



# ZenQuest Martial Arts Center

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An Okinawa Karatedo Association, Demian Mata Jiu-jitsu Network and Sityodtong Boston Affiliate

# NEWSLETTER February 2020



## Team Sponsorships 4.0

Once again, ZenQuest is opening it's sponsorship program for the premier fight team in the Berkshires. Sponsoring 'Team-Z' is a great way to support the fighters and gym in their endeavors...AND a way to get your own name out there, too. Sponsorship funds are used to cover expenses including training, travel, meals, licensing fees, supplies and equipment. With new fighters preparing to make debuts soon, these sponsorships are essential to continuing the success that we've seen in recent years.

**The Team** - In the early stages of it's MMA adventures the fight team produced mixed results. We had some spectacular wins, and some memorable defeats. After moving and rebranding itself, the gym became much more organized and the competition team began to take things to a whole new level. Since then, we've amassed a winning record of 11-6 with several of those fights for amateur titles. At this point, we've picked up no less than three regional amateur titles including the lightweight belt for 'Reality Fighting', New England's biggest MMA promotion. This took place in what some considered the 'fight of the night' in the 10,000 seat capacity Mohegan Sun Arena.



The team also competes in other combat sports events like Jiu-jitsu tournaments and Kickboxing bouts. We currently has several new fighters preparing to make their debuts later this year!

**Sponsorship** - All sponsorship donations are used to cover expenses incurred by the fighters and coaching staff including training, travel, meals, and equipment. In addition to the pride and satisfaction associated with helping Team ZenQuest in pursuing it's goals, sponsors are recognized in the following ways:

- Sponsors are displayed and mentioned on the front page of our website, on our social media platforms, and in ZenQuest's monthly newsletter.
- Sponsor names or logos are included on "fight banners", which are proudly displayed at each event that the fight team participates in, at demos, and other special events.
- Sponsors appear on "Walkout" style T-shirts worn by the fighters, coaches, and supporters. Sponsor names or logos are prominently



Fight Banner #3

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## Gilbert Clinic

Sensei Joe Gilbert will be running a clinic on Uechi-Ryu Karate at ZenQuest on Saturday March 21st. Sensei Joe started training at the Okinawan Karate School (the original name for ZenQuest) back in 1973. He has trained and taught consistently since then and has a longstanding dojo in Bennington, Vermont. Sensei Joe has visited Okinawa several times including in 2007 when he joined Senseis Connie and Mark on one of their trips (see photo.) On that trip Sensei Joe was promoted to 8th Dan or 8th Degree Black Belt Master of the traditional Okinawan style.

This clinic will be from 10:00 AM to 11:25 AM. This is open to all ranked students ages 12 years old and up. There is no charge for the event, but donations to the ZenQuest fight team are welcome. Please join us!



## Team Z Debut

On Saturday, March 14, Tilo 'Tilosh' Jackson will make his long-awaited debut in MMA. Tilo will be facing newcomer Jake Russo of the Golden Falcon Gym in West Haven, Connecticut. Russo is primarily a striker with strong Muay Thai experience, while Jackson has solid Muay Thai and Jiu-jitsu under his belt.

The Lightweight bout will take place at the AMMO Fight League's St' Patrick's Day Battle in Springfield, Massachusetts. Tickets will be available soon at ZenQuest with prices at \$40, \$50 and \$80 levels. In addition to Tilo's match, there is a full card of fights to see at this exciting event. So, join us in supporting Tilo and Team Z!

## School Days

Senseis Connie and Mark recently went back to school! They were invited to run some gym classes and introduce grades K through 6 to the martial arts back on December 5th and 13th. Each class started with some Karate and Kickboxing fundamentals like stance, guard, blocking and striking. The kids then did some target drills where they punched and kicked targets, and blocked attacks with 'pool noodles'. The classes finished with some escape strategies taken from Jiu-jitsu. Over the two days over 350 kids participated in the classes, and all had a blast! The classes went off without a hitch thanks to the professionalism and structure set by Lee PE teachers Jennifer and Julia.



Senseis Connie and Mark are scheduled to run similar classes at Richmond Consolidated Elementary School, and visiting Lee Elementary again soon for their 'Screen Free Week.'

**IMPORTANT DATES**



Saturday, March 14: Tilo's Debut at AMMO Fight Nights  
 Professor Demian Maia in UFC Fight Night Brazil!  
 Sunday, March 15: Possible Kyu Test  
 Saturday, March 21: Sensei Gilbert Uechi Clinic  
 Sat/Sun, March 28/29: Tap Cancer Out Conn.

**WELCOME NEW STUDENTS!**

**YOUTH:** Ian Lloyd, Kane Hicks, Mylo Telle, Kevin Chen, JT Szmanski  
**ADULTS:** Jackson Aloberti, Dylan Lambert, Adam Weinberg, Josh Petell  
**WELCOME BACK:** Phoenix Miller, Victor MacDowell

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Sadie Giumarra 2/5  
 Zaffira Bruce-Gallo 2/5  
 Daniel Coe 2/7  
 Carlos Alberti 2/8  
 Joseph Weinberg 2/10  
 Scott King 2/11  
 Jennifer Sommerville 2/14  
 Ricky Jennings 2/15  
 Oscar Daire 2/15  
 Matthew Driscoll 2/16  
 Eli Mertinooke 2/18  
 Leo Daly 2/21  
 Leo Wilhelm 2/21  
 Zachary Kmetz 2/22  
 Ava Klapes 2/22  
 Chris Bradley 2/24  
 Ivey Helmer 2/25  
 Grayson Ambriz 2/26  
 Lizzy Sondrini 2/28

**RECENT PROMOTIONS**

**CRANES:**  
 1 Gold - Hendrix Tortolani, Indy Tortolani  
 2 Gold - Addie Chambers

**TIGERS:**  
 8kyu - Leo Wilhelm

**DRAGONS:**  
 9kyu - Emmett Kelley

**UECHI:**  
 9kyu - Evan Collins

**PYTHONS:**  
 1 stripe white - Mercedes Howell, Ivey Helmer  
 2 stripe white - Weston Aube, Mason Lucy, Enzo Dort, Nico Dort, Josh Sondrini, Lizzy Sondrini, Jordan Simmons, Troy Middleton

**JIU-JITSU:**  
 Blue - Atticus Clark, Steve Tremble  
 2 stripe blue - Russell Moody, Glenn Giumarra  
 3 stripe purple - Tom Aube, Matt Gerlitz

**MUAY THAI:**  
 1 stripe white - Sadie Giumarra  
 2 stripe white - Kathy Petrucci, Mike Jezak  
 3 stripe white - Jamie Brown  
 Blue - Kyle Pezzano  
 3 stripe blue - Jen Sommerville, Tilo Jackson  
 2 stripe purple - Chris Bradley, Chris Kupernik

**Terminology**

**Respect**

Japanese: Rei  
 Brazilian: Respeito  
 Thai: Wai

**“Best Martial Arts Academy”**

**ZenQuest Martial Arts**

*Berkshire Eagle's  
 Readers Choice Awards  
 2017, 2018 & 2019*



## No Doubt!

Silvio Moraes was at ZenQuest for a seminar on Saturday, January 25. As usual, the 2-Stripe Black Belt under Jiu-jitsu wizard Demian Maia provided an incredible learning experience in the three hour hands-on clinic he provided. Professor or instructor Moraes covered many strategies and principles for the single-leg takedown, passing the guard, half-guard, and 'side-control' position.

After demonstrating a move, Professor Silvio typically checked to see if anyone had any questions or concerns about the technique by asking if there was "any doubt." However, in seeing the effect that the move usually had on the person receiving the move, there wasn't.

Huge thanks to Professor Silvio for making the journey from Brazil to be with us and share his knowledge. Thanks, too, to everyone who joined us for the training.



(Continued from page 1) *Team Sponsorships 4.0*

displayed on the back of these shirts, which are also available to the general public. In addition to exposure at competitive events, they are worn for interviews, demos, and special appearances.

**Levels** - There are different levels of sponsorships available. They range from those appropriate for individuals, to something more for businesses or groups.

Sponsorship levels are as follows:

**Silver** - \$100 for a small listing (i.e. a name of a person or company) on the website, Team shirt, fight banner, etc. Also includes one free Walkout shirt, and 20% discount on any additional shirts.

**Gold** - \$200 for a medium listing or logo. Also includes two free shirts and 25% discount on any additional shirts.

**Platinum** - \$500 for a large listing or logo. Also includes three free shirts and 30% discount on any additional shirts.

**Diamond** - \$1,000 for an extra-large listing or logo. Also includes four free shirts and 40% discount on any additional shirts.

**Walkout Shirts** - These high-quality, custom shirts are regularly \$30 each, but discounted according to sponsorship levels. They feature the gym and parent organizations on their front, with all sponsors appearing on the back. These can be used for running, training, or other activities...or just casually as a t-shirt.

This is your chance to support the premier MMA fight team from the best Martial Arts Academy in the Berkshires! To arrange for a team sponsorship or pre-order walkout shirts contact us via phone at 413-637-0656, or message or email. The deadline for this round of sponsorships and shirts is Saturday, February 29th. Logos should be submitted in HD electronically ASAP once your sponsorship is submitted. Sponsorships of similar levels are placed based on a first come first served basis so don't wait!

