



Dear dojo members,

It has been an exciting five years since we first opened the doors at our dojo in Skokie. With the addition of our second dojo in Wilmette, along with various satellite locations, our enrollment has now expanded to over 300 students. Additional top-level instructors have joined our staff to accommodate these increases and we are proud to report that of the 11 members of the current U.S. National Karate Team (the only team so recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee), 5 are instructors at Fonseca Martial Arts!

As the dojo has grown, our needs have changed. Some time ago we began the process of scouting out other possible locations. Now our current Skokie lease expires at the end of May. After reviewing the new lease and considering the shortcomings of our current space, we have decided to relocate.

Fortunately, we have found an ideal dojo space at 823 Chicago Ave in Evanston. It is situated near the intersection of Chicago Ave and Main St, and just a short distance from Downtown Evanston. Its close proximity to public transportation will help our Chicago-based students and instructors gain ready access. Originally a Kung Fu studio, the new facility has the perfect layout for our requirements. We are looking forward to opening the doors to our dojo's new home on May 12th!

What do we gain with this move?

With two levels, the new dojo will have an 1800 sq ft training floor (similar to our existing dojo), locker rooms and showers, a waiting area for parents, observation seating, weight equipment, an office, and an actual water fountain.

We have done many traffic/parking surveys of this area on weekdays from 4-8 p.m. and found that there are plenty of metered parking spaces available right in front of the studio for only \$.50 an hour. There is also a parking lot across the street, which is free on weekends and \$1/day during the week. For those parents who do not wish to stay for class, instructors can bring your children into the dojo so you do not have to park.

One of the great advantages of this new location is that it is directly across from the Metra and CTA stations. This will be a tremendous convenience for many of our instructors who commute from the city and, consequently will enable us to offer more classes for our students, including a new weekly curriculum geared to children ages 3-5.

Families should also have a nicer overall experience, with the diversity of restaurants in the area for pre-and post- class meals. The various retail shops, Starbucks (at the corner), post office, banks and major supermarkets (Jewel and Wild Oates) will provide more options for parents who may like to run quick errands while their children are in classes.

Since the majority of our students live in Evanston, this location should be an easier commute for most. However, we realize that for our students who are traveling from the northern or western suburbs such as Morton Grove, Glenview, Northfield, Northbrook, Deerfield, and Highland Park, this will pose a somewhat longer commute. If traveling to the new location seems too problematic, please talk to us directly so we can discuss other options, which would include the Wilmette Dojo, our new classes at Lifetime Fitness or our new program in Northbrook at the YMCA on Techny Rd. The classes at the



Northbrook YMCA start March 31 and will be offered on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Our current members can receive discounted tuition for training at the YMCA and Lifetime Fitness, and we can also arrange times at these locations for private instruction.

In addition to the move in May, we are pleased to announce we are opening a new dojo in downtown Chicago at 112 West Grand Ave, near the intersection of Grand and Clark. This is part of an ongoing effort to reach out to corporate clients, but we welcome current members who might work downtown to consider this facility as part of their membership. Classes will be offered there in the early mornings, at lunchtime and after work. The doors at our Chicago dojo will be open April 1st. If you, or anyone you know is looking for a great workout in the city, please spread the word or stop by and check us out.

We recognize that one of the key components to our success has been the time and effort so many have contributed to help create the strong sense of family that exists today at FMA and we are dedicated to maintaining this same sense of community at our new location. We look forward to your help and support as we embark upon this move and welcome any feedback or thoughts to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sensei John Fonseca

Sensei Elisa Au Fonseca