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International Affiliates

When I clapped to see if perhaps a couple dozen aikidokas were out there who might be interested in networking about aiki extensions, little did I imagine that it would soon attract close to a dozen dozens of affiliates, or that a web site in a couple years would draw more than 15,000 visits. But the biggest surprise of all was how fast the network would become international in scope. In celebration whereof, this issue focuses on the AE affiliates outside of the United States, including Australia (1), Canada (9), Costa Rica (1), England (3), Germany (5), Ireland (3), Malaysia (1), Netherlands (1), Poland (1), Romania (1), Scotland (2), Sweden (1), and Turkey (1). Their names and locations appear below; see the web site for more information. Reports from two of our affiliates in England appear below. --Don Levine

Australia

Wendy Albert
Broome, Australia

Canada

Andrew Barron
Calgary, Alberta

Jean Boisvert
Val-David, Quebec

Peter Bussell
Ottawa, Ontario

Arnet Hales
Port Hardy, British
Columbia

Adam Hockin
Victoria, British Columbia

Byron MacIntyre
Victoria, British Columbia

Cathy Lynn Sveen
Edmonton, Alberta

Rick Warne
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Art Williams
Windsor, Ontario

Costa Rica

Jose Luis Alvarez Calvo
Guadalupe, San Jose

England

Jim O'Dwyer
Bournemouth, England

Robert MacFarland
Brighton, Sussex, England

Peri Mackintosh
London, England

Germany

Ute Fischer
Unna, Germany

Martin Gruber
Munich, Germany

Karl Grunick
Huuding, Germany

Peter Schettgen
Augsburg, Germany

Winfried Wagner
Schweinfurt, Germany

Ireland

Fiona Kelty
Dublin, Ireland

Mary Morrissey
Dublin, Ireland

Michael Williams
Dublin, Ireland

Malaysia

Suzalie Mohd
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Netherlands

Donna Winslow
Breda, The Netherlands

Poland

Pawel Olesiak
Cracow, Poland

Romania

Cristin Vasile
Ploiesti and Bucharest,
Romania

Scotland

James Wolff
Edinburgh

Michael Wolff
Naims

Sweden

Charles Colten
Stockholm, Sweden

Turkey

Balkan Sencan
Ankara, Turkey



Police Officer Turned Peacemaker

Jim O'Dwyer

From 1981 to 1994 I worked as a police officer with the London Metropolitan Police, specializing in the detection and arrest of pickpockets and handbag thieves. Most of the suspects were drug abusers who stole mainly because they were "desperately in need of their fix." Many of them carried knives, while officers were unarmed except for the standard-issue "truncheon" and handcuffs. Untrained in knife defense techniques, and without armored vests, officers were always vulnerable. Friends of mine were stabbed, some into retirement--one to death.

We adopted a ferociously aggressive approach aimed at both minimizing the risk of injury to ourselves and preventing the suspect from escaping. Putting handcuffs on a resistive individual (even two on one) is one of the hardest things to do safely. Suspects were usually restrained using neck holds.

The problem that resulted was that the violence we used was often uncontrolled. Suspects suffered injuries and, in increasing numbers, dizziness and unconsciousness. There was a definite and growing risk that we would be prosecuted for excessive use of force. The potential of being found guilty of contributing to an "unlawful killing"--and being jailed for it--was quite real.

I felt that there had to be a better "Way"--and I found it in Aikido.

In 1995 I left the Police, and with other "Conflict Management" trainers I set up in business under the name Aegis Personnel Training. We offered services for employers that included courses in conflict management skills, personal defensive skills, and Aikido-based physical intervention and restraint methods. We took our program to the National Training Organization for the Security Industry (SITO), and the courses were approved. I then expected to be deluged with orders, but this did not happen.

This result is because, unfortunately the UK Health and Safety Executive has not applied any pressure on employers to provide training in managing violence. At the same time employees and the public have been kept in the dark about significant employment rights and entitlements. Approximately just 3% of UK security providers train their employees in how to manage hostile and aggressive people.

Furthermore, many potential clients expected trainees to be fully trained inside one day. Even two-day and three-day training courses, sadly, proved to be nearly impossible.

Then I got involved with other trainers in forming a "steering group" to develop National Occupational Training Standards in Conflict Management. In 1999 the group formally became the Institute of Conflict Management (ICM, <http://www.conflictmanagement.org>). People here are starting to recognize the importance and value of quality security. So, maybe, things will improve next year. I certainly hope so!

P.S.

Aiki Extensions members who would like to view a training program for Security Guards can do so FREE on the: <http://www.aegis-training.com> web site.



Ki for the Public

Robert McFarland

For the last fifteen years or so, I have been running a weekly "Kiclass." This class has deliberately been open to people who may not wish to practice Aikido but would like to take advantage of the benefits offered by the study of Ki (meditation, breathing, stretching, movement, and unification).

The Brighton Ki Society enjoys charitable status in England, which is quite unique for a martial art. This status is due to the stated purpose of the Society: to promote public health through the teaching of Ki principles.

One of our outreach activities, in addition to having open days at the dojo, is to teach about five classes per year to local high school seniors. This program involves approximately 100 students from the local high school and is part of the school's program to prepare them for life after graduation.

Next year, I intend to start teaching a themed monthly class on the weekend dojo open days. Designed for the general public, it will explore various aspects of Aikido such as "giving" and "receiving." We also have a regular children's class called "Ki Play with Aikido."

Robert MacFarland, 3rd Dan, is the chief instructor of Brighton Ki Society, England.



Greater Chicago Aikido Youth Outreach Project

Aiki Extensions has just announced a plan for a concerted effort to reach young people with aikido and aiki-based conflict management programs in the Greater Chicago area. Building on programs already in place, including ALTER (Aikido Learning Therapeutic Experience Resource) of Scott Evans, the DYNAMIC PEACE program of James Landry, and a program for DCFS children run by Michael Bailey which uses ki-development and aikido techniques to teach conflict resolution and anger management skills, the project seeks to identify other resources in the area and coordinate efforts to plant such programs in schools and various youth organizations. It aims to convene organizing meetings in summer 2002 as well as organize a daylong program at the 4th Aiki Extensions Conference in Chicago on October 4.

The area of Youth Outreach has been designated as a major project focus for AE in 2002. The project hopes to secure outside funding to support this ambitious effort. If you have any ideas for such funding or for the program, please send them to the GCA YOP director, James Landry, at <james@aikidoconnection.com>.



Marine Warrior Project Update

Richard Strozzi Heckler

In the summer of 2000 we designed and delivered a pilot martial arts program for General Jim Jones, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, code-named “THE MARINE WARRIOR PROJECT.” General Jones’s initiative was to create a martial art that would prove effective on the battlefield as well as in operations other than war, and it would be a foundation, or delivery system, for a set of values that would serve the Marine at home, on the base, and in deployment.

THE MARINE WARRIOR PROJECT proved to be an overwhelming success and became the foundation for the MARINE CORPS MARTIAL ARTS PROGRAM. Since its inception 150 Marines have passed a rigorous training program that qualifies them to be instructors. All of the applicants for the Instructor course were required to be a certain rank (E-5 or above) and have prior martial arts background. The intensive six-month course for qualification includes long days of physical keiko, as well as classroom work in values and principles and in the how-to of being a teacher. Once qualified, these instructors teach at the recruit depots in San Diego, California, Paris Island, South Carolina, and The Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Virginia, as well as on other bases worldwide. There is also a program for Instructor Trainers, who are the advanced individuals who teach the Instructor Course.

Every individual now entering the Marine Corps will take part in this program. All Marines currently under enlistment--regardless of age, rank, experience, or gender--are required to take part in the program. This means that 40,000 men and women will be introduced to this innovative and unique martial art every year. The mission of this program is to have a dojo and instructors at every Marine Base in the world, so all Marines could train throughout their careers.

The Marine Martial Arts (MMA) training is designed to defuse, neutralize, and manage conflict, as well as employ lethal force if necessary. While a number of techniques are taught from various martial arts systems (including aikido and aikijujitsu), they are built on a foundation of aiki principles: centering, facing, extending, entering, musubi, and blending. As part of the curriculum these principles are practiced to reveal their relevance in areas outside of physical conflict and close-quarters combat. It is expected that the Marines who go through this training hold rigorous ethical and moral standards at home, on the street, and on base. They also receive classroom instruction in warrior traditions and on the responsibility of the warrior in peacetime as well as war.

When the 13th and 15th Marine Expeditionary Units were deployed recently, Instructor Trainers for the MMA were assigned to each unit. They trained the troops every day. Historically, the three to six months confined in close quarters aboard ship, or “on float,” has resulted in bickering, arguments, and fights among the Marines. It was also common that after a while the sailors and Marines would fight among each other. But the report this time is that there were no fights at all, and arguments were at a minimum. In fact, on these “floats” the sailors asked the Marines to train them in the MMA. Reports from old hands said the practice of this art produced much more calm and focus among the men. We are also receiving an abundance of anecdotes stating that the Marines in the program have decreased fights when on base and when on liberty, less drug and alcohol abuse, and less domestic violence.

We also find them practicing on their free time and committed to making themselves and their teammates better. For those of us who have practiced aikido for a number of years, none of this should come as a surprise.

We are now in a process of designing a program for the senior NCOs and for those at the level of Colonel and above. These men and women have been in the service for over eighteen years, and most have never practiced a martial art before. This next program is an opportunity to bring everyone into the fold and create a practice for people in their mid-forties who have no previous experience.

AIKI EXTENSIONS NEWSLETTER

Editor: Scott B. Evans

Subscription and membership

Newsletters are sent free of charge to all AE members and associate members. They are sent to subscribers on payment of costs.

To become a **member**, complete the questionnaire at < www.aiki-extensions.org/about_ae/connecting.php> and hit Submit Text.

To be a **non-member subscriber**, send an e-mail to dwight@aiki-extensions.org.

A. Regular Member.

Qualifications: Nikyu rank or above. Engagement in some activity congruent with Aiki Extensions objectives.

Benefits: Listing in Directory, copy of Directory, listing on website, AE-related links listed on website, automatic registration on AE-News listserv, invitation to join AE-Chat listserve, communications with clusters, access to AE forums, newsletters, other publications, eligibility for AE grants, priority seating at AE conferences.

Dues: \$30 per year, payable by March 1.

B. Associate Member

Qualifications: Interest in the work of Aiki Extensions.

Benefits: Copy of Directory, automatic registration on AE-News listserv, invitation to join AE-Chat listserve, access to AE forums, newsletters, other publications.

Dues: \$20 per year, payable by March 1.

C. Non-Member Subscriber

Anyone may view the website, subscribe from there to the AE listserve, and receive AE publications on payment of costs.

AE Listserves

AE-News is the official listserv for announcements about AE activities. All members and associates are registered. Posting to AE-News requires administrative approval.

AE-Chat is the organization's listserv for discussion and individual postings. Anyone can subscribe, post after subscription, and unsubscribe. To subscribe, write list-admin@aiki-extensions.org, with *subscribe ae-chat* in the body of the text. A message sent to ae-chat@aiki-extensions.org reaches all subscribers. To unsubscribe, use the same address, saying *unsubscribe ae-chat*. For inquiries, write list-admin@aiki-extensions.org.

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