



# Bold Leaders

CRITICAL MASS LEADERSHIP EDUCATION

## "Go Ganesha Go" brings a stampede to the Buffer Zone in Cyprus



Sveta Tsiamia and Sila Topcu's collaborative piece was the only bi-communal project presented at the Go Ganesha Go exhibition for peace.

Go Ganesha Go - Elephants for Peace is an art project dedicated to giving a visual expression of the desire for and practice of peace.

BoldLeaders participated in an exciting project that brought the two Cyprus communities together in the Buffer Zone. Rose Marie Gnausch, who initiated the project, invited people from all over the world to submit work with an elephant theme. On May 9th and 10th, 600 paintings, sculptures, photographs, poems, and music were exhibited in the Buffer Zone in the divided city of Nicosia. The elephants were displayed from both ends of Ledra Street in both the Greek speaking and Turkish speaking communities.

Elephants, as Rose explains, are majestic and kind figures of great size and wisdom which live harmoniously with all species. You can get involved in the next event [here](#).

### highlights:

Mosaic Celebration in Cyprus	2 – 3
Emerging Youth Leaders Project	5
Get Involved! Host a Teen	7

Summer  
2009



Critical Mass Leadership Education is a group of highly experienced trainers and educators providing leadership development and training services. We have served people, organizations and their communities in Cyprus, Northern Ireland, Cambodia, Kenya, Germany, Turkey, Slovakia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Chicago and Denver.

[www.boldleaders.com](http://www.boldleaders.com)

# participation



## Bold Leaders Bring the Pieces Together in Cyprus

Critical Mass Leadership Education (CMLE) held its first large-scale activities on the island of Cyprus in February! CMLE staff Michael Donahue, Jennifer Ruskey, Andrea Godshalk, Brenna O'Rourke, and Ian Ruskey went to Cyprus for two weeks to install a cooperative art piece in the Fulbright Center, facilitate workshops at schools, and celebrate the work of six years of Cyprus BoldLeaders!

The tile project was especially significant: for the past two years BoldLeaders created hand-painted tiles with artist Jennifer Ruskey. These tiles were decorated as an expression of the Bold Leaders program and of the challenges on Cyprus. Participants brought their tiles home when they returned to the island. Last fall the 2008 Bold Leaders began tracking down and collecting the tiles from all corners of the island and from other parts of the world. The tiles were reunited as a 12' long mosaic at the Fulbright Center in the Buffer Zone in Nicosia.

### In addition:

- BoldLeaders organized and hosted bi-communal activities in multiply cities on the island
- Over sixty Bold Leaders visited and played with kids at SOS Village in Nicosia. You can learn more about SOS [here](#) and enjoy a video about the day made by Bold Leader Theodora Zamora [here](#).

CMLE Director Michael Donahue with Bold Leaders at their school American Academy.





More than 140 BoldLeaders jam the Fulbright Center for the Tile Project installation!

A Bold Leaders program  
is the beginning of an  
ongoing conversation  
about what is possible.

Click these links to see current  
online conversations:

- 1 - [Buffer Zone Poems](#) - participants share poetry about the Cyprus Buffer Zone
2. "[EYLP - Emerging Youth Leadership Project](#)" - discussions between U.S. and Central European teens

The Emerging Youth Leaders Project is taking place during the spring and fall of 2009, with students from the U.S. traveling in June to Central Europe and the Central European students traveling to the U.S. in mid-August. The European teenagers come from the Romani/Gypsy communities in Slovakia, Hungary and the Czech Republic. The Roma population is challenged by large-scale poverty levels and stereotypes. Along with the European Union's "Decade of Roma Inclusion" effort, the EYLP helps develop young leaders to become active community advocates for themselves and the Romani people.

The U.S. group returned from their travels in mid-July. As one participant put it: "It will be impossible for this to leave me. The program and the people in this group are inside me now for good". The Roma group arrives August 17th and will be in Colorado until the 6th! Join us!

# Appreciation and Acknowledgment:

## Alumni Notes

Bold Leaders who have an experience of impacting their environment during a Bold Leaders Program go on to impact the places where they live, work, and play. We are pleased to acknowledge some of their accomplishments here.

**Halide Bey's** (Cyprus 08) project proposal for a bi-communal talent show between two schools has been selected by the **Ashoka Foundation for a Youth Ventures award**. This is the first time a Cypriot teen has been selected by Youth Ventures.

**Tyler Quintana** from the 2008 GUST program was awarded a **Channel 9 Kids Who Care Award**.

**Michelle Ioannou** (Cyprus 03) and **Elvan Aragul** (Cyprus 05/06 peer leader) were selected to attend summer classes at **John's Hopkins University** as part of the **Cyprus Fulbright Commission**. They will be roommates.

**Mariam Daewood** (Kenya 07) finished her final year of school with the **second highest test score in the Coast Province**.

**Tabby Amondi**, (Kenya 07) was selected to attend the **All African Leadership Academy** in Joburg, South Africa.

**Andreas Tsilapis** (Cyprus 07) and his debate partner where the **Republic's Champion Debate Team** in 2008-2009

Four Cypriot BoldLeaders, **Victoria Stavrou** (06), **Halide Bey** (August 07), **Cagman Aksoy** (July 07), and **Theodora Zamora** (July 08) from American Academy at Larnaca attended **Peaceful Nature Summer UNDP Bi-Communal Camp**.

**Aysegul Salli** (Cyprus 07 escort) was selected to present at **EUROSLA Conference** in Ireland in September based on her doctoral research in early bi-lingual development. She will also be presenting on the attitudes of Turkish Cypriots living in England towards their ethnic, cultural and social identity at **Eastern Mediterranean**

### Africa BoldLeaders Project with Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa

Critical Mass Leadership Education is thrilled to welcome forty-four youth and eight educators from four countries of Sub-Saharan Africa early this Winter and again in early Spring 2010. The participants will be coming from Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, and South Africa.

The group members will stay in both Colorado and Washington, D.C. while working to increase skills in substantive leadership, civic participation, sustainable collaboration, developing and implementing projects, increased capacity for youth-programming in their home communities. Watch for opportunities to serve as a home stay family.



Bold Leader Celal Özkızan (far left) with Jimmy Carter, Desmond Tutu and Lakhdar Brahimi in Cyprus on October 8th, 2008 during a visit from The Elders.

"The date was 8 October 2008. We met where Talat and Christofias had met to discuss a solution for the Cyprus problem; so it was a special place. It was not only Desmond Tutu, but also Jimmy Carter and Lakhdar Brahimi who are part of an organization called "[The Elders](#)."

Young people from both the Turkish speaking and Greek speaking communities tried to explain the situation in Cyprus to The Elders. We talked about the difficulties, obstacles; our hopes and willings about Cyprus. Young people, us, were a little bit hopeless and desperate but the beauty was, Desmond Tutu told us about the racist events in South Africa, how hopeless the situation was, but as a result, people in South Africa somehow overcame this situation and have began to live in peace. He advised us to not to loose our hope and admire. It was a great experience."

—Celal Özkızan (Cyprus Bold Leader August 2007)

Deniz Eralp & Aysel Siber, both 2006 Cyprus BoldLeaders, were also selected for this meeting.

<p><b>2009</b> continues to be an incredible year for Bold Leaders. Look what we have in store and watch for ways to get involved.</p>	<p>july</p>	<p>august and september</p>	<p>early winter</p>
	<p>hike a mountain with Cypriots or help out at a Ropes Course</p>	<p>Roma students in Denver and D.C. Be a Host Family!</p>	<p>Africa BoldLeaders Project. Host or Partcipate!</p>