

New School News

Happy New Year, friends of New School Aikido! One of my resolutions for this year is to help keep this newsletter up and active. I hope you all will join me in this endeavor: your contributions of photos, poetry, recipes, stories short or long, and/or ideas for articles you'd like to see are welcome and so very appreciated (of this, more below!).

This edition was inspired by a comment a friend made: she mentioned she was thinking about taking a class here, if only she could muster "the courage" to do so. Her off the cuff remark hit home for me: it struck me that--much though we feel it's only us--it is common for us all to think that some of the qualities we refine and develop on the mat (self-confidence, patience and--yes--even courage) are things we have to have fully developed before we start. I know from my own experience (having fibromyalgia and being very stiff and ungraceful) that my assumptions about what abilities one needed to have before starting really held me back. It was only when Sensei Wisdom made

small comment about Sensei Silver "knowing something about pain" that I began to believe I, too, could join in the aikido experience. I thought folks might enjoy hearing how our senseis found their way to the mat: many thanks to all of them for sharing their stories.

Several years ago, Mr. Chris King interviewed Sensei Wisdom about our dojo's lineage and history. With so many new students, now seemed a good time to re-print this article.

In this edition, you'll also read about the Ms Thomas's kata class. Many thanks to Ms Thomas as well as Robert Ryan and Cass Smith, who gave up a Sunday morning to make the accompanying video.

Finally, a belated homage to a dear friend and aikidoka, Julien Carroll, written by Sensei Silver. Julien's infectious enthusiasm and joyful energy shone through all he did. Thanks to the internet, the issues of the NSA newsletter he created as editor live online, and serve as an inspiration now.

Next Edition

Spring 2021 will be devoted to the Spirit of Aiki.

Your musings, poetry, stories, and other creations are all welcome. Please feel free to email me (lldoty@yahoo.com) or bring your contributions to the dojo. I'm hoping that folks (especially you creative young students!!) will inspire us with haiku about your aiki experiences.

SENSEI ISAIAH WISDOM, CHO OF SANTA ROSA NEW SCHOOL AIKIDO

My aikido story is very simple as fate would have it. My live in girlfriend left me for the messy boy with mustard on his shirt. So I moved into a one room flat in downtown Stockton that happened to be above a newly opened aikido dojo. I used to play my saxophone in the stone entry hall because I liked the acoustics. Sensei Smartt lived in the same building on the same floor and would pass me coming in, one day he asked, when are you going to start training? I said tomorrow.

My first teacher was Pete Swingle Sensei I trained for 9 months then took the summer off. When I came back to the dojo Sensei Smartt was my teacher I apprenticed at New School for 3 years.

I moved into a commune with 13 other people our goal was to save money and move to Sonoma county to open a dojo with Sensei Brandy Lucky. This dream was realized in 1994. I then apprenticed under Brandy Lucky for 4 years and started really expanding my training by visiting all of local and not so local aikido Shihan.

I started looking for a space in Petaluma to open my own school when Brandy offered to sell me the Santa Rosa dojo. I went to Japan in 2001 to reconnect with our aikido lineage and went back in 2004 after Hikitsuchi Sensei passed away. I hold the rank of sandan in Kumano Juku and the rank of yondan in New School Aikido.



Tracing the Line (amended 11/28/11)

**An Interview with Isaiah
Wisdom Sensei
by Chris King**

Where have we come from?
Who is this teacher,
Hikitsuchi Sensei? Why isn't
there more written about
him if he was one of New
School's founding teachers
and a prominent student of
O-Sensei's? These were
some of the initial questions
that motivated me to do this
interview. Sitting down in
New School's office one
Monday afternoon in
October, Isaiah poured forth
to the accompaniment of
a small Japanese water
fountain trickling in the
background.

*Where did our school of
Aikido originate?*

Hikitsuchi Sensei and O-
Sensei shared many of
the same religious views
and O-Sensei loved to
train at the Kumano Juku
Dojo because it was in
the center of the Kumano
Triangle which is created by
three important Shinto

shrines. It is an ancient area
in Wakayama Prefecture and
is thought of as the home of
Japanese spirituality. One of
the shrines is the Kamakura
Shrine which was considered
the birthplace of Japan and
then there's the Nachi
Waterfall Shrine where O-
Sensei did water misogi.
Hikitsuchi Sensei has also
done water misogi there.
They used to go there in
search of the "dragon" which
was the spirit of the
waterfall. Interestingly, O-
Sensei was sometimes called
the Dragon King.

The third shrine is the
Hongu. I might be wrong,



but it actually completes the
triangle. It's the shrine in
where O-Sensei's parents

would go to pray for a son.
Eventually a son was born to
them and it was Morihei.

*Is their dojo near one of the
corners of the Kumano
Triangle?*

Yes. It's right near Kamakura
which is a mountain shrine.
It's a huge, giant rock which
overlooks the entire city of
Shingu.

Hikitsuchi Sensei was the
youngest student to ever
train with O-Sensei at the
time. He was becoming a
really prominent martial
artist at the age of 14. At
the time he held a black belt
in both kendo and karate.

His grandmother or aunt
had originally enrolled
him in martial arts to
build his strength and
character. One day
someone gave O-Sensei
a letter telling about this
amazing boy and O-
Sensei invited him to
come and train with him.

This was before the war
and Hikitsuchi Sensei
kept training during the

war. But O-Sensei didn't
come around too much at
that time

because he was sort of in hiding. After the war ended O-Sensei came to Hikitsuchi Sensei and told him that, "Everything's changed. We're doing it differently now." That's because in '42 O-Sensei had one of his powerful enlightenment experiences.

Did Hikitsuchi Sensei start the Kumano Juku Dojo?

Yeah. He and O-Sensei built it and they called it the World Dojo, like the World Headquarters. John Smartt began training there in the 60's. O-Sensei was still alive but John didn't get to train with him at hombu dojo mostly Tohei Sensei was teaching at the times John trained there. He trained from '68 or '69 to '77 with Hikitsuchi Sensei and then in '78 John helped bring Hikitsuchi Sensei here by hosting his tour to the United States. There's even a picture hanging in the Kumano Juku Dojo of them sitting together in Stockton, California of all places.

(laughs)

If we look at the "lineage", how was it handed down to you?

Well, I trained with John Smartt and Brandy Lucky. My first teacher was Pete Swingle who was a student of John's. After Pete, I trained with John and then with Brandy. In between there were other teachers from other lineages.

Does New School originate from John Smartt and Hikitsuchi Sensei?

Yeah, the direct lineage is that John trained with Hikitsuchi Sensei and kept an open line of communication and paid his tithe every year, and still does.

Plus, he was given a teaching certificate from Hikitsuchi Sensei and then came back to the U.S. and is teaching what he learned. He's been staying on that clear kind of path that Hikitsuchi Sensei was on.

So was he the one who started New School?

He was the founder of New School but he didn't just

sever ties with the Kumano Juku Dojo. So we're still connected and anybody who wants to visit can. We will just write a formal letter of reference and you can go visit. The thing about it is that they're going to want you to stay for a period of time. Not just for one or two days. They're going to want you to stay for at least a month.

You mentioned earlier that Hikitsuchi Sensei and O-Sensei shared religious views. What were some of the views they shared?

As far as the spiritual part goes, Hikitsuchi Sensei truly believed that O-Sensei was the manifestation of the Aiki O-kami, the Great Spirit of Aiki or Aikido. And you know Aiki is the unifying energy but it's also written as the energy of love too. And O-Sensei wrote it both ways in his calligraphy.

One of the things I really liked about Hikitsuchi Sensei when I was there training was that he did the old Shinto rites and you would begin by sitting. If you were

at a class you could actually sit there for a half hour. Hikitsuchi Sensei didn't teach, but he'd come out and do all the prayers to the Kami Sama so he would chant the Kotodama, the spirit sounds of the Kami. I'm afraid that some of this will be lost because the young guys just want to practice martial arts and they don't really want to keep the spirit alive.

I think it's crucial that we see it as Hikitsuchi Sensei and O-Sensei who felt that it was a form of misogi, the actual practice was a form of purification which makes us better. And that's why Onisaburo Deguchi, O-Sensei's spiritual teacher, suggested that O-Sensei call his art Aikido instead of

Aikijujitsu; it really was because Onisaburo saw it as the way - as a way to get to heart, as a way to get to the path of enlightenment. And Hikitsuchi Sensei believed it too, that it truly was the way.



SENSEI TRICIA THOMAS

I have my daughters to thank for Aikido. They started training at the age of 10, and I used to watch their classes, just another dojo mom sitting in the back against the wall. I was intrigued by the art, and in January of 2000 I began training, too. I absolutely fell in love with Aikido. It changed my life in more ways than I can say, and I trained regularly (you might say religiously) until my nidan promotion in 2010. Unfortunately, my body wasn't holding up very well, probably not helped much by a job that keeps me sitting in front of a computer all day. Ukemi became a problem with long-lasting side effects, and I realized I had to give it up. But I didn't want to give up my practice – I

just needed to transform it, much the same way Aikido has transformed me over the years. I began creating kata based on Aikido techniques and fundamentals. Finally, I asked Sensei Wisdom if I could teach a kata class, and he agreed. So, the idea of the kata class was born out of my desire to continue practicing, but in a slow, meditative, non-impact way, without ukemi. Practicing kata keeps Aikido in my body, mind, and spirit, and I'll be able to practice this way for a long, long time. That's a good thing, because Aikido is the perfect lens through which to view the world.

KATA CLASS

What is Aikido Kata?

A way of practicing aikido techniques in a slow, deliberate, and meditative way, without a partner, and without the need for ukemi.

How did the kata practice come to be?

I always figured that when I could no longer do aikido, I would take up tai chi. When I got to that point, I didn't want to leave aikido behind. I'm very methodical by nature, and so I've always been drawn to kata, both with weapons and in

open-hand practice. I decided I would try to create kata from open-hand techniques and

to practice them tai chi style: slow, deliberate, precise, and flowing. The idea is more of a moving

meditation, without a partner, just a group of people performing aikido movements in unison, the way we perform the 30-step jo kata.

Who would take this class?

People like me who have real problems with ukemi; people who are off the mat with an injury and want to keep up their practice in some way; or people in good condition who want to work on the details of footwork, breath, flow, being

centered, and mindfulness. The core muscles, as well as balance, also improve with slow, deliberate movements.

How are the kata structured?

Each kata is based on a technique or an attack, and each consists of 6 movements (so far). The kata are designed to be linked together, but any one of them can be practiced on its own. When creating and performing the kata, we



imagine a cooperative uke -- the perfect training partner -- and this helps to create graceful, flowing movement. All of the important aikido fundamentals are inherent in the kata: weight forward, moving from center, connection, ki extension -- all of that great aikido stuff. And because the kata we create can be linked together to form one long exercise, the potential for improvement of memory is there in the practice, too.

SENSEI MIKE JAMES

I started Aikido in January of 2001. I wanted other alternatives to keep myself safe, other than by doing damage to whomever was trying to harm me. I had seen demos for Aikido at the Health and Harmony Fair, and a booth that New School had at a Home Expo. After a false start, I met one of the Beginner Instructors and that was the beginning. I loved Aikido! It fascinated me and I loved the way it flowed and how simple and complex it is all at the same time. I went to as many classes as I could. It was fun, challenging, frustrating at times, and the coolest thing I had ever done!

After almost 4 years, I received my First Degree Black Belt. It was a wonderful day! I was SO glad when it was over! After about a year or so, I had the opportunity to teach the Saturday Kid's Class. It was a huge learning experience. I really enjoy teaching. It is fun and rewarding. After about another year or so, I was given the opportunity to teach the Special Needs Class which is just before the

Kid's Class on Saturday. It opened up a whole new element to teaching.

I received my Second Degree Black Belt two and a half years ago. I still teach the Saturday

morning classes. The Special Needs Class (that is open to anyone) starts at 10:00 and the Kid's Class starts at 11:00.



SENSEI KATHLEEN SILVER



Off the mat I'm Kathleen Silver sometimes known as Kate, especially in the ceramics world. (Most of you know I do ceramics.) I started Aikido in 1998. I got my nidan in 2005. I have been teaching

beginning adult Aikido on one of my daily life Thursday nights for 6 years disciplines. I do not say now at New School Aikido. this lightly because I truly believe that if you do not My first instructor was Brandy Lucky. She have a daily practice you practically dragged me are missing an amazing onto the mat with her enthusiasm and after my opportunity to become a first lesson I just couldn't more conscious being. Aikido has helped get enough of it. Most of ground me, given me my beginning classes were confidence and patience, taught by then brown belt taught me compassion and Isaiah Wisdom so my empathy for myself and transition from one cho to those around me. It has the next wasn't difficult. helped deepen my intuition and hone my senses and Isaiah has been a wonderful teacher for me given me a sense of the and a great friend. true peace which is I have a deep respect for possible in this world. O Aikido and considered it yeah, and its fun, fun, fun!

Bio Footnote (Ms Silver)

*This is a rather large footnote to my sensei bio, which Ms. Doty encouraged me to share with you all.

In 1999, soon after Jack and I moved out to West County I became ill. Slowly I began to have just a hint of pain in various joints of my body. At first I thought nothing of this—sore muscles I thought, but soon I was having extreme pain and very bad swelling.

My homeopathic doctor gave this illness the Chinese name of “wandering wind” because the pain would be in my right hand one day and my left hand the next and so it went with most of my joints day after day. Some days I could not raise my arm to brush my hair.

After dealing with this for about 6 months I decided to visit Anna Pacheco Clark who, after a blood test, gave it the Western medicine name of “Rheumatoid Arthritis” because my RA factor was off the charts. RA is an immune disease where your body essentially attacks itself. At this point in my process my heart sank. The more I read about this disease the more shocked I became. I

had never heard of this disease in my family (it is an inherited trait), although I realized that my mother had suffered from arthritis in her hands and shoulders in her later years and that it may have been undiagnosed RA. RA is an unrelenting illness that can be extremely debilitating if left untreated.

What to do? As my normal life ground to an absolute halt, I became more and more depressed. I could not sleep; I had to prop my arms up on pillows at night because of the pain. To pull a sheet across my body was painful to my hands and my toes. My fingers began to curl at night and I could only straighten them by running warm water over them in the morning. I began to have trouble breathing and my chest began to hurt. I could feel the RA creeping into my lungs and heart. My life had become constant and intense pain.

After the diagnosis I began regular visits to a Rheumatologist and to take the medication he prescribed, to see a homeopath/naturopath and have acupuncture treatments, I changed my diet, got into the hot tub every day, began wrapping

my fingers before I went to bed to keep them straight. Learned how to get in and out of the car by lifting each leg in with the help of my hands. Changed the type of clothes and shoes I wore so nothing needed to be buttoned or tied. Changed my mind set on how things could be done in segments instead of all at once. Began to meditate and pray regularly.

I also had some special helpers during this time. They may as well have been angels as far as I was concerned. First was Jack who was constantly loving and attentive. He would not even entertain the idea of me not getting better. He encouraged me to build a team of helpers and that ended up being a life savor. Our son Alex, at the time was spending a few months with us would read to me and sit and talk to me by the hour, which really helped me from falling completely into despair. Our other two children kept in constant touch. No one was going to let Mom fade away.

Then there was Barry Nordby. He’s a nidan at New School Aikido. Perhaps you have seen him at a black belt class. He is also an excellent

to give him a try.) Massage is very good for someone with RA but the massage must be very gentle or the joints will swell in reaction. Barry was perfect. He listened, he understood. He did exactly what I asked and he helped with my healing.

So in the middle of all of this I was a determined aikidoka. Now, you may ask how is this possible. I began sitting in the back of the room and watching class—it was impossible for me to practice. I could not roll, sometimes I could not lift my arms, I could not bend my knees, I could not grab on to someone wrist, and I definitely could not have some one grab onto my wrist. (Think twice before shaking a stranger's hand super hard.) Sitting watching was interesting but as aikidoka know, sitting watching is not the same as being on the mat. (You parents who sit and watch your kid's classes might consider doing an adult class or two just for the fun of it!) So Sensei Wisdom came up with an idea, which ended up being just what I needed. He asked me if I would come in for private lessons. I was very reluctant to even

consider this—my hands were swollen, as were my feet. I could not even lace hands with Jack without a lot of pain. How could I possibly practice aikido? And besides this I was mentally preparing myself to be crippled for life. But we started. No rolls to start with. No touching. Just one hand floating above the other, moving with the other's hand. In Aikido this is called haru tu tu wa mu re ru. It is an advanced technique. Not easy. Takes a lot of practice and keen attention. So this is how we worked. Once a week. It was perfect. No tugging or pulling on my joints and a difficult practice that would not allow me to be focused on my illness or myself for at least the length of the lesson. Sensei Wisdom, like Jack and Alex had amazing patience and was ever encouraging. He would not entertain the idea of despair or hopelessness, which I would periodically dive into. Friends are good for that. Anyway, turns out that my aikido technique became much better through this practice because in it you are not dependent on upper body strength and you must

blend with your partners energy and be ever aware of the flow and direction of ki. All-important things in aikido.

As I became healthier I was able to integrate back into the regular class—it took about half a year for the medication to kick in, and about half a year more for my joints to be normal enough to begin to roll again. I was just barely back to normal when I did my shodan presentation. I have been in remission for about 10 years now.

I have to say I will always be thankful to my helpers all but especially thankful to Jack and Alex and Barry and Isaiah because they helped me not only to learn to work with the pain in my body in a reasonably way but also to believe in the strength of my spirit and the ability of the heart to give love to those in need.

K.

SENSEI CARLOS GOMEZ

Hello Everybody! I've been at New School Aikido for 12 or 13 years and I've never written for the newsletter before! Thank you to Ms Doty for letting me be a part of this.

Before I joined New School Aikido, I had just ended a long-term relationship and was looking to improve myself mentally and physically; to be a more confident, well-rounded individual. I had to do something to get myself out of my old situation. See, after that break-up, I had gotten involved with the wrong crowd. I was not being good to myself and was treating my body very badly. I also had a lot of anger in me, and knew that if I didn't change my lifestyle quickly, I was either going wind up dead or in jail.

With that all that in mind, I opened up the phonebook, looked in the yellow pages, and saw New School Aikido! So, with all the courage I could muster, I walked in and was greeted by Isaiah Wisdom. He came off as a pleasant, caring and confident person. I wanted what he had. He

asked me a few personal questions (what brought me there, had I ever done another martial art) and said I could get on the mat if I wanted to. I was extremely intimidated because I never had done anything like this before. (Well, except when I was younger, and my parents made me!) But I was able to overcome my fear, and proceeded to learn the basics: flat rolls; side rolls; my first attempt at a backward roll resulted in me rolling into the post at the edge of the mat. I was mortified! But everybody there was very nice and assured me that every person there had done something embarrassing like that at one time or another.

I was sold. I trained all the time. Every time I could. Aikido had become my addiction and I was loving it. When I was a brown belt, Sensei Wisdom asked if I wanted to teach the children. I agreed and have not looked back since. During that time my classes were pretty

small. Two, three, four kids at the most. It has brought me great joy to see my class grow since then. I love teaching the kids and even at my age, still learn from them all the time. I've always felt I've owed a sort of debt to Sensei Wisdom. He didn't know it, but he rescued me from a person I could have become, but didn't.

So, from the bottom of my heart, I would like to thank Sensei Wisdom, the fellow teachers, students, and of course, kids and parents that I have come into contact with over all of these years. You all make life worth living! Happy New Year to you all!!



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WEAPONS CLASS (SENSEI WISDOM)

As an aikido instructor I feel that creative weapons practice is essential to understanding the history of martial arts. Jo and bokken practice expand our physical awareness (ma-ai), it helps with ki definition, and illuminates a tangible energy body. Suburi practice is cleansing misogi that allows us to dance with our own spirit. Iaido practice is a beautiful moving meditation. Please consider adding Tuesday night weapons class to your training. All adults and Jr. black belts are welcome.



FIRST MONDAY
SEMINARS
OPEN TO ALL
STUDENTS

6:30 – 8:00 P.M.

FEBRUARY – SILENT TRAINING

MARCH – CENTERING

APRIL – MOVIE NIGHT

MAY – TOOLS OF KI EXTENSION

JUNE – RANDORI

JULY – BEACH TRAINING

AUGUST – PINS

SEPTEMBER – KOKYO NAGE

OCTOBER – CHOICE

NOVEMBER – AIKIDO MAI

DECEMBER – ??????????

BLACK BELT SCHEDULE
2010

JANUARY – SELF DEFENSE

FEBRUARY – SILENT
TRAINING, MEDITATION,
MISOGI

MARCH – CENTERING THE
AIKI EXPERIENCE

APRIL – HIKITSUCHI, SCROLL
OF TRUE VICTORY

MAY – JO & KEN KATA, TORI,
NAGE

JUNE – WAZA

JULY – BLACK BELTS TEACH
(CREATIVE JOURNEY)

AUGUST – OSEA WAZA,
SUWARI WAZA, GROUND
TECHNIQUE

SEPTEMBER – BREATH,
HARMONY, KI

OCTOBER – MARTIAL ART
COMPARATIVE

NOVEMBER – PSYCHOLOGY
OF MUSIC, THE TRANCE, MAI

DECEMBER – OPEN CLASS

PROMOTION SCHEDULE 2/13-2/16/12 ERRORS OR OMISSIONS? PLEASE LET SENSEI KNOW !

MONDAY KIDS 5:30 CLASS 6:30 PROMO	TUESDAY ADULT & KIDS 5:30 CLASS 6:30 PROMO	WEDNESDAY VILLAGE CHARTER	THURSDAY VILLAGE CHARTER	FRIDAY CLOSED
<u>Orange</u> Xander Rory August Machaela <u>Green</u> Lacey Christian Nate <u>Purple</u> Vincynt <u>Blue</u> Cassidy	<u>Orange</u> Isaiah Steven <u>Red</u> Jessica Mark <u>BLUE 5th KYU</u> Kalen Aurora <u>Blue 4th KYU</u> Salena Misha <u>Brown</u> Jasmine <u>Wooden fish</u> Tomas	VILLAGE CHARTER PLEASE HELP 5:30 CLASS 6:30 PROMO	VILLAGE CHARTER PLEASE HELP 5:30 CLASS 6:30 PROMO	<u>CLOSED</u>

MORE SPECIAL DATES

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1:00: CASS SMITH'S SHODAN PRESENTATION
 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1:00: BARRY STELLING'S SHODAN PRESENTATION

AND, IN HONOR OF O-SENSEI:
 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25 BLACK BELT CLASS: SILENT 108
 THURSDAY, APRIL 26, MEMORIAL TEA CEREMONY

THE DOJO WILL BE CLOSED THE FOLLOWING DATES IN 2012:
 MLKING DAY, 1/16; PRESIDENTS' DAY 2/17-2/20; EASTER, 4/7 AND 4/8; MEMORIAL DAY,
 5/26-28; INDEPENDENCE DAY, 7/4; LABOR DAY, 9/1-9/3; THANKSGIVING, 11/22-11/25;
 WINTER HOLIDAY, 12/22-1/2/13

Ode to Wode

*When I met Julien,
his name was Wode*

Wode and Tater (now Mary) came to New School Aikido to train. They were a nice couple. Tater a bit shy, Wode a bit bold and they threw themselves into the training with enthusiasm and determination. There is always that moment in training when the new student, especially the older new student, realizes that they are being asked to go head long into a forward roll. Their eyes get wide and their body gets tense and then we get the fluffy mat out and it all doesn't seem such an amazing impossibility. Even for Wode and Tater.

I think that Wode was a little samurai at heart. He loved the martial arts stance that was held at the

end of techniques, the kiai, the thrill of a rondori. And he loved the interaction with other class members. Wode and Tater were very involved with our monthly movie night and Wode was at his finest when he convinced us to watch his favorite all woman Japanese performance group the Takarazuka —of which he definitely has his favorite actress. And then there was the moment when they both got their black belts—some say the moment when the true journey through Aikido begins.

Tea-How Wode became Ju-ri

Jack and I and Isaiah had all been students of the Japanese tea ceremony when Wode and Tater joined the dojo. Mouri Sensei had been doing a yearly tea ceremony in honor of Morihei

Ueshiba's memorial at the dojo at that time. Wode watched one of these ceremonies and then said "Sign me up." And then started the life long journey through tea. Ah, to sit on your knees in seiza for the period of your lesson—almost as daunting as doing a forward roll. Wode presented himself to Mouri Sensei as Judy. Mouri Sensei could not pronounce the d in judy and usually said Ju-ri so Wode in his accommodating way said "Ju-ri it is!" When Mouri Sensei tried to get Ju-ri in a dainty kimono, Ju-ri finally informed her that a hakama would be more comfortable and fitting for him. Ju-ri's samurai once again was proclaiming his rightful position in this world.

*Who Am I—How Ju-ri
became Julien*

Ju-ri still was not happy with himself.

Always searching and trying to struggle even harder just to be find a way to be comfortable with able to live it.

his life and with his voice within. And little by little Julien let go So a few years ago, Wode/Ju-ri of this life...to be freed from this announced to the world that he body of pain and confusion and was going to become "He"—Julien. freed from this life of anticipated

Julien was going to enter into the world of transgender. Then there were the shots and the facial hair , the lowered voice, and then the surgery. And she became he right before our eyes. Julien sometimes swaggered a little like John Wayne and with shy boldness became one of the guys.



acceptance and love. To me Julien will always be the bold little samuri searching for himself, who loved to sing and act and have a good laugh.

God speed on your journey into the golden-pink light of love.

When we heard about Yours in love and peace, Kathleen Julien's brain tumour we were all stunned. He had struggled so hard and long to have this new life. This was truly an example of life not being fair. And now he and Mary were going to have to

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BOBBIAN BEST OF THE NORTH BAY 2011

Ages 5 to 105

2010 BEST OF THE NORTH BAY

2 Weeks Free!
 Self defense as non-violent conflict resolution



2 WEEKS
 FREE
 FOR
 NEW
 STUDENTS!

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BOBBIAN BEST OF THE NORTH BAY 2011

Ages 5 to 105

2010 BEST OF THE NORTH BAY

Gift Certificate for
SAMPLE
 of Classes
 Self defense as non-violent
 conflict resolution

