

The Karate Times

- RIPPLE EFFECT MARTIAL ARTS -

JULY 30, 2021

LEGACY

“The purpose of life is to be happy. When you are truthful, you are happy.” Jhoon Rhee



Grandmaster Jhoon Rhee throws a flying side kick at a demonstration in the early 1960s. Over the past half century, Grandmaster Rhee's legacy has reached hundreds of thousands of students worldwide.

Legacy begins with taking action. And sometimes action is hard to come by, because people and societies are accustomed to inaction.

Here's a passage from the Declaration of Independence:

Prudence, indeed, ... and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms [of government] to which they are accustomed.

In modern terms, this means that it doesn't make sense to upset the boat when that boat, for all its flaws, is keeping you from drowning or being eaten by sharks.

But if that boat itself is soaking you, making you sick, threatening to drop you through its rotten planks, it's time to capsize the wreck and board a new barque. The text goes on:

But when a long train of abuses and usurpations ... evinces a design to reduce [the people] under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security.

Essentially, Thomas Jefferson and the reps of what was the first working U.S. Congress were saying “Hey, England: Things have gotten so bad, so unfair, so terribly oppressive, that we have to call it quits. That's it. We've had it. And we're making our own legacy.”

Legacy. It requires thinking ahead, versus just being rash. Jefferson was very emphatic about this. Jhoon Rhee was emphatic about it, too.

Rhee joked that he always wanted to meet a blonde girl, and America was the place to do that. But in all seriousness, Rhee joined the South Korean army in order to fight the communists in the north. As an officer, there was a 70 percent chance that he'd be killed in action.

What do you do? Hide out? Defer to the enemy? Rhee loved his country. He loved his family, too, and knew they'd be devastated by his signing on for almost certain death. So he joined up, but he didn't tell his family. He'd fight for right, but didn't want his family to die of worry while he did it.

When the U.S. liberated the south of Korea, Rhee came to America—as a translator. He was stationed in Texas, where he studied civil engineering at the local university. But he soon discovered that the greatest way he could pay back the U.S. soldiers, states and nation for his newfound freedom and opportunity was to teach martial arts to Americans, to pass on his acquired skills to a new generation.

You know the result. You're part of it. You carry it on in your every act of modesty, courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit.

Thomas Jefferson was wonderful with words. Jhoon Rhee was wonderful with kicks. But if they hadn't decided, all those years ago in this new land, to spread those words, to teach those kicks to other people, they would have withered and died, silently, with their single bodies, alone.

You have to reach out to build a legacy, impress new people with your passion and your skill. Thank you Grandmaster Rhee for taking inspiration from America's founders and lighting the way for new leaders. Like you.

“[Ripple Effect instructors] get students to want to push themselves. The lessons learned go far and above martial arts. Leadership, confidence, self esteem, respect for others and anti-bullying are the cornerstones of the school.” Ben

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KIDS CORNER

Teaching (and Empowering) Kids by Example



So the ultimate question is... what'll you leave to your kids?

It's not (that) morbid. Our legacy to our children doesn't begin only when we pass on.

We start leaving stuff to our kids from the day they're born. *Habits, words, looks, gestures.* The everyday things we do, those dawn to dusk interactions, overt and subtle, lay a kind of lithographic impression on our kids.

Remember how it felt when your kid repeated a word or a phrase you've said a thousand times?

Sometimes it's endearing ("Mommy! Daddy! Love!"). Sometimes it tilts your head ("S@#%!"—wait, you heard that??!). All of it reflects you, the way you speak, act, respond.

The point is, you're building a legacy every time you interact with your kids. In what you teach them about money. In what you demonstrate to them about how to behave, how to listen, how to tame their anger or frustration. By your example, you're teaching your kids a way of living.

Grandmaster Jhoon Rhee had a fabulously blunt way of putting it. He said "*We teach in three important ways. The first is by example. The second is by example. The third is by example.*"

He's right.

A big part of legacy is the impression you leave in a kid's mind. If you're confident, if you're proud (in the good way), that will transfer to your kids, no matter if they follow in your footsteps or take a totally different route.

Maybe you were a football star, a valedictorian, a virtuoso, a poet, or a 10th-degree Black Belt. You can't force your kids into those roles. But if they adopt your virtues—health, self-discipline, effort, courtesy, integrity—they're set up for success.

Any great legacy begins with confidence. So here are some ways to instill confidence in kids:

1. **Show your kids that you can take on new and challenging pursuits.** *Learn the piano. Learn a language. Learn karate.* Take pride in what you're doing (even if you don't know what you're doing). Recovering from mistakes is huge in showing your kids what they can overcome.

2. **Give your kids a role in what you're doing.** *Dishes. Breakfast prep. Soccer. Karate.* Celebrate every little accomplishment, yours as well as theirs.

3. **Pay attention to what they're doing, right and wrong.** Make sure you're attuned to what your kids are up to, what their interests are (*What are they reading? Who are their friends? What makes them happy? What makes them sad?*). Ask questions about these things and encourage your kids to share.

Finally, show your kids you're strong. (You're already doing that by bringing them to karate.)

Keep it up, Coaches.

STUDENT WORDS

Legacy Word Search

Find all the words below to build your black belt linguistic legacy!

B	V	T	I	J	O	L	A	H	D
L	E	R	H	H	A	E	N	B	D
A	X	A	O	O	P	A	C	J	J
C	A	D	N	O	A	R	E	L	B
K	M	I	O	N	R	N	S	E	K
B	P	T	R	R	E	I	T	G	I
E	L	I	K	H	N	N	O	A	D
L	E	O	N	E	T	G	R	C	S
T	B	N	N	E	S	F	S	Y	I
L	E	A	D	E	R	S	H	I	P

LEGACY	JHOONRHEE TRADITION
LEARNING	LEADERSHIP ANCESTORS
KIDS	PARENTS EXAMPLE
HONOR	BLACKBELT



Photo by Marcus Edwards Photography

“While [my son was] in the Little Ripple program, I saw that the instructors really had a passion for teaching their art. Not to mention a massive amount of patience.” Chianne

NEW STUDENTS

FORT COLLINS

Aaron Pineda
Cati Bell
Violet Santisevan

LONGMONT

Emma Nichols
Scarlett Grysen
Kali Admundson
Ethan Arreola
Bodhi Chen
Dalton Smith
Eric Miller

JOHNSTOWN

Garrett Hughes
Wyatt Loeb
Grace Loeb
Makenzie Edwards
Charity Bennett
Sofi Sepulveda
Kayden Morey
Riley Stone
Shalina Blackburn
Lily-Mae Wolf
Eli Fernandez

LEADERSHIP

FORT COLLINS

Sarah Luzader
Glenn Aspen
Melissa Dunn
Travis Dunn

LONGMONT

Lucas Delgado
Kim Menghi
Celeste Martinez
Mike Frisken
Alethea Frisken
Amelia McDonald

JOHNSTOWN

Jayden Seeba
Kyran Sanchez
Roman Evavold
Makenzie Edwards
Trevon Despres
Sammy Perez

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WHITE-
H. GOLD
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BREAKING
INTO THE
FUTURE

THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT

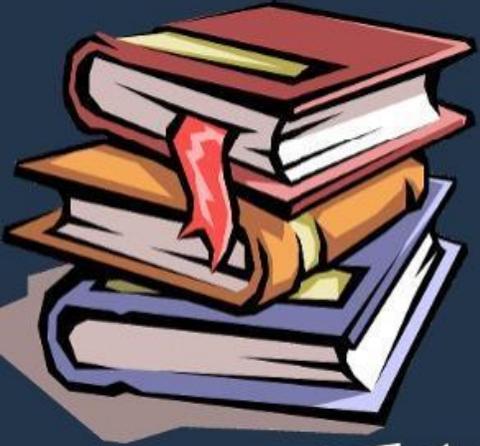
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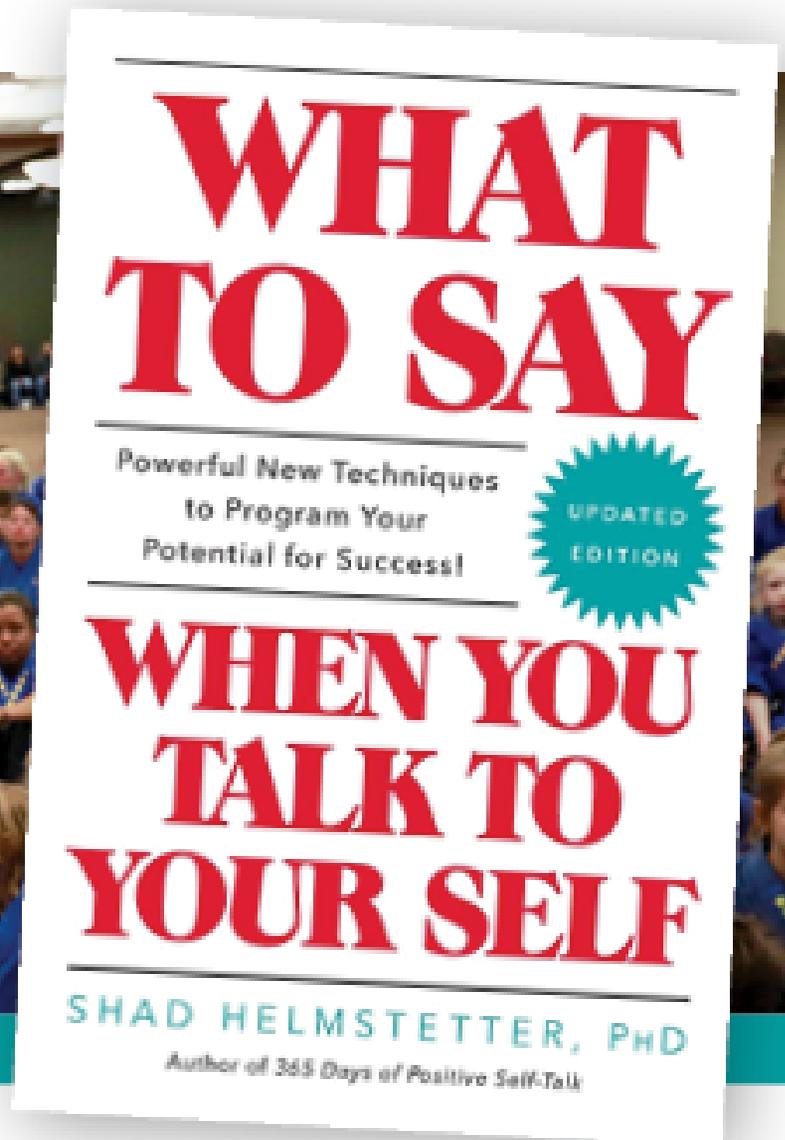
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