

# TRAINING ACROSS BORDERS

## AN INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR OF THE AIKI EXTENSIONS MIDEAST AIKIDO PROJECT

### **EVENT**

The TRAINING ACROSS BORDERS seminar will bring together aikido practitioners, chiefly from countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region, for a three-day seminar in Nicosia, Cyprus, April 14-17, 2005.

Through the transformative practice of aikido, we hope that the seminar experience will connect aikidoka from communities that have suffered from protracted conflicts, and provide an environment to root friendships that may blossom into future collaboration.

Five high-ranking senseis from three continents will conduct keiko sessions. Aiki extension professionals will offer workshops on applications in such domains as management training, trauma recovery, group psychotherapy, interactive teaching, and youth outreach.



### **IMPACT**

Training intensively together for three days and learning about modes of aiki extension work will strengthen the mutual trust and respect associated with the Aiki Way. Such experience may create lasting bonds, a basis for future collaborative training endeavors and further dialogue. To promote awareness of the social benefits of aikido training, some sessions will be open to the public, and articles, photographs, and video will be artfully produced.

The long-term goals of promoting aikido training across ethnic and political boundaries include pilot projects in the

Mideast and neighboring regions, a permanent Salaam-Shalom Peace Dojo in Jerusalem, and support for initiatives to establish similar centers in other parts of the world.

### **PLACE**

Nicosia, Cyprus, historic capital of a Mediterranean island linking Europe with Asia and the Middle East, stands today as the only militarily divided city in Europe. The venue, located on the UN demilitarized zone bisecting the Greek and Turkish-controlled areas of Nicosia's historic Old City—the “Green Line”—reminds us of warfare and its toll on humanity, and symbolizes the strivings for transcendence, perseverance, and harmony inherent in the human spirit.



### **PARTICIPANTS**

The seminar will be limited to 80 participants, chiefly from Bosnia, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, and Turkey. They will be selected from recommendations from local dojos and approved by an international selection committee, which will seek balanced representation from these countries and from diverse aikido organizations. Applicants not selected for this seminar can be placed on a waiting list for future events.

### **FUNDING**

Funds for the seminar will come from individual donors, foundations, and dojos (who will be invited to sponsor participants). Those selected will pay a modest registration fee, and will also be responsible for the cost of travel and lodging. An International Aikido Scholarship Fund, administered by the Selection Committee, will provide financial assistance to those who qualify.

[HTTP://WWW.AI-KI-EXTENSIONS.ORG](http://www.aiki-extensions.org)