

INTERNATIONAL FELDENKRAIS FEDERATION

13th ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MAY 20th –23rd 2004, SOESTERBERG, THE NETHERLANDS.

Present: See Appendix # 1

Apologies: Feldenkrais family, New Zealand Feldenkrais Guild.

Proxies received: New Zealand Feldenkrais Guild

Tellers: Iris Urbassek and Kathryn Goldman-Schuyler were appointed.

Marianne Lacina was appointed as a substitute teller if required.

1. Welcome

The Assembly opened with an ATM presented by the Board in many of the languages represented in the IFF. This was followed by a scanning process from different membership perspectives.

2. Minutes of 2003 IFF Assemblies

Proposal:

'That the minutes from the 2003 IFF Assemblies be accepted'

Moved: Marianne Lacina

Seconded: Ned Dwelle

Unanimously agreed

3. Description of "Modes of Attention" process used during Assembly.

According to the Assembly theme "**Functional Integration for Feldenkrais Organisations**" this year's Assembly was another experiment to integrate Feldenkrais' ways of proceeding into the meeting. The idea came out of a need and difficulties, the IFF was confronted with:

1. As in a Feldenkrais lesson **at first** there is a **demand**. Ours was: How to recruit and involve practitioners into the IFF's functioning and visioning?
2. We put that need (or problem) into a **question**: sending update #34 2003 to the members asking: "How can you involve your members more in the work of your Guild/Association, and how can you make sure that more people become active to their own organisation for the sake and continuation of the Feldenkrais Method?" We expected that our members would face similar challenges as we.
3. We got responses from our members about their situation and compiled them into a certain order – a Synopsis – **to better understand** the members' situation and needs.
4. Out of this Synopsis we highlighted those wishes, ideas, concerns, questions and proposals that jumped into our minds and hearts – the elusive obvious of the members responses. We transferred them into "**Modes of Attention**" for use at various times during the Assembly. These *Modes* did not fall from the sky. They derived from dialoguing with the members while preparing the Assembly. That is why the *Modes* already related beforehand to the context in which they were applied later to the Assembly process.

These *Modes of Attention* carried the "**content part**" of the Assembly through all days accompanying the Agenda as an **integral part** of it. The Assembly Design Team Rineke Brinkhof, Daniel Cl nin and Barbara Pieper guided the participants through the process following again the logic of Feldenkrais lessons:

- In a first **scanning**, addressing the Feldenkrais Community's situation within a role play, nearly all matters were already included what "Business items" in the Assembly became later. Taking a role and reflecting about it in small groups all participants **embodied at first** what they later were dealing with. (Roles taken: Practitioner (member of a guild), IFF representative, IFF representative being a non native English speaker, Guild president of a small guild, Guild president of a large guild or TAB Chair. IFF Board member, Trainer).
- In a Feldenkrais lesson we are used to have a **second level of observation** while moving to become aware of how we organise our movements or observe those of the clients. Analogue the *Modes of Attention* enabled the Assembly participants to become aware of the "movements" of the Agenda while acting on them: All Participants chose and were briefed in one of the following *Modes of Attention* a) Note taking or documentation, b) Finances, c) Overview perspective, d) Communication Culture, e) Practicability and later f) Feldenkrais way. The "*Mode* persons in charge" became **observers** reporting to the plenum about their findings in terms of their *Modes*. For instance: representatives suddenly became aware of money implications related to Internal Regulations they have never thought about. Or they were invited to reflect the practicability of proposals at the very moment.
- The *Modes of Attention* process opened up an option, **not** to talk **a b o u t** recruitment, **but** to recruit colleagues by **involving** them, encouraging them and **enabling** them to feel competent; not to talk a b o u t communication, but to initiate it and become aware of the culture we practice it; not to complain a b o u t loosing track, but have someone reminding "overview is needed now"; not to resign a b o u t being a non native English speaker, but having the right (and the responsibility!) to raise a red card indicating language difficulties.
- Such a format brings the **Assembly process closer to the Feldenkrais practitioner's world**: Most representatives feel uncomfortable in meetings being structured and run differently to what and how practitioners experience their lives and practice. It is not only them who have to adapt to meetings' requirements, but the meeting process may be adapted to the representatives' way of living and learning, too!

We are not used to proceed like this in meetings. However the *Modes of Attention* process was more and more accepted (and understood) w h i l e it was d o n e. We will evaluate the process, compile the design into a manual and **offer it as an "open source"** to the members, invite them to explore the *Modes of Attention* process in their meetings, have them evaluate it, improve it etc. - as other formats within the **IFF Academy** are proceeding, too.

The **outcome** of this process, used throughout the Assembly was later reported in **Update #2004 15 (see Appendix #14)**. Further details of the process and a guideline for use by members will be available and we will inform you about it an update end of the year. For further information **contact** Assembly 2004 Design Team:

Rineke Brinkhof at: < r.brinkhof@hetnet.nl >, Daniel Clénin at: < danielclenin@access.ch, Barbara Pieper at: <BarbPieper@gmx.de>

4. Search Committee report See Appendix# 2

5. Communication topic

The Board thanked members for feedback and agenda items. They agreed that communications was an important topic for the IFF and the community to discuss at this time.

Agenda items 10.1 (The Australian Feldenkrais Guild), 10.5 (Feldenkrais Guild of North America), and 10.6 (Schweizerischer Feldenkrais Verband) were presented, see Appendix #3

6. IFF Academy Report

6.1 IFF Academy Static Website

This was presented directly from the web by Rob Black:

www.feldenkrais-method.org/iff/academy

6.2 IFF Academy Coordinator

Using the history of IFF Academy PRISMA Blue workshops that have been held, as an example of how the IFF Academy workshops are presented and developed globally, Carolin Theuring gave a graphic presentation on a large wall map of the world.

- May 2001 Kassel, Germany version 1
- December 2001 Vitznau, Switzerland version 2
- April 2002 Munich, Germany version 3
- November 2002 Auckland, New Zealand version 4
- February 2003 Oregon, USA version 4
- March 2003 Köln, Germany version 5
- April 2003 Bern, Switzerland version 5
- May 2003 Soesterberg, The Netherlands Short version 1
- July 2003 Graz, Austria, version 4
- October 2003 New York State, USA version 4
- November 2003 Paris, France Short version 2
- April 2004 Uzès, France Short version 3

These workshops demonstrate integration of the principles of the IFF Academy:

- Connection to Professional field
- Team work
- Publish and exchange materials within the frame of the Academy
- Open source
- Evaluation

Acceptance of these principles allows unlimited access into the Resources of the Academy.

6.3 Academy Day May 2003 Evaluation

Barabara Pieper outlined the results of last years successful Academy Day– see Appendix #4 (previously sent as Update#30 August 2003)

She also announced the intention to have an Academy Day at the European Congress in March 2005.

6.4 Supervision

Francesca White reported that since last Assembly another model had been tried and evaluated. This project requests feedback and involvement from community. There was a suggestion that an article be written reminding the community of availability of The Continuous Learning booklet plus information about the project.

6.5 Competency Project

Markus Riesen presented the structure of the Competency Project. He indicated that the role of Reflective Group was unclear, now that that the Steering Committee had been established, and they would ask Steering Committee to clarify whether there was an ongoing role for a Reflective Group.

The next steps for the project were outlined.

The Report from the Stuttgart pilot workshop in January was briefly commented on as circulated in IFF Update # 2004 13 www.feldenkrais-method.org/iff/academy

The following questions were discussed and answered by the Competency Project Committee:

- Is what we are doing comparable to analysis expert systems in computers?
- How is this Feldenkrais competency distinctive from other professions?
- How many other workshops will there be and where are you in this process?
- What is the role of the steering committee in this process?
- Competency regardless of nationality. Is it possible for competency to be culture free?
- How is this project keeping in touch with the TAB's competency process?
- Why are competencies addressed through verbalization rather than observation?
- When it is finished, how will it be transferred to other languages?

6.6 Academy GME

Rob Black gave a demonstration of the Interactive Academy site which is still undergoing development.

6.7 Alexander Yanai Discussion Area

Rob Black also introduced how a new area <http://gme.groupmindexpress.com/iff> developing on the GME for the discussion of the content of the Alexander Yanai material could be used. Already there is discussion on Errata for Lessons from Alexander Yanai.

The website should be running in the latter part of 2004 and members are encouraged to promote this through your member organizations.

6.8 Online Research Journal

A decision to publish an online Journal of Research was made at the 2002 Assembly and completion of this exciting new project was presented. Every article has an abstract, some are also in several languages including French, German, English and Spanish. The URL for the Online Research Journal is

<http://www.feldenkrais-method.org/iff/academy/journal/index.htm>

It was emphasized that copyright permissions had been given only for personal use and not for general distribution.

A team of editors will need to be found as Werner Kraus is unable to continue as editor.

Thanks was expressed to Carolin Theuring and Barbara Pieper who led a team to make this project happen.

7. Reports from 2003 Working Groups:

7.1 Logo

Their task was to report last December but they were unable to do so. Joerg Cezanne and Răgi Zubler met in September with two members of the Board of Schweizerischer Feldenkrais Verband, consulted with the Federation and wrote a paper. They now have about 80% of the costs known and will present three alternative ways to administer the logo by December, 2004 so that next by Assembly members of the Federation could arrive with a mandate.

They indicated that the strongest protection of the logo if it was administered by the IFF will cost about 40,000 Swiss Francs for a period of 10 years. There was a suggestion that this is equivalent to a levy of 1 Euro /per year/ practitioner member.

7.2 Membership development

This group was not active during 2003.

7.3 Fee Planning

Delays in preparing budgets constrained this group, they did not meet and they were unable to report.

7.4 Moshe Feldenkrais Centennial

Although this working group did not function, the Moshe Feldenkrais Centennial was a success worldwide as an event with practitioners all over the world celebrating the birthday of Moshe Feldenkrais on May 6th, and later in 2004.

8. New Structure for IFF Boards

Cliff Smyth introduced a proposal for a new structure to enable the Board to continue working functionally. It already works very collectively as a team and the new structure would allow the President to function more as a chair amongst equals. The new structure is supported by a budget that considers more paid administrative work to assist the Directors, including the possibility of creating a position of Assistant to the President and Board.

The new Distribution Centre Board was announced with Cliff Smyth (Chair), Richard Ehrman (Treasurer) and Ilan Jacobson (Director). Previously the IFF Board managed all the Distribution Centre functions. See 14. below.

9. Working group formation

Working groups formed and met during the Assembly to discuss the following:

9.1. How can Members share information/resources?

9.2 How can information about the IFF be brought to the practitioners?

9.3 How can working groups work in ways that are effective?

9.4 What ways of communication have been working and what ways do not work?

9.5 Fee proposals

9.6 Recruitment

The Annual General Assembly was adjourned.

The Extraordinary General Meeting was opened.

10. Proposed changes to Statutes and Internal Regulations (see Appendix #6)

Janie Randerson briefly reviewed the process undertaken in the past year before bringing the proposed changes to the meeting.

It was noted that there was concern about having a non Feldenkrais practitioner on the Board as would be the case where a Treasurer was appointed. The Board pointed out that the proposed provisions in the Statutes and Internal Regulations would only come into effect in the difficult situation of there not being an elected Treasurer. However, it was pointed out that this was the situation of the organization at that time in the Assembly, as there was no nomination for Treasurer to that time.

Proposal #1: Changes to statutes 13 and 16, Internal Regulations 9

'That the proposed changes to the Statutes Articles 13 and 16 and Internal Regulations 9 be accepted.'

Moved: Janie Randerson

Seconded: Sabina Graf-Pointner

For: 44

Against: 4

Abstentions: 0.

The proposal was accepted.

Proposal #2: Changes to Article 15

Moved: George Krutz
Seconded: Răgi Zubler
Unanimously agreed.

Proposal #3: Changes to Internal Regulations 5.3,6.2 and 9.2.

'That the proposed changes to the Internal Regulations 5.3, 6.2 and 9.2 be accepted.'

Moved: George Krutz
Seconded: Kathryn Goldman-Schuyler
Unanimously agreed.

Proposal #4: Changes to Internal Regulation 9.10.

'That the proposed changes to the Internal Regulations 9.10 be accepted.'

Moved: Jenni Evans
Seconded: Rob Black
Unanimously agreed.

Proposal #5: Changes to Internal Regulation 14

'That the proposed changes to the Internal Regulation 14 be accepted.'

Moved: Kathryn Goldman-Schuyler
Seconded: Sabina Graf-Pointner
Unanimously agreed.

Proposal #6: Changes to Internal Regulation 11.7

'That the proposed changes to the Internal Regulations 11.7 be accepted.'

Moved: George Krutz
Seconded: Lynette Reid
For: 46
Opposed: 0
Abstentions: 3
The proposal was accepted.

Proposal #7: Amendment to proposed changes to Internal Regulation 12.7

Amendment to Proposed change to Internal Regulation 12.7 to read:
Payment of directors outside their organizational roles as described in the Statutes will be approved by **two thirds** of the Finance Committee who shall then report any such authorization of payments to the next General Assembly.....

Moved: Jenni Evans
Seconded: Iris Urbassek
For: 36
Opposed: 10

Abstentions: 3

The proposal was accepted.

Proposal #8: Changes to Internal Regulation 12.7

'That the proposed changes to the Internal Regulations 12.7 as amended be accepted.'

Moved: Iris Urbassek

Seconded: Kathryn Golman-Schuyler

For: 41

Opposed: 8

Abstentions: 0

The proposal was accepted.

Extraordinary General Assembly was closed.

Annual General Assembly was reconvened

11. Other Agenda items from Members

Agenda items 10.4 (Feldenkrais-Gilde Deutschland e.V.), 10.2, (The Feldenkrais Guild U.K.), 10.3(Associazione Italiana Insegnanti Del Metodo Feldenkrais ALLMF), and 10.7 (Svenska Forbundet for Auktoriserade Feldenkraispedagoger) were presented and discussed, see Appendix #3. The issues were later discussed in more depth in working groups, see 20.

12. IFF Non-Profit Financial Report

The Expense and Income Report for IFF Non- Profit was presented, see Appendix # 7

It was noted that the Board had decided that the donation from Berufsverband der Feldenkrais-Lehrerinnen und Lehrer Schweiz of 2415.54 Euro was to be applied to the Archive project.

Proposal :

'That this Assembly accepts the Finance Report as presented by the Treasurer'

Moved: Rob Black

Seconded : Marianne Lacina

Unanimously agreed.

13. Educational Materials and Archives Report

Richard Erhman gave an informative power point presentation of the progress of the Archive working group over the past year. Materials have been unpacked, organized, catalogued and some materials scanned. A fundraising project has been launched and this group is also trying to gather as many original materials as possible for the Archive.

The Materials Committee presented a report of their activities over the year, see Appendix #8. There is enthusiasm to publish new materials in the next 12 months. Thanks were expressed to Michel Silice-Feldenkrais, Ellen Soloway, Jeremy Kraus, Bonnie Humiston and Arlyn Zones and also to all representatives for encouraging their members not to copy the published materials.

14. IFF DC Inc.

Until the May 2004 General Meeting of the IFF Distribution Center Inc Board, before this Assembly, the membership of this Board of the IFF Distribution Center Inc Board was the same

as the non-profit Board. At this IFF Distribution Center Inc Board meeting it was decided to elect a Board of 3 members. In preparing this idea of having a separate Board for our subsidiary, we consulted with our French associations lawyer (M. Noël Raimon) and our corporate lawyer for the DC (Mr James Jordan). They both recommended creating a small board with clear lines of accountability. For Aims, Purposes and Means for the IFF's Educational Materials Programme see Appendix #9.

Cliff Smyth presented the IFF DC Inc. financial report for January 2003 to December 2003 for the information of members, see Appendix #10. The figures presented represented 9 months, due to a change of financial year. Per month sales were a little lower than we would like, but given that there were substantially no new products produced during 2003, it was a reasonable year financially.

15. IFF Non-Profit Budgets and Fees

Budgets for 2004-2006 were presented and discussed. See Appendix #11.

The implications for the budget with no increase in income and the rationale for a fee increase commencing in 2006 were discussed.

Proposal #1:

'That the non profit budget for 2004 as presented by the Treasurer be accepted'

Moved: Rob Black

Seconded: Răgi Zubler

Unanimously agreed.

Proposal #2:

'To accept the Treasurers non profit budget for 2004 as presented'

Moved: Rob Black

Seconded: Răgi Zubler

Unanimously agreed.

Proposal#3:

'That membership fees remain the same for the 2005 financial year'

Moved: Cliff Smyth

Seconded: Jenni Evans

Unanimously agreed.

There was a subsequent proposal from the Fees working group, see 20.5 below

16. Membership Issues

16.1

We have had enquiries from the Guild in Japan who are considering joining as full members of the IFF.

16.2

A letter was read from Michel Silice Feldenkrais congratulating the IFF on its work, informing of his ill health and offering a resignation. The Board recommended that we write to clarify if Michel wishes to resign membership of the Feldenkrais Family or his individual representation. (*Since the Assembly the Feldenkrais family has confirmed that they wish to remain a Member of the IFF*).

16.3

Guilde Feldenkrais Belge has been unable to pay fees to the IFF for the past two years and attempts to contact by letter, phone and email have not received a reply.

It is proposed that the Board contact the Guilde asking for back dues or send representation to the IFF Annual General Assembly in 2005 with a proposal for consideration by the Assembly.

16.4

Asociación Mexicana del Método Feldenkrais AMMEF reports it is active and organizing workshops around the second training in Mexico, to facilitate communication and build community between practitioners from the first and second training groups there.

16.5

It was reported that a guild may be forming in Spain.

16.6

Eire is also thinking of forming a guild and currently has 5 practitioners.

17. Size of Board of Directors

Currently 7 Directors, as Public Officer has become an appointed position subsequent to the adoption to changes to the Statutes and Internal Regulations earlier in the Assembly (see 10, Proposal #1).

Proposal:

'That the size of the BOD be reduced to 6 until the next Assembly'

Moved: George Krutz

Seconded: Sabina Graf-Pointner

Unanimously agreed.

18. Elections and Appointments

Nominations were reported from the Search Committee and invited from the floor.

Successful election to the following positions were held:

President	3yr	Daniel Clénin	Switzerland
	For:21	Opposed:0	Abstention:1
Treasurer	2yr	Lynette Reid	Canada
	For:22	Opposed:0	Abstention:0
Director	1yr	Silke Maier Bonardi	France

There being no objections to a vote by acclamation, elected unanimously by acclamation

Nominations and successful election to the following Substitute Director positions were held:

Substitute Directors:

1	1yr	Francesca White	Australia
2	1yr	Jenni Evans	Australia
3	1yr	Marianne Lacina	Switzerland

Substitute 1 director position:

Francesca White	15
Jenni Evans	7

Substitute 2 director position:

Jenni Evans	14
Marianne Lacina	8

Substitute 3 director position:

Marianne Lacina

There being no objections to a vote by acclamation, the following Committee Members were elected unanimously by acclamation:

Finance Committee:

1. 3 yr Lester Loops USA

Mediation Committee Substitutes:

1. 1yr Răgi Zubler Switzerland

2. 1yr Ilan Jacobson Israel

The following appointments were made by the Board:

Search committee:

1. George Krutz USA

2. Iris Urbassek Germany

3. Jenni Evans Australia

4. Mette Ulsteen Norway

Public Officer:

Annette Orphal France

19. Sites for Future IFF Assemblies

Feldenkrais-Gilde Deutschland e.V. confirmed their offer to host the IFF Annual General Assembly in March 2005 in Berlin in association with the planned European Congress. Joerg Cezanne informed the Assembly about three sites to be considered by the Board.

There were no offers to host the 2006 IFF Assembly.

20. Working Group Reports

20.1 Resource sharing

This Working group will be ongoing.

Areas of guild management/work where experiences could be shared:

- structures and board work processes
- finances
- boarding staff administration
- publicity and public relations
- communication to practitioners
- recruitment for activities
- membership development
- legal questions

- cooperation with other organizations outside the Feldenkrais
- governmental regulations
- certification or licensing
- policies

20.2 Information to Practitioners

A continuing working group, the 'Spider Web Project', this year plan as a first task a short "snapshot" of this Assembly to Member Organizations.

20.3 How working groups can work

This ongoing working group will write a paper and report at the end of June. This will be shared with all working groups.

20.4 Recruitment

This group will stay in informal contact as they begin to stimulate some ideas for this area.

20.5 Fees

Proposal:

1a. This Assembly agrees that fees for 2005:

- for guilds with under 200 full practitioner members will be EUR 15.25 per practitioner member for the first 25 practitioner members and for 26-200 practitioner members, the fee will be EUR 29.70 per practitioner member
- for guilds with between 201 and 399 practitioners will be EUR 29.70 per practitioner member
- for guilds with 400 or more full practitioner members, the fee for the first 400 member practitioner will be EUR 29.70 per practitioner member, and the fee for 400+ practitioners will be Eur 17.50 per practitioner member

1b. That guilds with over 400 full member practitioners pay EUR 1000 into the Travel Pool in each year.

2. Parts 1a and 1b to be decided by majority vote of the member organizations in a correspondence ballot. The ballot to be sent to members in hard copy by 15 June, 2004. The ballot to be returned to the Secretary by signed hard copy by mail or fax by 15 November, 2004.

The results will be announced by 30 November, 2004

3. If successful, this proposal will supercede the fees approved by the 2004 General Assembly. If not, the fee proposal passed at the Assembly will remain in force.

Moved: Rob Black

Seconded: Iris Urbassek

Unanimously agreed

20.6 Functional Integration for Feldenkrais Organisations

Ongoing working group that will continue to discuss the philosophic approach, examine alternative ways for working processes in the IFF and develop workshop tools to cope with organizational change.

20.7 Logo

Ongoing working group that will report by December 2004 –see 7.1 above.

20.8 Translation of Alexander Yanai Lessons

Ongoing working group that will research past experiences, resources available, policies and contracts and support proposal writing.

20.9 Trademark support.

Representatives from Feldenkrais-Gilde Deutschland e.V.and Svenska Forbundet for Auktoriserade Feldenkraispedagoger met to discuss common issues and share support.

21.Integration process

Back to scanning groups of Day 1 for discussion of process

22. Farewell Tributes and Presentations

Tributes and presentations from many members of the Feldenkrais community present and represented were made to Cliff Smyth who was leaving the Board after serving since 1992, and as President for the past 6 years.

Departing Board members Rineke Brinkhof and Markus Riesen were also warmly thanked for their contributions.

Valued contributions to a successful 2004 Assembly from the Host Frances Schorer, Nederlandse Feldenkrais Vereniging , and the team of volunteers were also acknowledged.

23. Closing

We closed the 13th IFF Annual General Assembly with an ATM sensitively led by Cliff Smyth.

Respectfully submitted

Janie Randerson,
Secretary for IFF Board of Directors, Month,2004