

INTERNATIONAL FELDENKRAIS FOUNDATION MINUTES OF THE 9th ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

17 - 21 May 2000, Neuburg, Germany

Thursday, 18th May 2000

1 Welcome

In this brief opening, President Cliff Smyth welcomed the group, including Rosalia Odessky and Nilsa Marquéz of Asociacion Feldenkrais Argentina, whose application for membership would be considered. He also welcomed Michél Silice-Feldenkrais, Moshe's nephew. The group process immediately followed and a more extensive welcome was given later in the morning.

2 Vision Process

This was introduced and guided by Daniel Clénin. For this process, the group formed pairs to exchange answers to the following three questions which were previously mailed to members:

i. What changes would you like to occur in your society/culture in the next 10 to 20 years, of which you would like to be able to say that the application of the Feldenkrais Method had been a significant influence? ii. What would you and your colleagues (as individual practitioners) need in order to make this happen? iii. What tools would your organization need in order to support practitioners in this task?

The task of the first pair groups was to hear and be able to translate the partner's statement that best summarized the answer to these questions. Each pair then joined another pair. In groups of four, each person presented their partner's statement. The entire group then assembled in a circle and again, each person presented their partner's statement.

Themes from this process included:

- The Feldenkrais philosophy is taken seriously (also from institution and governments)
- Increased awareness in actions on all levels (personal, social, political)
- Dynamic thinking used on all levels
- Resources used in an integrative way
- Self-confidence and self-acceptance are widely realized
- The Feldenkrais Method has entered all educational levels
- Fun and joy are integrated in learning processes
- Changes realized in the medical world.

3 Introduction to the Assembly by President Cliff Smyth

Cliff introduced members of the Board and their portfolios; IFF Project Coordinator Penny McCornack; and Assembly Logistics Coordinator Christiane Dertnig. He also gave a hearty thanks to Werner Kraus and Austrian colleagues for hosting this year's Assembly. He also noted apologies from Board member Donna Blank and Public Officer François Combeau. Following is the body of the introduction.

Highlights:

It has been quite a year of achievement for the IFF. Board members will report in more detail on Saturday, but here are some of the highlights:

- Not one but two websites have been completed: one for the public with information about the Feldenkrais Method and a site that we hope practitioners will use to find out about the IFF and keep in touch with ideas and issues. These sites are the accomplishment of Daniel Clénin.
- Two newsletters were produced during the year under the editorship of Stina Njaastad.
- Stina Njaastad and Eva Blicher also worked hard to produce the Continuous Learning working document you will get at this Assembly. The final version will be published as the next IFF Journal.
- Alexander Yanai volumes 5 and 6 are now both at the printer. Those of you who subscribed and have patiently waited for their completion will receive the volumes in the mail not long after you return home. Jeremy Krauss is now the translator and has already completed the translations for Volume 7. So this project is now back on track.
- Given the difficulties with the Assembly site in Baltimore last year, a reduced fee has been negotiated with the venue and the savings are being passed on to you this year by subsidising some of the extra costs of this Assembly, thus keeping the cost of your Assembly fee down.
- New IFF Treasurer, Markus Riesen, started on the Board and already has done a great job re-organising IFF financial administration.
- New IFF Secretary, Francesca White, has been learning this job and is now really firing.
- The IFF has a new part-time staff member, project co-ordinator, Penny McCornack, who is based at the FGNA office, but doing only work for the IFF. She has already contributed much to streamlining our administration, especially in the organisation of this Assembly, getting AY printed, and more.

In significant ways, the IFF is becoming a much more efficient and effective organisation.

Location of the Assembly:

I want to say a few words about the site of this Assembly. I decided to move the location of the Assembly after some members contacted us with concerns about the developments in Austria, particularly the election of the far right wing party whose leader is sympathetic to Nazi ideas. This government was elected just six days before our booking needed to be confirmed. When we had not received enough bookings for the Assembly by that date, and it appeared negotiations would be difficult with the original venue, we were faced with the prospect of having to find a new venue. I decided we should look for one elsewhere. Werner Kraus of the Austrian Guild generously offered to help despite the shift of venue, and so we are here.

The time available made it impossible to consult with all the IFF members and have a proper discussion about it, and had the membership been consulted the decision would have rested with me anyway.

I made the decision in consultation with the Board and especially with Werner Kraus who was in the unenviable position of being our local host, President of the Austrian Guild and a member of the IFF Board. This change in venue implies no criticism of the Austrian Guild, or of the Austrian people as a whole. Indeed, I apologise to the Austrian Guild for the difficulty this decision has caused.

This was the most difficult decision of my Presidency so far. Some people urged me to make a statement, and I do believe that the IFF, founded as it is on internationalist principles, should be opposed to anti-Semitism, racism and discrimination. Personally, I am very opposed to this kind of right wing/fascist politics and if it was just a question of personal conviction then I would be out protesting myself.

On the other hand, as President of the IFF, my primary concern is to ensure that the IFF carries out its functions. The IFF does not have a mandate to involve itself in the national politics of the counties of its members.

I was reluctant to set a precedent by moving the Assembly - people may want to move the Assembly for all sorts of political reasons. In the end however, it was important to acknowledge this change in the environment and to respond.

One of the key functions of the IFF is to provide a place where the whole Feldenkrais community can meet, and so I chose to move the venue to a place where most of our members could come together and discuss the important questions about the future of the Feldenkrais Method. I thought that we could discuss this as a group, if members wanted to, when we gathered at our Assembly.

It was a decision that had to be made immediately, and I made it.

There is no limit to improvement:

Now I want to talk about change. Sometimes I hate change. I know it is not fashionable to say this in the Feldenkrais world. When I say I like change, I really mean incremental change; change that I can control. Really deep change can be painful, slow and challenging. It is a thief of identity. It takes a lot of time.

For a while now, in the IFF newsletters I have been saying that the Feldenkrais community is changing. A lot of the change that is happening is through the actions of individuals, and the consequences of their actions.

I think that there is a deep desire, that as a community, we have as much say as we can about the direction of our profession. It is important that we are not always having to constantly react and make little corrections to the system. Moshe's words echo this: When you give someone a correction the person needs to keep making corrections for the rest of life.

Change can be good or bad. What I think we are looking for as a community is improvement, hence the title of this Assembly, a quote from Moshe: There is no limit to improvement.

With the Feldenkrais Method we have powerful tools for improvement. As a Board, we ask: how can we use the Feldenkrais Method, Feldenkrais ways, and Feldenkrais principles to guide our work? How can each of us achieve congruence in our work, our lives, our practices and our organisations.

Differentiation and integration:

Differentiation and integration are apparent paradoxes, but we need both for a system to function well. Today we are meeting on a border. Borders are also a paradox. They are places where countries separate and meet. International organisations are places where countries have their own identity and sovereignty, but also where they meet to discuss, and depending on the model of internationalism, have common projects, create common treaties or conventions and even create bodies to do some functions for all members. We need to be clear about what kind of internationalism works for us.

Immigration is also a big question in many of our societies. It is important because the presence of minorities forces us to think differently.

What is our identity? It is not always a question of right or wrong, but how we differentiate and how we integrate. The IFF was formed in 1992 out of a desire for unity, as an umbrella for those in the Feldenkrais world, an integrative role. We are still working out how to do this.

Deep listening:

In the Feldenkrais Method we really listen with our ears, eyes, hands and hearts to our students and clients. This is one of the things I hear from practitioners and Guilds about the IFF. That the IFF is a place in the Feldenkrais community where people feel listened to and heard. Lack of dialogue can lead to suspicion.

There is a need to challenge our assumptions about "the other." Sometimes there is tendency in our community to "shoot the messenger" if we don't like what we are hearing.

By really listening and talking honestly, we give the system the information it needs to re-organise itself.

The IFF was founded, as the Preamble to the Purposes states, out of a "desire for fruitful cooperation." Sometimes this has meant accommodation, compromise, and even contradiction. At the early Assemblies when we were working on the purposes and creating the IFF processes and structures, we were constantly asking each other, "Can you live with this?"

At this Assembly we will probably spend some time talking about ideas and issues and concerns in the community; the

community that we have not discussed as a body in some time. I would hope that we can do this in the spirit in which the IFF was founded: respecting our common agreements and really listening to our common disagreements. Remembering that each of us, just like our clients, represents a different body of personal experience, and the experience of the bodies and organisations we represent.

Constraints:

Constraints lead to learning. Often in the Feldenkrais community, as in the wider world, the emphasis is on freedom from constraints. Being in a community provides constraints, but creates the possibilities for having the freedom to do many things. Often we can achieve more by working together.

Productive community:

We need a productive community. This is not just an ideal, but requires:

- Hard work, discipline and commitment
- Clarity of purpose
- That issues are dealt with
- Dealing honestly with each other
- High standards of performance
- That leaders are the servants of the members

In a productive community, as one gains, so another gains.

Quality:

In the Feldenkrais community we use attention to quality as a tool to know better what we are doing and how we are doing it. One vision from the last Assembly saw a unified community with high standards. I believe this is the real challenge that could help us meet the incredible potential of the Feldenkrais Method in the world. Personally, I would like to see much higher standards in basic training in the Method and the practice of Feldenkrais.

Again, our discussions over the next few days, especially of competencies, standards of practice, supervision and continuous learning can take us further in this direction.

And the idea of quality goes beyond this. The development of a quality culture, I believe, will affect the development of our work in a profound way. I believe that attention to quality is the key to altering the self-image of the practitioner and releasing the potential of the Feldenkrais Method.

Self-image of practitioners:

This is already changing through our action in the world. We hear of successes. At the Assembly we hear new stories of how the Method is being used in clinics, universities, schools, etc.

Many practitioners now have as much experience with the Feldenkrais Method as many of the Trainers when they became Trainers.

As we move further from our basic training, we have less dependence on that experience in our self-definition.

The IFF has been part of that improvement in self-image, by empowering practitioners to learn from each other, to think about competence by giving guilds tools to explore this vision.

The work in the IFF on visions for the Method allows us to get in touch with our avowed and unavowed dreams, as practitioners and as a community. The vision of quality helps us to realize some of those dreams.

This ended the President's introduction.

Marianne Costa of the French guild spoke to lodge a formal objection to the change of venue. This statement can be found in Appendix 2.

4 Business Meeting (1 of 4)

4.1 New Member Application:

There was a proposal introduced by Cliff Smyth asking the Assembly to consider the application for IFF membership from Asociacion Feldenkrais Argentina. Francesca White confirmed their constitution was legal and democratic, and that all IFF membership requirements were met. Their membership was voted on and unanimously accepted.

5 Working Groups

Daniel Clénin described the process to be used for the first working group session which involved the formation of six groups, each exploring a unique topic:

Group A: Definition of the term competency

Group B: Questions around identifying competencies

Group C: How to document and assess competencies

Group D: Supervision as a tool to raise quality and competency

Group E: Peer group learning as a tool to raise quality and competency

Group F: What value can our existing IFF Standards of Practice have in the competency process.

Throughout the Assembly, the individual groups gathered, then reported their discussions with all members. They again formed into their groups, and again reported their discussion with all members. A final summary of these working group sessions is noted in Appendix 4.

6 Announcement of positions for nomination and election

Stina Njaastad, Board liaison to the Nominations Committee, announced the three Board positions and two committee positions to be nominated and elected.

Friday, 19th May 2000

7 Business Meeting (2 of 4)

A quorum is present. See Appendix 1 for list of Representatives and Board members present.

7.1 Minutes of Last Assembly

Minutes of the 1999 Baltimore Assembly were mailed to members and also included in Section 3 of the Assembly agenda documents.

Ursula Seiler (Switzerland) proposed an amendment to page 10. It was proposed that Item 2 (Group 6) which was inadvertently omitted, also be included in Item 16. (Quality and Competence Working Group Recommendations/Group 6).

Proposal: The minutes from the last Assembly be approved as amended.

Passed: Yeas-absolute majority, nays-0, abstentions-4.

8 Membership Related Matters

8.1 Cliff Smyth announced that the Board had been informed that the European Trainers' and Assistant Trainers' Forum is no longer a functioning body and consequently, no longer a member of the IFF.

8.2 Cliff Smyth introduced a number of membership related issues which were outlined in the Assembly agenda documents as agenda items from the Board of Directors, 2 to 2.5.

The IFF Board had prepared a proposal regarding membership issues and this was presented to the Assembly. It read as follows:

”Preamble: The IFF BOD believes that at this time we should retain the current IFF membership criteria as set out in the Internal Regulations. We are of the view that the issues of Guild/Association membership in relation to the training background of practitioners needs discussion in the community.

Also one of the IFF's functions is toward integration in the international community and the increasing numbers of groups contacting the IFF who are interested in the IFF's task of promoting increased quality in the practice of the Feldenkrais Method. While membership is not an option at this time, for a number of reasons, for groups like the Finnish Guild, the Japan Guild and the EFU, we believe that it may be fruitful for the IFF to have a dialogue with such groups.

Proposal: This Assembly understands that the BFS has full members that do not meet the criteria set out in the IFF Internal Regulations. This Assembly requests the BFS reconsider this decision. We ask the BFS to advise the IFF in advance of the next Assembly of their response.”

Following discussion regarding IFF membership criteria, Sylvia Weise (Germany), proposed that the issues of membership criteria be referred to a working group whose intention will be to propose a solution(s) and report back to the Assembly prior to adjournment.

9 Announcement of a new German language journal

Werner Kraus announced the new publication, Feldenkrais ZEIT, Journal für Somatisches Lernen. This was a collaborative effort between members of the Feldenkrais community in Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

10 Presentation of Tools

Daniél Clénin led a discussion on tools for concretizing our visions. These included:

- Newsletter
- Journal
- Website
- Special committee
- Ongoing working groups (e-mail/phone contact)
- Ongoing working groups (with meetings)
- External expert(s)
- Procedural tools
- Mandate to IFF Board of Directors
- Next Assemblies: theme, agenda items, information sharing group topics, etc.
- Convention (treaties)
- Proposals for procedures done by member organisations

- Report back by Representatives to their organisations
- Translation
- Others

Business Meeting (3 of 4)

11 Financial Report

Markus Riesen presented the 1999 IFF Financial Report.

Proposal: To accept the 1999 IFF Financial report. Passed: Yeas-absolute majority, nays-0, abstentions-2.

12 Elections

(Note: reports were given by Board Members while balloting was taking place or the Elections.)

12.1 Vice President for three years each, 2000 - 2003. The following people were nominated: Susan Pinto, Janie Randerson. Susan Pinto was elected by secret ballot.

12.2 Treasurer for three years each, 2000 - 2003. The following person was nominated: Markus Riesen. Markus Riesen was elected by secret ballot.

12.3 Director position (1) for three years, 2000 - 2003. The following people were nominated: Rob Black, Janie Randerson. Rob Black was elected by secret ballot.

12.4 Substitute Directors for one year, 2000 - 2001. The following people were nominated: Marianne Costa, Janie Randerson, Paris Kern.

The following persons were elected by secret ballot:

First substitute - Janie Randerson Second substitute - Marianne Costa Third substitute - Paris Kern

During the election process Italian Guild IFF Representative, Francesco Ambrosio, raised the issue of the ballot process, stating that he would like to know how many votes each person receives when the membership votes. Cliff explained this is how the process has been conducted in the past. It was proposed that Cliff confer with the IFF Public Officer, François Combeau on the requirements for elections. This matter can also be brought to any future Assembly by the membership.

13 Reports from the Board

13.1 Mediation Portfolio:

Eva Bleicher provided the group with the official IFF Mediation Committee document established in 1992, and discussed the need for greater participation, especially for Guilds to nominate members to Page 7 - IFF Assembly Minutes, Neuburg Am Inn, May 2000 the Mediation Pool.

13.2 Website:

Daniel Clénin presented visual printouts of the IFF public websites and explained the differences in the public site and the practitioner site, the availability of information in various languages, and ways members can participate in the website.

13.3 Research:

Werner Kraus reported on the status of research in the Feldenkrais Method, inviting the group to let him know when they learn of new developments. It is intended that the research collection include a research list and copies of research

articles or abstracts become part of the Continental Libraries in Australia, Germany and North America. He is planning an upcoming IFF Journal on research.

13.4 Newsletter:

Stina Njaastad updated the group, highlighting the production of two publications last year. She strongly encouraged members to consider contributing material to help strengthen newsletters as a valuable tool.

14 Continuation of Membership Issues

14.1 Membership of BFS (Switzerland):

Ursula Seiler provided the group with a written proposal regarding the BFS's desire to retain its status as an IFF Associate Member, although a decision by the BFS's annual meeting means that it can take in, and has taken in members that do not meet the current IFF membership criteria (the BFS has two full members trained by Eli Wadler who is not a Certified Trainer at this time).

The Membership Issues Working Group of the Assembly reported and indicated that it supported the Board proposal regarding the BFS. Discussion followed. It was proposed that the Board proposal be accepted.

Proposal: This Assembly understands that the BFS has full members that do not meet the criteria set out in the IFF Internal Regulations. This Assembly requests the BFS reconsider this decision. We ask the BFS to advise the IFF, in advance of the next Assembly, of their response.

This proposal was accepted by an absolute majority, with 3 abstentions.

14.2 Small Guild membership of the IFF and the status of the Dutch Foundation:

A proposal was presented by the Membership Issues Working Group of the Assembly that a category of Small Guild Member be created? and a number of changes to the Internal Regulations that would implement this.

A proposal was submitted by Nancy van Eck to retain the Guild's current IFF status as a full voting member, although the guild does not meet the current IFF membership criteria (they have four members currently and IFF criteria requires a minimum of seven). It is acknowledged that when the Guild joined the IFF, the membership requirement was three members as a minimum.

Discussion followed. The question of whether the Assembly had the ability to change the membership status of a member group by a change to the Status or Internal Regulations under French law was raised. Cliff proposed that he contact Public Officer François Combeau this evening to gain clarification on this issue and continue with the discussion tomorrow. This proposal was acceptable to the group.

15 Distribution Center Report (summary)

15.1 Alexander Yanai:

Volumes 5 and 6 are being printed. The new translator, Jeremy Krauss, has translated volume 7.

15.2 Continental Libraries:

The Board has recommended that the Materials Committee review the Continental Libraries. Guilds are interested in running their own libraries and obtaining IFF educational materials. The plan is to prepare ideas for the next Assembly.

15.3 Training Transcripts:

All these projects are delayed and all are moving very slowly.

15.4 Gaby Yaron Video Tapes:

All permissions have been obtained from those involved with the taping and production will move forward now.

15.5 New Projects:

- i. New Amherst FI Videos: A number of possible videos of Moshe Feldenkrais doing FI have been identified. These will begin to be published in the beginning of next year
- ii. Biographical video: The Materials Committee recommended to the Board not to proceed with such a project now. Such a project would take significant resources and it would be good to see the written biography Mark Reese is writing first.

15.6 Product development:

More income must be generated from sales to support the development of new products.

A copy of the written report is attached as Appendix 6.

There was discussion about translation. Rosalia Odessky suggested the IFF produce video tapes in additional languages, simply using subtitles.

16 Working Groups - Session 2

In the morning the six quality and competence working groups met to plan:

- Timeframes
- Task definition
- Persons/organisations involved
- Resources.

17 Business Meeting (4 of 4)

17.1 Elections, continued.

17.1.1 Finance Committee:

The candidate for this position was Rainer Golombek. He was elected by acclamation.

17.1.2 Mediation Committee:

The following people were nominated for this three year position (2000-2002) on the Mediation Board: Francesco Ambrosio, Glenice Hall and Paris Kern.

Glenice Hall was elected by an absolute majority. Francesco Ambrosio and Paris Kern were elected as Substitutes by acclamation.

17.2 Reports from the Board

17.2.1 Continuous Learning Report:

Stina Njaastad reported on the current status of this concept providing a background on the community's interest in it. The working document made available at this Assembly will form the basis on the next IFF Journal. She invited

members to give her feedback on the working document and any additional contributions.

17.2.2 Journal:

Susan Pinto spoke of the next Journal to be ready later this year. The aim is for the Journal to be produced once every two years. The focus in future IFF Journals will be on professional issues such as continuous learning, supervision and research.

18 Membership Issues

18.1 Continuation of Small Guild Member Discussion:

Cliff presented the results of his conversation with Public Officer François Combeau, regarding this matter of retrospectivity and the French law and making changes to the Status and Internal Regulations in the form of a recommended proposal from the Board.

Proposal:

Due to the need for clarity about retrospective changes to the Status and Internal Regulations, which may affect the status of a current member, the Board proposed that: a) the BOD research these changes during the next year and b) they present the results of this research at the next Assembly.

Cliff Smyth suggested that as a result of accepting this proposal, prior proposals from the Board and the Dutch Foundation would lapse. Following discussion, it was agreed to accept the proposal.

It was also agreed to invite the Finnish Guild to attend the next Assembly as a guest.

19 Next Assembly Location and Date

19.1 Location:

Francesco Ambrosio (Italy) offered to host the next Assembly. Kristin Ruder (Norway) also offered to host the next Assembly. Glenice Hall (Australia) offered to host a future Assembly, recognizing that the cost of travel to Australia could be an issue. She suggested that the Australian Guild would look into it.

Cliff Smyth emphasised the Board's view that it is very important that the practicalities of the Assembly site be worked out well in advance and that for the future, the Board is asking for members to make more detailed proposals for the Assembly site.

Following discussion, Cliff recommended that the Board accept the offers from Italy and Norway, noting that the Board looks forward to receiving their proposals. These Guilds will be provided information regarding the specifications for an Assembly and the Board will evaluate these proposals.

19.2 Date:

It was agreed that the next Assembly shall be held 24 - 27 May 2001.

20 Continuation of Finance Report

20.1 Fees for 2001:

Markus Riesen discussed further the financial status of the IFF, proposing that the fees be raised to help cover the 1999 operating loss of FFR 126,557 (approximately US \$ 8,600). A 15 percent fee increase was proposed by the Board (to 145 FF per practitioner). Francesco Ambrosio (Italy) proposed fees stay the same for the next year. Discussion followed. Some Representatives indicated that it would be better for them to have time to discuss any fee increase and to incorporate the increase into their budgets.

Cliff Smyth proposed that the fees remain the same for the financial year 2001 and the Board will prepare a proposal for increased fees in advance of the next Assembly so that members can consider it.

A vote was taken. The latter proposal was passed by absolute majority, with 6 abstentions.

21 Working Group reports

In the afternoon there were reports from all six working groups on quality and competence and there was discussion of how to proceed. (See Appendix 4.)

Proposal:

In order to build consensus on quality and competencies in the Feldenkrais community, the IFF Assembly agrees to form a special committee. This special committee will continue to research, communicate, liaise and propose competency processes for the Feldenkrais Method as a profession.

This proposal was passed by a show of hands of Representatives present: Yeas-31, nays-0 against, abstentions-4.

22 Ongoing IFF Functions and New Tools

In the afternoon working groups met to discuss the following:

- Networking
- Translation
- Sales of Materials
- Future Assembly Planning

These groups reported back. Reports from the networking and sales of materials group are attached as appendices.

23 Closing

Representatives spoke on their experience of the Assembly. Cliff Smyth thanked everyone for their contributions.

Respectfully submitted by Francesca White, IFF Secretary.

24 APPENDICES

24.1 Appendix 1: Attendees

PRESENT: Representatives: Nilsa Marquez (Argentina), Rosalia Odessky (Argentina), Glenice Hall (Australia), Wolfgang Aigner (Austria), Jutta Kojalek (Austria), Sibylle Niemann (Germany), Barbara Pieper (Germany), Uta Ruge (Germany), Sylvia Weise (Germany), Ilan Jacobson (Israel), Francesco Ambrosio (Italy), Nancy van Eck (Netherlands), Monica Duynstee (Netherlands), Frances Schorer (Netherlands), Janie Randerson (New Zealand), Kristin Ruder (Norway), Rob Black (N. America), Paris Kern (N. America), George Krutz (N. America), Marianne Lacina (Switzerland), Annemarie Reimann (Switzerland), Ursula Seiler (Switzerland), Rainer Golombek (United Kingdom), Ale Vokietaitis (EuroTAB), Olena Nitefor (NATAB), Michél Silice-Feldenkrais (Feldenkrais Family).

Present: IFF Board Members: Eva Bleicher, Daniel Clénin, Werner Kraus, Stina Njaastad, Susan Pinto, Markus Riesen, Cliff Smyth, Francesca White.

Apologies: Member organisations: Gilde Feldenkrais Belge, Assoc. Quebecois des Professeur(e)s de la Methode Feldenkrais, Svenska Feldenkraisforeningen (Associate), Svenska Forbundet for Auktoriserade Feldenkraispedagoger, Australian Training and Accreditation Board.

Apologies: IFF BOD: Donna Blank (Member of the Board of Directors), François Combeau (Public Officer).

Later arrivals: Observers: Livia Calice (Austria), Daniel Rosenfels (EuroTAB) Guests: Garrett Newell (UK), Ned Dwelle (Germany).

24.2 Appendix 2: Text of the objection of the French Guild regarding the Assembly change in venue for this Assembly

"If there is a political reason for changing the venue of an Assembly, we object on the grounds that 1) all members should be solicited for input, and 2) we feel it is the job of Feldenkrais community to support those who are on the side of democracy and awareness with our presence, instead of turning our backs on the situation as if it were impossible to make a difference."

24.3 Appendix 3: Report on IFF Distribution Center, 1999/2000, prepared by Cliff Smyth

1. Introduction

This has been a demanding but productive year for the IFF Distribution Center. A number of projects that had not been progressing have now been completed. This will allow us to move on with our important work of getting out new materials vital to improving the quality of the professional practice of the Feldenkrais Method.

2. Current Projects

Alexander Yanai: After long delays Anat Baniel finally finished translating Volume 5 of Alexander Yanai. It was clear to her and us that she was not able to continue to meet the timelines the IFF required and we negotiated to end her work with us as translator. We subsequently contracted Jeremy Krauss as the new translator. He was able to quickly finish the translation of Volume 6. Both volumes have now been printed and are being sent to subscribers.

I would like to take the opportunity to again apologise to all our subscribers for these delays and to thank them again for having faith that these invaluable materials would eventually be sent to them. I encourage everyone who has not purchased a set to do so. We have reduced the price for a set of all six so that those that have not started yet are encouraged to invest in these great materials.

The other good news is that we also contracted Jeremy Krauss to translate Volume 7 of Alexander Yanai and he has already completed the translations for the 50 lessons. Ellen Soloway has begun to edit them. Thanks to Ellen for moving quickly on these three volumes. I can now say that this project is back on track and practitioners can expect to see volumes 7 to 12 coming out regularly in the next years.

Continental Libraries:

I am pleased to announce that all three IFF Continental Libraries (based in Australia, Germany and North America) now have at least two full sets of the videos of the Moshe Feldenkrais Functional Integration lessons taped at Amherst in 1980 and 1981. I encourage people to borrow these videos and learn! The Materials Committee and the Board agreed that we should review the system of continental libraries and this will be started in the second half of 2000.

Training Transcripts:

I would like to make some general observations about these projects. These are huge projects. Each transcript is likely to exceed 1,200 pages. In addition, the IFF is committed to the transcripts being as accurate a record of Moshe Feldenkrais's actual words as is possible. These will be fundamental documents of our Method for many years to come. In order to do this, our editors are going to great lengths to check the accuracy of the documents and also to make them maximally useful to teachers. For example, Bonnie Humiston checks the Amherst transcripts against the videos to get context clues for things that are unclear. This also allows the transcript to include notes on Moshe's actions, writing from the blackboard in the training room, etc. Or for example, Alison Rapp regularly e-mails up to a dozen informants for clarification of the many names of scientists, artists, books, etc. that are liberally sprinkled throughout Moshe's talks.

We use experienced Feldenkrais teachers as editors because Moshe's talks and ATM teaching simply cannot be understood or accurately rendered by anyone not familiar with his voice and ideas. For example, a small change in sentence structure in the editing process could change the whole meaning of a statement to its opposite. (This does mean, however, that these people are drawn away from these projects for teaching and other commitments to our community.)

San Francisco Year 1:

Allison Rapp is now doing the final checking of the 5th week of this transcript.

San Francisco Year 2:

Ellen Soloway has been delayed, but anticipates being finished in another 6 months.

Amherst Year 2:

Bonnie Humiston is doing final checking on the first two weeks of this transcript and these will be published soon.

Gaby Yaron Video Tapes:

The first set of these tapes, "A series of lessons with Hanna?" has sold well. The second set of tapes, "Two tapes of Gaby's FI teaching from the first Lewes training," has been delayed while we waited to obtain permissions from all the participants. We now have all those permissions and will proceed with production and sales of these tapes.

3. New Projects

New Amherst FI Videos:

We have identified a number of possible videos of Moshe Feldenkrais doing FI at Amherst. We will begin to publish them in the second half of this year. We plan to publish articles about the lessons in the IFF Newsletter as a way to promote these materials.

Videos About Moshe Feldenkrais:

Arising from the idea at the last Assembly, as a first step, the Materials Committee recommended that the IFF explore publishing the interview with Moshe from the Amherst Training and also explore publishing a compilation of the best of Moshe's talks and lectures from Amherst, organised around key concepts of the Feldenkrais Method. We will begin preliminary work on this project in the second half of 2000.

4. Marketing and Distribution

Sales of materials have not been strong overall this year, partly because our main new product, the Alexander Yanai lessons, have been so delayed. We hope that with this project now clearly back on track that sales will increase. Many materials were sold at the Australian Feldenkrais Conference in 1999, and at the recent Swiss Guild AGM. We need to look at new marketing strategies and I hope there will be a chance to discuss these issues during this year's Assembly. In the meantime, we plan to continue with regular articles in the IFF Newsletter, about the Alexander Yanai lessons and other materials.

5. Administration

The IFF continues to contract the FGNA to provide production and distribution services for the IFF Distribution Center. Penny McCornack has been hired by the FGNA as the IFF Project Coordinator and will be coordinating production and distribution for the IFF DC. This should help with the flow of work and get projects to completion more quickly and smoothly.

6. Thanks

I must again thank Michél Silice-Feldenkrais and the Feldenkrais Institute in Tel Aviv for generously making these invaluable materials available to the community. Thanks also to Michél, François Combeau and Susan Pinto that form the IFF Materials Committee for all their work through the year. Also to the FGNA office staff, Andrea Weiner and now Penny McCornack for their work in the administration of the IFF DC.

24.4 Appendix 4: Reports on the six quality and competence working groups (These have been previously circulated to all member organisations and Representatives.)

24.5 Appendix 5: Working group reports on Ongoing IFF Functions and New Tools Feedback from Networking group (Sunday)

1. Between people: President to President, Representative to Representative, Guild to Guild, etc.
2. More casualness in communicating ideas and concepts
3. More sharing of what Guilds are doing already
4. Take responsibility for gathering more of #3; other Reps on behalf of their Guilds

5. IFF reps & IFF BOD - communications
6. More communication on every level
7. Round table idea gets spread.

(Second sheet)

1. Networks between Guilds Exchange newsletters and journals
2. Network between Reps? Encourage informal conversation (have email list)
3. Network between Guilds / Reps / Membership
4. Network between IFF BOD / Reps? Informally?? Agenda for inbetween BOD meetings to be communicated to Reps for comments and input from their Guilds
5. Desire IFF BOD / Trainer community

24.6 Appendix 6: Ideas from Sales and Marketing Working Group report

Markus Riesen (Switzerland) reported on the success of having materials to sell at the Swiss Guild AGM and taking the materials to the Basle training.

6.1. Marketing and Sales

6.1.1 Catalogue:

- Simple, clear, cheaper to produce
- Good introduction: "how precious? the materials are"
- Translated
- New name like "IFF Educational Materials"
- No copying (of AY and other material; include copyright information)
- Include in graduate packets.

6.1.2 Materials design:

- Video with a picture of Moshe and the respective client on the video case.

6.1.3 Sales - various ideas:

- Satellite stocks held by individuals or Guilds; materials available on consignment with a contract; question of paying a commission percentage. Could we sell through a retailer/bookstore in country?
- Sample stocks, order forms and promotional materials for Guilds or individuals acting as sellers/distributors
- Ask each Guild how to get materials past tax authorities with minimum taxes being changed. Could we use a bookstore as a link in between?
- How can we make the payment system better? Some Europeans not familiar with being charged on credit card first, then receiving materials later. Some don't have credit cards.
- Offer a special training discount to Training Organisers and Educational Directors. Trainings get special rate (more than the bulk rate?) for 100% subscription. Provide to trainees as part of their the training fees?

6.1.4 Website:

- Contain catalogue and order form (also translated)
- Discussion of queries about AY on practitioner site (Ask Alexander Yanai), notes on lessons, samples of/from lessons
- Add pictures of books and videos (when have new covers?)
- Indexes of the lessons in Alexander Yanai
- Paying via internet. Get software that allows for secure credit card transactions.

6.1.5 Materials production

- Instant printing from CD in different countries. Reduced shipping and customs costs.

7. Translation

Marianne Costa (France) reported that many practitioners have been working for a long time without access to materials in their own language. Most trainings in France do not provide transcripts. They cannot use the current English AY materials. They are beginning to feel completely abandoned. We need to find clever and strategic answers. Werner (Austria) also talked about the sense of abandonment by the IFF of some practitioners in Austria.

Some ideas:

- Publish the Peter Brooke tapes (in French) soon
- Alexander Yanai. Get practitioners to subscribe to the English volume and they get the translation in addition
- Use community/group translations process (eg. collecting existing illegal translations)
- Pay for translations with royalties from sales
- Use on-demand printing/copying technology to reduce up-front costs
- Does translation have to be from Hebrew, or could it be from the English translation and then checked back against the original Hebrew?
- Consider producing AY on the media/in other languages after vol 9?
- Decide by end of year on whether to begin translation projects
- Inform members what is happening in the Newsletter.

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