

STANDING WITH GIANTS

By Brian Manna

A VIEW

As the stream flows so has our time with one another. Each moving and flowing with the idea of presenting once self with the best each can be. It is awesome to be a part of an eco-system that grows, feeds and reseeds the environment held by all that attend to it.



As energy forms a path to move on and drives forward there are standards held on each side. Standards that are ever adjusting and building through combined and individual effort. For more than thirty years these standards have helped shaped themselves and others, they have grown into the Giants that I get to stand with. Through the decades it is amazing how much one can project and yet listen to the advice of others. We become not only stronger through unity becoming more developed as individuals.

For more than a decade the view from the lead position has been driven by three sets of eyes, minds and hearts. It is with profound joy and thankfulness to have these Giants at my side.

Chris Brandt who has been in my tutelage moving on his thirty fifth year, from the age of ten. He has grown into the man that all will attest to, he is kind, nice, brilliant and more knowledgeable than most I have met. I remain a witness to his personal growth, achievements and seeing a detailed instructor of the arts. A GIANT!

Janet Manna whom I saw, at a glance, more than forty years ago, only to have her walk the path of martial arts and in my tutelage for thirty years. Today my balance and life's companion, my wife and I her husband. She is warm, caring, compassionate, funny and a nurturing teacher of the arts. A GIANT!

THROUGH TIME WE MOVE

As a teacher we are best in the arena of thought through demonstration. Goals are lessons achieved and mirrored in reflections of those we attend to. The faces, movement and gestures of recipients become the playing fields by the way goals are measured. Recognition that each person moves at their traveled speed allows the teacher to touch each participant with ideas and goals.



In a year's cycle it is the story telling that nurtures the want to learn supported by the desire to achieve. Few enter the teacher's tutelage with that in tow, so we are measured by how many we can entrust with the lesson and port them to the goal. It is with this that the Giants I stand with have excelled. We measure time through the calendar of holidays, school, summer and achievements. Yet there is no greater measure than the passion that bounds from year to year in the boundary of our arena.

It remains an honor to share with families over the decades nearing the touch of ten thousand in our current community. For this I see in the integrity and posture of all, and most in the Giants beside me.

AN INVISIBLE OBSTACLE

Course adjustments become the valued task of all captains at the helm. In the storm of the sea, the lightning in the sky and the tremble of the ground no one could see the impact of the storm at hand. Standing with Giants can make the obstacle appear less of a challenge, as all move in their manner yet with a common goal to be achieved.

Driven by the passion to succeed, the Giants attend to their tasks. First recognizing that we are a family of like-minded achievers. Supplying a service is what we do and who we are. Teaching in the face of adversity you can be successful. Even out in adversity comes the opportunity to learn and grow which promotes success. So, off we go!

A world pandemic became our worlds invisible obstacle, COVID-19.

TRUTH

As the Covid-19 took hold we applied ourselves to bring our service to “Your home from ours”. Our research was done within hours. Some studied the way (“Do” in martial arts is the way) systems were implemented and logistics became the game board.

With the challenges that were at hand, support came from many people all in their places. In motion we take the time to value the flowing waters that carve the streams path, for it softens the feel of the river rocks yielding our journey without damage. Those that add water to the stream and support its natural energy are never overlooked. Another giant presented themselves with a single care, to see us continue to be able to nurture in our way.

Faith Carmichael has been in my tutelage for fifteen years, attending classes coming from London and has become my direct student. We found a strong, passionate, determined person who would add another piece to our already strong team. Through the years she has shown unmeasurable courage, great leadership, care and a large heart for all encountered. Faith was the first person to make a call and an unprecedented action of support on the evening that shelter in place was declared in the USA. A GIANT!

We stand as four. I stand with GIANTS!! There is no other way to explain the support and way (“Do”) it feels. Chris Brandt, Janet Manna, Faith Carmichael are Master Instructors in the martial arts and demonstrate the value and commitment to success daily.

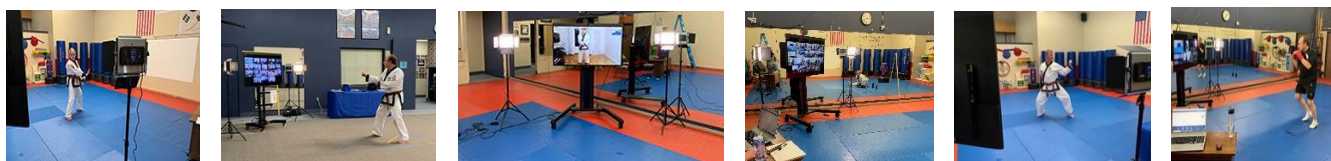
THE MEASURE

Five weeks have passed as fast as the water in a stream at my feet. The view is much different than what was expected. Yes, my feet got wet and my body was chilled at first and then a fresh new energy awakened. All the Giants moved!

Study the Giants did: they learn about the streaming process, choose the appropriate broadcasting equipment, design the teaching environment and produce a schedule of training our family.

Acquire the Giants did: Their minds were deep in the books and online learning videos, they drive to San Francisco and back in a day with the equipment needed, families donated funds, a family painted the environment, a family installed electrical boxes, CAT5 lines were run, controlling tablets received, floors marked, scripts created and lighting in place.

All the while: We are one of the only martial arts schools that hold a School Age Day Care Licensed by the State of California Department of Social Service. We are running daily sports camps for the First Responders and Essential Workers. A special thank you to our staff here in support of those in need. The children are playing safely, taking online academic school classes, creating crafts and exercising.



At the end of the first week cycle we were ready to bring Manna's Martial Arts online and to our families. "From Your Home to Ours." At the onset we delivered our interactive classes 308 times in the remaining three days of March. The Giants reach their arms out in care to all and success happened.

As the stream continues to flow, in the first three and half weeks this month we have 1,668 individual household connections and class participation, not accounting for the second and third family members in class at the same time. That is Amazing! Our programs, model and loyalty of thirty five years are holding. This week we signed up two new members by way of interactive online classes. We are holding three classes a week across the pond (England), group and private. Also online with Kickboxing fitness, Life Skills and Leadership.

NATURE BRINGS A NEW BEGINNING

Stand with Giants! I DO!!

Understanding this challenge and learning our options was key. The words were warm the sentiment was real as Chris Brandt said: "There are no people that I would rather be with than you guys through this challenging time." Spoken as a true Giant!

Giants: The people that have stand their ground in need and moved forward with precision when needed, passion in their way ("Do") and shared goals.

We see that projecting classes is now a permanent part of our teaching, enabling us to reach those in travel, those in challenges and or a different stream. Our online curriculum is presented and taught by Giants and I remain proud of who they have become and the giving they provide for the growth of their community.



It is an honor and I am thankful to be able to share my thoughts about these amazing people. GIANTS!



Pictured Left to right: Faith Carmichael, Janet Manna, Brian Manna, Chris Brandt

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Brian D. Manna Bio located online at: <http://www.manna.us/grandmaster.html>

MANNA'S MARTIAL ARTS,

Manna's Martial Arts has been a member of the San Diego community since September 1985.

We are available for any additional questions and would be more than pleased to take you on tour of our facility.

Higher resolution images of the above photos can be downloaded at: www.manna.us/giants/