



**IFF Assembly 2017, Paris**

**2017 IFF Assembly Documents: Reports and additional materials**

**IFF Reports**

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## **IFF Board of Directors Report, 2017**

*This year, we frame our board report by the Purposes of the IFF...*

***Develop visions for the future of the Feldenkrais Method and its practice, informed by diverse cultures and ways of thinking. Provide forums for the international community to meet and develop through constructive dialogue, and facilitate and stimulate communication within the international community.***

**New Members:** In 2016 we welcomed a new member guild, Chile, and welcomed The EuroTAB Council as a provisional member. In 2017 we will be reviewing ETC's provisional membership and voting on membership for a potential new member...Columbia.

**Website:** Work on the new website was completed this year, and regular maintenance and improvements continue

**Newsletter:** In the past year 1 issue of the Newsletter has been sent to all guilds & reps – a total of 774 contacts (many of whom are guild officers & reps who then are responsible for sharing it with their guild). We have activated the News Section of the IFF website, with the first article is already in place, with more to come. Chris Kresge, USA, is the Newsletter Editor. (more information in Newsletter Report)

**Midterm Meeting of the Board:** The Board held its midterm meeting in Tel Aviv, while there we met with Tsippi Silice, and some members of Israeli Guild. At present, the Board is a very diverse international body with members from Argentina, Brussels, Israel, New Zealand and USA. Work at the midterm meeting included planning for the Assembly, reviewing financial information, reviewing IFF policies, reviewing IFF purposes and discussing vision, discussing materials, orientation for new members and officers, and more.

***Collect and archive the legacy of educational materials developed by Moshe Feldenkrais and make this heritage available to all teachers of the Method.***

**Materials:** After years of dedicated & energetic service, Jenni Evans stepped down as Materials Manager and we welcomed a new Materials Manager, longtime IFF volunteer Kai Schaper. Kai is already hard at work. Highlights of the Materials program in the year from Assembly 2016 to Assembly 2017 include: (more information in Materials Report)

- Amherst Training: re-digitisation to fix some faulty materials - volunteer: Yehuda Mellul.
- San Francisco Training, transcription of Year 2 (1976) - Carolyn Fleg, Paul Senechko, Brandee Selck.
- Creating a larger collection of website images, finding of a larger collection - Kai & Jenni.
- New materials in French & German, acquisition from Arielle Silice & digitisation - Denise Alvarez-Braunschweig.
- Esalen Workshops, digitisation of additional materials.
- Organizing some Judo photos of Moshe - Martina Paul and others.

- Amherst Training, transcription Week 8&9 Year 1 (1980) - Bonnie Humiston, Stephanie Spink, Arlyn Zones.
- New materials in German, acquisition & digitisation - Tsippy Ganon.
- Six Alexander Yanni Lessons were translated into Spanish & are available on the website – Diana Sternbach

At the 2016 Assembly the Board appointed a new member of the DC Board: Janice Vincent, who has a background in marketing, joins Jenni Evans & Kornelia Himmel.

***Support research and development in the Feldenkrais Method, and collect and disseminate information about the development of the Feldenkrais Method and its practice.***

Significant progress was made on the IFF Research Journal during the past year, led by Research Journal Editor Cliff Smyth.

- Research Journal 5 is complete: <http://iffresearchjournal.org/volume/5/index>
- Journal 6 is in process: more detailed information on will be presented in Research Report at Assembly
- Journal 7 & 8 are in planning stages. (More information in Research Report)

***Support programs for the development of the professional field of the Feldenkrais Method, and foster a culture of continuous learning among Feldenkrais teachers.***

**Synergy** (of assessment efforts): The IFF Synergy working group met six times during the year, planning, moving the work ahead and creating a survey. (more details in Synergy Report)

**Competency Facilitator Training** was held in Utrecht, The Netherlands. (more details in Competency Report)

***Look for places of interface and interchange of the Feldenkrais Method with neighbouring disciplines, international bodies and society.***

**Films Translated:** The Contemporary Images Working group was active in 2016: The titles and other written language on the promotional films already produced (*Feldenkrais for Everyday life, Feldenkrais Babies, Feldenkrais Dignity, Feldenkrais Outdoors & Feldenkrais Moments*) were translated into nine languages. Italian, Dutch, German, Spanish, French, Hebrew, Russian, Arab and Swedish. These are now available on the IFF Website.

**Logo:** We have maintained our international trademark (“the Logo”), renewing in countries where necessary, and taking steps to register the logo in Chile, home of our newest member guild. Rägi Zuebler, Switzerland, is our Logo Volunteer.

**ISMETA:** The International Somatic Movement Education and Therapy Association (ISMETA) sponsored the 2nd Body IQ Festival organized by the Somatische Akademie of Berlin in October 2016. Katrin Springherr (IFF) attended a representative of IFF, with Joachim Foss (FVD) also in attendance. More. (more information available in your copy of *IFF World News* – emailed Jan 28, 2017)

## Research Report, IFF Assembly 2017

*(this is the same information as in the Appendix to Agenda)*

Research Journal Motion: That the IFF fund the Research Journal at €5,500 for completing issue 5 in budget year 2016, and €1,500 for preparing issue 6 in budget year 2017.

Passed Unanimously. Total spent in 2016: €5,108

### Progress

- Journal 5 is complete: <http://iffresearchjournal.org/volume/5/index>
- Journal 6 is in process: more detailed information on will be presented in Research Report at Assembly
- Journal 7 & 8 are in planning stages

### Format & Location of Journal

- We need to ensure that the Journal articles can be found on GoogleScholar and other search engines and obtain the status for the Journal as a peer reviewed publication.
- We are investigating moving the Journal to Open Journal Systems software from the Public Knowledge Project, which has built-in tools to help “robots” of Google Scholar find it). It offers tools for formatting, archiving, indexing (which would solve the GoogleScholar, etc issue), and promotion (e.g. RSS feeds). Cliff is investigating this: with our website consultant (Jessica Taylor).
- This move would solve a couple challenges: the current journal website must be maintained with Drupal software, which is difficult and expensive to use. If we moved the Journal to the IFF website, it would be easier to maintain, but it would have less academic credibility (a separate, independent website is seen as more credible). So Open Journal Systems seems like a good solution.

### The Journal still faces significant challenges.

- Co-ordination: a large proportion of the co-ordination is going through Cliff, with a lot of assistance from one or two Editors for Vol 5 and Vol 6. This was a major contributor to the slowness of the revived Journal in its first 3 years. Long term it will not be sustainable for Cliff to continue at this level.
- Cliff set the Journal up with the idea of having a team of Editors. For the early development of the policies for the Journal and with volume 5, and with Thomas Kampe for volume 6, this has worked very well. However, for all the usual very good reasons it is also true that these volunteers are not always available, come in and out, and find it hard to sustain participation.
- Some options could include: (a) creating a core team of 3 or 4 people (perhaps Editors, Board Liaison, paid admin assistant) to do this co-ordination work, and/or in the long run, (b) a paid Editor position.
- We need more volunteers for (a) reviewing papers, and (b) contributing to the editorial committee role of giving feedback on policies, processes, etc. One option would be to recruit some additional volunteers as reviewers without them being Editors. Because some Editors have also not been able to be so active, it would be great to recruit a few more Editors as well.

**IFF WORLD NEWSLETTER REPORT, 2017 IFF Assembly**

May 2017 Chrish Kresge, Editor

At the IFF Assembly in Herzberg, Switzerland, in May 2011, we passed a motion to create a newsletter on a trial basis. We would have approximately 2-3 issues per year, and include news of interest to practitioners around the world. Additionally, we wanted to promote the DC Materials and news about the IFF to practitioners who were not familiar with the IFF.

To date we have put out 12 issues of the Newsletter, plus a few updates and notes to subscribers. The circulation is currently at 774 contacts, but this does not reflect how many people have read it, since it gets forwarded to members everywhere by IFF reps. The Amherst videos and Robert Golden photos have been a huge draw.

Cost incurred last year for hosting on Constant Contact from May 2016 to May 2017 was \$490. This is for a contact list of 501 to 2,000 contacts. Please note that if we cancel the Constant Contact account, we will lose all past contents, which means (I believe) that past newsletters cannot be hosted on IFF website.

Feedback for the IFF World Newsletter is always positive, though it is challenging to solicit contributions. Suggestions from members at Assembly are most welcome.

As in the past, I would like to request :

- That each rep makes the effort to send the newsletter out to their members in a timely fashion.
- That each member guild/association volunteers to be featured in the newsletter and plans accordingly.
- That reps try to send in one newsworthy item for each issue – even if it's just a photograph and caption.

Thank-you for your support.

Respectfully,

Chrish Kresge

## 2016/2017 Synergy Group Report for 2017 IFF Assembly

The Synergy Group was formed in August 2015 for the purpose of fostering formative assessment pilot programs in Feldenkrais training programs around the world. The group was not successful in achieving the 2015/2016 goals due to resistance on the part of some concerned Educational Directors. Interviews with those individuals indicated that the formative assessment processes were not clearly understood. The Synergy Group proposed that educational videos of experienced Competency Facilitators working through the processes would be an effective means of communicating about formative assessment. Our goal is educate training education staff, practitioners, and students in training programs about the formative assessment process options and their potential benefits.

Gathering a group of experienced Competency Facilitators together seemed like the most efficient way to get video of various kinds of people engaging in the different processes. During the 2016 IFF Assembly, Sonia Amicucci was planning to propose a second gathering of experienced Competency Facilitators for 2017. This purpose of this meeting was to support each other, share experiences, new processes and materials and find new ways to attract people to the competency work.

The opportunity to share new processes and materials with experienced Competency Facilitators was exciting for both the FGNA and ETC members of the Synergy Group. The FGNA Feldenkrais Practitioner Profile, as well as the accompanying competency cards and worksheets were ready to share with the international community. Also, the ETC Assessment Tool had been developed with great care and then pilot tested at Wingate, but despite excellent feedback it had not been shared with any other groups.

The Synergy Group together with Sonia Amicucci proposed the following motion at the 2016 IFF Assembly:

*May 2016 MOTION:*

*IFF to fund a joint Competency Facilitator/Synergy Group meeting before the IFF Assembly in Paris in 2017*

*Goals:*

*To reconnect with facilitators and share*

*To find new ways to attract people to the competency work*

*Share the inventions of new processes and materials*

*Share which activities we don't practice anymore*

*To video competency processes and produce instructional videos for trainers, practitioners, students*

*Process to plan the meeting*

*Sonia Amicucci, Eitan Sarig, Candy Conino will work together to create a program which will benefit both groups*

**Budget:**

*Room hire: 700 euros/day for 4 days =2800 euros*

*Supplies : \$100 euros*

*Materials for attendees: \$300 euros*

*Video editing: 1500 euros*

*Supplies – \$100 euros*

*\$300 euros for cards and booklets*

*Total: 4700 euros, to be considered in the 2017 budget*

**2016/2017**

The Synergy Group met six times during the 2016/2017 year.

Meeting agendas included:

- Reporting on progress with formative assessment education, experimentation and or acceptance in the educational communities around the world.
- Planning for the Competency Facilitator meeting in Paris, May 2017
- Obtaining permission from ETC to share the ETC Assessment Tool as an educational opportunity for experienced Competency Facilitators

Relative to the Competency Facilitator's meeting:

**December 2016:**

ETC granted permission for the ETC Assessment Tool to be used for educational purposes at the Competency Facilitators meeting in Paris.

The first notice about the upcoming meeting in Paris was sent to Competency Facilitators world-wide.

Anat Aviv Yeffet agreed to step in for Eitan Sarig as one of the meeting facilitators, specifically to share the ETC Assessment Tool. Eitan was unable to facilitate in the meeting because of his commitments as an IFF Board member on those days.

**January 2017:**

The second invitation to the Paris meeting, this one with more specific details, was sent to Competency Facilitator world wide.

**February 2017:**

After reflection on the responses to the invitation, Sonia, Anat, and Candy agreed that cancelling the meeting was most sensible. At that time there was one facilitator committed to attending. There were four more who expressed interest, but noted the necessity of delaying their decision until the last minute. There were five responses regrettably declining the invitation. This handful of potential attendees did not justify the expense of the meeting, in our opinion. Delaying the decision another month may have yielded a few

more attendees, but it also would have created a hardship for those who needed to purchase non-refundable airline tickets.

**Future Plans:**

The Synergy Group remains committed to the stated goal: to educate training education staff, practitioners, and students in training programs about the formative assessment process options and their potential benefits.

Creating educational videos to demonstrate and explain formative assessment is an excellent next step. Gathering Competency Facilitators together to share and grow the work is one of the best ways for the Synergy Group to move toward the stated goal.

To that end, Sonia Amicucci and the members of the Synergy Group collaborated to create a survey questionnaire for Competency Facilitators. This included the new group of facilitators recently trained in Utrecht. The survey was designed to:

- Discover how many Competency Facilitators are actively engaged with competency activities
- Discover how many Competency Facilitators are interested to gather together for support, sharing, and advanced training
- Identify the times of the year and the locations that are most likely to draw facilitators to such a meeting

**2017 Competency Facilitator Survey Results**

The survey, which included 10 questions was sent to a total of 107 Facilitators. This included the 17 trained in Soesterberg/2007, 43 trained in Frankfurt/2011, 12 trained in Melbourne/2011, 18 trained in North Carolina/2012, and 17 trained in Utrecht/2017. The survey was sent by email, and five of the emails were returned, marked as invalid addresses. In all, 37 Competency Facilitators responded to the survey. According to Survey Monkey, this 36% respondent rate is average for an internal survey such as this one. The questions, and a summary of the results are as follows:

### **How long have you been a Competency Facilitator?**

Of those who responded to the survey, one quarter of them have been Competency Facilitators for 7-10 years and half all the respondents have been facilitators for 4-6 years. Six respondents were newly trained in Utrecht and three respondents noted they have been trained for 1-3 years.

### **Have you actively engaged in facilitating Competency activities in the last year?**

Of the 37 respondents, 12 indicated that they have been active and 25 noted that they have not.

### **Which of these Competency Facilitator activities have you worked with in the last year?**

The responses to this survey indicated that Competency Facilitators have been less actively engaged with practitioners during the last year as compared to the last five years. During the last year, only one facilitator taught a competency workshop, five facilitators worked with practitioners one on one, and two facilitators used the processes in competency study groups. Most of the activity reported in the last year was related to the Synergy Group members' initiatives to communicate with the international community, the educational community and the Guilds about the benefits of competency-based education and assessment.

### **Which of these Competency activities have you worked with in the last five years?**

Of the thirty-six respondents, 17 Facilitators reported teaching Competency workshops, 13 reported working privately with one practitioner at a time, 5 worked with Competency study groups, and 13 noted other efforts to educate their local Feldenkrais communities about the basics and benefits of Competency processes.

### **How does your guild support Competency Facilitator activities?**

Responses indicated that 5-10 years ago there was support from the guilds, but since 2012 support has been negligible. Individuals commented that Competency is included in some guild websites and two Facilitators responded that their guilds "seem curious". One individual noted that guild financial and organizational support was "in the making".

**Are you interested in meeting with other Competency Facilitators to support each other, share experiences, and learn new processes and materials?**

Twenty-six respondents said that they were interested in meeting, and eleven noted little to no interest. Seventeen Facilitators commented that they would attend only if the meeting was convenient and affordable.

**What time of year would be most convenient for you to meet with other Competency Facilitators?**

**How many days would you like this meeting to be?**

The strongest interest was in a two or three day meeting in January, February or March.

**Where would you like this workshop to be?**

Nineteen respondents preferred Europe, twelve respondents preferred a meeting in the USA with most of them requesting the East coast, and five preferred Australia.

**What would make this meeting rewarding for you?**

Common themes focused on inspiration, intellectual and practical collaboration, building enthusiasm in the Guilds, expanding the work to the educational community, sharing new materials, and updating current materials.

With the results of this survey, a new meeting time and place will be proposed. The goal is to be prepared to make a motion for this at the 2017 IFF Assembly. None of the allocated IFF funds have been used for the cancelled meeting, but Sonia and Candy requested and received approval for funding for a one day meeting before the 2017 Assembly to plan for a Competency Facilitators meeting.

Submitted respectfully by the Synergy Group

Candy Conino  
 Franck Armand  
 Anat Aviv Yeffet  
 Jenni Evans  
 Alice Friedman  
 Jeff Haller  
 KathyJames  
 Dwight Pargee  
 Eitan Sarig

## Contemporary Images Working Group Report for IFF Assembly 2017

Motion: That IFF budget €1000 for editing text in existing films with translations into languages of member Guilds.

Passed Unanimously

Amount spent in 2016 for this project: €1000

Marcela Bretschneider

Diana Sternbach

The working group presented during the Annual Assembly held in Vienna ,four new films:

Feldenkrais for every days life, Feldenkrais Outdoors, Feldenkrais Dignity and Feldenkrais Babies.

The four films plus the film Feldenkrais Moments presented in Berlin 2015 were in english during and translated to nine languages ,titles,quotes and phrases .

Italian-Dutch-German-Spanish-French-Hebrew-Russian- Arab and Swedish.

The new fourty five films were sent to the mid term meeting in Israel in a pen -drive.

Later the material was distributed from Argentina by the editor Sebastian Viggiola to each country representative to check the translations.

Regulations for the use of the films were discussed and solved within the Material Committee team.

The films are in the process of being uploaded to the International Feldenkrais Federation Web Site.

A brief summary of each film is requested in every language.This could be discussed during the Annual Meeting In Paris.

The IFF budget for editing texts of the five films into nine languages ,creating fourty five new films was totally spend to pay Sebastian Viggiolla ´s professional fee as editor plus some editing elements as pen drives an other materials.