



AIKIDO IN FREDERICKSBURG

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AIKIDO in Fredericksburg to host Peace Ceremony

On Saturday, March 27, at noon Aikido in Fredericksburg will plant a peace pole and conduct a peace flag ceremony at their new facility near Massaponax at 6155 Hickory Ridge Road.

The Peace Pole Project started in Japan in 1955 by Masahisa Goi, who decided to dedicate his life to spreading the message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in response to the atomic bombings on Hiroshima. Peace Poles are handcrafted monuments erected the world over as international symbols of Peace. Their purpose is to spread the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in a different language, one on each side.

May Peace Prevail on Earth is an all inclusive message and prayer. It is a meeting of the heart that brings together people of all faiths, backgrounds, and cultures.

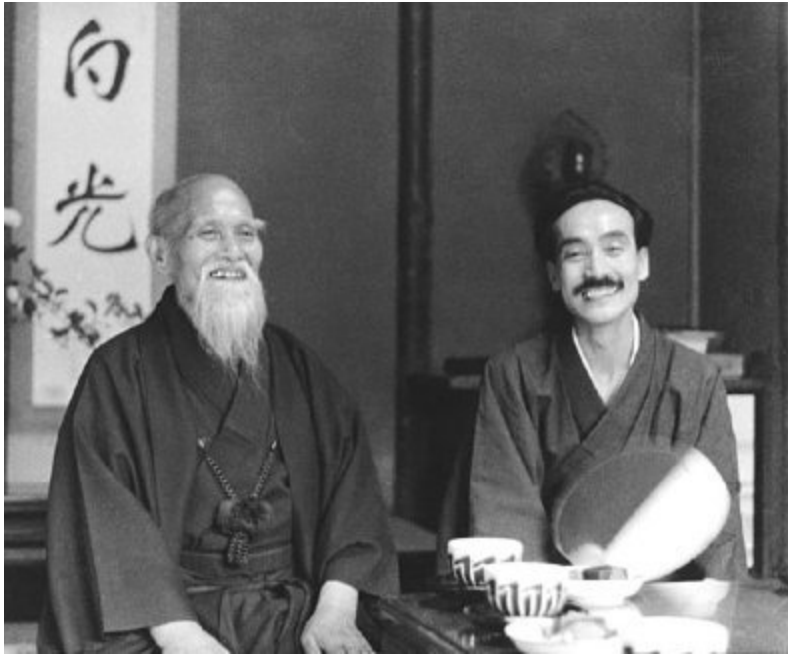
Peace Poles can be found in town squares, city halls, schools, places of worship, parks, and gardens - any place where the spirit of Peace is embraced by people of good will. Over 200,000 Peace Poles have been planted in over 200 countries around the world. This will be the first Peace Pole in Spotsylvania County.

Among the first peace poles to have been planted is at the Iwama Dojo in Japan. Iwama is the birthplace of Aikido, an effective yet nonviolent martial art. The founder of Aikido, Morihei Ueshiba was a contemporary of Goi and they had several historic meetings. The principle of Aikido is focused on nonviolent conflict resolution.

According to Peace Pole Makers USA, Some of the extraordinary locations for peace poles include the Pyramids of El Giza in Egypt, the Magnetic North Pole in Canada, Gorky Park in Russia, and Angkor Wat in Cambodia. They are promoting healing of conflict in places like Sarajevo, the Atomic Bomb Dome in Hiroshima, and the Allenby Bridge on the border between Israel and Jordan. Political leaders, such as former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, and religious leaders, such as Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa, and the Dalia Lama, have dedicated Peace Poles.

The program will include the "planting" of a peace pole next to the Aikido in Fredericksburg dojo and the carrying of the flags representing all the countries in the United Nations while saying "May Peace Prevail on Earth".

The free event is being produced with support from the World Peace Prayer Society. Local houses of worship and community service groups are invited and encouraged to participate.



Masahisa Goi (right) author of the Universal Message and Prayer, May Peace Prevail On Earth, was a close acquaintance of Morihei Ueshiba, founder of Aikido (left). Here they are together enjoying an afternoon in Mr. Goi's home in Ichikawa, Japan.



The Peace Pole at Aikido in Fredericksburg was a gift from senior students to the dojo. It has been on display inside the school for four years waiting for the completion of the new training center. It will be planted in the landscape during the March 27 ceremony.