging reception by Federation directors, Sydney 2002 left the Berlin meeting on a promotional tour to London, Paris, New York, Philadelphia and San Francisco.

Modifications were made to the bid process for the 2006 Gay Games, and representatives of potential bidding groups from Atlanta, Chicago, Montreal and New Orleans were in attendance to learn about the Federation and meet the directors. Three finalists will be chosen from among all bidding cities and selection of the 2006 host will take place in late 2001.

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(Continued from page 2) **London's Burning**

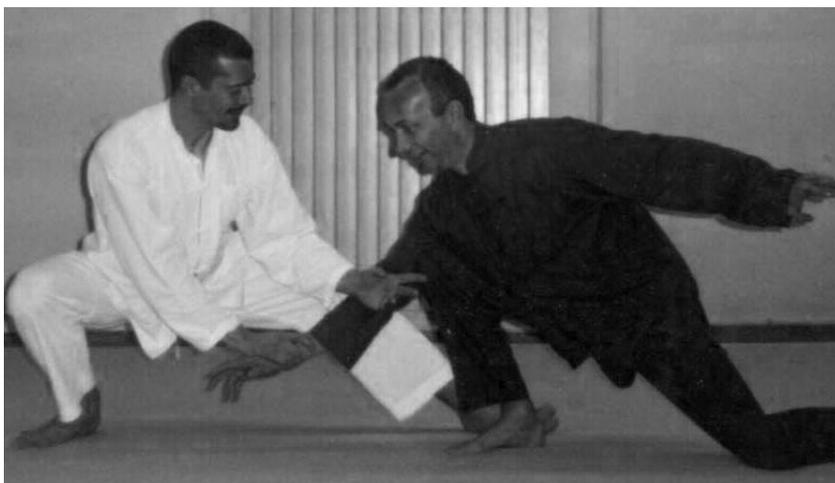
*have to be twice better because of prejudices...*", says Simon.

About 50 participants from London, Birmingham, Amsterdam and Paris and practicing different Japanese or Chinese martial arts were attending this meeting. All colors of belts were gathered in the dojo; even pink! (not quite according to regulations but so becoming!...) 6 black belt senseis proposed varied workshops during a full day: Simon and Jim from *Ishigaki*, Kevin Thurlow, also from *Ishigaki* and the Londonese Karate club *Fudoshinkai*, Mark Dakin, an Aikido teacher from Birmingham, Marteen Reuser, a professional Karate trainer from Amsterdam and Christophe Claudel, the Chinese Martial arts trainer from the French club GLAM.

Saturday the 22nd : a tough day expected of us! 3 workshops on the morning menu: 2 Karate ones (Shotokan and Wado ryu), 1 Aikido. Katas and sparring techniques followed each other: "*Ouch! I've broken my forefinger's nail!*"

Several sandwiches later, let's go back again to business in a quite hi tech gymnasium close to Covent Garden. Christophe starts hard with a patchwork of Kung fu wu shu taos and Martial Taiji quan techniques, which completely enralls and disarms even the senseis: "*Well, "this" is Taiji? - Yes sir ! - Hum, rather efficient, isn't it? ...*" Sure: "*grasp the sparrow tail*" or "*push the monkey*", that sounds rather poetic!... But it takes more than that to make our British hosts lose countenance: Simon and Jim invite us to lie on the floor! Not for siesta; neither for a cup of Darjeeling (though it is 5 o' clock...). But for a *florilège* of very mean Jiu jitsu floor exercises, followed by self-defense techniques. Such as: I grab your hand and you're down with an eye out and smashed b... Or: you attack me with a knife; it flies 50 meters away and I blow up your tommy. So delicate, so British!...

8:00 pm: It's high time to leave kimono and slip on a nice little dress for the Birthday party!... Everybody is invited: members, halves and friends. We are about 100 people crushed in a pub close to the City. Nice buffet,



Christophe Claudel (left) practicing Taiji and Tui shou

stirring speeches and a presentation of gifts then ... "*put ya hands in the air*" with disco et Brit-pop hits (techno is out here), for those who still have good legs! 1:30 am: "*My Kingdom for a bed !*"

During the 3 next days, we have treated our aches, visited *The Sports Bar*, a gay bar at King Cross fully devoted to sport, climbed to *Heaven*, strolled in Soho, digested in Hyde Park, spent our pounds at Covent Garden, drunk tea and English beer, sent postcards of Diana, met Teletubbies at each corner of the street and endured just one single shower! Would you believe it?

**Ty-Boun Tai and Christophe Claudel**  
**GLAM - Paris, France**

The Newsletter  
*of the*  
International Association of  
Gay and Lesbian  
Martial Artists

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*(Continued from page 2) Meet a Member: Ken Craig*

spiritual and ethical elements which are a fundamental part of all true martial arts, that I decided to train.

I have been fortunate to train under Master William Kim (7th Dan) who effectively structured a training program which steadily and progressively built upon earlier steps. From simple initial beginnings we progressed to more advanced techniques throughout our color belt career until our Dan test. My current instructor is Master Rick Powell (5th Dan). My Master travels to Korea often to train with Korean National Team members, coaches and trainers which certainly helps us to keep up with the latest training techniques, philosophy changes and instructional methods. I have also studied under Grand Master Joon Rhea (9th Dan). Grand Master Joon Rhea is someone whom I respect greatly having met him personally, and is someone I strive to emulate in manner, deed and action.

One of my primary motivations for training and teaching however is the positive role the martial arts plays in so many people who come to it. I have seen it change lives for the better on a number of occasions. That is something I am proud to support and something I want to be a part of.

TaeKwon Do is built upon the foundation of equality, acceptance and diversity. It is designed, in itself, to be a community which does not bend to the prejudices and vagaries of regular society. I have been fortunate to experience this when training as a color belt, and I now try to promote and apply this in my own Triangle TaeKwon Do Club.

I founded the Triangle TaeKwon Do Club in November of 1998. I'd always believed that the martial arts was something which could be a tremendous positive influence for the gay community, and especially for younger gay people... because of the self confidence, self esteem and positive self image it can help people achieve.

I toyed with the idea for a while. Helping to run

another studio took up most of my time and energy. I kept putting it off until the story of Matthew Sheppard was released. The disgust and sadness I felt when I heard of this tragedy pushed me to forge ahead and set up a club to teach the LGBT and straight community in the heart of the Castro in San Francisco. I felt that the more gay people become a visible part of the 'straight' community, the less likely such incredible stupidity and ignorance displayed in the murder of Matthew would be repeated.

Through participation in the 1999 San Francisco Gay Pride Parade and 1999 San Francisco AIDS Walk, our student numbers have swelled from twelve, when we first started in November of 1998, to thirty-five active members. This includes seven black belt members, three of whom hail from different martial arts styles other than TaeKwon Do. We advertise and seek to attract everyone...gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual, heterosexual, male, female, old and young. We don't discourage ANYONE from participation on any basis. This in itself lends itself to diversity. The aim of the martial arts is to make it's message available to anyone, young and old, healthy and ill, able-bodied and less able, irrespective of race, gender, weight, height, social status, religious or political beliefs, sexual orientation, etc.

*Ken Craig has been involved in World TaeKwon Do Federation style TaeKwon Do since 1991. He holds a 2nd Dan in TaeKwon Do and a 1st Dan in Hapkido. He is the founder of the Triangle TaeKwon Do Club which is located in the heart of the Castro district at the Eureka Valley Community Center, 100 Collingwood Street in San Francisco, California.*

**David Wilson is editing a book of stories about gay and lesbian martial artists and authoring a second book on the martial monastic orders of China and Japan. David can be reached at [davidbwilson@lucent.com](mailto:davidbwilson@lucent.com).**

*(Continued from page 1)* **San Francisco Labor Day Event**

Schaaff lead the thirty attendees in a group warm up which was immediately followed by a class in Okinawan Bo Staff. This class was taught by Rachael Thompson from New Jersey. Ms. Thompson's class was followed by a White Crane Kung Fu baton class taught by a local veteran of 29 years martial arts experience, Lynda Cence.

Rounding out the morning's seminars was Harry Kendall who expertly instructed us in practical and highly effective Judo throws.

After a leisurely lunch, we reconvened for our annual general membership meeting. Topics included:

- What can IAGLMA do for you?
- How can IAGLMA support local gay and lesbian clubs?
- Development of a gay and lesbian martial arts school directory.
- Increasing participation of our international members and outreach to them.
- Improving our website.
- Encouraging submissions to the newsletter

and more.

After our meeting, Allen Wood instructed us in the fundamentals of street fighting skills against a gratuitously violent attacker. Finishing out the day was Chuck Chung who lead us in a excellent JiuJitsu seminar which included wrist locks and throws.

That evening we attended a dinner mixer with the International Wrestling Alliance (IWA) which is a gay and lesbian wrestling organization who is also a director of the Federation of Gay Games. The IWA had a seminar series and tournament in the same facility that weekend.

Finishing out the weekend was Sunday's free-sparring workshop. Mr. Schaaff again lead us in a group warm up. After the warm up, several different instructors each taught sparring techniques and concepts followed by round robin free sparring a practice tournament ring. For those who were not interested in tournament sparring, Ms. Thompson offered time with the Okinawan bo and Mr. Chung and Mr. Schaaff worked

with people on the mat.

People from 3 months experience to 29 years or more attended the weekend's events. They came from Anchorage, Atlanta, Chicago, Philadelphia, Reno, New Jersey and locally. Styles represented included Judo, Aikido, White Crane, Seido, Tang Soo Do, Tae Kwon Do, JiuJitsu, Kenpo, Kajukenbo, Kuk Sool Won, Moo Gong Do, Hapkido, Shotokan, Tai Chi and Chun Kuk Do.

This weekend sparked enthusiasm among the attendees. We hope that many of our members will attend our next event which is in Sydney, Australia February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> which is during their Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. We hope to see you there.

**Alan Wood, San Francisco, CA**

**Don't Forget!**  
**26 - 27 February 2000**  
**in Sydney, Australia.**  
**Training Tournament,**  
**Participant and Judging**  
**Workshops**  
**More next newsletter...**

*(Continued from page 3)* **FGG Meeting in Berlin**

In recognition of IAGLMA's tradition of commitment to the Federation and to the Gay Games, Teresa Galetti was elected as Membership Committee Co-chair and Kathleen Webster as Sports Committee Co-chair. Allen Wood continues to lead the Sports Subcommittee on Ergogenic Substances and both Allen and Kathleen were renewed as the Federation Sports Coordinators for the martial arts.

Next year's board meeting will be held in Sydney to give Federation directors an opportunity to assess the progress of plans for the 2002 Gay Games, much of which will be held in the Sydney Olympic Park at Homebush Bay.