



Paul Rest

Brandon WilliamsCraig - A Martial Artist Making a Difference

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Brandon, a 4th dan in [Aikido](#), will be giving an oral defense of doctoral thesis this Sunday, March 28th, and again on Tuesday, March 31st. This singular achievement comes after many years of serious study and hard work. It also deeply reflects Brandon's efforts to create non-violent solutions to the issues confronting us today.



Brandon trains with Kayla Feder Sensei at [Aikido of Berkeley](#). He also has a training group, [FreeAiki.com](#) where he teaches traditional aikido and his own "Martial Nonviolence Method" method of conflict facilitation. He writes, "...in that context, [] consider everything from my improvisation and activism on the street to conversations with Huston Smith to [be inform by] aiki principles."

The first presentation oral defense of "The Myth of Peace: A Culture of Peacemaking, the Process Arts, and the Emergence of a Global Communitarian Mythology" will be held in the Adult Study room at [Epworth UMC in Berkeley](#) this Sunday from 3-4 PM. The dissertation's Oral Defense defense will be from 1:30-2:30 on March 31st in the Lambert Campus Lecture Hall of the [Pacific Graduate Institute in Capinteria, California](#). Both events are open to the public...which means everyone is

welcome!

Both events are also available on the net via webinar (information below). Brandon is obtaining his doctorate degree in Mythological Studies with an emphasis on Depth Psychology, and is focusing on "Process Arts" because: "I propose that the process arts have a culture-making component and thereby may make a beneficial collective contribution to "Community," social justice-based narratives and practices emerging around the world in response to the challenges posted by industrial globalization." He co-founded and is President of Association of Building Community, a Bay Area non-profit engaging in this work locally and nationally.



Brandon is also a leading light in the work of [Aiki Extensions](#) serving as

their Executive Director in 2008. I have profiled others who are involved in this necessary and important work here on my examiner.com column ([Robert Kent](#), [Jamie Zimron](#), [David Lukoff](#) & [Miles Kessler](#)). He was also a participant and presenter at the first workshop on the intersection of [Aikido & Psychotherapy](#) held last March in Berkeley, CA.

Brandon asks, "What if your ideas shape the world?"

You can contact Brandon at Brandon@mythofpeace.com or Brandon@processarts.net for more information. The upcoming presentations will use Twitter Hash #mythofpeace. Registration via <http://practice.mythofpeace.com> is required or an email to listserve is available to continue being a part of this important work that Brandon is doing in developing Process Arts. A video of the defense will also be provided at a later date for an upcoming "enthusiastic geek part" as Brandon notes.

All photographs were provided by Brandon and used with permission, including the one with him and [Huston Smith](#). I'm still awaiting word whether or not Brandon found the pirate chest of gold on Muir Beach. It is rumored that the beautiful woman pictured with him, his mother, got there first!

