



Springfield Fencing Club

By Katherine Sarsfield

Photos by Piero Taico

Oh, sword fights. Who doesn't love a good sword fight?

I discovered this love for myself watching old television specials with my dad growing up. I would sit mesmerized by the dancing swordsmen with the long flowing hair and the oh-so-cool moustaches.

I wanted to be just like D'Artagnan from the Three Musketeers. I would take to copying the swashbuckling antics of my favorite hero on the playground with friends — albeit armed with a stick and ever lacking in both style and grace...and balance...and safety. (Where were our teachers?)

Eventually, my mom agreed to my unending pleas for lessons. "Alright," she said, "I'll sign you up. Please stop asking."

Just as I had gotten all that I had ever wished for, it hit me: self-doubt.



Joanne Liu

You know, no one has ever really described me as coordinated, I thought. I'll probably just embarrass myself.

I never went. Until 20 years later.

Joanne Liu started Springfield Fencing Club in 2011 after years of trying to establish a fixed spot for fellow enthusiasts to practice.

Liu states that she is not looking for a profit, and so she charges no membership fee to join. Instead, she is looking to get more people interested in the sport she loves.