



The Newsletter of
**The International Association of
 Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists**
 IAGLMA— SPRING 2006

GAY GAMES VII CHICAGO MARTIAL ARTS UPDATE

The Gay Games VII Sports Director Offices have been expanded to accommodate the groups of new staff and volunteers, new computers, phone and electric lines have proliferated. The Sport Managers and Assistant Sport Managers are working to provide the best Gay Games experience for all participants. The sports staff will assist Nancy Harris and the sports working group volunteers by directing the 31 sports that make up the Gay Games sports program. Your Gay Games organizers have moved from the planning to the production stage and that stage is in full swing. The sports working groups are truly in the “lets put on the Games mode”.

Martial Arts Events

Please note martial arts events date change:

The Gay Games VII martial arts events will run from **18-20 July 2006** in Chicago, USA. The events will include an Officials’ Clinic and Competitors’ Workshop for Gay Games VII run by the International Association of Gay and Lesbian Martial Artists (IAGLMA); an all-styles martial arts tournament, and seminars for martial artists of all styles and abilities. The tournament will have empty hand forms, weapons forms, musical form (black belts only), sparring, and self defense competitive divisions.

Venue

The venue for the Martial Arts is the Gerald Ratner Center at the University of Chicago located on the Southside of Chicago. For three days in Chicago from 18-20 July 2006, the Ratner Center at the University of Chicago will be the martial arts dojo, dojang, kwan. There is an officials’ area, weigh-in area, space for medical examination and treatment should that be necessary.

Tentative schedule for the GGVII Martial Arts Events

- ***Judging Clinic and Competitors’ Workshop for Gay Games VI on 18 July 2006.*** For more information about the rules, please see the IAGLMA Rules at www.iaglma.org.
- ***Gay Games VI Martial Arts Tournament 19-20 July 2006.***
- ***Multi-Style Martial Arts and Self-Defense Seminars for all 20 July 2006.*** ***More on Page 3***

Paris International Tournament 2006
Hosted by Nija Kan

For the third year in a row, the gay and lesbian sports associations in Paris are happy to invite you to the Paris International Tournament: TIP 2006.

This year, the Tournament will offer martial arts as one of the 17 sports and draw more than 1,000 athletes and visitors to Paris from 2 to 5 June 2006 for a major sports event backed by the Fédération Sportive Gaie et Lesbienne (FSGE).

The martial arts events will be organized by Niji Kan. The martial arts events will be divided into 2 parts :
 on Saturday morning, there will be Kata competition according to the IAGLMA rules.

More on Page 4

Pink Power 2006 Munich
Hosted by Bushido Munich

2006 is very important to Bushido Munich e.V., because we will celebrate our 10th anniversary. Bushido Munich is busy organizing this anniversary and we invite you to take part in PINK POWER 2006. We would be very glad, if we could welcome you to Munich.

Pink Power will take place (after the Gay Games in Chicago) from
 15.-17. September 2006 in Munich. *More on Page 4*

<i>Inside this newsletter</i>		<i>Page</i>
Editorial by Jeff McKissack	2	Paris Tournament 2006 -Continued
GGVII Martial Arts Update -Continued	3	Pink Power 2006 Munich -Continued
Gay Games VII Scholarship Program	3	
Congratulations	4	

IAGLMA Editorial

Saturday, February 11th, Club NIN of Dallas hosted IAGLMA Board Member, Darl Schaaf of Anchorage, Alaska along with Black Belt Trevor Storrs for a joint event in Dallas with area Ninjutsu students. Over 30 attended the gathering, which was comprised of young and old as well as straight and gay. There were even several soldiers present from Ft. Hood Army Base in Killeen, Texas, all of which enjoyed the training.

So many times, gay and straight, we find ourselves locked into a certain demographic and forget that martial arts and the right to defend oneself are for everyone. This was simply another example of the bridge building I have seen at other IAGLMA events and venues in Munich, London and San Francisco over the last year or two in my travels with IAGLMA. I know from reports that the same has held true for Paris.

So much is said about gay rights, yet not unlike the African-American culture in America, we can win our “rights” but that does not automatically guaranty “respect.” In order to achieve the latter, we must both reach out to others as well as involve ourselves in other outside events to warrant both the attention and acceptance of our straight counterparts.

More important than the event itself that Saturday was the time afterward when everyone went to lunch together and almost literally invaded a nearby restaurant. There along both sides of the table various “differences” gave way to “similarities” of interests. There was no discussion of gay rights, gay activism or gay marriage as none of those were relevant at the time with the straight friends and allies there that day, many of whom were from very conservative, evangelical/religious homes and lives. We were all simply enjoying each other’s company and sharing our common passion in the martial arts. Also set aside were differences of style and system. Mr. Schaaf and Mr. Storrs come from different martial arts traditions than the Ninjutsu practitioners that day, but when all was said and done they had earned the respect of all the participants there due to their skill and mutual respect for those they were teaching as well as the tradition they were supplementing. Kenpo, TaeKwonDo and Jujitsu were merged that day with Ninjutsu in a wonderful amalgamation of practical movement for the betterment of self-defense and tactical training. That convergence was yet another bridge built during the course of the day.

IAGLMA offers its members some “out of the ordinary” opportunities to expand horizons in culture, style or system as well as audience. The way we will earn the respect and subsequent acceptance of our straight counterparts (both in and out of the martial arts realm) is by following the same strategy—emphasizing our similarities rather than our differences. By showing others that we “eat,” fight and even laugh just as they do will send a message that will far outweigh any discourse on activism, gay or straight. Your participation at these events just brings us one step closer to achieving these goals.

Whether in our martial arts experience or our everyday lives, let us set as a goal respect over rights and acceptance over activism. I believe we will be honoring our martial tradition in so doing and bring many more “guests to the table” at these and other events.

See you at the Games!

Jeff McKissack, Instructor
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Club NIN of Dallas, Self Defense Event



Paris International Tournament 2006

Continued from Page 1

On Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, there will be workshops with - we hope - some trainers from different countries - if you wish to volunteer please feel free to contact Alain Nottelet (AlainNottelet@aol.com)

Saturday the 3rd of June 2006 :
 Morning : Men's & Women's KataTournament
 Afternoon : Martial Arts workshop
 Sunday the 4th of June 2006 :
 Morning : Martial Arts workshop (continued)

Your will find the registration form and all details in English or French on the website. <http://www.paris-tournament.org/index.php?id=63&L=1>

Join us! Whether you are an martial artist, a non-competing participant, or a friend, come and join us in this great moment for sports and culture, friendship and fun.

TIP 2006 will of course be an opportunity to train for the Gay Games Chicago.

We are looking forward to welcoming you soon back to Paris.

<http://www.paris-tournament.org>
<http://nijikan.free.fr/>

Alain Nottelet



Pink Power Munich 2006

Continued from Page 1

PINK POWER will be a Martial Arts event that will have numerous interesting workshops and martial arts demonstrations by individuals and groups.

It would be great to see you in Munich!

The Pink Power website will be up shortly with all the information that you will need: www.pink-power.org

In addition to PINK POWER the well-known "Oktoberfest" will take place in Munich. During this weekend on Sunday there will be a special event of the LGBT community, because there is one beer tent nearly exclusive for gay and lesbians. So we invite you to stay in Munich until Monday so that you can enjoy this event also..

Sebastian Kuehnen



IAGLMA is a Member Organization of the International Lesbian and Gay Association.



Federation of Gay Games



IAGLMA is a Director Organization of the Federation of Gay Games



Congratulations
Pat Wright from Oakland CA.
who promoted to ShoDan. Way to go!
See you in Chicago.

