

MEMBERSHIPS

There are three types of individual membership and two types of school membership.

Membership is, first of all, to support the members. It is a declaration of active participation and a formal recognition of learning as a two-way process between the student and the teacher. The student has as much responsibility in the learning process as the teacher and together they create and maintain the learning relationship and environment, i.e., the school, the class, the room where they train, etc. All the memberships discussed below are to the International Association. Other than the International School, only official Golden Flower Schools or Golden Flower National Organizations are authorized by the International Association to add their own membership fees in addition to the official membership.

NOTES:

1. There will be questions that you have about all this material. We realize that we have not provided an answer to every possible issue. It is important for you to submit your questions and concerns to us so that we can revise this document before we finalize it. Nothing is written in stone. Over time, we will change our policies and guidelines in the interest of what works as the need becomes apparent.
2. It is up to the Golden Flower Instructor to make the determination of whether or not each student should be a dues-paid General Student Member. If the student is a regular class member of a full-curriculum course, then they should become a registered General Student Member. If the class is a limited situation, as in the case of, for example, a university class or at an retirement home, it is not necessary for them to become members. Of course, everyone may apply for membership directly to the International School if they choose.
3. A comprehensive support program is being developed for each level of membership and will start to appear on the web site over the next few months.
4. The main difference between a certified Golden Flower Instructor (Active) or Golden Flower Instructor (Inactive) is that the active instructor applies for and has an official teaching license which must be renewed annually. The license is for GFI's who are teaching at least one full-curriculum class with dues-paid General Student Members. In other words, you only need a license if you want to teach a certified class. You should also apply for a license if you are assisting with the teaching in a school or another licensed instructor's class. The main purpose of the license is to show the students in your class that you are up-to-date. A second purpose is for the International School Administration to keep current information about who is officially teaching. The International School does not charge any additional fee for a license. A National School may charge a small fee for printing and distributing licenses locally if they so choose.
5. Please submit any questions or concerns about membership that you may have to GoldenFlowerTC@aol.com. There will be more clarification and details as we hear from you. Most likely, we will post a "Questions and Answers" document in the Instructors' section, so that everyone may benefit.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

includes:

- Anyone who wishes to make a contribution to the school or community
- Associate T'ai Chi Teacher

Friend of the Golden Flower (Associate Member)

Definition: An associate member is anyone who wishes to support the Golden Flower School and community by making a financial contribution. They may also be a participant in some activity of the school or local center that requires a basic membership.

Fee amount: Unlimited donation

Due date: None or upon registration for a particular event

Pay to: Golden Flower T'ai Chi Association International

Privileges:

- Access to Members area of the web site. Membership card if requested

Responsibilities:

- None

Associate T'ai Chi Teacher

Definition: Anyone teaching T'ai Chi who wants to be associated with the school and is accepted by the International School. This may include former students who are now teaching on their own, former Golden Flower Instructors who do not wish to be formally engaged with the School, and teachers of other styles who are known and respected by the School.

Fee amount: \$80 US annually

Due date: November 15th

Pay to: Golden Flower T'ai Chi Association International

Privileges:

- Eligible to enroll in specified higher-level training events and have access to certain advanced training materials.
- Communication, advice and support from the International School.
- Recognized by the Golden Flower International Association as presenting themselves to be a responsible person and respectable teacher of T'ai Chi.
- Associate T'ai Chi Teachers may not advertise or represent themselves in any official capacity as representatives or certified teachers of the Golden Flower School

Responsibilities:

- To be in communication with the International School about any of their ideas or activities that they want the International School to be aware of. (In other words, the International School must know who the Associate Teachers are and something about what they are doing in order to be able to endorse their status as a Golden Flower Associate T'ai Chi Teacher).
- To be a legally and morally responsible person working to benefit the human community and the natural environment.

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

includes:

- General Student Member
- Advanced Program Trainee

General Student Member

Definition: Any student attending full-curriculum classes led by a certified Golden Flower Instructor. This also includes anyone attending an officially sanctioned Golden Flower Retreat.

Fee amount: \$20.00 US annually

Due date: November 15th

Pay to: The Golden Flower T'ai Chi Association International.

Privileges:

- Access to members' area of web site and the materials therein.
- Reductions on certain specified Golden Flower materials and activities.
- May enroll in specified advanced training programs and events.
- May purchase restricted training materials

- May visit and take part in classes held at other Golden Flower locations (with approval of local instructor)

Responsibilities:

- To be a good student and respect all instructors and other students
- To attend class regularly and on time
- To learn and practice the material
- To be a legally and morally responsible person.
- To help the junior students and respectfully listen to senior students
- To foster an attitude of support for the school
- To pay all fees on time or negotiate an acceptable alternative payment with the staff
- To respect the material of the school and observe all copyrights
- To communicate any problems or concerns to the appropriate person for resolution

Golden Flower Advanced Program Trainee

Definition: Anyone participating in the professional level and/or instructor training.

Fee amount: \$50.00 US annually

Due date: November 15th

Pay to: Golden Flower T'ai Chi Association International.

Privileges:

- Access to instructors' area of web site and the materials therein.
- Access to higher level training within the school.
- May enroll in special training programs and events
- May purchase restricted training materials
- May visit and take part in classes held at other Golden Flower locations (with approval of local instructor)
- May assist Golden Flower Instructor in class
- May receive support for teaching and managing their own unofficial T'ai Chi students or class

Responsibilities:

- To complete any training program in which the trainee has enrolled.
- To fulfill all financial obligations for training program.
- To embrace all of the Responsibilities of a "General Student Member"

OFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP

includes

- Golden Flower Instructor - Active
- Golden Flower Instructor - Inactive
- Golden Flower Senior Instructor
- Golden Flower Master

Golden Flower Instructor - Active

Definition: A certified, current-year-licensed, dues-paid instructor with at least one dues-paid class.

Fee amount: \$80.00 US annually

Due date: November 15th

Pay to: Golden Flower T'ai Chi Association International.

Privileges:

- May enroll in all instructor training events.
- Eligible to enroll in specified advanced training programs
- Access to private instructors' area of web site.
- May use the Golden Flower name and logo.
- May teach the full Golden Flower curriculum for profit.

- May claim teaching domain over a specified local area.
- May obtain Golden Flower materials from the International School at wholesale price and resell to their students.
- May hold official positions in a national school or the International School.
- May schedule private lessons with Master San Gee Tam.
- Listed on the Golden Flower web site as a certified, licensed Golden Flower Instructor. (This list will be updated annually and will include additional information about your school or classes.)

Responsibilities:

- To inform their students about the International School, web site facilities for members, official training materials and all events that may be of interest to the students.
- To regularly consult the Instructors' Area of the web site for the latest communications and updates from the International School.
- To apply annually for a Golden Flower teaching license and to keep the license available for public inspection.
- To agree not to produce or reproduce any Golden Flower materials without the advice and written consent from the International School.
- To give appropriate support to any regional and/or national school, including financial responsibility for any required administrative or management fees.
- To support and attend annual and quarterly regional Instructor Update Trainings.
- To schedule and attend at least two hours per year of private lessons with Master San Gee Tam.
- To maintain communication with the International School.
- To demonstrate financial integrity and responsibility in all matters relating to membership, the school and the organization.
- To submit a quarterly administrative report to the International School. (A form will be available in the Instructors' Area of the web site in the Administration section.)
- To appropriately communicate any concerns, complaints, requests or other issues that you may have in an official manner to the appropriate person in the International School.
- To recognize and accept that all official members of the School are responsible for the development and management of the School and, therefore, responsible for proactive resolution of any problems that may arise.
- To display the proper protocol and accord the appropriate respect for the person's position when communicating publicly about the School, or representing or introducing Master San Gee Tam and any officials of the School.

Golden Flower Instructor - Inactive

Definition: A certified, unlicensed, dues-paid instructor who is currently not teaching any Golden Flower class

Fee amount: \$80.00 US annually

Due date: November 15th

Pay to: Golden Flower T'ai Chi Association International.

Privileges:

- May enroll in all instructor training events.
- Access to private instructors' area of web site.
- Eligible to enroll in specified advanced training programs.
- May have limited use of the Golden Flower name and logo with written approval by the International School
- May not use the Golden Flower name and logo for advertising purposes
- May claim official status as a Golden Flower Instructor
- May not teach the full Golden Flower curriculum for profit.

- May not claim domain over a certain area.
- May not obtain Golden Flower materials at wholesale price.
- May hold official positions in a national school or the International School.
- May schedule private lessons with Master San Gee Tam.

Responsibilities:

- To inform their students about the International School, web site facilities for members, official training materials and all events that may be of interest to the students.
- To report any unofficial teaching (non-membership) to the regional school.
- To regularly consult the Instructors' Area of the web site for the latest communications and updates from the International School.
- To agree not to produce or reproduce any Golden Flower materials without the advice and written consent from the International School.
- To give appropriate support to any regional and/or national school, including financial responsibility for any required administrative or management fees.
- To support and attend annual and quarterly regional Instructor Update Trainings.
- To schedule and attend at least two hours per year of private lessons with Master San Gee Tam.
- To maintain communication with the International School.
- To demonstrate financial integrity and responsibility in all matters relating to membership, the school and the organization.
- To submit a quarterly administrative report to the International School. (A form will be available in the Instructors' Area of the web site in the Administration section.)
- To appropriately communicate any concerns, complaints, requests or other issues that you may have in an official manner to the appropriate person in the International School.
- To recognize and accept that all official members of the School are responsible for the development and management of the School and, therefore, responsible for proactive resolution of any problems that may arise.
- To display the proper protocol and accord the appropriate respect for the person's position when communicating publicly about the School, or representing or introducing Master San Gee Tam and any officials of the School.

Golden Flower Senior Instructor (formerly known as "Chief Instructor")

Definition: A certified instructor with more than ten years of consistent T'ai Chi practice, who has completed the Senior Instructor training program, has passed the Senior Instructor training program exam and is certified by Master San Gee Tam. Senior Instructor status may also be conferred directly by Master San Gee Tam at his discretion.

Fee amount: \$125.00 US annually

Due date: November 15th

Pay to: Golden Flower T'ai Chi Association International

Privileges: Same as Active Instructor with the addition of:

- Increased access to special training and communication with Master San Gee Tam.
- Recognized and respected in their position as a leader and senior voice in the school.

Responsibilities: Same as Active Instructor with the addition of:

- To maintain an up-to-date level of knowledge, practices and materials.
- To take a lead role in organizing, supporting and carrying out training updates and keeping instructors informed about updates in their area.
- To participate in a regular fashion with advanced training programs from the International School.
- To exercise leadership in promoting harmony, stability and cooperation among their local and regional members.
- To maintain regular communication with the International Golden Flower T'ai Chi School.

Note: A regional or national group of instructors should nominate a Senior Instructor to represent them as their Training Coach. This nomination must be acknowledged and approved by the International School.

Golden Flower Master

Definition: One who has mastered and is able to demonstrate mastery of the entire Golden Flower curriculum. A Golden Flower Master is formally recognized by Master San Gee Tam. All levels of training and requirements below this level must have been successfully completed.

Fee amount: Donation

Due date: At discretion of individual

Pay to: Golden Flower T'ai Chi Association International

Responsibilities: To embody and be an example of the higher principles taught in the School.