



# World NEWS

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Special Millennium Edition



# Contents

## Page

1. Editorial	
2. How it all began	Gisela Senssfelder
3. Ahead of his Time	Mieke Weeda
4. Founding of the Cleveland International Fellowship	Carl-Henrik Guste
5. My CIF Programme in Scotland	Thomas Kurapkaitis
6. Memories of Eight Years on the CIF Executive	Yvonne Csanyi
7. CIP USA	Dorothy Faller
7. Bits and Bobs (Updates to National branch Lists etc)	
8. CIF France.	Mireille Boucher
8. CIF Scotland	Iain Cameron
9. A Call to Latin American CIF	Dora DoradelTesoNeumann
10. CIF Conference 2001 - Italy	
15. Letters to the Editor	
16. CIF Kenya	Robert. Miller Mbehelo
16. CIF India A Twenty Year Journey	Zarin Gupta
17. CIF Sweden	Birgitta Holm
18. CIF Netherlands	Trudy de Wit
18. CIF Finland	Gunvor Brettschneider
19. CIF Czech Republic	Marketa Scalicka
19. CIF Hungary	Marte Zsoltos
20. CIF Austria	Ursula Schrnitz
20. A Personal Message	Mae O' Shea
20. I don't Want To Bug You But...!	Editor
21. CIF USA at the Millennium	Jane Ollendorff
22. Exchange Programme in Kenya	Angele Höppener.
23. CIF National Branches	
Inside back Cover	Exchange Programmes 2001

**Front Cover:** *"It takes all kinds to Make a World" - Painting by Urban Frank, commissioned by CIF Sweden for the 1993 Stockholm Conference. Many thanks are due to Urban for agreeing for its use in CIF World News and to Mats Olssen and Birgitta Holm, for making the arrangements.*

Greetings and Congratulations to Carl-Henrik Guste, Member of CIF Sweden, Founding Member of CIF, and contributor to this edition of CIF World News, on the occasion of his Eightieth Birthday in August, of this year.

# THE COUNCIL OF INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



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Dear World News Reader,

Welcome to this special Millennium Edition of World News.

As each New Year is a time for both reflection on the past, and looking forward to the future, so the Millennium gives us the opportunity to assess progress over the forty years that CIF has been in existence, and look forward also to the plans and aspirations we have for this great organisation in the new Millennium.

In this issue, we have articles by two of the early pioneers of CIF, Gisela Senssfelder and Carl-Henrik Guste. Their recollections form part of the important history of this organisation, and by putting them into print now we may succeed in capturing it for future generations. We also have contributions by National Branches that are looking back on achievements and forward to challenging new developments.

Shining through all of these contributions is the spirit and ideals of Henry Ollendorff, and it is fitting that this edition also contains the text of the memorial lecture given by Mieke Weeda at the Netherlands Conference.

And of course we also have the accounts of participants in programmes - in Kenya and in Scotland. Today's participants, as Roland Mattisson would often remind us, are the future of CIF. We must nurture them and involve them so that the organisation we have all gained so much from can endure and continue to develop in the century ahead.

With best Wishes

David Middleton

Editor



*Henry S Ollendorff*

*hanks to you 'Clevelanders' who have come from all over the world to join us in our Five Yearly Reunion.*

*I know that you have come not only to renew old friendships and meet the Cleveland family, but also to reinforce and reaffirm the purpose of our Cleveland Program." With these words Henry Ollendorff welcomed the roughly 120 participants in the 3<sup>rd</sup> international reunion in Hamburg in November of 1960*

All those present were willing and eager to assist Henry in his efforts and discussed how this could best be achieved. So the suggestion was made to found an organisation of former CIP participants and friends of the program - a proposal which was accepted with enthusiasm. An organisation to assist CIP in recruiting and selection of new participants and to strengthen relations and friendship among people. How to put the idea into effect? The reunion lasted only one weekend, so we had to become active immediately. By-laws were formulated, countries represented (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden. Countries not represented were to be asked to elect a representative by written ballot, and the officers were elected. They were:

President: Sven Konind Nielson, Denmark  
 Vice-President: Ulla Berglin, Sweden  
 Secretary Gisela: Senssfelder, Germany  
 Treasurer: Kees den Hoedt, Netherlands  
 Reporter: Marlies Homberger, Germany  
 (She had published the first CIF newspaper a year before)

Officers and Board decided on an annual membership fee of US\$ 3.00. It was also decided that the organisation was to be incorporated at the Secretary's residence, which was in Stuttgart, Germany.

How satisfied we all were with the positive results of the conference. The officers and board members went home, eager to start their work!

But then the difficulties began: our newly elected president sent the promised article for the CIF newsletter introducing the new organisation, but thereafter he disappeared and no one ever heard of him again. Problems arose also with the registration as a non-profit organisation: The statutes did not correspond with German law. They not only needed a German translation, some articles also had to be changed.

The Executive Committee, now without a president but with the active assistance of Henry Ollendorff, revised the articles at its next meeting a year later, but the Stuttgart Registration Court turned them down again. None of us had experience in this business and the lack of money did not allow us to consult a specialist. This went on with the newly elected officers in 1962, until we could finally report that The "Cleveland International Fellowship- an Organisation to promote International Exchanges for Youth Leaders and Social Workers" was finally incorporated as a non-profit organisation on 26 May 1964.

Gisela Senssfelder



*1975 Conference, Berlin. Henry, Carl-Henrik Guste, and Nicole de Caquery.*

## AHEAD OF HIS TIME

**The Henry B. Ollendorff Memorial Lecture.**  
**By Mieke Weeda, CIF Netherlands.**

*Lecture inaugurating the 1999 conference  
 at Noordvijkherhook, Netherlands*

In our world, where wars and internal conflicts are still a too common feature, where hate and fear towards anyone and anything different often overrules all other feelings, where fundamentalism and nationalism are guiding our outlook on the world and our dealing with "the other", we talk a lot about tolerance and reconciliation. At the end of every war, of every conflict - small or large, between countries or in a neighbourhood - we officially declare that "now the process of reconciliation has to start", that people "now have to find a new way of peaceful co-existence". We design aid packages, we decide who will be in and who will be out, we send peacekeepers and aid workers in to guide these processes.

And then we are shocked and disillusioned when it does not work, when it does not happen "just like that", when the killing continues and when acts of violence and revenge overshadow everything else. Then we look for justification: we place it in the historical context of a region, or a people, basically to wash our hands, to say it is not our fault that is does not work, "it is them". The social workers amongst us will recognise the principle of "blaming the victim". We search so hard for "signs of hope" that we tend to overlook, or even disregard, the small changes that are taking place. We want the big picture - the result now, please!

We often determine what reconciliation is. how the outcome should look like, what the process should be. With 'We'. I don't mean the West versus South and East, or The US versus the rest of us. I mean in each and every continent, region, country or neighbourhood, those who have the upper hand, the strongest party, the winner, the ones who easily take on a 'big brother attitude' and dictate, as it always has been, the terms of surrender - nowadays including the terms of reconciliation.

How much could they still learn from a person like Henry B. Ollendorff, the founder of CIP. He would tell us that it all has to start with ourselves, that "we have to cross boundaries, and even more important, we must help others to cross their boundaries towards us for the realisation of a human community, the reality of peace".

He would tell us that it needs real commitment, not just a project or aid package; it needs respect to the other, the acceptance that there are differences, not the feeling that we are basically better; it needs dialogue, meaning listening and understanding, not preaching. The 'old' social work principle of "starting where the client is" would perfectly fit here, or to say it in the development jargon, supporting the bottom up initiatives and not dictating from the top down. And all this needs TIME, much more time than we nowadays think we can commit.

These ideas of Henry, on which basis he also started the CIP, were not ideologies from a book. They were formed through his own experiences. He lived through the ordeal of injustice; he had to leave his country because he was persecuted for his political convictions and his race. He had to cross his own border when going back to teach young German Youth Workers. He lived his ideas and ideals and he tried to take others around him on this same path of commitment, openness towards others, searching for justice and peace. By bringing people together from all over the world he envisioned a process that would start with the individual, with us, and would be carried on into our daily lives, our communities. A sometimes painful process of having to let go of your pre-conceived ideas, of your own truth.

A lot of people here have not known Henry personally. I have had that privilege. Henry was not the man who wished to be glorified. He always struck me as kind, committed and determined. He loved people. He did not expect wonders, not expect direct changes just because of CIP. He believed in long-term processes, he just hoped we would carry on. That is the challenge we are facing, as CIP and CIF. It is not just about creating exchange programmes, not just about growing professionally, not just reunions. CIF is about keeping the hope alive, finding ways to cross our own boundaries and help others to cross theirs, to overcome our prejudice, to open up and listen and to commit ourselves, in our own work, our own environment to send a different message into the world. The coming days and the theme of the Netherlands Conference will give us a great opportunity for practice.

In the way he looked at reconciliation he was clearly AHEAD OF HIS TIME. I think he often still is. We can try, each in our own way, with our own abilities, carry that message forward, we can all make a difference. Only in this way we can keep the uniqueness of CIP and CIF alive.

**"One man can make a difference. Each of us will try"**

## Founding of the Cleveland International Fellowship

Fin Early History of CIF by Carl-Henrik Guste



*Boat trip through Hamburg Harbour-*

*CIF inaugural conference 1960*

**I**n the first week of November 1960 former participants in the Cleveland International Program for youth leaders and social workers (CIP) were invited to a reunion in Hamburg. The reunion, which comprised returning participants during the first five years, was arranged by Gentian friends with Gisela Senssfelder as the leading person. A very interesting and well prepared program was presented with lectures, group discussions, visits to social agencies, and sight-seeing in the city of Hamburg.

Some persons in the 1960 group of participants - Manfred Zelinski, Jurgen Kalcher, John Berge and myself had talked about founding a fellowship organisation. Gisela Senssfelder was also informed about the idea and told us that she was positive and ready to give her support. During one of the group sessions for the 1960 group the idea was presented and by common consent we made a proposal at one of the final plenary sessions. The idea was to establish a fellowship organisation open to all participants in the Cleveland International Program. The aim was to invite all former and future participants in the CIP to join the fellowship. Even' second year an international conference should be arranged in different countries, and in each country former participants should be involved in recruiting new participants in the CIP from their home country. The name should be the Cleveland International Fellowship - CIF.

I was appointed to propound the proposal from the 1960 participant group. Many declared that they supported the idea, and almost all of the participants in the reunion approved the proposal. After a lengthy discussion an interim Board of Directors was elected among those present attendees from different countries. During the night preliminary statutes were drawn up, and the next day the meeting was able to found the Cleveland International Fellowship. It was decided that the officers ought to live not too far away from each other in order to make it possible for them to see each other and have planning meetings. In addition to the Office Bearers detailed in Gisela's article, Board Members were: Denise Nicodeme, Belgium; Syend Korup Nielsen, Denmark; Nub Suikkari, Finland; Nicole Human, France; Anita Gerdes, Germany; Eustathia Papaconstantinou, Greece; Anna Maria Parantella, Italy; Armand Tamraz, Lebanon; Netty Swart, the Netherlands; Jane Wang, Norway; Carl-Henrik Guste, Sweden; and Predrag Vrtunski, Yugoslavia.

The German group was asked to prepare the first conference in 1962. Henry Ollendorff was a strong leader of CIP and he had until now selected every participant in the programme through personally interviewing them. However, through his very good relationship with Gisela he became convinced that CIF could be a very valuable complement to CIP and used the organisation and its national branches to recruit new participants in the CIP programmes.

The aims of the CIF were formulated as follows:

- a) *to keep relations between participants through personal contacts, conferences and reunions, and the publication of the "Cleveland International":*
- b) *to assist in recruiting and selecting new participants*
- c) *to facilitate technical assistance by former participants in the professional areas of youth and social work in developing countries;*
- d) *to sponsor or facilitate the invitation of American youth and social workers to countries participating in the CIP.*

The publication of the "Cleveland International" the CIF Newsletter had a good start. Up to December 1961 five issues of the newspaper had been distributed to CIP alumni and in December 1961 the number of members had reached 165. Gisela and the Editor Maries Homberger did a tremendous job.

Gisela was eager to make the CIF work and she became its Secretary General for the first eleven years. Gisela took the full responsibility for the new-born organisation and gathered an active group of German colleagues for planning the first CIF conference in 1962.

"The 1962 International Reunion" had as its conference theme "Professional Education for Youth and Social Workers". It took place at the YMCA Center at Dassel in Lower Saxony, Germany, approximately 20 miles south of Hamburg. This was a very fine venue in the "Sollinggebirge" in the midst of beautiful woods. Besides rooms of good but not luxury standard, a large auditorium and several conference rooms were available. The conference was sponsored by the German government, which meant that the participants only had to pay their travel expenses. The standard of the lectures and the group work was very high, and in the middle of the conference all participants were invited to visit different social agencies. I had the pleasure of working together with Gisela for two years full of interesting activities and work on the development of the CIF. During these two years I fully realised Gisela's capacity and we started a friendship that has lasted through all the years.

To me Gisela was CIF personified during the first eleven years.

The second reunion was held in the Netherlands and at the Board of Directors' meeting Hilde Zamorsky from Salzburg, Austria, was elected President. I had just started a new career in my life, and therefore had to desist from active involvement in the CIF for many years. but in the 1980s I returned as chairman of the Nominating Committee and was also elected treasurer of the Henry B. Ollendorf Association (HBOA) for ten years.

Carl-Henrik Guste

## My CIF Programme

So, the programme is over, but I am leaving Scotland with a peaceful heart. Yes, yes, I think it's my greatest experience. I came to Scotland from a very busy life - from a society where people respect those who are busy, where you always have something which is not finished, where you don't have time just for *being*, enjoying small things, searching for your deepest value. I was afraid of silence as well, but what I've found is that I'm running from myself, so I've made the first challenge to myself to try to push away all noise which is in you and then everything what you'll see, take as an opportunity to learn.

The first experience was to live with four different families. You're making already warm relationships with one and at that moment you have to go to another family. You have to leave what you already know for an unknown environment. But at this point a miracle happens. You discover something which your narrow mind could never imagine. It's like climbing up a mountain. When you are at the very bottom of it in the forest you think what a beauty - deer, springs of water, birds

- You feel as if you are in heaven and you don't want to leave this beauty. But when you are leaving the place which you already know and where you feel very safe and warm you climb up to discover that the beauty is much wider. Now you can see that besides the wonderful forest are marvellous fields with different flowers, and when you are climbing further up the mountain every five minutes in front of you is appearing wider and wider view and when reaching the top you discover that it's worth it to leave the forest where you can see just 15 meters around, for the whole wide panorama which comes to you when you are on the top of the mountain. The same is true of my host families. It's very nice to stay with one of them, but it's worth it to leave the one and to find out that there is a lot of other nice things which you should experience.

The second experience I had was the 'school for listening and observing'. I am used to saying what I think, but I didn't listen really, I just responded to peoples words. But what I found is that listening is about looking for a piece of gold in another person. CIF is a challenge of leaving yourself a little to listen and look. It's when you leave yourself a little and look for that piece of gold that you see how other people really live.

Thank you CIF Scotland for giving me a wonderful life experience where I found gold and was challenged and changed a bit.

Thomas Kurapaitis Lithuania

## My memories of Eight years in the CIF Executive Committee

**M**y memories could be detailed in two parts.

I had been serving CIF International for 8 years: between 1989 and 1993 as vice-president (Presidents: Umehani Nagarwala, Helmut Oeckl) and from 1993 to 1997 as President. I got the task of editing CIF Newsletter as Vice President. The earlier form and size of CIF Newsletter was soon changed and my main goal was to fill it with up to date news about the life of our different National Branches and of CIF International. The style of sending was changed as well, we tried to send it in bulk to the different countries in order to save the costs of mailing. We had to revise the whole mailing list (the Newsletter had been edited in France and printed in India previously) The list needed urgent updating and we had to decrease the number of issues steadily, because of wrong addresses. We introduced in the Newsletter two permanent new features: the list of exchange programs and the latest list of National Branches. It was important for me to be reliable and send the Newsletter regularly twice a year. As Vice President I prepared a CIF folder for disseminating information in an easy written way.

After being elected as President I passed the tasks of editing to Roland Mattisson (Sweden) who had been working in the same spirit.

It was not easy to continue the work as CIF President as my responsibilities increased a lot. I regarded as my main task to keep the contact with the National Branches, to help to establish new branches, and especially to support CIP and CIF alumni in Eastern and Middle Europe (after the political change there) and in the developing countries. My correspondence grew from day to day. I started with giving a summary of the activities of the Executive Committee in the Newsletter instead of sending a President's letter to each National Branch every year.

So all members could get direct information about the latest steps and plans every 6

months. I initiated also the changes in the Board of Director's meetings. The idea was to have meetings every year. The first trial happened in 1996, between two conference years, when we invited all Branch Presidents of to Budapest. During this meeting we made the decision to meet more often and for a longer time: to arrive one day earlier before the conferences so as to increase the time available for meetings and to organise meetings in the year between conferences. This shows in a practical way that the Board of Director's is the real decision making body.

We also made some decisions about the voting rights of persons representing a NB. The earlier conditions were extended with a questionnaire filled in by every NB's President.

During my time, the Executive Committee implemented the decision of more controlled grants and participation in an exchange program (rules about how many years have to pass between participation in programmes). A new CIF participants register was edited thanks to Mirmo Merola's activity and also a new exchange program application form and evaluation form was established in 1994). The two common deadlines for sending the application forms to branches were also introduced at the same time. There was an exceptional and successful meeting for the exchange program leaders in Budapest in 1996. A new version of the guidelines for organising a CIF National Branch came out in 1995 in co-operation with the Secretary of those days, Purnima Mane.

My last activity as President was initiate the process to changing the old out of date CIF statutes. I translated the original official German text and discovered that it was quite different from the unofficial version we had been using for many years.

These eight years were extraordinarily busy but they were an important part of my life and I really enjoyed this time. Our Committee had been working in absolute co-operation and always in good spirit. I can just wish that the next team should have a similar harmony and intensive working style during the coming years in the third millennium.

*Yvonne Csanyi*  
*Past President, CIF International*

# CIPUSA



**T**he Council of International Programs USA program began in 1956 with the establishment of the Cleveland International Program (CIP) by our founder, German emigre Henry Ollendorff. Henry wanted to begin a program with Social Workers and Youth Leaders to help the world grow together. The earlier visitors came to USA by ship from Germany but the program grew in numbers to involve 110 countries shortly thereafter. As the program in Cleveland became too large to manage all around the United States, affiliate programs developed in major US cities, and a national office, the Council of International Programs (also located in Cleveland, Ohio), was founded in 1965.

The CIP received a substantial funding from the US Government until 1993, when many programs of this nature were cut back from US governmental funding. It was difficult for the program to operate without this help. After several years of hard work and dedication, the national office has been reconstituted as the Council of International Programs USA (CIPUSA), and it has received permission from the United States Information Agency (now absorbed by the US State Department) to bring persons in several additional professional fields, as J-1 trainees. The program now operates with 8 affiliates around the United States, in Chicago, Illinois; Cleveland.

Ohio; Columbus, Ohio; Denver, Colorado; Morgantown, West Virginia; San Diego, California; San Francisco, California, and Scranton, Pennsylvania.

CIPUSA also operates directly out of the national office in Cleveland to cover the areas not covered by the affiliates. The whole United States is now open for this wonderful program.

We welcome our strong relationship with our sister organisation, the Council of International Fellowship. We are so very proud that Henry's idea spread so well and so far around the world, and that programs built on the original model could be started by the alumnae of the Council in their home countries.

Dorothy A. Faller  
Secretary General. CEO.

## BITS AND BOBS

UPDATES TO NATION BRANCH LIST ETC.

Gunvor Brettschneider, Finland- New e-mail address: [gunvor.brettschneider@surfn.net](mailto:gunvor.brettschneider@surfn.net)

CIF Tanzania, new e-mail address: [cif\\_tz@hotmail.com](mailto:cif_tz@hotmail.com)



Kalle Albert Masango,  
President, Cameroon Branch -  
New Address: PO 664 Kumba.

Chief Jimho Abodunrin, Contact Person Nigeria ,  
e-mail: [root99@myiq.skannet.com](mailto:root99@myiq.skannet.com)

Contact Person Ukraine: Ms Oscane  
Savtchenko, Street Bovnova 9, Apt 47,  
252040, Kiev, Ukraine.

# CIF FRANCE

CIF FRANCE was established in 1966. The First exchange programme took place in 1970 and since then, 281 participants have taken part in our programmes. CIF FRANCE organised its first International conference in the seventies. The second was held in Dourdan near Paris in 1991 when we received 281 delegates from 27 countries.

Every year we organise a programme. The Language required is French. Our programme is financially supported by the French Embassy in different Countries all over the world. In the last years we have received participants from as far away as Madagascar, Japan, Brasil and Uruguay.

We plan to send more participants to CIF programmes in other countries and to continue to organise programmes in France. Presently, we are working to build a CIF France Web site. We are hopeful that our programme participants will open new CIF branches in their own countries and will eventually organise their own programmes. We have been asked for programme in the Spanish language and so we hope that it will be possible in the future to arrange this for participants from Latin American countries. We will be attending most of the CIF international meetings and supporting its actions. In future, we hope that a French member will be part of the CIF International, so that we can be more involved.

*Finally we hope that the CIF will have a long and rich life with members all over the world.*

Mireille Bouchier. President, CIF France



The CIF Branch began in Scotland in 1989/90 when a few social workers from a small Region took responsibility for a small incoming programme. The programme revolved around this small local authority in Scotland for a time but now our Board and members are from all around the country. This in itself brings logistical problems, even in our small country, but it is well worth the effort. A capital city does not reflect a country.

A programme for up to 8 social workers is run annually with placements taking them to the four comers of the country.

My hopes for the future are:

1. That the National Branch will have 'twigs' around the country where local people can have a meaningful input to the Branch.
2. That our programme can host many more people each year and that we can encourage more people from the UK to go on programmes.
3. That the ethos of CIF will permeate and influence our country.

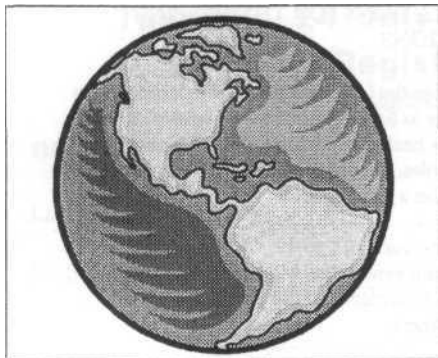
My desire for CIF International is that:

- (1) It will practice subsidiarity to the full i.e. allow and encourage National Branches to begin and develop in the best way 'they' can *within their own resources and culture* without making overdue demands from the Executive or International Board as most bureaucracies do.
- (2) Be true to the founder Henry Ollindorff by keeping 'fellowship' and 'understanding of cultures' as the key aspects of CIF with social work and allied professions being the means through which these aims can be obtained.
- (3) That CIF will continue to help develop the person to person contacts and friendships for which it is already renowned

*"May the world continue to have diversity in culture and practice but may barriers and misunderstandings cease!"*

Iain Cameron President CIF Scotland (UK)

# A Call to Latin American CIF



**S**tarting in 1960 Argentina has benefited, through the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, by the recruitment of social workers for the CIP programme in USA.

From then on, owing to the stimulus of Dr. Henry Ollendorff and the efforts of his colleagues, such as Ruth Schildhouse( Columbus Director), Paul Unger (Honorary), Ranjit Majunder (Morgentown. W.V Director) and others. Argentina sent it's representatives to the U.S. programs

Some years later and thanks to the personal involvement of Ruth Schildhouse we resolved to create our CIF Argentina branch and get acquainted with other Latin American alumni, as previously done with the International CIF. So in 1980 , while I was attending the CIF. Congress in Koneistaing, Germany, I received invaluable encouragement from Bob Parsons( former CIF International President)

On my return I tried to organise our CIF branch with the help of some Argentine alumni. Following the International CIF model we contacted several times the Latin American alumni, in order to integrate and build a coherent group, in accordance with the formal statutes of CIF. Until now ,ve have had no answer, except from Peru, and we haven't been able to fulfil our objective.

It is easy to understand that social workers of the whole world have enormous things in common, but also the diversity of languages, regional and cultural patterns make some differences

Notwithstanding these differences such as unequal financial resources and social as well as living conditions, love for our fellow men/women and the wish to help different social groups join instead of separate us.

The European Union has economic reason, even when a Spanish subject is different from a Swedish, Greek or Dutch citizen because of their language or social or cultural patterns. Nevertheless they have been able to change and respond to each other much better because, above economical necessity, the diversity of physical, mental or social problems of the "global village" (Marshall Mc Luhan) tend to integrate us all.

Likewise Latin America has not one identity: there are 20 countries, with diverse characteristics but with a common language. Spanish (18) albeit with different accents, and **only** one country where Portuguese is spoken, (Brazil) and a **country** where the language is French (Haiti).

Sometimes people mistake Latin America with South America .but this should not be so. Latin America with its 20 countries is located in North America, Central America and South America. Consequently Latin America is both in the Northern hemisphere and in the Southern hemisphere.

These countries are: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, Cuba, Panama, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Republic of Dominica, Haiti, and Argentina.

The large majority of the population are Catholic, (but this is not exclusive), have a low standard of living, a great sense of belonging to families, and in some countries low technological levels not caused by lack of knowledge but by high costs.

*Now my call is to all Latin America alumni. With the new virtual technologies such as the Internet, we can integrate ourselves and have the countries of the Northern hemisphere know us in our own environment. If you share this dream, please get in touch with me:*

*Dora del Teso Neumann.*  
President of CIF Argentina  
E.Mail: ddelteso@unimoron.edu.ar.

# CIF CONFERENCE 2001

Theme: DIVERSITY: A RESOURCE OR A MENACE FOR THE THIRD  
MILLENNIUM SOCIETY - IMPLICATIONS FOR THE HELPING  
PROFESSIONS

The many changes that Italy has experienced in the last decades, as have happened in the rest of the world, have provided a synergy to find innovative ways to look at what seems "different" referring to issues such as health, psychiatric illness, criminality, chemical dependency, handicap, sexual roles, religious, cultural and migration pressures, to mention a just a few.

All of this has brought about many new situations and problems, and maybe the opportunity to reflect on how we perceive and experience what is unfamiliar to us; thus, the choice to open or close our minds, to understand the part of ourselves that exists in others.

As individuals and professionals we are constantly faced, in a minimal or maximal way, with all kinds of diversities. Once recognised, how do we react to them? Often they evolve into tensions and disputes. At other times they can be used to enhance and enrich individuals and society.

Being part of CIF should place us in a privileged position. What is our experience? How can we effectively contribute to the debate? We hope that everyone will participate actively and share their invaluable experiential knowledge of these issues.

It is our intention to structure the Conference in such a way that it will allow everyone to be a protagonist in the making of the event. Let us discover, therefore, with all the respect that is due, how much we have to give, and also to take away from the conference, because of our own unique experience and our own diversity.

We want share with you our reflections about the diversity of immigration, because it is a new problem for Italy, a country people used to move away from. It is a problem for other European countries as well, as the world is getting smaller and it is easier to move from one country or continent to another. The diversity of migrants is an objective diversity.

The second area we are proposing to reflect on is the more subjective psychological diversity. In recent years Italy made a big contribution to a new way of taking care of mentally ill people, the so-called *anti-psychiatry initiative*. Within this we would like to share our experience of *anti-segregation*

## A CIF Conferences Story

Italy is a country of history. All around Rome you can find memories of ancient times.

The CIF story doesn't have a history going back centuries, but it will last. Why not make a lasting record of all the conferences? We will ask the CIF Country Branches which have organised a conference to make a poster about that unique event, in order to remind us of it. Afterwards we can make a book from that material.

Do not delay. Book today to receive maximum discount. We look forward to seeing you!

# CIF CONFERENCE 2001

Sassone (Rome), Italy

Tuesday 24 July to Sunday 29 July, 2001

## Delegate Registration & Booking Form

(Please fill in ALL sections clearly)

### DELEGATE DETAILS

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Place of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Male  Female  Nationality \_\_\_\_\_

Address (as used in your country) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone/fax number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail** (if you don't have it, please find one you can use) \_\_\_\_\_

Present Profession : \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a paying member of CIF? Yes  No

Have you participated in a CIF/CIP programme? \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

(This form continue on the reverse side!)

## ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodations: double room \_\_\_\_\_ single room \_\_\_\_\_

more than two beds \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to share the room with:

Date of arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of departure: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any special **diet** requirements? No:  Yes:  (details): \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any other special need :

## ACCOMPANYING PERSONS

Number of Adults \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_ Child Ages \_\_\_\_\_

Names/relation to delegate \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if you would be interested in details on organised activities for

children Yes  No

**TRAVEL.** Please indicate how do you intend to travel to Rome:

Plane:  Train:  Car:  Coach/bus:

and when you suppose to arrive:

There will probably be a CIF bus at the **Fiumicino airport** on set hours and date **with** an extra cost (approximately 10 Euros) to take you directly to the Conference site, please look at the meeting point for it.

Are you interested in the pre-tour: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ in the post-tour: Yes \_

If you are interested we will sent all information by letter or e-mail.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Site**

The Conference will take place at a facility about 20 km. South of Rome, easily reached by train and only 100 metres from the small station of **SASSONE**. It used to be a seminar and it can host more than 300 people, with ample spaces for our type of Conference. Do come equipped with something against mosquitoes. By the way, there is a swimming pool we might be able to use to cool down a bit. Safe parking space available. The address is: Istituto Madonna del Carmine - Via Doganale,1 (Via dei Laghi Km. 2,7) - 00040 SASSONE CIAMPINO (Roma) Italy  
Tel. 0039 06 7960185 - 0039 06 7960247 - Fax: 0039 06 7961515

**Rooms**

Mostly double rooms with private bathroom/toilet; a few single rooms with private bath/toilet on a first come first served basis with a 20% extra charge. For added beds in a double room there will not be a reduction of the normal Conference fee.

**Food**

Meals will normally be served at the dining room of the Conference Centre, excluded some packed lunches in occasion of visits/excursions. Vegetarian meals can be served.

**The Weather**

It is more and more difficult to predict the weather, even if you are a professional weather forecaster. Let us just say that the end of the month of July is usually quite warm. Some areas of the Conference site have air conditioning (dining room and general assembly hall), unfortunately not the rooms.

**Costs**

Prices for the Conference are fully inclusive of the following:

- > Conference fees and facility visits
- > Accommodation and all meals from 24 to 29 morning
- > Musical entertainment

**Web Site**

The site <http://www.cifitalia.it/> will update all the information about the CIF Conference. Have a look at it!

**Pre and post conference tours**

We plan to organize a 4 days pre conference tour in Toscana: Siena and Firenze and a 4 days post conference tour in Umbria: Assisi and Perugia, the cost depends on the number of participants. For single request for accommodation in Italy you can ask the agency by e-mail [fwtadv@tiscalinet.it](mailto:fwtadv@tiscalinet.it).

**Please see reverse side!**

Prices noted below are PER PERSON and are applicable up to and including May 15th, 2001.

Booking received after May 15th, 2001 **will** incur a 15% increase.

50 EUROS deposit PER PERSON must be sent with attached registration form by such date. This deposit **will** be deducted from your registration fee.

If such deposit is not sent by January 31<sup>st</sup> 2001, there **will** be a 25 Euros increase on the fee.

15<sup>th</sup> May 2001 BALANCE IS DUE .

AH bookings cancelled before May 15<sup>th</sup> will forfeit the deposit (it will not be returned), but a full refund on the balance will be made if already paid; bookings cancelled after this date will not be entitled to a refund of the deposit and/or the balance (fee, excluding the deposit of 50 EUROS).

Basic/normal fee for CIF member/Family* in double room . . . . .	370 Euros
(extra nights 30 euros/ meals 13 euros)	
Basic/normal fee for CIF member/Family* in single room . . . . .	440 Euros
(extra nights 35 euros/ meals 13 euros)	
Fee for non-members of CIF in double room . . . . .	410 Euros
(extra nights 35 euros/ meals 15 euros)	
Fee for non-members of CIF in single room . . . . .	490 Euros
(extra nights 40 euros/ meals 15 euros)	
Children up to 14 years old . . . . .	210 Euros
(extra nights 25 euros/ meals 10 euros)	

Payment can be made by international bank draft/bank order free of all charge and should be in Euros, made out to **C.I.F. ITALIA**, account n. 19016 - ABI 01005 - CAB 03212 c/o BNL ROMA EST ag. 12 P. S. Emerenziana, 12 00199 Roma.

Booking forms must be returned with receipt of payment (a copy will be OK) to: Maria Stefani Via Poggio Catino,12 00199 Roma (Italy)

It is also possible to register via e-mail on the web site "<http://www.cifitalia.it/>." The reservation will be done after the bank received the payment.

\* *We consider family members: spouses, children and parents*

# Letters to the Editor



## *From Trudy de Wit, CIF Netherlands*

The conference 1999 seems far behind us already CIF-The Netherlands wants to thank you all again for participating in the conference. Also we were very happy to read the several kind reports of participants that were published in the last World News. For those we also want to thank you very kindly. As several of you mentioned in your reports, it was quite a task to organise the conference, but it gave us a lot of fun and good memories, it was absolutely worthwhile.

To complete the conference and give it a Finishing touch, we took it upon us, to make a conference report. The report contains an introduction, the lectures (or summaries thereof) of the keynote speakers, an overview of the workshops and my final remarks. To make the report available to you, we sent a free copy to CIF International and to each CIF-branch.

For those of you who also would like to have a copy, we have some extra copies, not for free alas, but for 30 Dutch guilders (which is the equivalent of \$ 15,-) postal costs incl.

You can send your order to CIF the Netherlands, P.O. Box 202, 3500 AE Utrecht, The Netherlands, and please mail the payment at the same time to our bank: Account number 3231.05.092 of the RABObank, Den Haag eo; care of: Stichting. C.I.P.- C.I.F. , Leertendijk 5, 7683 SE Den Ham. We will send you the copy after we have received your payment. Thanks again to those who attended the conference and see you again in Italy.

Trudy

## *From Mimmo Merola*

Hello Dear Friends,

We are all very busy working on the challenging task of the Rome Conference. We want to make sure that we can welcome you to an exceptional event.. Maria is especially busy, so I have taken a moment to remind you that apart from the details in this issue of World News, you can get the latest information on our website at [www.cifitalia.it](http://www.cifitalia.it). Look forward to seeing you in Rome. In the meantime, a big hug to everyone.  
Mimmo

## *From Jane Ollendorff*

Dear Friends,

Just to let everyone know that Martha has moved to a new address in Georgia so as to be near her daughter Monica. She is well and recently accompanied Frank and I on a vacation to Alaska. I'm sure she would be delighted to hear from her CIF/CIP friends. Her address is:  
Martha Ollendorff,  
530 Northside Drive, D230  
Carrollton, GA 30117, USA  
Telephone +770-830-0762

## Web Site Update

CIF Sweden is currently testing its web-site and should be up and running soon.

CIF France and CIF Germany are actively planning theirs and will hope to report progress in the not too distant future.

Other branches which have recorded an interest in developing web sites are the Czech Republic and Tanzania. Information on starting a web site was sent to all branches recently, and there will be a workshop at the Rome Conference for all those interested to compare notes.

## Does anyone have Roland's Address?

Roland Mattisson was appointed to the editorial board for this edition of World News, but it has been impossible to contact him by letter or E.mail. He was expected to be in Ecuador, but the recent unrest there may have made communication difficult. If anyone has an up to date address, please get in touch **with** me.

Editor



Some of the greatest achievements for CIF-Kenya were the CIF-Exchange Programme between 3rd and 30th March 2000, the registration of our National Branch, the recruitment of members into the Branch and our branch elections for Executive Committee members on 3rd June, 2000.

The participants in our Exchange Programme came from Finland, Sweden, The Netherlands and U.S.A. CIF-Kenya takes this opportunity to sincerely thank the National Branches of these countries for recommending the participants to CIF-Kenya Programme.

Unlike any other Programme that I know of, these participants became ambassadors of CIF-Kenya in their work placements and Host families. They introduced CIF at every stage and advised the Executive Committee what next that it should do to improve the next Programme. The Executive Committee of CIF-Kenya worked around the clock to find host Organisations, which were scarce, but we got just enough to place everybody. Our surprise was the long list of Kenyan host families. We could not use every host family that had applied because we had just 5 participants.

CIF-Kenya's future plans are to forge partnership Programmes with other N.G.O's in Kenya working in our field. We intend to host up to eight participants during the next Programme. Plans are underway to send 2 - 3 delegates to the CIF-World Conference in Rome next year. CIF-Kenya also intends to extend its advertisement strategies. Finally, during the 2001 CIF - Exchange Programme in Kenya, CIF-Kenya plans to host all participants in Nakuru town and secure them work placements together with host family living here. This is in an effort to reduce costs.

Our hopes and wishes for the development of CIF-International are that all the National Branches affiliated to CIF-International should set up a fund that can help pay for branch President's travel and conference expenses to enable them participate in meetings and conferences since Branches from developing countries may not have sufficient funds.

*Ronald Miller Mbehelo  
National Co-ordinator*

## *CIF India:*

### *A Twenty - year Journey*

At a CIF International Conference in Germany in 1980, Mr. Diwakar Agashe, member, CIF India, volunteered to host the next International conference in India. Only on his return did he realise the magnitude of the task. But all the CIF participants pooled their resources together to make the conference a success. This was the beginning of the CIF in India, twenty years ago. The organisation grew in strength from year to year and began the International Exchange in India from 1983. Initially only 3 countries participated.

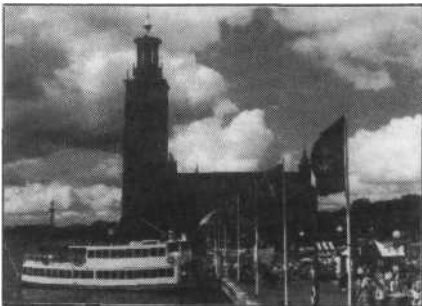
Now we have all the countries from Europe and America participating in our programme. This year we have participants from Australia and New Zealand as well, though they do not have National branches. The response for CIF India has grown over the years. There is a realisation that Indian Exchange offers valuable exposure on rural, tribal and urban social issues.

The Indian initiative grew over a period of time as Indian participants took to International activities. Three Indian committee members were elected to positions as Secretary, President and Treasurer in the International Board of CIF. In fact, both Indian Presidents of CIF

International continued for a second term. CIF Inter-national had started a newsletter which was discontinued for some time. It was restarted in 1985 under the leadership of the Indian President, at no extra cost to CIF International. We are happy it continues to date. In 1985 at the International Conference in USA, CIF India was awarded The Best National Branch. Mr. Agashe was also awarded a trophy for The Best Inter-national Social Worker of the Year.

CIF India is a self funded initiative with no government or private funding. The activities are funded entirely through the participants fees and all committee members offer their services on honorary basis. The committee and its activities are conducted from homes and offices of members to save on operational overheads. It makes me feel proud that it is the commitment of the members that ensures the success of the CIF programme in India. The CIF India branch has grown sufficiently in strength and experience. CIF India is trying hard to build a corpus fund through which it could aid participants of CIF India programme. It would also like to carry out activities of exchange within this vast country known for its diversity. CIF India hopes to host CIF International Conference in the year 2003 if approved by CIF International.

*Zarin Gupta, Secretary.*



*Stockholm, Sweden, Venue for the 1993 CIF International Conference*

## CIF-SWEDEN

CIF-Sweden started in the early 60's. At that time Sweden sent several participants to U.S.A. every year. The main activities consisted of recruiting participants for the CIP- program, arranging annual meetings with preparation sessions for participants and attending the conferences arranged by CIF. In 1971 Sweden arranged its first conference. Later a seminar was arranged for delegates from Eastern Europe. Exchange programs with other CIF-branches have increased since the 70's. In 1978 Sweden started its exchange program. It began with participants from the U.S.A., then the western European countries were added and today we have had participants from all over Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. The 22nd program ended in June 2000. There was no program in 1993 when we hosted the CIF-Conference for the second time.

CIF-Sweden managed to get an office in the mid 80's, which contributed a lot to branch activities. Arranging the exchange program is a big task and gives members an important mission and a way to get to know each other and colleagues from all over the world. Recruiting participants to programs and involving them in CIF work are important activities. To manage this we appoint different working groups, each carrying its responsibility. Board meetings are open to all members. Members all over the country are encouraged to participate in the work of our branch in different ways. When needed there are many members who give their time and effort to CIF. We have been fortunate to get monetary contribution from the government and from different foundations. In future we want to make CIF known to more Swedes, assist in establishing branches in the Baltic countries and continue the work being done today.

*For CIF International we wish continued good co-operation between branches and recognition from outside for our work towards knowledge, understanding and peace.*

## CIF The Netherlands in the 20th and 21st Century

In the Netherlands the CIP ideas became known when the first Dutch social workers attended the CIP programmes in Cleveland in 1957. After that every year more social workers from The Netherlands attended the CIP programme and became active in The Netherlands. This group organised the first International CIF Conference in 1960, in Egmond, The Netherlands. After CIF was established, The Netherlands was one of the first to start its own branch. For years its main goal was to keep the ideas of CIP / CIF alive in The Netherlands by sending Dutch social workers to the CIP programmes.

Since the Dutch CIF Branch was pretty stable it decided in 1985 to organise a four week Exchange Programme in the Netherlands. The first programme, with only one participant, was successful. This was due in no small part to our excellent participant, who still keeps contact with some of her host families and who gave us courage to go on. Since then 12 programmes have been undertaken in which a total of 76 persons participated. The last programme was in May - June 2000. After arranging the first international conference in the last century we also had the honour to organise the last conference of the 20th Century, on the subject of the many changes in society.

*For the 21st Century we want to keep CIF going. In an age with increasing international links and contacts, with a lot of migration, the need for social work to get to know professional views and methods from abroad and the culture in which they are performed, the CIF programme can have even more importance. Therefore we aim to expand the number of social workers we send to programmes abroad and to increase the number of participant we receive in our programme. To be able to do so we have to look into new ways to get the programme sponsored and to improve stable relations with country wide organisations for social work who are willing to participate in the programme. CIF International can support the local branches by being well organised and by efforts to standardise the programmes, so as to increase its credibility as an organisation.*

## CIF FINLAND



CIF in Finland was founded in 1963 and has today about 55 members. The activities are membership meetings at least twice a year, a membership letter at least three times a year, information about the CIF/CIP programmes in professional magazines and selection of participants for the Exchange Programmes in other countries as well as arranging a six weeks Finish Exchange Programme. The Exchange Programme started in 1986 and until now we have had 111 participants from 34 countries.

In the late Sixties, on the request of Henry Ollendorff, who came to Finland directly from India, we "adopted" two orphans, a sister and brother - from Bangladesh who were living in a SOS Children's Village in India, led by a former CIP participant. We supported the children until they finished their education and left the orphanage and even gave a dowry to the girl when she married.

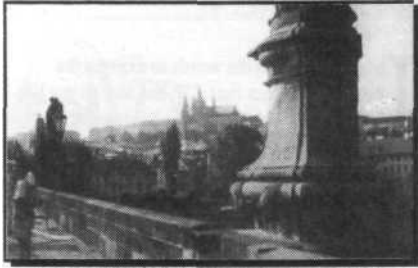
In the year 1978 our Branch hosted the CIF International Conference. In then in the nineties we gave humanitarian help to Karelia, Russia in co-operation with local CIF-participants. A couple of years ago we started anew activity, that is study visits for members and their friends host families and field placement supervisors. We have visited Jyvaskylä in Finland, Petrograd in Russia, and last year Riga in Latvia. Former CIF-participants from the Baltic States were invited to join us last year in Riga.

*Our plans for the future are to arrange a four day trip to Pärnu, Estonia in September this year, to continue to develop our Exchange Programme, to involve more members and to support the Baltic States, in their efforts to start their own National Branches.*

*Gunvor Brettschneider*

President of CIF in Finland

## CIF CZECH REPUBLIC



**W**e had our first participants going to the CIP programme in late sixties when the political situation allowed them to travel to western countries. Then it was not possible to travel freely abroad for twenty years. During this long period we had a brave contact person who kept the contacts active until the more recent changes in the political system, regardless of the problems with authorities in our country.

Only after the changes could the new generation of social workers and youth leaders engage in CIP/CIF activities. This contact person was Ing Vera Novotna. She kept contact with CIF international as well as with alumnae of the programmes in our country. She initiated establishment of our branch and was our first president for six years. It was she who came up with the idea to start our small programme and already seven participants have come for a short ten days programme to our country.

*So my wish for the future is to have sufficient equally enthusiastic members who will be willing to spread the ideas of CIF to the new generation and keep the international exchange activity alive.*

*Marketa Skalicka  
President*

## CIF HUNGARY

**O**ur branch was founded in 1986. The reason was for it that we were ready to organise the International CIF conference in the following year. It was necessary in preparing for this big event in Gödöllő (near Budapest) that we change our status (having had a contact person only before) and start an official branch. All the responsibilities during the conference, with almost 400 participants brought our members very close to each other. Perhaps this is a quite unusual beginning as the traditional way is first to have a well organised and experienced branch and to host a conference later. But the "big leap" was good in our case.

The next important step was taking part in the chain of exchange programs. We have been partners of the CIF Austria Program since 1991. In the beginning we were hosts every year but after the Czech Branch joined us, we see our guests every second year. We think all these common tasks and duties are highly important in keeping a branch active.

A lot of our members were involved during those 4 years when the CIF Newsletter had been edited, printed and distributed from Hungary. Our activities have slowed down a little bit since these very busy years. Our main goal is to keep the branch alive, to lose not too many participants, recruit newcomers mainly through giving out information, and by sending our best people abroad. It is quite difficult to keep these "travellers", to turn them into active members of our branch. I can report only some small successes.

We would like to keep our contacts with CIF International through CIF World News and through being present at the regular Board of Directors meetings and conferences. We all hope that CIF International grows continuously as in the past and is a good example for friendship and good understanding among different nations.

*Marta Zsoldos  
Treasurer of CIF Hungary*

# CIF AUSTRIA

In 1957 the first 3 participants from Austria took part in the CIP programme in Cleveland.

Since then, more than 200 Austrians have participated in CIP and CIF programmes. CIF Austria was constituted in 1979. At present there are 48 members. In 1989 the Austrian exchange programme started. 49 participants from 19 countries of 4 continents have attended 11 programmes so far. For several years CIF Austria has offered joint programmes with CIF Hungary and CIF Czech Republic alternately.

Plans and aspirations for CIF Austria in the future: The international exchange programme forms an essential part of our organisation to keep the spirit of CIF alive. Despite financial problems, we aim at maintaining our programme annually. We shall try hard to enlist more members and to involve the alumni more intensively in our activities. If we succeed to motivate them, then one of our long term goals will be organising a CIF conference in Austria. We envisage a stimulating exchange of ideas with members from neighbouring countries with whom we share a joint programme.

Hopes and wishes for the development of CIF International:

*We hope that our common ideas and ideals, goals and objectives will be the basis for the successful continued existence of CIF. The strength of CIF International will also rely upon the activities of national branches: therefore it will be essential to find means to help CIF branches in countries with inadequate financial funds. Changing realities, demographic, economic and political changes will be challenges for social work.*

*Ursula Schmitz  
President CIF Austria*

The closing date for contributions for the next edition of "World News" is 31<sup>st</sup> November 2000. Please send articles etc., well before this date if you can. Photographs and reports of recent programmes will be particularly welcome.

## *A Personal Message* *Mae O'Shea (USA)*

It is hard to find the words to express the profound impact that CIF has had on my life. It has been the single most broadening experience certainly, not only intellectually, but socially, emotionally, and spiritually as well. Let me explain: I have always been interested in world history and world events, but now that interest is not just academic; it has become personal. World events affect me personally because they affect the people I know and love. Going to the International Conference has become a family reunion. I feel a deep connection to the members of CIF because we share a spiritual quest. The quest to make a more tolerant, understanding, and compassionate world. I have to believe that these are the ingredients for peace.

I feel it is an honour and a privilege to be one of you. See you in Italy!

### **I don't want to bug you but.....**

The production of this edition of World News has been plagued by technical problems. First my computer caught a virus from attachments to e-mails from CIF friends, and then my hard disk crashed, losing data and my internet address book.

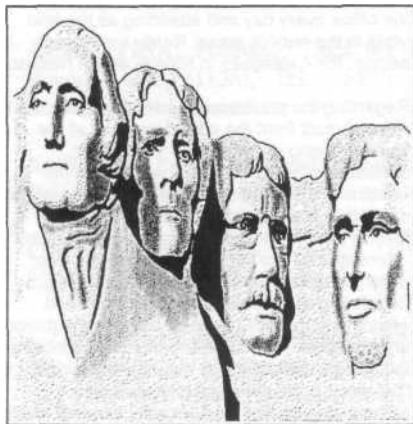
The last problem was my own fault for not backing up the data, and I can't blame anyone for the first. The "Happy 99" virus operates by sending itself to everyone in the victims e-mail address book as an attachment. When opened it looks harmless, providing a scintillating fireworks display on the computer screen. Meantime it is quietly entering your address book and will send itself off to everyone in there next time you make an internet connection. No great harm done you may say, but there is a slump in credibility if you inadvertently infect someone else's computer with this nuisance. Virus's can always be one step ahead of the virus catchers, so there is no real alternative other than to avoid opening attachments.

Could contributors to World News please therefore send contributions by pasting these into an email, instead of sending attachments. So far, ordinary e-mails are thought to be safe.

*David Middleton, Editor*

## CIF-USA AT THE MILLENNIUM

By Jane Ollendorff



The CIF-USA branch began in 1974 by a number of United States participant alumni from the first CIF programs established abroad and CIF participants who settled in the United States. Founding members included Clare Balombin, who served as president for many years, Barbara Luoma, Anne Sabri, Lolly Bailey - Nilsonand Karstin Olofsson. Today the nearly 50 members and many more friends of CIF-USA include CIF and CIP program alumni, host families, program directors, CIP affiliate board members and staff. People often confuse CIP with CIF-USA. CIP—the Cleveland International Program founded in 1957 by Henry Ollendorff, (later called Council of International Programs) has expanded to a number of Affiliate locations in cities across the USA. CIF-USA offers support to CIP as well as encouraging human services professionals from the USA to experience the unique opportunities provided by CIF exchange programs abroad. CIF-USA members, have discovered great personal and professional value in the multicultural experiences offered through CIP and CIF programs. We believe that these exchange opportunities create mutual understanding and respect between people from different cultures contributing to world peace and understanding.

Because CIF-USA members are entirely voluntary and live in communities widely dispersed across the USA, communicating with each other and organising activities becomes a challenge and has taken a number of different creative approaches over the years. We rely upon the CIF-USA Newsletter; members volunteer as regional co-ordinators; retreats have been held at the summer home of past president, Marcia Pops; we have met in conjunction with social work conferences and even conduct planning meetings by conference call on occasion.

In the early years, CIF-USA activities included meeting large groups of CIP participants arriving in New York and departing from Washington, D.C. We organised CIF International Conferences held in the USA and assisted the Jamaica Branch with the 1995 CIF Conference. Under the leadership of past president, Munira Merchant, we raised money for scholarships to International CIF Conferences for participants from developing nations. One of our major activities in the past few years has been the development and biannual updating of a CIF-USA Membership Directory distributed at CIF International Conferences for those CIF members and friends who may need contacts or assistance when visiting the USA. Many of our members serve on local CIP affiliate boards and as host families. In the year 2000, thanks to Clare Balombin, we have a new CIF-USA brochure to use in efforts to recruit professionals from the USA to attend CIF International branch programs. Those members who have participated in a program abroad screen and prepare applicants for the experience. CIF-USA members in various parts of the United States are reaching out to social service and educational organisations to spread the word about CIF and the tremendously enriching professional and personal experiences offered through CIF International.

***Our hope for the future is to involve even more people in CIF activities promoting Henry Ollendorffs vision and dream of "each person can make a difference" and "peace through understanding."***

# EXCHANGE PROGRAM IN KENYA



In march this year five persons attended the CIF exchange program in Kenya. Two from Finland, one from Sweden, one from USA and myself from The Netherlands. It was Kenya's pilot and I'm glad they had the courage to do it. The organising co-ordination team did a very good job. The hospitality was great, and so was their commitment.

We all started at Nairobi for an introduction session of three days. We were informed about social, political, economical situation in Kenya as well as about transport and last but not least about family life in towns and in rural areas. All information proved to be useful for the rest of our stay. The program was divided in two parts; one urban and one rural. For me it meant a start in Nairobi and the second part in Nakuru. In Nairobi I had the opportunity to study the social work of the City Social Services and many of the organisations in their network. On the one hand I got an impression of the current bureaucracy (yes it is also very strong in Kenya) on the other hand I was very impressed by the dedication and the endurance of all the social workers and community workers I met. I was guided by the head of the social workers, Rebecca Shege and that was a great advantage because Rebecca of course knew all the workers, their programs and their locations. She was with me during almost all the field visits and there were some benefits for her through being out of her normal program. I can quite understand that it's interesting to see one's say to day situation through a strangers eyes and hear all the questions and discussions due to relative innocence of that foreigner. What I really liked was that we could realise a true exchange; a mutual sharing of ideas, experiences and knowledge.

The same goes for the second part of the program in Nakuru. There I was working with the CEC (Community Education Concern) This organisation had a sponsor program and a management training program for schools in arid or semi-arid areas. Children and their parents were sponsored and community members

participated in defining their situation, analysing it and finding and implementing solutions. The atmosphere in CEC I liked very much and equally their professionalism. It was a pleasure going to the office every day and attending all the field visits in the remote areas. Really I met great people; the colleagues in Nairobi and in Nakuru.

Regarding the professional part of the program I learned most from the commitment of all the workers; going on, year after year under conditions a "western" social worker can not imagine and would not accept. One of the social workers in Nairobi defined her professional identity as follows "we are *professional* beggars" referring to all the beggars in the streets who often are their clients. Yes a lot of lobbying, negotiating etc., to get money, facilities and equipment, most of the times with foreign donor organisations or countries. It was quite shocking to see how there still was a strong dependence on "the west" Some times people were also complaining on "the western wind blowing" which meant too many, too quick changes in Kenyan society. A dilemma between resignation and sheer subsistence conditions. Corruption and tribalism will be the make or break for Kenya's development for a long time to come, I'm afraid.

Besides the professional exchange there was the cultural component of the program. Culture as daily life. In both Nairobi and Nakuru I had a host family. Generous, loving, warm ; I really could feel my self at home. The house was always open, and also always the fridge! I had a room for my self but for the rest we were living together. Having wonderful and healthy meals, telling stories about past and present, visiting family members and interesting sites in the region.

I never before saw so many American soaps on television! It was very important to be given the chance to be part of their lives: to learn about values, norms traditions, customs and relationships shaped through a context different from the one you are used to in your home country. Let the host families always be part of the program. That goes for all the CIF exchange programs .It really makes you part of the experience, not just watching it.

That in my case completed the African experience. I have never been deeper into Africa than this time. When I lived there I went to my own house where I created my atmosphere after work: always one foot in Europe . I'm very grateful to my host families ( Muuru and Ochieng) and to Ronald Miller Mbehelo and his team,(the Kenya CIF committee) for creating this wonderful experience.

*Angele Höppener. Enschede. The Netherlands.*

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(April 2000)**

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## CIF/CIP Exchange Programmes - Plans for 2001

Country	Length	Dates	Deadlines	Language	Regr. fee	Support	Particip.no.
Austria/ Czech rep	4 weeks + 10 days	April- May	Dec. 1st	English + German if possible	\$300+ \$ 120	Domestic travel	4-6
Finland	6 weeks	April -June	Dec 1st	English	<b>No fee</b>	Dom. travel + allowance	7-10
France	8 weeks	Autumn	March 1"	French	\$ 1000 "	Dom. travel + allowance	12-15
Germany*	4 weeks	Sept	March 1 <sup>st</sup>	English+ German if possible	\$300	Dom. travel	4
Greece	No program	2001					
India	10 weeks	Nov-Jan	March 1 <sup>st</sup>	English	\$650	Dom. travel	10-15
Israel	3 weeks	April/May	Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	English	\$250	Dom. Travel	<b>2</b>
Italy/ Slovenia	No program	2001	CONFE- RENCE	2001 in	ROME		
Kenya	4 weeks	March	Dec 1 "	English	\$450	Dom. Travel	6-8
Netherlands	4 weeks	May-June	Dec 1 "	English	150 NLG		8
Norway	6-7 weeks	May-June	Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	English	No fee	Dom. travel	7-8
Scotland	6 weeks	May-June	Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	English	No fee	Dom. travel	6-8
Sweden	6 weeks	Apr- May	Dec 1 <sup>st</sup>	English	No fee	Dom. travel + allowance	8-12
Turkey	4 weeks	May-June	Dec 1 "	English	\$300	Dom. travel	4-6
United States (CIP)	4,12 or 18 months	Jan, Apr/May, Aug/Sep	None	English	Variable	allowance/ housing	Open

\* The German program will be open only to those who do not need a visa for Germany \*\* From countries where there is no support from the French Embassy.

## LATE BREAKING PROGRAMME NEWS

CIF TANZANIA have announced **that** they propose to run a programme from 18<sup>th</sup> Jun to 14<sup>th</sup> July 2001. It will be based in Dar es Saalam. Mathern Mpondo, CIF Tanzania's National Co-ordinator has e.mailed a detailed programme, the major essentials of which are noted here. Contact the Branch for further details.

- Participants will be limited to six
- A three day Introductory Session will take place at the Tanzania Institute of Social Welfare **in**
- Dar es Salaam. Following a group living experience, participants will move to host families.
- The Introductory Session will be followed by formal sessions on the social, political and cultural system
- in Tanzania.
- The third week will feature visits to agencies in the field.
- The fourth week will entail individual placements in agencies, orientated to the participants interests,
- both in the governmental and NGO sectors. An evaluation session will be held at the end of the programme.
- Areas of study can include mental health, refugees, services for physically and mentally handicapped persons, elder' people, drug abuse, youth services, AIDS and HIV, probation, medical social work, public welfare, rehabilitation, treatment for alcohol abuse.
- The registration fee will be \$400 US dollars. Domestic travel will be included.

**Deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2001. Applications can be sent through branches, or direct to the Tanzania Branch at CIF Tanzania, PO Box 63215, Dar es Salaam. E.mail: cif\_tz@hotmail.com**



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