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Sections

[home](#)
[aikido articles](#)
[columns](#)
[aikiwiki](#)

Discussions

[forums](#)
[aikiblogs](#)

Databases

[dojo search](#)
[seminars](#)
[image gallery](#)
[supplies](#)
[links directory](#)

Reviews

[book reviews](#)
[video reviews](#)
[dvd reviews](#)
[equip. reviews](#)

News

[submit](#)
[archive](#)

Miscellaneous

[newsletter](#)
[e-cards](#)
[multimedia](#)
[rss feeds](#)
[polls](#)
[donate](#)
[about](#)

Buttons



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[AikiWeb Aikido Forums](#) > [General](#)

Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

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Password

[Active Topics](#)

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Page 6 of 6 [« First](#) [<](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) [»](#)



[Thread Tools](#)

Yesterday, 10:02 PM

#126

Budd

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

George S. Ledyard wrote:
Not only recent and raw but a new student, still enthusiastic and perhaps idealistic about the art would have been about the last person one would talk to about something so negative. I certainly didn't with my students. It was taken care of and we got back to the rather more fun business of training, which is what I hope happens here.

While I agree with a lot of what you say in this thread, George - I'd argue that communicating the poor behavior of individuals, the negative aspects and darker stories around the art - even to a newbie student with an idealistic view, would be preferable than avoiding the matter.

It will engage the beginner's mind in considering things to be on the look out for and keep themselves protected, just as learning to take proper ukemi and fit in appropriately.



Yesterday, 10:05 PM

#127

Budd

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Henry Ellis wrote:
Budd
Thank you for that information it explains some of the questions I had.
Regards
Henry Ellis
British Aikido
<http://britishaikido.blogspot.com/>

Happy to share what little I know, Henry.

Regards.



Yesterday, 10:14 PM

#128

David Orange

Dojo: Aozora Dojo
Location: Birmingham, AL
Join Date: Feb 2006
Posts: 1,122



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Toby Threadgill wrote: 🗨️

Well,

After the e-mail I sent them I'll bet they took it down! I haven't written many letters like that in my life.

And hats off to you, too! You and George and Dan and Marc and several others have shown real leadership in this. It's a painful thing, and no one has to do it, but it's good that you guys did!

Regards.

David

"That which has no substance can enter where there is no room."
Lao Tzu

"Eternity forever!"



Yesterday, 11:16 PM

#129

Toby Threadgill

Location: Evergreen, Colorado
Join Date: Oct 2006
Posts: 150



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

David Orange wrote: 🗨️

And hats off to you, too! You and George and Dan and Marc and several others have shown real leadership in this. It's a painful thing, and no one has to do it, but it's good that you guys did!

Regards.

David

Hi David,

Thanks, but George is the one who deserves the credit. He brought this incident to all of our attention. The rest of us are just following his lead and expressing our outrage at what we deem to be a violation of the ethical principles and sense of moral decency budo is supposed to be built on.

Regards,

Toby Threadgill



Today, 07:03 AM

#130

philipsmith

Dojo: Ren Shin Kan
Location: Birmingham
Join Date: Jun 2003
Posts: 218



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Returned to the thread for the first time since my last post.

This "incident" was unfortunately - for whatever reason- treated as an open secret at the time (late 1987 from memory). I believed that was a mistake then and still do.

Perhaps it was felt that if this behaviour was made "public" it would somehow taint the name of Aikido generally, Saito Sensei and even impact on Hombu and the then Doshu.

Anyway a course of (in)action was adopted for better or worse.
A friend and colleague works with abusers and tells me that they require constant supervision if they are not to repeat their behaviour.

I feel anyone attending this event is somehow condoning this individuals actions rather than condemning



Today, 07:21 AM

#131

Richard Stevens

Dojo: Indianapolis Dentokan
Location: Indianapolis
Join Date: Oct 2010
Posts: 68



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Silence condones.

Richard Stevens
[Indianapolis Dentokan](#)



Today, 07:57 AM

#132

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?

George Ledyard Sensei is not the only one who deserves some serious kudos for keeping the spotlight on this serious issue.

Jun Akiyama deserves a lot of credit for allowing this issue to be aired on his website.

I can only hope that the tide that is forming results in Bruce Klickstein from ever being allowed an opening/venue in the Aikido world again. Many of us find many areas in which we can agree to disagree about issues in our Aikido world. It is very heartening to see us unite to best represent the ideals of our art.

Marc Abrams

<http://www.aasbk.com>



Today, 08:35 AM

#133

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?

Quote:

Marc Abrams wrote:

George Ledyard Sensei is not the only one who deserves some serious kudos for keeping the spotlight on this serious issue.

Jun Akiyama deserves a lot of credit for allowing this issue to be aired on his website.

I can only hope that the tide that is forming results in Bruce Klickstein from ever being allowed an opening/venue in the Aikido world again. Many of us find many areas in which we can agree to disagree about issues in our Aikido world. It is very heartening to see us unite to best represent the ideals of our art.

Marc Abrams

It is good to see. Klickstein was a disgrace and embarrassment to Aikido. But more than that, he ruined lives. Some things cannot be forgiven and some things cannot be forgotten. We must do more than lip service to the philosophy of Aikido. We define ourselves through our actions, not just our words. It seems some within Iwama are defining themselves quite well right now. And that is a shame. But I am

glad to see others step forward and refuse to go away quietly.

Keith Larman
[Summerchild Polishing](#)
[ModernTosho Modern Japanese Swords](#)



Today, 09:51 AM

#134

George S. Ledyard ✨

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?



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

Quote:

Philip Smith wrote: 📄
Returned to the thread for the first time since my last post. This "incident" was unfortunately - for whatever reason- treated as an open secret at the time (late 1987 from memory). I believed that was a mistake then and still do. Perhaps it was felt that if this behaviour was made "public" it would somehow taint the name of Aikido generally, Saito Sensei and even impact on Hombu and the then Doshu. Anyway a course of (in)action was adopted for better or worse. A friend and colleague works with abusers and tells me that they require constant supervision if they are not to repeat their behaviour.

I feel anyone attending this event is somehow condoning this individuals actions rather than condemning

It would have, at the time, been completely impossible to have actually taken care of the problem without it being public. This man was one of the true pioneers of American Aikido, one of the top 5 senior Aikido teachers in America and the top American student of one of the true giants in Japan. He was immensely popular and influential.

The only reason the larger community was able to accept and comprehend his removal from the scene, which was absolutely right and necessary, was that his transgressions were made public. Even then, there were folks who simply could not accept that this figure, in whom they had invested so much authority (too much perhaps) had betrayed them and the art and his teacher to this extent. The fact that the folks central to making the public aware of what had taken place actually had the dojo and their persons threatened gives one some idea just how difficult it was for people to come to terms with this man's behavior.

If things had been handled on the QT, I cannot see how he would have been stripped of his rank, I can't see how he could have successfully been banned from teaching. Who could have done this? It was the collective will of the larger Aikido community, the sheer force of the condemnation from the lowest levels of experience right up to his peers that accomplished this. If he had simply lost his official leadership positions, there would have been people who thought it was just political and would have gone with him wherever he went. He could have started his own organization and many would have followed out of loyalty. If ever there was a group of Aikido folks for whom loyalty was a major value trained from day one, it's the Iwama folks. Any private efforts to handle the problem would simply have been met with a chorus of "But why?" People simply had to know in order to accept it all.

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



Today, 10:10 AM

#135

Hellis
 Dojo: Ellis Schools of Traditional
 Aikido
 Location: Bracknell

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

I am rather surprised that there has been no response on this thread from anyone

Join Date: Feb 2010

Posts: 450



Offline

associated with the said event. Even the organisers must now be aware as is Mr Witt, their silence can only damage what was intended to be a very special event. The event is some eight months away and a lot of damage can take place in that time.

Henry Ellis

British Aikido<http://britishaikido.blogspot.com/>

Today, 10:17 AM

#136

George S. Ledyard ✨**Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?**

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

Two issues need to be considered here simultaneously. First is that of raising awareness of the current issue and the history behind it. I think that is happening fairly rapidly. I think that it is crucial for members of the Iwama Aikido community to raise their voices. The folks in Italy are fairly removed from realities here. They are also, and not surprisingly so, far more concerned about their own style and their own organization than they are about "outsiders". Yes, we are all part of the Aikido community... but in reality folks from outside ones own lineage are really just cousins rather than brothers and sisters.

So, the second issue is what, in fact, constitutes an effective course of action that would achieve a given result? In this case it would be the removal in any official or quasi official way of Klickstein from participation in the event. What people choose to do privately during the social time during the event is completely up to them. Many of the senior folks appearing at this event are friends of Klickstein's having developed a strong bond from shared training at Iwama under Saito Sensei. It is their right to associate as they see fit.

But the event itself is a public event and is being held to honor a great teacher. Therefore, the question is, what is the most effective way to actually get the organizers to change their minds. I have had pm's indicating that there is a direct relationship between distance and people's understanding of what happened to Klickstein. This information indicated that over in Europe it was thought that there was an over reaction and that Klickstein wasn't treated completely fairly.

I think that the next step needs to be finding folks who know each of the participating teachers personally who can contact them and make them aware of the facts. This is already happening on some level. If those people are actually from within the TAA organization itself, so much the better.

I would love to see really senior American teachers, the 6th and 7th Dans take a stand. If they were to write letters to Paolo Corralini Sensei, in his role as the head of the TAA in Italy and as the person hosting the event, politely and respectfully showing him how seriously we over here feel about this, it could have some effect. I genuinely believe that the folks over there just don't get it or he would never have been invited in the first place.

Thanks for all the support. These things typically take a bit of effort. At first there is almost always some resistance out of sheer inertia. This is especially true when changing something might appear tantamount to admitting having made a mistake. I think it is very important that there be some "face saving" way out for the folks running the event. I am not sure what this might be but I think it is a mistake to make demands or to threaten. It would be better to inform and appeal to the honorable intentions of the men in charge.

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



Today, 10:26 AM

#137

kewms

Join Date: Aug 2002
 Posts: 262
 Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

The face saving way out probably involves Mr. Klickstein developing an injury, illness, or personal or business emergency that makes him unable to attend. The question is whether he would see that as a step toward, or away, from his presumed goal of re-integration into the aikido community.

There is, among some Europeans, a belief that Americans are entirely too hung up about sex. An approach that focuses on the inappropriateness of inviting someone who was banned by the person being honored might be more productive than a discussion of the merits of the case.

Katherine

Last edited by kewms : Today at 10:30 AM.



Today, 10:32 AM

#138

George S. Ledyard ✨

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

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Henry Ellis wrote: 🗨️

I am rather surprised that there has been no response on this thread from anyone associated with the said event. Even the organisers must now be aware as is Mr Witt, their silence can only damage what was intended to be a very special event. The event is some eight months away and a lot of damage can take place in that time.

Henry Ellis

British Aikido

<http://britishaikido.blogspot.com/>

Hi Henry,

I am sure that by now everyone is aware on some level of what is going on. But the distance is a major factor. You actually participate a lot on the forums and have a pretty good idea of what folks think here, at least the ones who post on the net. But to those who do not have their fingers on the pulse, it may simply not seem so immediate. Folks have asked why we are making such a stick... why couldn't this all be handled quietly? In my opinion, we need to make a very large noise to be heard way over there.

I REALLY do not wish to hurt the event. Nor do I wish to cause any problems for the wonderful teachers scheduled to appear. I have nothing but respect for all of them and what they have achieved. If folks can just be made aware of the facts, I think that we can all get back to doing what we love, namely training. I sure as hell have other things to do... I took this on because I told a friend I would do what I could. I would just as soon have it go away. I am hoping that we can reach the organizers with our concerns and that they will be heard. It was a mistake to have invited this man in the first place. All in good faith, based on faulty or incomplete information I believe, but a mistake nevertheless. It is an absolutely shame that such a wonderful event should be anything but a joyous reunion of senior Iwama teachers and a fantastic training opportunity for the students involved. Someone needs to step up and do the right thing... it just may take a bit of work to get people to decide what the right thing is. Currently, it is clear that they still think having invited him might at worst have been ill advised and at best, completely reasonable. More factual information needs to be given to the folks concerned to shift their opinions.

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



Today, 10:41 AM

#139

Demetrio CereijoJoin Date: Nov 2004
Posts: 1,221

Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Henry Ellis wrote: *I am rather surprised that there has been no response on this thread from anyone associated with the said event. Even the organisers must now be aware*

Believe me. They are.

"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?](#)

Today, 10:43 AM

#140

Graham FarquharDojo: Reading Ki Aikido
Location: Reading
Join Date: Oct 2005
Posts: 16

Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

I agree with Henry - it is a surprise! Do we know what the thoughts of some other Senior Iwama Aikidoka, particularly in the US are around the inclusion of Klickstein in memory of their teacher. I am sure there are a few who may have had to deal with the fall out from what he did in the late 80s and who continued to be loyal to Saito Sensei would have something to say about this.

For the sake of his victims and also for the honour and reputation of Aikido he shouldn't be teaching in such a high profile event and if we are true to our art we speak out!



Today, 11:36 AM

#141

akiyJoin Date: Jun 2000
Posts: 5,384
Offline**Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?**

Hi folks,

Just wanted to say that I've appreciated the respectful tones that has been employed in the thread so far. Thank you. As I mentioned, this is already a very sensitive manner and I appreciate the civil discourse around the subject. I hope everyone will continue this discussion in the same tone.

I also wanted to say and point out that Internet discussions, especially within an active community such as here on AikiWeb, often take place quite quickly -- one that often outpaces "in real life" discussions.

I guess what I'm trying to say is to please give the folks who are putting together this event a bit of a chance to collect and organize themselves. It's only been a few days since the first post in this thread, after all. And, to be quite honest, I do *not* want this to turn into anything that can be seen as an "angry mob" with virtual torches and pitchforks being wielded to the organizers' doors, as doing so isn't really conducive to any sort of positive resolution, I believe.

I appreciate your consideration, folks! And, thank you again for the discussion so far -- both in content as well as in its manner.

-- Jun

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Today, 01:14 PM

#142

Ellis Amdur

Location: Seattle
 Join Date: May 2003
 Posts: 520
 Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

One other thing comes to mind. How does the abuser of children (and to be very clear, that was the age of at least one of the victims) get control of those victims? If not by force and violence, by manipulation - this is called grooming. Grooming is a conscious use of a tension/release cycle. You make the person slightly - or even exceedingly - anxious or confused or frightened - and then deliberately relieve the confusion, accompanied by a Hook - the latter being a step in the direction of the abusive act. eg., make the person feel uncertain, then provide an explanation accompanied by a hug, then do it again, and this time the hug touches the child's breast, just a momentary brush, then. . . you get the idea.

Among the tactics to make adults off balance are guilt trips, blame, mournfulness, voiced remorse, apologies, promises to never do "it" again, minimization, and lies - to be followed by a "way out."

Here's a way out: how about a suggestion that we all need to heal, and that participation in such a demo would be such a healing? Unfortunately, aikido, with it's ideology, is ripe for just such manipulation.

In other words, Klickstein's participation is a perpetration, very likely following the very same pattern of behavior as the original abuses.

Unless there is a MORE unsavory alternative - that the organizers and other participants are, to use a phrase from Andrew Vachss, "collaborators," people who knowingly and willingly support the abuser, out of any one of a number of motives. I hope that this is not the case.

In either event, the organizers and participants can make it right. Simply stop being groomed or stop colluding, whatever the case may be. Otherwise, they will have become perpetrators themselves.

Ellis Amdur

Author: Books and DVD regarding martial arts, as well as on the verbal control and de-escalation of emotionally disturbed individuals
www.edgework.info



Today, 01:27 PM

SeiserL

Dojo: Tenshinkai Aikido (CA) Aikikai
 Location: Roswell (GA) Budokan
 Join Date: Jun 2000
 Posts: 3,301
 Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

George S. Ledyard wrote:
Two issues need to be considered here simultaneously.

I would suggest perhaps three, personality free issue.

Learn from the past. Any betrayal and abuse of power, authority, and permission must be openly confronted and swiftly dealt with.

Maintain the lessons learned in the present. We must stay vigilant and protect our children and students.

Stay vigilant in the future.

This type of offense has a long history. The patterns are easy to hide, minimize, and rationalize. It has happened before. No doubt it is happening now. And it will happen in the future.

They say there are sheep and there are wolves. And then there are sheep dogs. And for many of us, our bite is worse than our bark.

Lynn Seiser PhD
 SandanTenshinkai Aikido & FMA/JKD
 We do not rise to the level of our expectations, but fall to the level of our training. Train well. KWATZ!

#143



Today, 01:56 PM

#144

Demetrio Cereijo

Join Date: Nov 2004

Posts: 1,221



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

Quote:

Ellis Amdur wrote: 🗨️

Unless there is a MORE unsavory alternative - that the organizers and other participants are, to use a phrase from Andrew Vachss, "collaborators," people who knowingly and willingly support the abuser, out of any one of a number of motives. I hope that this is not the case.

I hope that is not the case too but, at this moment, my bokken is back at home. Not that I was training much lately but I felt it was the appropriate thing to do considering the circumstances.

Last edited by Demetrio Cereijo : Today at 01:59 PM.

"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?](#)



Today, 02:12 PM

#145

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:

Demetrio Cereijo wrote: 🗨️

I hope that is not the case too but, at this moment, my bokken is back at home. Not that I was training much lately but I felt it was the appropriate thing to do considering the circumstances.

Demetrio:

I applaud your integrity! I hope that you can go back to training with a clean spirit, based upon people having done the right thing.

Cordially,

Marc Abrams

<http://www.aasbk.com>



Today, 02:14 PM

#146

Hellis

Dojo: Ellis Schools of Traditional

Aikido

Location: Bracknell

Join Date: Feb 2010

Posts: 450



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

My daughter is a doctor who deals everyday with child abuse victims, she said it is rare that someone jumps out of the bushes as the children are almost always victims of someone they trust. It takes it toll on so many people, the children and their families and the support groups like my daughter..

I have a friend in Italy who was a direct student of Kenshiro Abbe and is well know in ma circles in Italy. I have asked if he can check the poster and see if he knows anyone involved.

Henry Ellis

Aikido - Judo Videos

<http://aikidoellisvideo.magnify.net/>



Today, 02:45 PM

#147

grondahl

Dojo: Stockholms Aikidoklubb
 Location: Stockholm
 Join Date: Apr 2004
 Posts: 416



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

One of the featured instructors of the seminar and a senior instructor of Takemusu Kyokai in Denmark, Ethan Weisgard is a member on Aikiweb. It would be very interesting to hear his take on the subject.



Today, 08:27 PM

#148

Walker

Dojo: 光道館
 Location: PDX
 Join Date: Mar 2007
 Posts: 177



Offline

Re: Bruce Klickstein Teaching Again?

I completely support the continued shunning of Mr. Klickstein.

In the on going naval gazing inquiry into whether or not 21st century Aikido still qualifies as a Budo (with a capital 武), I think that the behavior of one of its most conservative factions will be telling.
 Sincere budoka should be, and no doubt are, watching.

A question occurs to me that I haven't seen yet in this thread. Does this group have ties to Saito Hitohiro or to the Iwama Dojo proper?

Last edited by Walker : Today at 08:29 PM.

-Doug Walker
 光道館 △ 高村派新道揚心流



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Page 6 of 6 « First < 4 5 6 ▾



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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 08:31 PM.

-- English (US)

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