Sifu Barry,
It is with great sorrow that everyone that knows you offers their most heart felt condolences at the passing of your wife Simu Eileen Barry.
Eileen, we love you and we will miss you.
Gary, Robin & Scott

Gary Utterback donated to the Tiger Claw Foundation on behalf of Eileen Barry.

The Tiger Claw Foundation supported Martial Arts Day for Children on March 21, 2008 in San Francisco, CA.
For the complete story, see page 108.

Photos courtesy of Forest Kelley.

Established in 2002, the Tiger Claw Foundation is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to promoting martial artists and assisting martial artists in achieving their goals.
For more information or to make a tax-deductible donation, visit us at TigerClawFoundation.org © 510-668-1100
Martial Arts Day for Children

By Nic Heggen

March 14th, 2008, a band of martial artists assembled to teach inner city kids in the heart of the San Francisco’s Tenderloin district, which is often described as “the worst neighborhood in San Francisco” due to its high rate of homelessness, poverty and crime.

Yet a remarkable center thrives there. The Janice Mirikitani Center is part of Glide Memorial United Methodist Church, under the direction of renowned minister and community leader, Cecil Williams. Upon hearing that some boys at the Janice Mirikitani Family, Youth, and Childcare Center dreamed of studying martial arts, Janine Lee, CEO of Capture the Dream, prevailed upon several local coaches to donate their time for Martial Arts Day for Children.

The lessons were held outside at a nearby gated Boedeker Park, right across the street from the Tenderloin Police Station. Over fifty boys from Glide were treated to basic lessons in wushu and Muay Thai. Instruction in wushu was provided by Stanford University coach, Sifu Philip Wong, and his students, Erika Balasabas, Edward Kahana Jr. and Ben Lew. Instruction in Muay Thai was provided by Brandon Daranoungs. Both Kahana and Daranoungs are members of the Stunt People, and have worked with Lee before on other projects. Sifu Wong was happy to oblige and said that he feels that charity work of this nature is of the utmost importance. According to one of Glide’s instructors, Pete Lee, “It meant a lot to our boys, since we’d just started this program with next to no budget. I could tell they really enjoyed themselves, even the hecklers did too.”

Capture the Dream is a charitable organization that helps underserved children realize their dreams. Last year, Janine Lee’s work was acknowledged by People Magazine and Maybelline New York, sponsors of the Empowerment Through Education contest. Lee is a martial artist herself and holds a black belt from the O-Mei Kung Fu Academy. She has been written for KungFuMagazine.com’s e-zine and modeled gear for Kung Fu Tai Chi magazine’s parent company, Tiger Claw.

Additionally, the Tiger Claw Foundation provided support by donating some mats to Glide and media coverage to Capture the Dream, as well as some gifts for the children.

To donate to Capture the Dream, see www.capturethedream.org. To donate to Glide Memorial, see www.glide.org. For more on the Stunt People, see www.thestuntpeople.com. For more on Philip Wong, see www.stanford.edu/group/wushu. More information on the Tiger Claw Foundation, our charitable branch, can always be found on page 3.

Grandmaster of Peter Kwok’s System of Chinese Martial Arts Wins National Award

By Don L. Lee

The USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame hosted its annual awards banquet at the Hyatt Morristown Hotel in Morristown, NJ on March 15, 2008. Several hundred martial artists from across the country and their guests attended. Among them was Dr. Gary Torres, who won a lifetime achievement award for his decades of uninterrupted study and teaching in the Chinese martial arts. Dr. Torres holds the highest rank in the infamous Peter Kwok system of Chinese martial arts and was designated by Grandmaster Kwok as the lineage carrier of his martial arts system. He was one of Dr. Kwok’s oldest students, studying with him for many years in New Jersey before Kwok’s mysterious disappearance.

Dr. Gary Torres receives a lifetime achievement award from the USA Martial Arts Hall of Fame

Dr. Torres is a regular presenter at America’s oldest tai chi convention, the Zhang San Feng Festival. He serves on the Board of Advisers of the American Society of Internal Arts. He is also an official judge at the US Koosho Federation and is a member of the Guang Ping Yang Tai Chi Association. Through the decades, Dr. Torres has won many awards and taught many champions in the martial arts. Though he is now a proud grandfather, he is still full of energy and very active teaching classes and workshops on a regular basis. In addition to being quite accomplished in the martial arts, he highly accomplished in the healings arts, working as a medical doctor in one of Florida’s top orthopedic firms.