

INTERNATIONAL FELDENKRAIS FEDERATION
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FIFTH ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY
23-26 MAY 1996, BASEL, SWITZERLAND

Minutes

Participants: see attached list - Appendix 5

Thursday, 23 May 96

Welcome and Introduction

François Combeau welcomed everyone, and thanked Gregor Risi and Linda van Niekerk Pfeiffer for their work. He commented on the presence of so many representatives showing the continued support in the international community and bringing many new ideas and ways of thinking. The trainers and others involved in specific interest groups help to keep the assembly a forum for everyone. The BOD involvement shows great devotion to the IFF.

Objectives for 96 Assembly

This year, François explained the different objectives than previous years. The focus has been on the creative energy used to build a structure. Creation requires and incurs more energy and enthusiasm, but as the process progresses the participation decreases. In order to continue the enthusiasm there must be new perspectives. This year the IFF invited a consultant (Nancy Gordon) to help us create new ideas. The focus was on responsibility in representative leadership: creating at the leading edge.

The first day focused on what it means to be a leader. François talked about how quickly life changes around us. If the IFF still wants to be around in the future, then the representatives must be active and strong leaders. Some people will ask for more concrete action, but problems will not be resolved by just looking at them, but by looking at them in different ways. As practitioners, from the first days in Feldenkrais training, representatives have been trained to adapt themselves. Now representatives must use their skill to imagine the successful future of the IFF. Nothing is built without a dream.

The Board is not an organization; the Board has been giving too much. As much as the Board continues to give the assembly, the expectation grows. One example of expectation is the IFF journal. The assembly wanted an IFF journal, but because there was no one to devote the necessary time, the journal was not completed. François called for greater participation of the assembly; let the assembly finish the journal by the end of the conference. It has to be set up and reviewed; Gregor Risi will meet with others who are interested in making the journal. The representatives are here to work. If the assembly participates then a journal is possible, otherwise no journal.

GENERAL UPDATES

Newsletter

The Newsletter has not had many submissions this past year, consistently postponing its publication. The IFF has asked for reports and letters from the international community, and encouraged Feldenkrais practitioners to utilize the newsletter as a forum for discussion. The plans are to publish the NL soon after the assembly.

Feldenkrais Foundation

New York State has recently approved the desolution of the Foundation and officially approved the IFF to receive the assets of the Foundation. Transfer is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Updates on IFF Materials

The Heidelberg conference report, chronicling the first European Conference, was finished in time for this assembly meeting and will be sold through the IFF Distribution Centres at The FELDENKRAIS GUILD (North America), the German Gilde, and the Australian Guild.

There is continued progress with the Amherst Video Libraries. The German Gilde and Australian Guild have copies of the 1980 Amherst Training tapes, and will have the rest of the Amherst tapes by the end of the year. A catalogue is in preparation and will be finished by the end of 1996.

Six of the Amherst FI tapes, with commentary by Moshe, should be available for sale within the next 6 months.

Volume 3 of Alexander Yanai has been printed, and Volumes 4-6 are expected to be completed through 1997. Pre-publication subscriptions are being accepted for Volumes 4-6.

San Francisco training tapes continue to be transcribed, but the work is slow. Hopefully the project will be finished by the 1997 IFF Assembly.

Peter Brook tapes are available only in French through the office of François Combeau.

New Members

Both Austral asia TAB (AusTAB) and the Feldenkrais Family were voted in as full members of the IFF.

Friday, 24 May 96

Strategic visioning process led by Nancy Gordon - see pages 3 and 4 of her report (Appendix 1).

Saturday, 25 May 96

REPORTS

Translating IFF Materials

The Translating Committee proposed a network of volunteer translators, working through IFF correspondents, to translate IFF documents and newsletters into French, German, Hebrew, and Italian. They are still looking for volunteer translators. In specific cases the IFF will consider monetary payment, otherwise, repaying could be FI, an ATM or some other reward. IFF correspondents for each language would head a team to translate and type necessary documents. Contact: Patrice Auquier.

Ethics

The Ethics Committee is still identifying principles that need to be included in guidelines, such as relations between guilds and content for short courses to other professional groups. More policies need to be reviewed. We agreed to adopt, for another year, the Australian Guild's code of ethics along with the statement on advertising for courses to professionals (see Appendix 2). Contact: Gregor Risi.

Recognition of Experience

The discussion of recognition of practitioners continues within the community. There have been many ideas about what kind of function it would serve to have such a differentiation. Some responsibilities suggested for an advanced practitioner are tutoring and heading study groups. Input is needed from each guild, as functions for differentiation differ between countries. The focus should be on the needs of the practitioners as well as the needs of the community. The IFF encourages discussion within the guilds and associations, bringing ideas to next year's assembly. Contact: Lea Wolgensinger

Research

The Research Committee is identifying the research that has been done in the Feldenkrais Method. By looking to research published in related somatic methods, the committee hopes to distinguish the elements that should be included in Feldenkrais research. Many research projects have been started, and still need to be finished. They are working, therefore, to interest people in completing research by publishing case studies and collecting information on how to publish case studies. They hope to make a tape that covers how to publish case studies as research. Once abstracts are collected about research publishing, they will feed into the translation committee for more international awareness. Contact: Shelagh O'Neill.

Creative Roundtables

The essence of the creative roundtable is to give practitioners a network and a forum for coming together to share interest and skills over a particular focus or topic. This program could help people who are working in the same vein in the Feldenkrais Method find a community made up of people from around the world. Less experienced practitioners could pursue interests with the help of more experienced practitioners. The roundtables could help in organizing research of the Feldenkrais Method. The IFF is looking for more input /from the guilds. Contact: Chris Lambert

Promotion

A working group was formed to discuss and recommend ways for the IFF to support promotion of the work. This discussion should continue through the year in Guilds and Associations. What are Guilds and Associations interested in having the IFF consider in this area? Should the IFF be involved in promotion of the work worldwide? How would we raise the money to be involved? What kind of projects would we propose the IFF do? How do we present ourselves to other communities and professionals? Contact: Michael Purcell.

European Trainers! Assistant Trainer Forum

There are many issues being discussed regarding international training. The forum is working towards clarifying the function of the forum and the TABs. Trainers are making decisions as individuals, which brings up questions about international guidelines. Many important issues are not being taken care of in the individual TABs to meet the concerns of an international structure. The forum continues discussion around an international TAB that could deal with the education policies and guidelines, similar to the IFF in its relationship to Guilds and Associations. Contact: Beatriz Walterspiel (Europe/Israel), Chloe Scott (NoAm).

Israeli Guild Proposal

Discussion about the proposal made by the Israeli Guild about training programs; these issues are what the TABs deal with and they should be directed there. In the future, the IFF may provide a forum for discussion of training issues.

IFF Journal

The IFF Journal #3 is under production and expected to be published by the end of August 1996. It consists of Case Studies of Functional Integration work written by applicants for Assistant Trainer Certification. The selections for the Journal were chosen by a committee of representatives to the Assembly; many excellent case studies were reviewed and there are more for another publication.

Training survey and report

The training survey, concentrating on practitioners' training and personal practice, was sent out last year in five languages. Over 400 surveys were returned from the 2000 that were initially sent. The 20% response indicates interest. Results were taken from every kind of training, with varying sizes (smallest 25, largest 200), and all kinds of practitioners, including assistant trainers and trainers. The results of this survey are a significant look into the community as a whole. The longer training survey will be created with regard to the results from the last survey.

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of Minutes of Last Assembly

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the last assembly after Lella Dalla Valle's questions were answered. Unanimous.

Financial Report:

The 1994 and 1995 financial reports were presented and accepted, although the assembly requested a business financial report rather than an association financial report. It is requested that the balance at the beginning and end of the year be included; representatives want a sense of the flow of the money in and out. The budget for '96 was also presented. The IFF can not engage in new projects; we will stay with what we have already started. Administrative and departmental expenses are covered by fees (dues), but everything else must be covered by the sale of IFF materials. It was proposed that IFF fees be increased by 20ff per person. After discussion of current fees, the proposal was withdrawn. (See Appendix 3a and 3b.)

Internal Regulation Policy

It was moved and seconded to adopt the following change in the Internal Regulations:
"Mediation Committee: Divided into a Mediation Board of 3 members (one appointed by the board of Directors and two elected by the Assembly) and a Mediation Pool of members nominated by the constituent member groups (two per group)...
.The Mediation Pool shall be composed of members nominated from each constituent member group of the IFF".

Fees

It was proposed and accepted to keep the same 1995 fees for 1996:

IFF Full member Guilds and Associations - 125ff per full practitioner member for up to 400 full members. Over 400 full members, the fee per additional full member is 50 ff.

IFF associate member Guilds and Associations - 75ff per full practitioner member. Over 400 full members, the fee per additional full member is 50ff.

Training Accreditation Board - 5,000 ff for each.

Trainers/Assistant Trainers Forum - 5000ff.

Trainings - 50ff per trainee.

Sunday, 26 May 96

Elections

1. Francesca White (Australia) elected to the Mediation Board for three years (96-99)
2. Sam Nelson (USA) elected to the Finance committee for three years (96-99)
3. Tanya Saxon (Australia) elected to first seat as BOD director for three years (96-99)
4. Shelagh O'Neill (England) elected to second seat as BOD director for 3 years (96-99)
5. Gregor Risi (Switzerland) elected to substitute seat of BOD for 3 years (96-99)
6. Bonnie Humiston (USA) elected as Secretary of BOD for 3 years (96-9)

Resolution 1: Training Accreditation Boards

The IFF supports the internationality of training policy and TABs, and wants to promote training accreditation boards and their functioning. The future development of new TABs should be done with international considerations.

The following statement was adopted: The IFF supports the Internationalism of TABs. In order to ensure this for the future, new TABs should only be created in regions and subcontinents where at least two Guilds or associations are well developed and willing to support with the possible other local guilds, an international TAB.

Resolution 2: Forum for Training Discussion

The IFF considers as one of its roles to assist in providing a forum for curricula discussions, planning and development. The TAB is not a forum, and therefore lacks opportunity for community discussion.

The IFF assembly adopted the following: The IFF supports and fosters communication between guilds, TABs, trainers, and assistants through providing a forum (place) of discussions, planning and development in relation to education and training in the FELDENKRAIS METHOD®.

Future Assemblies

1997

The assembly divided into small groups to brainstorm ideas for the 1997 Assembly. (see Appendix 4.) Assembly planning committee to include: Susan Pinto, Daniel Clénin, Christine Erni Tank, Elizabeth Bloom. Gregor Risi and Linda van Niekerk Pheiffer will host the 1997 Assembly in Basel, May 22nd-25th.

1998

The IFF is considering an assembly meeting in North America at some point. It is suggested that the 1998 conference take place in Montreal or New York.

Closing

In closing Nancy Gordon told a story - "Feldenkrais in All the World" (see Appendix 1, pages 1 and 2).

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie Rich Humiston, Secretary