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 09-12-2011, 01:03 PM

#1

[George S. Ledyard](#) 

[Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?](#)

[Saito Sensei Memorial Seminar](#)



Dojo: Aikido Eastside
 Location: Bellevue, WA
 Join Date: Jun 2000
 Posts: 2,407
 Online


A friend made me aware of an event planned for 2012 honoring Saito Sensei. Listed amongst the instructors is Bruce Klickstein. Klickstein was the senior American student of Saito Sensei but lost his rank and was informally (as opposed to legally) banned from teaching for a ten year history of abusing young girls in his children's classes. Unlike John Lamont, who actually went to jail for this crime, Klickstein got off because the prosecutors wouldn't take it to court. This was before all the Catholic Priest abuse scandals came to light and the public sensitivity to these issues was different. Today, I believe he would have had a legal comeuppance.

Despite the lack of a satisfactory through the justice system, I believe that the Aikido community, just as it did back then, should continue to enforce its own ethical standards and not allow this man to teach at all, much less appear alongside an array of highly respected representatives of our community. The events were so long ago now that folks seem to have forgotten them... younger folks may never have heard the story at all.

Saito Sensei was a giant in Aikido history. It is a dishonor to an event that is intended to honor the man if a predator like this is accepted back into the Aikido fold. Anyone who knows personally any of the teachers scheduled to appear alongside Klickstein should make it clear to them that it hurts their good names to allow this man to teach alongside them. It is wrong and should not happen.

George S. Ledyard
 Aikido Eastside
 Bellevue, WA
[Aikido Eastside](#)



 09-12-2011, 01:28 PM

#2

[Demetrio Cereijo](#)

Join Date: Nov 2004
 Posts: 1,221



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

I also think this is a disgrace.

I'd like to know what these fine aikido instructors had in mind when they decided to invite Klickstein to this event.

"The defensive form of war is not a simple shield, but a shield made up of well-directed blows."
Clausewitz - On War.

[How do armbar?](#)



09-12-2011, 01:34 PM

#3

akiy



Join Date: Jun 2000
Posts: 5,384
Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Hi folks,

I know that the topic raised here is a very sensitive subject so I wanted to request, before the discussion went on very far, to **please** take care in being civil and respectful in this thread.

Thank you,

-- Jun

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09-12-2011, 01:38 PM

#4

George S. Ledyard ✨



Dojo: Aikido Eastside
Location: Bellevue, WA
Join Date: Jun 2000
Posts: 2,407
Online

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Jun Akiyama wrote:
Hi folks,

*I know that the topic raised here is a very sensitive subject so I wanted to request, before the discussion went on very far, to **please** take care in being civil and respectful in this thread.*

Thank you,

-- Jun

I think that Jun is quite correct here. There is no need for emotion or vitriol. I think it is simply a matter of letting the highly respected, internationally known teachers invited to the event that many of us do not feel that Klickstein belongs in their midst. If we act together but act professionally and with respect for the other participants, I think we can accomplish what was done in the first place, namely that the Aikido community police itself.

George S. Ledyard
Aikido Eastside
Bellevue, WA
[Aikido Eastside](#)



09-12-2011, 01:41 PM

#5

Tim Ruijs



Dojo: Makato/Netherlands
Location: Netherlands - Leusden
Join Date: Aug 2005
Posts: 261

Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Demetrio Cereijo wrote:
I also think this is a disgrace.

I'd like to know what these fine aikido instructors had in mind when they decided to invite Klickstein to this event.

+1

In a real fight:

* If you make a bad decision, you die.

* If you don't decide anything, you die.

Aikido teaches you **how** to decide.

www.aikido-makato.nl



09-12-2011, 01:49 PM

#6

Keith Larman

Dojo: Aikido Institute of America,

HQ Seidokan Aikido

Location: California

Join Date: Apr 2005

Posts: 1,095



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

This is really terrible on so many levels.

Keith Larman

[Summerchild Polishing](#)

[ModernTosho Modern Japanese Swords](#)



09-12-2011, 02:17 PM

#7

sorokod

Join Date: Sep 2008

Posts: 298



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Klickstein got off because the prosecutors wouldn't take it to court

Why wasn't the case taken to court?

-- david



09-12-2011, 02:52 PM

#8

Marc Abrams

Dojo: Aikido Arts of Shin Budo Kai/

Bedford Hills, New York

Location: New York

Join Date: May 2006

Posts: 905



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

The psychological damage that young sex abuse victims have to live with lasts far longer than 10 years....

I can only hope that we can all privately and discretely contact the people organizing and teaching at this event to ask that they reconsider having Bruce Klickstein at this event. This event is honoring a man who protected the honor of our art by taking away the rank from Bruce Klickstein. His appearance seems like a very ill-thought idea to me.

Marc Abrams

<http://www.aasbk.com>



09-12-2011, 02:57 PM

#9

George S. Ledyard ✨



Dojo: Aikido Eastside

Location: Bellevue, WA

Join Date: Jun 2000

Posts: 2,407

Online

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Abuse Thread

Quote:

David Soroko wrote: 🗨️
Why wasn't the case taken to court?

Check out post #292 it states my understanding of hwy they wouldn't take it to court at the time.

Klickstein was extremely influential person in the community at the time. My friends who played a central part in getting the larger community to make a decisive break with him actually received death threats... There were folks who strongly felt he

should be forgiven and continue on as a big kahuna.

This was all before the awareness of the scandals in the Catholic Church were so widely publicized. I think the public is far more aware of the issues and the damage done by predators. I think he'd have been in court for sure today. On the other hand, watching that guy from the World Bank skate should make us all aware that this is still a tough issue to get justice on.

George S. Ledyard
Aikido Eastside
Bellevue, WA
[Aikido Eastside](#)



09-12-2011, 04:05 PM

#10

sorokod

Join Date: Sep 2008
Posts: 298



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Thank you George, here is the direct link to the post you mentioned:
<http://www.aikiweb.com/forums/showpo...&postcount=292> . The whole thing has not gone through the meat grinder of the legal process and so I am unconvinced.

-- david



09-12-2011, 04:24 PM

#11

Marc Abrams

Dojo: Aikido Arts of Shin Budo Kai/
Bedford Hills, New York
Location: New York
Join Date: May 2006
Posts: 905



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

David Soroko wrote:
*Thank you George, here is the direct link to the post you mentioned:
<http://www.aikiweb.com/forums/showpo...&postcount=292> . The whole thing has not gone through the meat grinder of the legal process and so I am unconvinced.*

David:

Saito Sensei took away his rank. That is not a minor token of an act. I would think that Saito Sensei was convinced enough to have to take such a strong act with one of his students.

marc abrams

<http://www.aasbk.com>



09-12-2011, 04:30 PM

#12

Demetrio Cereijo

Join Date: Nov 2004
Posts: 1,221



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

David Soroko wrote:
The whole thing has not gone through the meat grinder of the legal process and so I am unconvinced.

David,

He was hamoned by Saito Sensei. Even if Klickstein is legally innocent, bringing him as instructor at Saito's passing years memorial is, imo, disrespectful to Saito's memory.

Last edited by Demetrio Cereijo : 09-12-2011 at 04:40 PM. Reason: wrong name

"The defensive form of war is not a simple shield, but a shield made up of well-directed blows."
Clausewitz - On War.

[How do armbar?](#)



09-12-2011, 04:36 PM

Gorgeous George

Join Date: Sep 2009

Posts: 373



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Demetrio Cereijo wrote:

Joe,

He was hamoned by Saito Sensei. Even if Klickstein is legally innocent, bringing him as instructor at Saito's passing years memorial is, imo, disrespectful to Saito's memory.

Exactly. Surely it makes no sense that this individual is a part of the event if Saito essentially threw him out?



09-12-2011, 04:41 PM

sorokod

Join Date: Sep 2008

Posts: 298



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Yes, I heard that too, that does not make him guilty.

I made a quick scan through the thread Gorge has referred to, searching for posts the mention Bruce Klickstein (<http://www.aikiweb.com/forums/search...archid=750627>). There are four such posts, all of them made by George. From this I understand that he has very strong feelings on the subject.

-- david



09-12-2011, 04:43 PM

robin_jet_alt

Join Date: Jun 2011

Posts: 98



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

This is the first I have heard of this, but it is a very sad state of affairs. I offer no opinion on whether he actually did it, since this thread is my only source of information, but if his rank is going to be revoked, they really ought to stick to their policy and not invite him to these events.

I think I have one of his books in the shed somewhere. It should be a good source of kindling this winter.



09-12-2011, 04:49 PM

sorokod

Join Date: Sep 2008

Posts: 298



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Demetrio Cereijo wrote: 🇪🇸*David,**He was hamoned by Saito Sensei. Even if Klickstein is legally innocent, bringing him as instructor at Saito's passing years memorial is, imo, disrespectful to Saito's memory.*

I had the privilege to train under some of the participants and find it impossible to believe that they would be "disrespectful to Saito's memory".

-- david



09-12-2011, 05:21 PM

#17

Demetrio Cereijo

Join Date: Nov 2004

Posts: 1,221



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

David Soroko wrote: 🇪🇸*Yes, I heard that too, that does not make him guilty.*

No, but if Saito Sensei hamoned him that makes him unranked.

Who restored (and why) his previous rank? A Shihan (on Doshu's behalf)?

How is this honoring Saito's memory?

"The defensive form of war is not a simple shield, but a shield made up of well-directed blows."
Clausewitz - On War.

[How do armbar?](#)



09-12-2011, 05:36 PM

#18

sorokod

Join Date: Sep 2008

Posts: 298



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Demetrio Cereijo wrote: 🇪🇸*No, but if Saito Sensei hamoned him that makes him unranked.**Who restored (and why) his previous rank? A Shihan (on Doshu's behalf)?**How is this honoring Saito's memory?*

I do not have answers for you Demetrio, you could ask the organisers I guess. For whatever it's worth, I think that Klickstein's Aikido is beautiful (see here for example: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvR4NXioRE0>) so perhaps the honouring comes from this direction.

-- david



09-12-2011, 05:54 PM

#19

Demetrio Cereijo

Join Date: Nov 2004

Posts: 1,221



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

David Soroko wrote: 🇪🇸*I do not have answers for you Demetrio, you could ask the organisers I*

guess.

I'm only a file and rank test ducking yudansha. I'll be probably told to mind my own business.

Quote:

For whatever it's worth, I think that Klickstein's Aikido is beautiful (see here for example: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvR4NXioRE0>) so perhaps the honouring comes from this direction.

If his skills and his work on promoting aikido back in the day make him amnesty worthy, so be it. But tomorrow I'm going to the dojo to take back home my weapons bag,

"The defensive form of war is not a simple shield, but a shield made up of well-directed blows."
Clausewitz - On War.

[How do armbar?](#)

 Quote

 09-12-2011, 06:05 PM

Demetrio Cereijo

Join Date: Nov 2004


Posts: 1,221



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Robin Boyd wrote: 
I think I have one of his books in the shed somewhere. It should be a good source of kindling this winter.


Seriously?

What did the book for you going spanish inquisition on it?

"The defensive form of war is not a simple shield, but a shield made up of well-directed blows."
Clausewitz - On War.

[How do armbar?](#)

 Quote

 09-12-2011, 06:20 PM

kewms


Join Date: Aug 2002

Posts: 262

Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

David Soroko wrote: 
I do not have answers for you Demetrio, you could ask the organisers I guess. For whatever it's worth, I think that Klickstein's Aikido is beautiful (see here for example: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvR4NXioRE0>) so perhaps the honouring comes from this direction.

I don't think the quality of his aikido is the issue here....

In order to abuse power, one first must be skillful enough to obtain it. The list of charming and talented people who turned out to be predators is quite long.

Katherine

 Quote

 09-12-2011, 07:10 PM

#22

aikidoc

Dojo: Aikido of Midland
 Location: Midland Texas
 Join Date: Dec 2000
 Posts: 1,644



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Don't forget the more recent Clint George incident, and he did go to jail last I knew.

5th dan? I thought he was 6th dan when they stripped him of rank! Was he only stripped one rank? I know he was working for some international company as a high ranking manager given his Japanese fluency. I looked him up on the internet some time ago.

I realize he was never convicted therefore by law he is not guilty technically. However, if Saito stripped one of his favorite people of rank there must have been something fishy. I wonder how he got invited- perhaps Saito's heir?



09-12-2011, 08:00 PM

#23

JO

Dojo: Aikikai de l'Université Laval
 Location: Sainte-Catherine-de-la-J.-C., Québec
 Join Date: Jun 2000
 Posts: 276



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

I have to agree with George that the other instructors should be contacted, though it seems unlikely that senior Iwama folks could be unaware of Bruce's story. I would also ask anyone who would consider going to the event to reconsider and boycott the seminar unless Bruce is taken off the instructor list.

Jonathan Olson



09-13-2011, 12:41 AM

#24

George S. Ledyard ✨

Dojo: Aikido Eastside
 Location: Bellevue, WA
 Join Date: Jun 2000
 Posts: 2,407
 Online

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

David Soroko wrote: 🗨️

*Thank you George, here is the direct link to the post you mentioned:
<http://www.aikiweb.com/forums/showpo...&postcount=292> . The whole thing has not gone through the meat grinder of the legal process and so I am unconvinced.*

Multiple past victims came forward at a public meeting who had previously been unaware of each other... This was witnessed by a number of the most senior American leaders of the Aikido community. One of the victims is a personal friend. You can remain unconvinced all you wish.

I know people who were instrumental in getting the word out about Klickstein at the time and galvanizing the Aikido community's response. There were a number of folks who actually thought he should be forgiven because he was such an influential teacher. My friends actually got death threats for working to have him banned. I have to say that, I simply will not accept that anyone's ability to perform Aikido technique, no matter how skillfully, gives him the least excuse or entitles him to the least consideration when he commits such a series of crimes.

That was a very painful time for a number of people in American Aikido. But I have never heard anyone who had any direct familiarity with the events of the time say they had the least doubt that he had done what he was accused of. He was lucky that he didn't go to jail and doubly lucky that, when he didn't, some parent didn't take it on himself to do something about it. The man has already had a huge break... he doesn't deserve one iota more. The girls he harmed are still dealing with it now as adults... there is no passage of time that gains a man like this forgiveness in the form of re-acceptance.

Last edited by George S. Ledyard : 09-13-2011 at 12:54 AM.


George S. Ledyard
 Aikido Eastside
 Bellevue, WA
[Aikido Eastside](#)



09-13-2011, 01:05 AM


#25

sakumeikan

Dojo: Sakumeikan N.E. Aikkai
 .Newcastle upon Tyne.
 Location: Newcastle upon Tyne
 Join Date: Jan 2008
 Posts: 498

 Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

George S. Ledyard wrote: 
Saito Sensei Memorial Seminar

A friend made me aware of an event planned for 2012 honoring Saito Sensei. Listed amongst the instructors is Bruce Klickstein. Klickstein was the senior American student of Saito Sensei but lost his rank and was informally (as opposed to legally) banned from teaching for a ten year history of abusing young girls in his children's classes. Unlike John Lamont, who actually went to jail for this crime, Klickstein got off because the prosecutors wouldn't take it to court. This was before all the Catholic Priest abuse scandals came to light and the public sensitivity to these issues was different. Today, I believe he would have had a legal comeuppance.

Despite the lack of a satisfactory through the justice system, I believe that the Aikido community, just as it did back then, should continue to enforce its own ethical standards and not allow this man to teach at all, much less appear alongside an array of highly respected representatives of our community. The events were so long ago now that folks seem to have forgotten them... younger folks may never have heard the story at all.

Saito Sensei was a giant in Aikido history. It is a dishonor to an event that is intended to honor the man if a predator like this is accepted back into the Aikido fold. Anyone who knows personally any of the teachers scheduled to appear alongside Klickstein should make it clear to them that it hurts their good names to allow this man to teach alongside them. It is wrong and should not happen.

Dear George,
 Klickstein was/is a disgrace to his teacher and to the aikido community. The decision to include him in a Saito Sensei Memorial Course is a scandal. Vote with your feet and everyone should either walkout when this man teaches or do not attend the event. Contact the course organizers and express your disgust.

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[Uchideshi Program & Facility](#) - In our new green dojo. Intensive study up to one year.
 Spotsylvania, VA

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Transmission, Inheritance, Emulation 3	Peter Goldsbury	Columns	16	05-28-2007 06:24 AM
Transmission, Inheritance, Emulation 2	Peter Goldsbury	Columns	3	04-19-2007 04:53 AM
bruce klickstein	johanlook	General	3	02-08-2003 03:14 PM

All times are GMT -6. The time now is 06:43 PM.

-- English (US)

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