

The Niseido® Warrior

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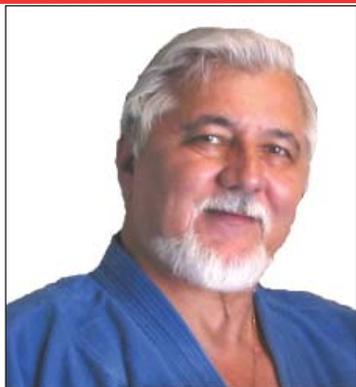
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From the Desk of the Old Prof:

The Niseido® Ju Jitsu Federation Salutes Those Who Protect and Serve

As American citizens, we can for the most of it count on being safe, living a life of freedom, and enjoying the things that our great country has to offer. We do know however, that a large portion of our world's citizenry would deny is the right and privilege of these things.

The Niseido Ju Jitsu Federation is proud to acknowledge those who have the responsibility of protecting our nation, cities and towns. Know that these people have basically signed a blank check made payable to the peoples of the United States, in the amount of and up to including their lives. It is with pride and love, that we honor them and their gallant service.



Master David Herzenberg, 5th Dan - Chief Instructor, Santa Fe Dojo in Santa Fe, NM. A Hombu Alumni, David is a Captain (Fire Fighter / Paramedic) with the Santa Fe Fire Department.

Sensei John Venturelli, 3rd Dan - Bay Ridge Dojo, Brooklyn, NY John is a former Assistant District Attorney for Kings County. He is currently a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Sensei David (Sarge) Nissensohn, 3rd Dan - Hombu Dojo, Lake Worth, FL David is a retired Lieutenant of the City Boynton Beach Police Department. David is currently a Sergeant with the School District Police of Palm Beach County where he is a defensive tactics training Supervisor.

Sensei Greg Duggan, - 2nd Dan Hombu Dojo Alumni, Greg is a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserve and is an Iraqi War Veteran.

Sensei Yvon Guillaume, 1st Dan - Hombu Dojo, Lake Worth, FL Yvon is a former West Palm Beach Police Officer who after Serving in Kosovo, and Haiti training Police Officers is now a Special Agent with the US State Department Diplomatic Security Service. He is currently assigned to the US Ambassador of Morocco as the Agent in Charge.

Ed Guzman, Nikyu - Hombu Dojo, Lake Worth, FL Ed is a Deputy Sheriff with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office.

Phillip Klarer, Nikyu - BSK Niseido Ju Jitsu Club, Murfrees-

boro, TN. Phil is an officer with the Metro Nashville Police Department.

Jack Cambria, Yonkyu - Bay Ridge Dojo, Brooklyn, NY. A Lieutenant with the New York City Police Department, Jack is currently the Commanding Officer of the NYPD's elite Hostage Negotiation Unit. As a Sergeant he commanded Brooklyn's Emergency Services Unit. Fourteen of the Thirty-One NPYD members who perished on 9-11 were E.S.U members and close personal friends of his.

Kenny Fisher, Yonkyu - Hombu Dojo, Lake Worth, FL. Kenny is a Deputy Sheriff with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office. He is also an Iraqi War Veteran and a Sergeant in the Florida National Guard.

Joe Donohue, Yonkyu - Bay Ridge Dojo, Brooklyn, NY. Joe is a Sergeant with the New York City Police Department He is a supervisor of the Warrant Squad.

Vaughn Mitchell, Gokyu - Hombu Dojo, Lake Worth, FL Vaughn is a Deputy Sheriff with the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Vaughn is currently assigned to the US Marshal Team for Palm Beach County.

Freddy Acevedo, Gokyu - Bay Ridge Dojo, Fire Fighter, NYFD

Peter DeSalvo, Gokyu - Bay Ridge Dojo, Fire Fighter, NYFD



By: Professor Nic Alonso, 7th Dan Chief Instructor, Bay Ridge Dojo, Brooklyn, NY

Crossing Enemy Lines

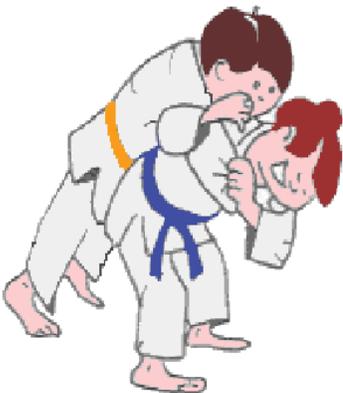
We all know that Bay Ridge Dojo has been in existence since the mid sixties. Like any other commercial space, competition in the Brooklyn area was aggressive. Martial Art schools competing for the inquisitive martial artist talent pool would soon close when they proved no loyalty to their clientele.

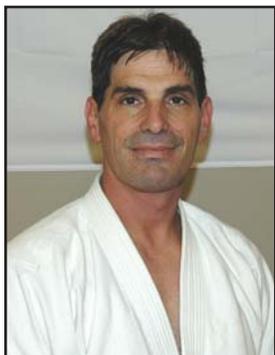
One particular school in the area continues to be a “friendly” competition for business. On June 7, 2008 we were welcomed to their invitational children’s tournament held at their school. Professor Mike and I had decided that it would be a great experience for the kids if they desired to see how their skills held up to other training styles.

We are very proud to announce that every child from Bay Ridge Dojo who competed that afternoon performed extremely well under the pressures of the tournament circle. Every single Bay Ridge Dojo child placed in every division they entered. We would like to congratulate the following winners in our neighbors’ challenge:

- **Nicky Alonso**
First Place in Self Defense, Third place in Sparring
- **Randy Antoun**
First Place in Self Defense, Second place in Sparring
- **Amanda DelAngel**
First place in Self Defense
- **Peter DelAngel**
Second Place in Self Defense, Third place in Sparring
- **Marissa DeTorre**
Second Place in Self Defense
- **Gabriella Shammas**
Second Place in Self Defense
- **Jonathan Shammas**
First Place in Self Defense, First place in Sparring

We welcome future opportunities to exhibit our talent.





*By Master Tom Holste, 5th Dan, Chief Instructor
Regional Director, Southern Region*

Reality vs. Training

There are many times in our training when we wonder will this work or will that. We also go through drills wondering why is it Sensei has us doing this or doing that.

Many times coming up through the ranks I can remember people resisting at certain points or trying to counter whatever technique is being applied. To this day I'm still faced with an uki or two who, after being thrown, holds onto the knife in question as if it is glued to their hand. Never mind the fact I have my knee pressing on their head and their elbow in a near dislocated state. It is critical that people learn to separate training from reality.

In reality I would have crushed your head against the pavement with my knee and not merely held you in position. I also would not have stopped at your elbow but savagely snapped through your bone and ligamentous end points. Rest assured that removing the knife from your grip would have been not only a minor inconvenience but more of a shock that you had held on.

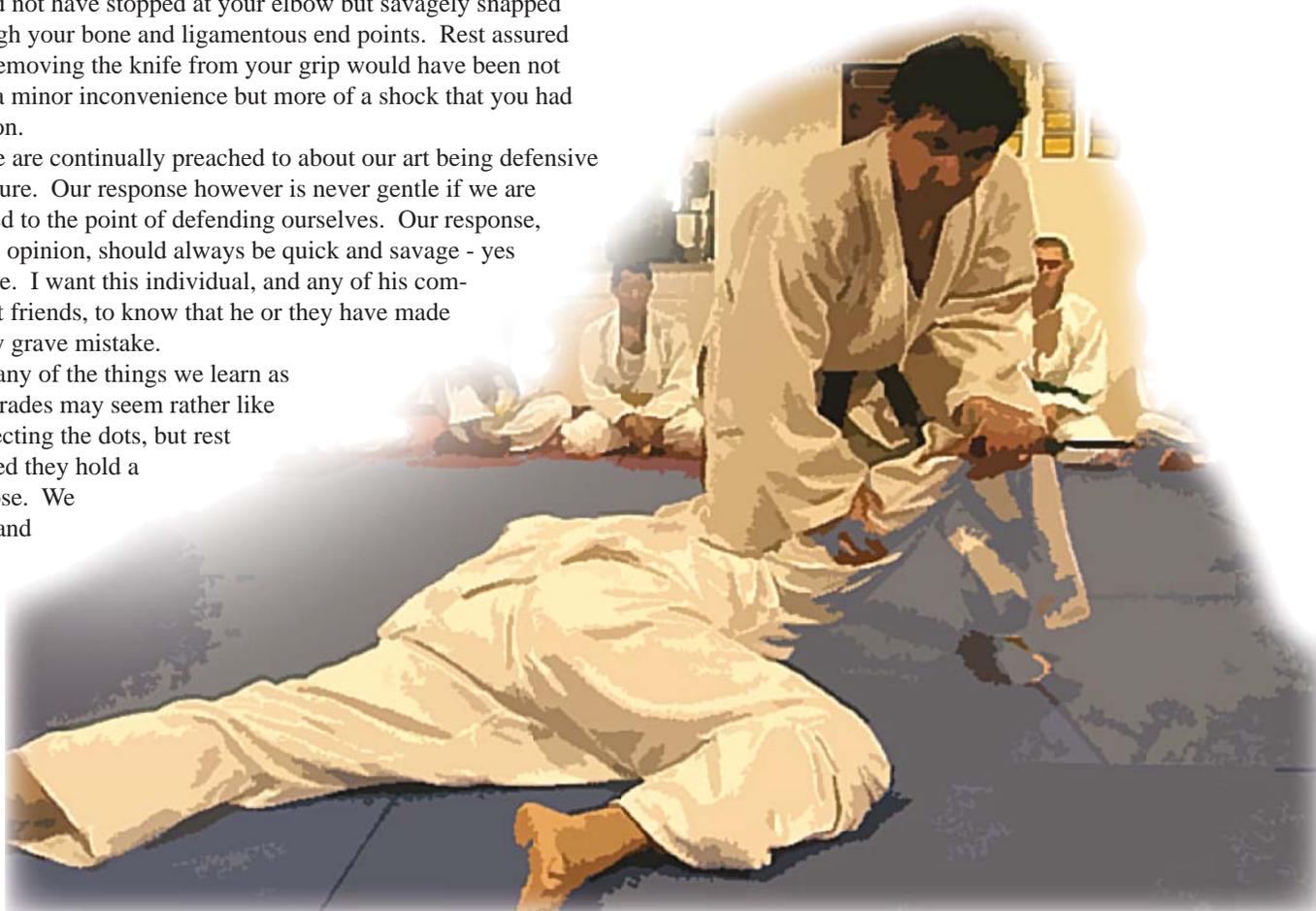
We are continually preached to about our art being defensive in nature. Our response however is never gentle if we are pushed to the point of defending ourselves. Our response, in my opinion, should always be quick and savage - yes savage. I want this individual, and any of his combatant friends, to know that he or they have made a very grave mistake.

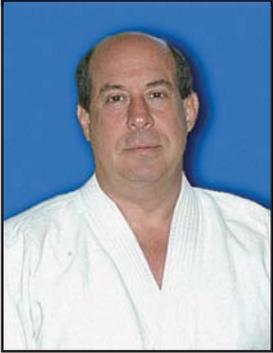
Many of the things we learn as kyu grades may seem rather like connecting the dots, but rest assured they hold a purpose. We train and

should continue training so that our defenses are reflexive in nature. Just as your hand pulls back from that hot stove because of reflex, and not because you smell flesh burning, the same should be said of your technique in a combative situation.

Someone pushes you and you grab them thinking to pop their elbow with Waki Gatame only to have them pull their arm back to quickly. Your reflex could be to go right into Kote Gaeshi, if you have to think what to do you could be in some trouble. When training in the dojo, don't sit there thinking, when will I ever be in this position, because one ever knows.

Ask questions if you don't understand the whys and what for's. It will only aid you when it is your time to pass the knowledge on to the next guy. Enjoy the ride from one rank to the next. You'll be surprised how what once seemed kind of choppy for you, starts to mesh into a fluid transition. Trust me when I tell you - your instructors definitely notice the changes. It's what makes teaching so rewarding. So empty your cup and train as if your life depends on it because you never know - it just might.





Loving (Even) the Ones that Drive You Crazy

Why now is the time to appreciate even the most challenging people in our lives.

*By: Sensei Rick Parlante, 2nd Dan, Chief Instructor
Gulf Coast Niseido Ju Jitsu Club, Naples, FL*

Melissa was just 24 years old when she passed away several months ago. Melissa...was what they call “a handful” throughout her short time on this earth. As a teenager, she could be completely out of control, destructive to both herself and her family. Melissa pushed the limits without reservation and at times her behavior drove her parents to the brink. To call her “difficult” would be an understatement, but now that she is gone, she is truly missed. Those who cared about her the most can see how the qualities that made her such a challenge were the same ones that kept her alive well past doctor’s predictions.

Melissa seemed to relish swimming against the tide in almost every situation. So when she was diagnosed with cancer at a young age, she went at it just as ferociously as ever. With Melissa it was always more than just a battle – it was a war. She did not just fight her cancer, she refused it. No one was really surprised by her stance. This was exactly what she had been doing her entire life: confronting that which she saw as unacceptable, unjust, and simply, un-Melissa!

Her family started to realize that maybe it was for this event – fighting cancer – that Melissa had been preparing for all of her life. It would be the contest of her life. For perhaps the first time in their lives, they were glad for Melissa’s stubbornness, her hard-headedness, her sheer determination to never give up and never give in. They came to appreciate all of their young daughter’s challenging personality traits. They hoped against hope that these traits would save her life. You see, for all of the problems and heartaches Melissa may have caused, not having her around would be far worse.

How many times are you frustrated by certain people in your

*I Do Not Love You Except Because I Love You
by Pablo Neruda*

*I do not love you except because I love you;
I go from loving to not loving you,
From waiting to not waiting for you
My heart moves from cold to fire.*

life – a child, a brother or a sister, a spouse, a friend, or even a parent? We all have those so-called difficult people in our lives. But let’s put ourselves in the place of Melissa’s family and try to picture our lives without them.

Maybe we should take another look at the challenging people in our lives, the ones that simply drive us crazy. Can we try to see their faults in a positive light? What qualities do they have that may seem unbearable on the surface, yet could be useful in certain situations? And most importantly, can we find and appreciate the positive traits they possess that make them valuable to us, despite their flaws?

Take the time now to appreciate all the challenging people you know, for the good they bring into your life. Appreciate them just for who they are – your children, your siblings, your spouse, and your parents. Because you’ll miss them, the way Melissa’s family misses her, when they’re gone.

The American Heart Walk

In Memory of Jim Johnson



*By Sensei Lane Wommack, 2nd Dan
Chief Instructor, BSK Niseido Ju Jitsu Club, Murfreesboro, TN
Ass't. Regional Director, Southern Region*

Back in 1999, I had a dojo life changing experience. I had been training with Mr. Taylor for about six years and teaching for about two. I had just started working full time and I was beginning really into the throws of being at the dojo most of the time. It has been an experience that, as most of you know, has only grown over the last several years.

One evening I was walking from the back of the dojo to the front, when I was met at the small dojo's door with the instructor saying, "Call 911, call 911." When I got to the front Office, Frank Bailey (a Yonkyu in Niseido) was already on the phone the 911 operator was asking questions and when I looked through the door I saw one of our students had collapsed, and was unresponsive on the dojo floor. It was Jim Johnson.

Jim had a great family with two boys Paul and his younger brother Luke and a loving wife. Paul trained at the dojo in Wado several years prior to this night and Luke was still training and a few years later tested for his black belt. Neither was there that night. Mr. Taylor came onto the floor in a matter of seconds after I alerted him through the intercom that there was an emergency. He began breathing for Jim. Another student began compressions. Jim still was unresponsive. The EMT'S got there but it seemed like it took a lifetime. They hooked Jim up a defibrillator and tried shocking his heart... still no response. Jim's son later showed up and asked if that was his dad the EMT's were over, I said yes and I needed his mom's work number. Paul, after he collected his thoughts for a second with a little help, told me the number and when I called there was no answer so I left a message. Mrs. Johnson called back later after the EMT's had gone, I simply told Mrs. Johnson she needed to go to the emergency room. She asked why and a repeated the statement. She said o.k.

I have never put that story in writing and it makes me a little teary reliving it through my own words. We later found out Jim had suffered an ruptured Aorta Aneurysm and had died right there on the floor. There was nothing that we could have done, we were told that it could have happened at home. We were all glad it didn't.

So around this time every year the Bushido School of Karate gets involved in the American Heart Association Heart Walk. We walk in Jim Johnson's memory and honor. Jim was not just a good man, he was exceptional. He flowed with love that some of us could only envy. He loved his family, and karate was his passion.

So this year, Mr. Taylor asked several people to create teams of 10 and raise money for this great cause. This year will be the first year the Niseido Ju Jitsu Club had a team and planned on helping raise more money.

The Heart Walk was scheduled for September 27th and overall participation from our school was incredible. The Niseido Ju Jitsu team raised a grand total of \$2,356.67. This was the second highest team raising. This could not have been done without everyone that helped. The first team raised just over \$2,900. We were in the lead until Saturday morning when more money was brought in by the winning team. However, Mr. Taylor is such a gracious person, and decided to take both teams out to dinner Oct. 15th, since both raised over \$2,000 - much more than he expected. Plus with the town of Murfreesboro, TN the population is around 120,000 people and this doesn't include some of the outlying areas. Our school proudly raised the most money out of all participants at a grand total of just over \$11,000. This with the economy the way it is, it's just amazing. Thank you all again and I look forward to next year around this time.

Sensei Bill Taylor 7th Dan

“A true man of Bushido”

*Prof. Rick Riccardi, 10th Dan
Grandmaster of Vee Jitsu Ryu Ju Jitsu
Grandmaster & Founder of Niseido Ju Jitsu*

I first met Sensei Bill Taylor about fourteen years ago at the Florida Karate Center in Gainesville, FL. He took part in an afternoon session that I was instructing. As I watched him sweating through the session, I thought to myself, this guy really put his heart and soul into his work; boy, what an understatement. In the end, we had a great afternoon and that evening we said our good-by's and that was that. Well, at least that's what I thought.

We all know that in this life we are never really sure just where we are going to wind up or who will become our friends and associates. I never dreamed that a few years later we would have a Niseido Ju Jitsu club operating out of his dojo.

I never dreamed that nearly a decade and a half later Sensei Taylor and I would be friends, let alone good friends. From the very beginning, Sensei Taylor made us feel very welcomed in his dojo. To see a martial artist of his caliber who also happens to be an extremely successful businessman as humble as he, is so pleasing to the heart.

On our last visit to The Bushido School of Karate, which has been our home for eleven years, I was pleased to present Sensei Bill Taylor with a plaque on behalf of the Niseido Ju Jitsu Federation for his unwavering loyalty to Niseido Ju Jitsu and to me personally as a friend. Over these past eleven years, Sensei Taylor has supported us completely and without reservation. Four years ago when we held Camp Niseido 2004, he allowed all of us to invade both his dojo's for the entire weekend.

Bill Taylor has proven to be a true man of Bushido. He is very active in his community; he is a man of many charitable works and certainly a person of high morals and integrity. For me and all of in Niseido Ju Jitsu a debt of gratitude and appreciation is owed to Sensei Taylor, a debt that is hard to repay.

Now for those of us who have been to his dojo, we all know that the last thing he needed was another plaque. However, we just had to do something to show our appreciation. I might also add that with that plaque I also give my love and the guarantee of my friendship and loyalty for as long as the Lord gives me life.

For everything you have been and done for Niseido Ju Jitsu and me, my dear friend, a heartfelt Thank You!

Dear Prof. Riccardi and the membership of the Niseido Ju Jitsu Federation,

I wanted to let all of you know how honored and surprised I was to receive a beautiful plaque from the Prof and your organization last Sat. night. The plaque was thanking me for allowing the Niseido group to be part of our school these past eleven years! (Man, how time flies!)

I was caught by surprise at receiving the plaque, but was able to stammer out my thanks, and that I felt our school owed the Prof and the entire Niseido group thanks for allowing us to be affiliated with the best Ju Jitsu organization in the US. I work extensively with martial arts schools all over the World. For the past few years, Ju Jitsu has been very “faddish”. We are honored to be able to work with an organization that was “country before country was cool!”, if you don't mind my southern comparison.

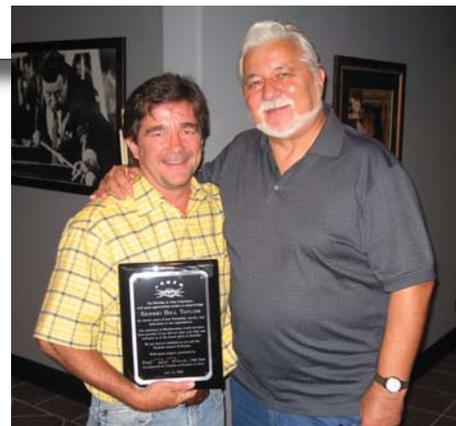
My friendship with the Prof has been one of my most cherished friendships I have developed in the Martial Arts community. He has a heart of gold, and a strong capacity for understanding what people are going through. The Prof. greatly helped my wife and I as we were going through a very rough time in the adoption of our first son, Diego. My wife's love for the Prof. is as strong as mine.

One time I was leaving the school to attend a fun raiser for the husband of a student. As the Prof stuck a large bill into my hand to give the family, I told him, “You are a good Man!” I believe that statement more each time I see him. The Niseido group is lucky to have a man of such integrity leading your group. Jennifer, Diego, Gabriel, and I are lucky to call him a friend.

Thank all of you for what you have allowed my school to do. You are the best!!!

Respectfully,

Bill Taylor



Sensei Bill Taylor & Professor Rick Riccardi

Painted Legs on Snake

By Sensei Lane Wommack, 2nd Dan

Chief Instructor, BSK Niseido Ju Jitsu Club, Murfreesboro, TN

Ass't. Regional Director, Southern Region

This happens to be one of my favorite stories regarding the martial arts in general. I hope everyone enjoys as much as I have over the past several years.

There was once a kung fu master who was in the autumn of his years, a tradition dictated that he had to hand down all the secret of his kung fu style to his most senior student. However, seniority in this instance was not just a question of time served. The problem the master was faced with was he had two students of equal skill. In order to choose between them he gave them a test. He ordered both students to go outside and draw an animal in the dirt. The student who drew an animal the fastest and the one which was instantly recognizable by the master would inherit all.

Each grabbing a stick, the students quickly set to work. The first student's instinct was to draw an elongated letter "S" in the dirt. He then looked up and saw that the second student was still drawing. Feeling worried that he had perhaps been too quick he began to embellish his drawing by adding a series of squiggles meant to represent legs. As he was about to add a third leg the other student sat up, indicating that he was finished. The master walked over and proclaimed the second student the winner.

Turning to the first student, he asked, "Tell me, why did you carry on after you had finished drawing in the sand what was quite obviously a snake?"

The student replied, "Because Master, having thought of a snake and drawn it so quickly, I then had doubts whether or not you would recognize what it was supposed to be. Therefore, I put legs on it so that it would resemble a lizard."

"The doubt in your mind and the hesitation you displayed" explained the master, "cost you the position as the next master of the style."

From that time on, the saying, "Don't paint legs on a snake," has been used when it would be pointless to try and improve upon something that is already perfectly adequate.



Sensei Lane Promoted to Nidan

Prof. Rick Riccardi, 10th Dan

Grandmaster of Vee Jitsu Ryu Ju Jitsu

Grandmaster & Founder of Niseido Ju Jitsu

On Saturday July 12th, Sensei Lane Wommack officially received his rank of Nidan. His certificate was backdated to March 16, 2008. Logistically it just became impossible for Prof. Riccardi and Master Tom Holste and Sensei Lane and his Wado Ryu Instructor Sensei Bill Taylor to all have a free weekend at the same time. But patience did pay off and Sensei Lane finally received his very long overdue certificate.

Sensei Dan Mills, 3rd Dan and Waka Sensei Paul Riccardi, 1st Dan were able to make to trip to Murfreesboro for the promotion. Also on this date, Master Tom Holste who is also our Regional Director announced his appointment of Sensei Lane as Assistant Regional Director for the Southern Region.

Congratulations Sensei Lane!

The Art of Niseido

By: *Amanda A. Arcieri, Nikyu Brown Belt
Bay Ridge Dojo, Brooklyn, NY*

Niseido Ju Jitsu is many things in one. It is not simply self-defense training, as it is a family, a science, and an art. However, throughout my high school career, I've received varied responses from curious teachers who have noticed the bruises on my body from the latest Kumite match. After they discover that I'm a martial artist and not the lowly victim of abuse, most are very supportive while others roll their eyes and act like I've said the most idiotic statement. This article is dedicated to those selected others who feel that just because martial arts are combative, they are "unsophisticated" or "violent."

First and foremost, like every art, there is a history and a culture behind every martial art style, particularly Ju Jitsu. It was the art of battle in Japan taught to the warrior class of the country, the Samurai. Utilizing basic principles of physics practiced in Judo and incorporating them into the battlefield setting, Takeuchi Hisamori created Ju Jitsu. Meaning "Gentle/Yielding Art," Ju Jitsu was not about meeting force with force,

but instead combining both forces to create a greater force to triumph over an attacker (whew—did you get all that?). Thus, in contrary to certain beliefs, our art is in fact very worldly.

Even though Ju Jitsu was meant to be used in the combat zone, it is a very non-violent art. Violence by definition is injury caused by violating another's rights, which is not what our martial art was meant to do. It is about using justifiable force to defend ourselves only when under attack. One must understand that, as written in the Niseido handbook, "survival is an everyday reality" and while we are to try greatly to diffuse a situation, once the line is crossed, "the penalty is relentless and unforgiving." The time to "turn the other cheek" is not when someone is about to shove a knife through your chest. Additionally, as we are to follow the principles of the Code of Bushido, which help us to become better people, and hence, better artists. Violence, therefore, is never an option in our art.

Finally, matching for fun in the Dojo is not such a "dumb" thing to do. We all give consent to the fact that there is a risk of injury, so therefore, we cannot be called "stupid" when we get hurt (and by the same

token, we can't complain about it, either) because we know that what we do can cause physical damage. The game of fighting, like the game of life, does not require physical brawn, but instead, an intelligent mind. As Sensei Curtis Packer (Sandan) says, "Fighting is like chess...you have to think several steps ahead of your opponent in order to win." I'm sure that many other practitioners would whole-heartedly agree with him. Hence, fighting (especially for sport) is not as "unintelligent" as some people insist.

Many people fail to realize the truth about martial arts, and hence, do not acknowledge the fact that it is a form of art. Each practitioner has his or her own way of performing it, and thus giving it diversity. Also, like an art, it is a form of communication. Literature uses words, music uses notation, visual arts use images, and comparable to dance, martial arts use movements. Additionally, as an art, it is a reflection of life. Ju Jitsu must have a sense of fluidity, otherwise, the artistic value is lost; it becomes a cluster of random movements that don't make sense because they are not natural. Clearly, the "art" of Niseido Ju Jitsu is most definitely a legitimate art.

Just For Kicks

By: *Amanda A. Arcieri, Nikyu Brown Belt
Bay Ridge Dojo, Brooklyn, NY*

It is often said that, to fully understand a particular technique, one must experience it. By taking a throw, joint-lock, or strangulation, we can better comprehend the physical mechanics behind its workings. This holds true for strikes, as well. As mundane as it may seem, this article is dedicated to the kick—specifically, varieties of the spinning kick.

We practice the "spinning back kick" (which sometimes appears as a side kick with a spin). However, "spinning back kick" is a misnomer that often connotes an erroneous message. The truth is, the "back kick" (rear-mule kick), much like side kick or front kick, is a linear technique; the power of the strike derives from a straight driving force.

By contrast, a technique incorporating a spin will tend to utilize momentum to gener-

ate ower (such as the spinning crescent kick or spinning hook kick).

Firstly, we must examine why one would "spin" during combat. Turning your back to an opponent, and thus losing partial or complete sight of him/her, is not practical—unless it is necessary. This could be due to a previously blocked strike, general loss of balance, etc. Whatever the reason, you have been forced into a position in which a spin is the best way to move. The additional strike is a plus, and the position of your opponent in relation to you should determine the type of strike delivered. Veering off-topic for a moment, I'll discuss common theories associated with true spinning kicks.

Most consider spinning crescent and hook kicks to be completely "useless" (meaning impractical during combat). Quite the contrary, these strikes are very useful, but their

uses are simply "limited" (meaning the occasion for them to arise is a rarity).

Armed with that, some would argue that if a specific technique is limited (by the definition provided), then it isn't a good choice of an attack due to its unlikelihood. While this is definitely a valid statement, many fail to remember that fighting is an unpredictable game: when least expected, one is thrust into a situation that he/she did not initially anticipate.

"Momentum" is the key word when referring to true spinning techniques, whereas a standard strike requires a chamber (potential energy) and extension (kinetic energy), to work. This conclusion jeopardizes the existence of the "spinning back kick" in the form we recognize. Additionally, this proves that there is most surely a time and place in the physical world for spinning kicks.

A New Career for Kenny Fisher

Prof. Rick Riccardi, 10th Dan

Grandmaster of Vee Jitsu Ryu Ju Jitsu

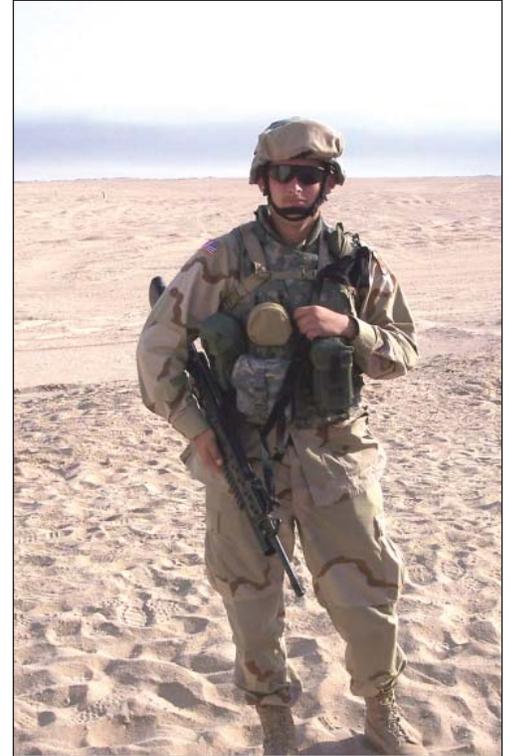
Grandmaster & Founder of Niseido Ju Jitsu



Watching the kids grow into adulthood is generally a great experience, one I have been privileged to enjoy many times over. One of those great joys is Kenny Fisher, Yonkyu – Green Belt. Kenny as a child was my next door neighbor. He and my son Paul have been good friends since about the second grade.

As you may remember from a previous issue, Kenny is an Iraqi war veteran with the rank of sergeant. I am delighted to say that Kenny has embarked on a law enforcement career. He was recently sworn in as a Deputy Sheriff for the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and has started his field training.

Congratulations Deputy Sheriff Kenny Fisher, may you have a stellar law enforcement career.



You Gotta Have Heart

Prof. Rick Riccardi, 10th Dan

Grandmaster of Vee Jitsu Ryu Ju Jitsu

Grandmaster & Founder of Niseido Ju Jitsu

In 1983, I had the pleasure of the starring role as “Applegate” in one of the productions of *Damn Yankees*. It was a great production and was viewed by just about everyone from Bay Ridge Dojo.

One of the many songs was one called, “You Gotta Have Heart”. This was a real show stopper where a player named Rocky who sings this song is trying to encourage his team to rise to the occasion and win the World Series.

Heart, that's what it takes to succeed in life's endeavors. That's also especially true in Niseido Ju Jitsu. You may recall that I had written in the last issue about the hundreds of people that came and left over the past two decades here at the Hombu Dojo.

It is always sad when sometimes in spite of all our efforts; a fellow practitioner loses heart and packs it in. Even sadder is their methods of leaving, it never ceases to amaze me. Some just disappear without so much as an explanation or a goodbye. Some will leave at a crucial time when they are really needed for a Kyu Grade or Black Belt Test not caring or considering that the person testing was counting on them. Other times they succumb to the pressures of an impending test, or in other words, they just plain “lose heart”.

For anyone who has taken the Niseido Ju Jitsu Black Belt Test or any Niseido Kyu Grade test you well know the drill. The pressure mounts for many reasons. Maybe suddenly after all your years of practice you kind of wish that you did not have to enter that Warriors Arena. You know that your family and invited guests will be on hand to cheer you on as they scrutinize your skills. In addition there will be a grading board of at least a dozen or more high ranking Black Belt instructors and at least a dozen guys who are waiting for the chance to pound you into the mats.

Yes, an ordinary person may very well lose heart and leave. But many times the ordinary person decides that they do not want to be ordinary, they dismisses their fears and stick it out. In the end they come to realize that they are still ordinary people. So, what's the difference? They have faced their fears or doubts, and suddenly became ordinary people with extraordinary skills.

Yes as a line in that wonderful song goes, “You gotta have heart; all you really need is heart”.

What Gives?

Why is the August Warrior so late in coming?

*By: Jim Mahanes, Nikyu Brown Belt, club facilitator
Louisville Dojo, Louisville, KY*

Some of you know that I work for a non-profit agency in Louisville, KY called Brooklawn Child & Family Services. Brooklawn is a home for boys, ages 5-18, who suffer from the psychological effects of severe abuse and neglect. As with all non-profit agencies, money is always tight (especially with government cutbacks and the downed economy). Well, a little over 18 months ago, our Board of Trustees tasked me with finding an event that could be an annual fund-raiser for Brooklawn. My orders were to find something that was unique, and something that would raise not only money but public awareness of the agency. I had never planned an event and didn't know where to start. I spent months searching for ideas until one evening last January, I was meeting with a donor of Brooklawn and explaining our situation and he said those fateful words "why don't you put on a Concours d'Elegance." Having just about exhausted my brain for ideas, I said "great.....what's a Concours?"

Pronounced "Kon-Kor Delegation" - a Concours d'Elegance literally means Competition of Elegance and revolves around extremely rare and unique cars, painstakingly restored oftentimes to better-than-new condition. A true Concours car is can be worth millions of dollars and some tens-of-millions of dollars.

"A car show"....it sounded easy enough, so I gathered a small group together and we began planning this event. We soon found out that established Concours usually take 25 or so people a solid year to put together. We had a first-year event, a small group of 8 people, roughly 10 months, and no idea what we were doing.

To make a long story short - the last year of my life has been spent working on this event - 18-hour-days, sometimes 7-days a week, phone calls around the country and overseas recruiting cars, 100s of e-mails each day, etc. I lost 10 pounds and at one point, I was going through a fully-charged cell phone battery in a 12-hour period.

We found ourselves nearly \$100,000 in the hole on an unproven, first-year event and unsure if anyone would come since few around here had ever heard of a Concours. Considering this thing was supposed to MAKE money for the charity, it made for some stressful months.

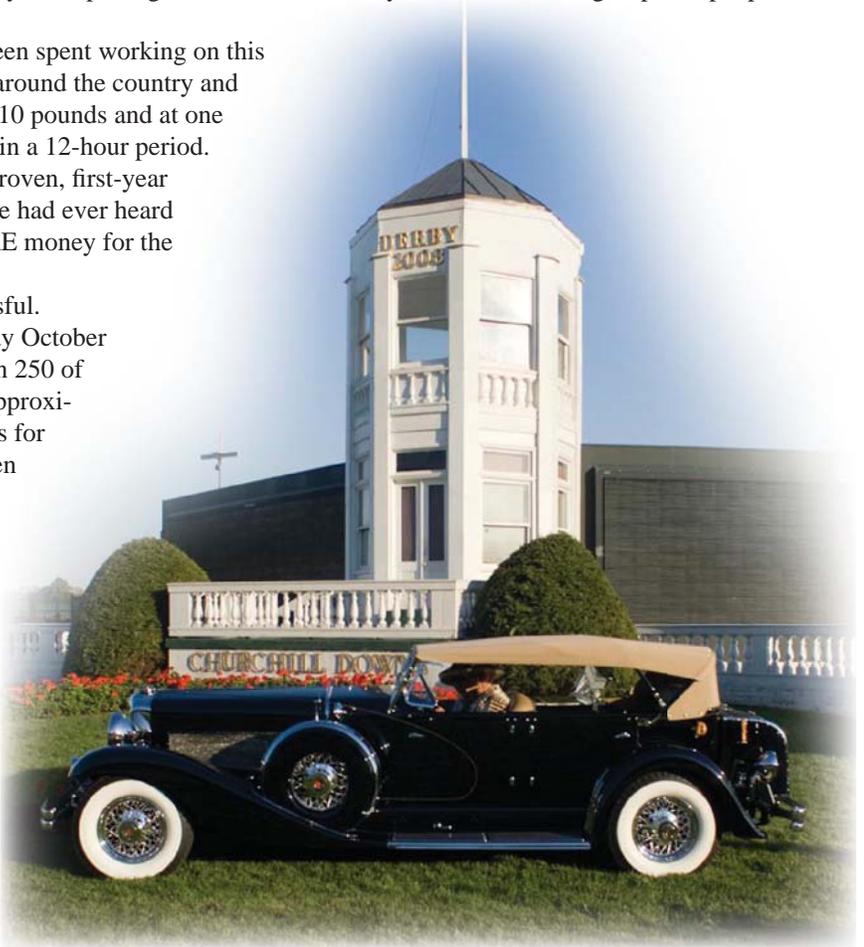
We worked our tails off and were determined to be successful.

Jump forward ten months: Here's the what I saw on Sunday October 5, 2008. The infield of Churchill Downs filled with more than 250 of the rarest cars in the country; collectors from 25 states; and approximately 3,500 paying customers enjoying the show. Donations for our auction came from Jay Leno, and Mario Andretti, and even Hollywood Actor Ed Herrmann (do an Internet search) came and served as our Grand Marshall.

We accomplished something many people thought we couldn't pull off and, in the end, we cleared nearly \$90,000 for the boys here at Brooklawn. I can honestly say, it's one of the most rewarding experiences of my professional career. Go on our website at www.concourslouisville.com to see the event for yourselves.

It's been a long year and many things have taken a back seat to this event - one of which is the Niseido Warrior.

To everyone who enjoys this publication, I offer my most heartfelt apologies for not getting this issue out. To Professor, Renshi Tom, Sensei Lane and the guys here at the Louisville dojo I want to say thanks for being understanding of my situation and the bigger picture of Brooklawn and what was at stake had we failed.



The Best in Show was a 1935 Duesenberg Dual Cowl Phaeton by Le-Grande owned by Frank and Milli Ricciardelli, of Monmouth Beach, NJ. The car is valued at nearly \$4 million.

Briefly

Regional Promotions

Bay Ridge Dojo, Brooklyn, NY
 Dr. Kevin McEnaney, Nikyu Brown Belt
 Amanda Arcieri, Nikyu Brown Belt

BSK Niseido Ju Jitsu Club, Murfreesboro, TN
 Sensei Lane Wommack, 2nd Dan
 Phillip Klarer, Nikyu Brown Belt
 Brian Burns, Sankyu Purple Belt

Hombu Dojo Lake Worth, FL
 Ike Anderson, Nikyu Brown Belt
 Jesus Chavez, Nikyu Brown Belt

Santa Fe Dojo, Santa Fe, NM
 Kayla Herzenberg, Gokyu Yellow Belt
 Brian Dawson, Gokyu Yellow Belt

Congratulations to these Warriors

Hombu Black Belt Class



Prof. Rick Riccardi, 10th Dan
Grandmaster of Vee Jitsu Ryu Ju Jitsu
Grandmaster & Founder of Niseido Ju Jitsu

July 3rd was Black Belt class night at the Hombu. As always, this class was well attended. We were happy this particular to have with us, Sensei Lane Wommack, 2nd Dan, Chief Instructor of the BSK Niseido Ju Jitsu Club in Murfreesboro, TN. Sensei Lane came looking for workout and was not disappointed. You can believe that his sweat glands work very good. Of course so did everyone else's.

August 7th was Black Belt class night. As always it was very well attended with eleven present not counting the Prof who had to sit this one out due to inflammation of his Achilles tendons.

After working up a good sweat it was time to discuss Hombu the students, Sensei's, issues, policy, and methods of teaching and communication. A lot of good always comes out of these sessions and hopefully everyone benefit from them.

Prof. Riccardi • Editor-in-Chief • Jim Mahanes Co-Editor

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