



**London – August 2003 – Climate: Tropical Meeting the old and new Executive Committes**

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## Message from the Editor

Nüket Atalay

### PEACE THROUGH UNDERSTANDING ...

*Welcome to the Council of International Programs USA! CIPUSA is committed to promoting international understanding among global communities through professional development and cross-cultural exchange.*

*The Council of International Programs USA is a non-profit international exchange program that brings well-qualified professionals to the United States for practical training programs. It allows exchange visitors to meet their professional counterparts, take part in cultural activities, and to uncover insights into American life and society.*

*Our programs not only provide the essential training needed in many countries, but they also develop an open exchange of ideas and an awareness of cultural values which builds tolerance and promotes peace.*

*The global workplace presents new needs and opportunities for professional development and innovation through international exchange. For over 45 years CIPUSA has been shaping international professionals into citizen diplomats who can creatively and capably respond to the social, political, and technological challenges presented to us today. Now more than ever CIPUSA is **training for a changing world***

This is how CIP has expressed its goals on its web page. We as CIF International agree with the principles that gave birth to our organization and share the very same values. In a world in which violence has never stopped, it is a real pleasure to be part of such an organization. We exist because we have shared the experience of being in an exchange program other than our own country, we experienced the shocks and surprises that come when confronted with new and different attitudes. We learned tolerance, respectfulness and empathy.

What is often hard for us to accept is that there is another reality, with people in the world who learned to express differences violently and who believe that their way is the only one. We must be more assertive, by reaching out to those who have such narrow visions, and give them the opportunity to understand other people and values. We must reach out to more people all over the world, who would like to broaden their visions and are willing to listen, to hear and to learn about others, share lives with people who believe in non-violent solutions.

CIF is a collection of people with very important skills. We are all ambassadors for Peace. We have been able to step out of our primary identities and have learned that the world is a much better place when one observes the rich variety of cultures, beliefs and colors. We must not be shy. Let "Peace through Understanding" be our motto and our goal.

## Executive committee July 2003–2005



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### Biographies of the New Members of the Executive Committee:

Lambrini-Ninetta D. Zoi, is an employee of the Hellenic National Council for Social Care since 1977 presently head of the Training and Project Planning Section. She is a social worker and has also studied business administration and languages; has an MA on "Intercultural Social Work and Conflict Management" from the University of applied social sciences Alice Salomon in Berlin.

She has worked: with children/young people in Germany, UK and USA, for the Council of Europe 1994/95 co-ordinated research on "The initial and further training of Social Workers taking into account their changing role", as project National Coordinator at different EU multinational projects, as scientific director and curriculum designer of vocational and further education training projects, as project evaluator, as trainer on different social welfare issues in Greece and Cyprus and as social work practical teacher at the departments of Social Work in Athens and Patras.

She participated at the German ISP in 1982 and 4 months CIP program in Scranton /USA in 1989. She held various offices with CIF Hellas and represented it on CIF Board of Directors since 1991. Lambrini Ninetta D. Zoi was elected president of CIF International at the Goa, India conference in March 2003.

## The Editor's Call for Help:

*This letter was initially addressed to the National Branches, I would like to call for help from to all members, from countries with National Branches, as well as those countries with only contact persons or individual members who would want to keep contact with CIF International.*

I was a member at large at the Executive Committee from 2001–2003, and I am serving as the Vice President at the EC from 2003–2005. I have been the editor of the World News since July 2001, and hope to continue until July 2005.

There are certain concerns about the World News that we all share; and now I would like to ask your help in dealing with them. I believe that the WN is one of the important communication tools for CIF International and that it can and should be improved. It informs people about decisions taken at the General Assembly meetings, about new developments in our branches, about coming exchange programs, etc. It helps us connect personally and professionally. It brings us information about the work of human service professionals from all parts of the world and inspires us as to how we can contribute to a more orderly and peaceful world.

To make all these possible, the WN needs your contributions. It is not enough to have one editor; we also need many more volunteer correspondents, co-editors. We need people who can give us constructive criticism on the contents, design. If and when we go on the web, we will need other technical skills ... In short, we need your help.

I would like to ask you to share this information with other interested persons, and see if we can recruit some volunteers. We welcome articles on personal visions, on past experiences related to CIF, and even contributions about humorous events from readers.

I would remind you that the WN is published twice every year. The deadline for the January issue is end of November, and for the July issue is the end of May.

I hope there will be many volunteers on the WN team – I look forward to hearing from you.

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**Leo Heikkila** is a Finnish social worker, graduated from the Swedish School of Social Work in Helsinki. He is continuing to study for Professional Licentiate Degree and working as a Forensic social worker at the City of Helsinki Social Services Emergency Office.

He participated in CIP/USA in 1987 and in the exchange program in India in 1996 and is active with the Finnish exchange program since 1990. He was elected as member at large at the conference in Goa.

**Nadine Rogue**, After working as a social worker for 13 years, Nadine decided to give a new direction to her professional career. In 1997, she started as intern in the Human Resources department of a law firm in Cleveland/USA. Since 1998, she is working in a relocation company, helping people to relocate to France from countries around the world.

She got involved with CIF France as a host family before she participated in the CIP/USA. Still very much involved in CIF France, she is the vice-president in charge of the French candidates who apply for placements. She believes CIF is an organization where democracy is practiced and where one can learn much from other cultures, and tries to contribute to the organization by trying to remain creative, by launching new projects and by attracting new countries and new members. She was elected as member at large at the conference in Goa.

## Message from the President

Dear CIF Fellows,

**I**n the beginning of August the CIF International Executive Committee together with the new elected members met in London. Zarin Gupta and Margaret Driver have organized and hosted our meetings in truly warmth CIF spirit and we are all very thankful to both of them.

After long meeting hours in tropical London weather the new Executive Committee took over and you will read details in the Minutes that Zarin will send you soon.

I do not mean to be repetitive but I need to share with you that I do too, took over the position of CIF President with trepidation, as it is a major challenge to follow the footsteps of all the illustrious persons who have served CIF International so far and lead the organization since 1960.

I feel fortunate that with the synergy of the capable and motivated EC Members elected by you i.e.:

Mrs. Nüket Atalay from Turkey – Vice President, who will also continue to be the Editor of CIF World News,

Mrs. Zarin Gupta from India – Secretary,

Mrs. Mieke Weeda from the Netherlands – Treasurer,

Ms. Nadine Rogue from France – Member At Large: Exchange Programme Coordinator, and

Mr. Leo Heikkila from Finland – Member At Large: Webmaster & Contact Persons' Coordinator,

our work will reap its fruits by contributing to the continuous vigour growth and flourish of CIF around the world.

As most of you are aware the last Executive Committees according to the Statutes made conscious and continuous efforts to involve the Board of Directors as the true policy-making body of CIF International.

At our annual Board of Directors meeting in Athens in October 2002, we decided to give a closer look to the increasingly globalized world – to our changing environment in order to identify the needed modifications at our operational and structural framework aiming to greater efficiency of our activities, to maintain and expand the unique global CIF mosaic.

A Strategic Planning Process has begun in our BD Meeting in Goa, India and evolves further in working groups via Internet. Our first phase deadline was for the end of June but unfortunately several from us failed to meet it. As summer is over I kindly request your continued involvement to keep this process going. Thus we will have enough background information and concrete proposals for us to meet decisions in the next BD Meeting, which is going to be held in Riga, Latvia, 5th–8th August 2004.

CIF World News plays a key role in keeping the CIF community together. Our Vice President, Nüket Atalay continuing her wonderful but difficult job as the CIF World News Editor will get back to you with concrete requests – call for your active help aiming to try out new ideas towards a common benefit from a more dynamic and participative CIF Word News.

Moreover the other EC Members will also write to you on issues relevant to their specific area of responsibility within the EC.

The CIF International Exchange Programmes together with CIPUSA are the

heart of CIF, as well as the womb for new members, thus we would like to see to continue to be strengthened and growing. In this context EC would like to contribute all efforts for an on going dialogue amongst all Programmes, a cross-country cooperation, as well as regional initiatives.

Allow me to remind you our former President Purnima Mane's words back in 1998 that I consider valid for this Millennium as well: *"For CIF International to grow, it is critical that we have more active National Branches; more contact persons where they do not exist, who may some day be inspired to start a branch; that our list of exchange programmes grows; and that we have fully accounted-for-paying members who want to be active in CIF. But then we are only talking of survival, and survival is not what this is all about. What is critical is that we all believe in the spirit of CIF and of international peace, solidarity and exchange, and work towards making this organization stronger over the years."*

Let us go on joining our efforts and sources aiming to introduce new generations to the spirit and objectives of CIF, encouraging their participation and involvement in the CIF activities and thus developing new methods of tackling social problems and promoting international understanding and world peace.

In this framework I appeal to you to benefit outmost from the possibilities that informatics give us nowadays and communicate on regular basis with EC in order to be able to reflect together all year through and consequently use much more constructive our available time during the Annual Board of Directors Meetings.

With best regards!  
Yours Sincerely,  
Lambrini-Ninetta D. Zoi  
President CIF International

## **My Friend Ninetta**

*Marie Thérèse MARTIN, CIF France Treasurer*

I met Ninetta Zoi in Scranton, Pennsylvania (USA) in 1989, during the CIP program. It was the first time I took part in a CIP program whereas Ninetta had already had previous experience in Germany in 1982. Ninetta and I still continue corresponding with some of the ten participants, but it's with Ninetta that I keep in touch most closely.

Ever since then, we meet each other at the conferences, except for Jamaica, where I didn't go.

The first conference that I attended was in Dourdan, France in 1991. In 1993 we met again at the conference in Stockholm.

Ninetta came to visit me in France. On Bastille Day we went dancing in St Florent /Cher, the small town where I live. Then it was my turn to visit her in Athens where I had the pleasure of meeting her wonderful family and it was another opportunity for us to go out dancing. Ninetta loves dancing!

Whenever I meet Ninetta, she is studying. She seems to love that too! In 2002 she spent a whole year in Berlin (Germany) where she obtained a Masters Degree.

At the last conference in Goa, India, she was elected President of CIF International.

With all my heart I would like to say "Bravo Ninetta."

## **CIF, It's a Family model for the 21st Century**

*A song written and composed by Ravi Gupta*



Ravi Gupta was a great support to all of us in India and in London

The Conference was just an excuse  
 It was more a family reunion  
 Where an Israeli could meet the Palestinian  
 The Indian could greet the Pakistani  
 The American could treat an Iraqi  
 In the spirit of family camaraderie  
 At the conference we had a ball  
 Lots of talking in the Upper Hall  
 Lots of eating by the pool  
 Hot spicy food even at breakfast time  
 We lazed by the Pool  
 At the beach we could cool  
 Eat, drink and make merry  
 At the Academy, Boat Cruise or the Taj  
 But the price to be paid  
 Was hearing all the speeches  
 From professors, doctors, governors and all  
 Generating heat and light and even some snooze  
 They came from Everywhere  
 Timbuktu to Iceland  
 While it's snowing back home  
 We're watching the sunset in a T-shirt  
 Board Meetings, EC Meetings, AGM, et al  
 Selections, Elections, auctions and all  
 Tambola, raffle, flea market and fun  
 Shopping, bargaining, field visits and sun  
 We shared, we cared, we caught up with the past  
 We planned future meetings and visits to all  
 Late nights, packed days, no time for rest  
 For the Body and Mind, it was an unending test  
 The theme of the conference  
 Was the 21st Century Family  
 We discussed many alternate models  
 And concluded, we had found the one  
 It was right here and we were part of it  
 Te wonderful CIF Family  
 Model for the 21st Century

## **The Evolving Family in the 21st Century: A Social Work Challenge Inaugural Address**

*by Purnima MANE, Ex-president of CIF International*

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### **Imagine there's No Family – Working With Myths and Realities about Families**

**I**t gives me great pleasure to be with fellow CIFers at the CIF International Congress in India. I am particularly honored to be invited to present this inaugural address in my own country, by my own CIF branch – a branch I represented on the CIF International Board for eight years. CIF is a family by itself and ever-evolving, so it's most appropriate that we're here to talk of families and how social work is challenged by the evolving nature of families in modern-day life.

I would like to pause to remind us all of Henry Ollendorff, the founder of CIP, the organization which was responsible for the birth of CIF, its alumni association. When Henry started the Council for International Programs, the world was experiencing the effects of the Second World War. National economies were trying to recover from its devastating impact. Most significantly, societies were in need for reconstruction. Families had been broken apart and newer forms of the family were already developing. Women had stepped outside their homes to take over the jobs which enlisted men had left behind in order to go and fight; women were not entirely ready to return to play their earlier roles only within the household. Henry recognized the need for people to come together, and acknowledge and learn from their shared and diverse problems to engender peace and goodwill. Though the exchange programme which he started for social workers, youth leaders and special educators was mainly restricted to Germany and USA, his message was universal and is relevant till today. Not surprisingly, CIP grew to take in people of other countries and soon, its alumni saw fit to develop such programmes around the world, and to give birth to the Council for International Fellowship (CIF), its alumni association. Henry's message for world peace and understanding is poignantly relevant today, when we are on the brink of yet another war. Henry would have been delighted at the theme of this conference because it compels us to pause and think how social change requires an effort to understand and take appropriate action, rather than regret the change, be stymied by it, or act without adequate reflection. I did not know Henry personally, but it has been an honor to work in CIF and serve Henry's larger cause. It would be fitting if I could invite those who did know him, to stand up, so that we could applaud and pay tribute to Henry's legacy. Thank you.

In my speech today, I am going to share some of my reflections on how the family as an institution has changed. It has taken myriad forms and performed a range of functions, none of which are static or devoid of context-and time-specificity. But let me first admit that my reflections today are neither from the perspective of an established sociologist nor a practicing social worker. You will hear eminent sociologists and social workers throughout the meeting who will provide rich perspectives on the evolving nature of the family and the challenges faced by social work as a profession. But as someone who has inhabited the worlds of both these

fields, and who has herself experienced the evolving nature of families, I hope my reflections will provoke you into questioning some of the premises and assumptions which we make about the family, especially as we see it as a homogenous unit.

### **Looking Back at my Life: What is a Family?**

My own family status is a microcosmic reflection of the evolving nature of the family. I was born into a family that included my parents and my father's widowed mother. A sensitive woman, she left the reins of the running of the household to my mother, and my sensible mother in turn relinquished the kitchen and most daily financial matters to my grandmother. Unlike most Indian stereotypes, this was a dream team, this mother in law and daughter in law duo. Both my parents worked as performing artists, challenging traditional gender stereotypes in many ways. Throughout the life cycle of this family, we remained extremely close to our paternal and maternal families. Cousins came to spend vacations with us, and my brother and I went to spend some of our holidays with them. Parental lines became blurred and I referred to my uncle as Daddy and my cousins to my mother as Aai which means mother. When my parents went to the USA where my mother was doing her Masters in Public Health, my parental uncle moved to our home and my maternal aunt looked after my ailing grandmother and served as a surrogate Mum to me and my brother, as she always has. And when my maternal aunt went in her turn to USA for further studies, her 3 year old daughter moved in with us. This pattern was followed by the entire family for years to come.

As we grew up and married, my brother and his family lived with my parents for a while and I moved out to establish my own family. Some years later, my brother moved and I got divorced, but continued to live with my children in a unit. Both of us siblings have maintained close ties with our parents. Asked to describe my family today, I include my parents and my brother's family, even if we do not all live in one household. I live on my own today, with my sons in different countries, working or studying, but the family ties are strong and I still continue to provide the major economic support for my sons. My friends are a major source of support for me and no major decisions are taken without involving them nor any key events celebrated without them. The same is true of some members of my paternal and maternal families.

Several people ask me how I cope living alone. If the family is to be seen as more than a unit into which you are born or married (and adoption is a good example of a healthy adaptation) I believe that we shape our families as we go through life, depending on our needs and circumstances. Any one individual lives through life encountering evolving shapes and functions of his/her family, not all of which are equal to the Western model of nuclear family evolution. I don't see myself as being in an "empty nest", and I never saw myself as being in a nuclear family, even when I lived as a "nuclear" family with my ex-husband and children. The nurturance and support continue to come from those whom I define as belonging to my family – and that definition is much broader and takes

in more than the family I was born into or married into, or with whom I live.

I have also been fortunate to have lived in different parts of the world. While I have lived mostly in India, I have also lived in Switzerland and the United States of America, and like most of the CIF family, have friends and colleagues around the world. While the majority of my friends, neighbors and colleagues have lived in what may be traditionally defined as nuclear or joint families, I have had neighbors which included a single woman who lived with her children and her mother; a female colleague at work whose family includes her woman partner and their children from their earlier marriages; a divorced man who lives with his children and the partner of one of his children; a couple living without marriage for ten years with three children; two gay men who live in partnership and are waiting to adopt. While some may argue that these are living arrangements rather than families, the economic and social ties and the bonds of belongingness that bring these units together and keep them together, make these more than just households.

Some may argue that such families are more typical of the Western world. I'd question this premise. Today, we see increasing members of families in India with single daughters as heads of households, living with parents; couples without children; elderly couples living in senior citizens' homes or at home but financially dependent on children living abroad or in other locations; divorced men and women living with their children, or married to others and living with the children of their partners; and single women or men living together. We also continue to see men in multiple relationships with more than one family. The Census figures may not help us recognize or understand how to interpret these "families" but they do exist. The public dialogue however, continues to talk of "the family", as if it exists in one format and with a few core and universal functions. They forget that now in Africa, we are beginning to see families consisting only of siblings, whose parents died of AIDS.

Increase in life expectancy, growing acceptance of the small family norm, availability of contraception, and increasing economic pressures have led to major changes in the composition of the family, the world over. Even in the developing world, the number of senior citizens is growing without concomitant increase in needed support services; simultaneously, young people, needing education and employment services constitute a majority of the population in these countries, but there is inadequate attention being paid to their needs. There is clear evidence that in some countries, marriage in its traditional form is on the wane, and unions do not necessarily involve a choice to have children. Yet, legal definitions are slow to adapt and acknowledge the very existence and needs of these newer types of families.

There is obviously no universal reality in terms of how families are shaped and what roles they actually perform. The one thing, however, which is fairly universally true is that families, whatever their shape, structure, or function, are under severe pressures due to changing social, economic, political and cultural forces, none of which move in harmony with each other. In countries like India, with increasing numbers of working couples and rising inflation, families are under severe pressure in

terms of coping with child care, and in terms of dealing with care of the elderly with a woeful shortage of services and institutions for the elderly and changes in economic and social circumstances which could have made it possible to provide this care at home. In countries like Afghanistan, the changing political climate over the last decade has put major pressures on the family in every possible way including in terms of gender roles. In countries in sub Saharan Africa, families are under severe pressure because of the HIV/AIDS epidemic which is wiping out the generation of reproductive age, leaving old grandparents responsible for young children or child-headed households, facing a huge amount of stigmatization and discrimination. In Eastern Europe and part of Africa, families are constantly threatened by the aftermaths of war and civil strife. In large parts of South East Asia, families are torn apart by economic recession and urban migration for work. In Western Europe and the United States of America, alternative structures of families are challenged by the social, and at times, legal alienation and discrimination which they continue to encounter. And in most of these countries, more than one factor is responsible for the pressures which families encounter – social, economic, political, cultural, and legal.

In countries and contexts facing multiple pressures, I would argue that too much is being expected of the family, with the State except with a few exceptions, almost abdicating its responsibility to recognize the circumstances in which families find themselves and failing to provide the needed services and social, economic, and legal support. The State often argues that its capacity to step in is bound by constraints – economic, legal, and social. But part of its inaction springs from the fact that governments and societies often operate from a definition of the ideal family, which is bound in religious and moral values. The United States is a classic example, where family values are applauded vigorously but only as they fit into the Anglo Saxon, Christian, heterosexual framework. In India, the focus is largely Hindu and heterosexual, and the family is valued for continuity of lineage and preservation of cultural norms. Frameworks of this nature have dominated our conceptualization of the family and subsequently, influenced our assessment of how families are doing today, causing us to lament the slow but sure death of the family as an institution.

### **Myths and Realities: Are Families All They Claim to Be?**

If I have to explore with you some of the myths and realities of the family, I would have to go back to the days when I was a student at TISS, learning about the family and marriage (and both were taught as inextricably linked). Text books defined the family, roughly, as being

A unit of kin, Tied together by blood, legal adoption, marriage or a socially acceptable form of union, Heterosexual in nature, and, A man was generally the head of the unit.

The changing face and functions of families today have challenged all aspects of these traditional definitions and may other assumptions to which we seem to owe allegiance. Let me explore some of the myths and challenge them from the limited perspective of my observations and interpretations.

**Myth:** Families are units of kin tied by blood, legal adoption, marriage or a socially acceptable form of union.

**Reality:** The growing numbers of people living in cohabitation, the increase in divorce, the prevalence of alternatives to families, for example, in the form of communes, and the appreciation of alternative sexual orientations and the devastation caused by HIV/AIDS, war and civil strife have led to fascinating adaptations of the family structure. I gave you some examples earlier but there are many other ways in which families are constituted today. Children may also live in and affiliate themselves with dual family identities if their parents are separated or divorced—partly with the family of their mother, and partly, with the family of their father, either of whom may be living with or without a new spouse or partner. While this may be a rarity, it is surely a growing one.

**Myth:** Families are based on the premise of heterosexuality with the man at the head of the family

**Reality:** Even though most countries continue to develop their social and economic policies related to families around heterosexual perspectives, the paradigm of universal heterosexuality has clearly been challenged today. The visibility of gay and lesbian relationships has increased phenomenally over the last decade. The gay and lesbian rights movement advocated for, and in some instances, succeeded in getting legal acknowledgement of relationships between people of the same sex. In many parts of the world, including some countries in Western Europe, some states of USA, Australia, among others, the rights of gay couples to marry, to hold joint property, and adopt are protected. With urbanization, more women are working and occasionally earning more than their male partners. There is also a small but distinct rise in the number of men opting to stay at home. And in poorer families, more and more women are being left to look after their families without male partners. The universality of male-headed households has thus, been clearly challenged.

**Myth:** Families provide important support systems for its members.

**Reality:** With growing urbanization and migration, and the increase in economic and social pressures on the family, families are often not able to perform as major support systems. However, defined broadly, the family could still be seen as providing the first line of support for most people. In India, the family is defined quite broadly to allude to anybody from the same village of origin or the same ethnic or geographic community. In Eastern Europe, people from the same village often step in to look after orphans of war and the same is true in sub-Saharan Africa as a result of AIDS. In Western societies, many 'families' are not related in any formal way to each other but opt to operate to support one another as would traditionally-defined families, since the traditional structures are no longer available. Does that make these structures less of a 'family'? I doubt it.

**Myth:** Families provide a strong nurturing environment for its members.

**Reality:** Unfortunately, while this is a sacrosanct ideal, we find glaring instances of violations. Mounting evidence speaks for a growing prevalence of neglect, incest, rape by family members, and restrictions of the exercise of autonomy within families. The probability that the rights of women and young people are curtailed in the family unit is high. Crimes of

family honor would not occur if families did not believe in sacrificing individual members to preserve the larger cause-the family. The likelihood that the sick, infected, disabled, and aged are not cared for or even abused is not to be ignored. Left to themselves, without social checks and controls, families, as the first social unit to which individuals are exposed, could be perpetrators of abuse and gross violation of human rights.

### **The Report Card for the Family as an Institution**

The reality is that the family is neither a wholesome, ideal institution in all cases nor is it the dying, threatened institution which we lament from many pulpits. The truth lies somewhere in between. While families are expected to be working towards the welfare of its members, we need to recognize that sometimes they threaten individual well being and welfare. Appropriate checks and balances need to be put in place to ensure that families fulfill their duties to preserve individual well being, and when this is not possible, to protect individuals from such families. At the same time, we need to recognize that the institution of the family is strong and alive; all it has done in order to survive is adapt like a chameleon, changing color to match the evolving landscape. Our task is to break the mould of traditional notions about the family, including the values we attribute to family life, and appreciate that:

- There are no defined nor ideal structures or functions of the family-different strokes for different folks continues to be a meaningful way to look at families;
- Family structures keep evolving across time, context, and the life cycle of the family;
- Family capacities to provide socially, psychologically, and economically for its members are also not static – they depend on social, economic, political, legal and cultural contexts, and may vary across time;
- Families may also provide one or some of the functions without providing for others, e.g. families may provide economic sustenance but not psychological

In short, nothing about families is uniform or static and as social workers, we need to appreciate these nuances and work with its multifarious forms and dimensions, such that they benefit our clients, whether these are individuals, communities, or societies.

### **Working with Families Today: Lessons for Social Worker**

There is a lot we can do to translate this broader understanding about families into pragmatic considerations.

First and foremost, we need to examine and continually re-examine our own notions and biases about families and acknowledge that this is a vibrant, dynamic, and living institution which adapts for survival in multiple and innovative ways. Just because I am divorced and living physically away from my children and parents, does not mean I do not have a family. My mother in law and sisters in law are still part of my family; so are my cousins and uncles and aunts, all of whom provide social and moral support; my parents still provide the social and emotional support I need, and my children still continue to depend on me for all

forms of support. I still look to my friends and loved ones as my family in that they provide the support systems I need in economic, social, or emotional matters.

Secondly, how we define the "family" should be influenced more by the beneficiaries of our services than by tradition, and legal definitions should work towards mirroring these understandings. Using my own example, my family in New York was much more than the family related to me by blood and included my friend Fariyal, who is a surrogate sister. Not being related to me and what is worse, being a Pakistani; I doubt she would qualify according to our legal, cultural and social norms as part of my family. Social work values the perspective of clients.

Thirdly, building ties within the family unit is a key responsibility of social workers but these ties need to be built such that these ties are good for the beneficiaries and not just because these are ties recognized by law. Foster parents often run into this problem; at times, foster parents provide more stability and support, emotionally and economically to the child than birth parents but the law gives priority to birth parents. We also need to work with building ties between sub-units of the family in its multiple forms.

Fourthly, Families have their limitations and are often stretched to their limits. The State and society must not be allowed to get away from fulfilling their obligations to individual members by expecting families to take on the major function of support and protection. In a world of growing and complex, social and economic problems, a plethora of well-thought out services and legal provisions need to be made available, both, to enable and strengthen existing families in performing their functions to satisfaction, as well as to bolster, or at times, replace the functions of families.

*Fifthly*, preservation of families as institutions must not happen at the cost of individual safety and well being. Families can and are dysfunctional at times and individuals within them merit protection from being harmed for from being prevented from having their potential actualized. Policies, programmes, and social norms need to be influenced to appreciate these realities about which cultures prefer to maintain silence. Divorce and separation are seen as threatening marriage as an institution and thereby eroding the family structure. However, they are often essential to preserve the welfare of individual family members, which means not just the adult partners but also children. Under the garb of family values, young people are prevented from gaining knowledge which helps him/her from protection from unwanted pregnancies or infection; such "values" need to be challenged openly.

Of course, care has to be exercised in interpreting when to provide protection and what constitutes protection. I recall some years ago, a social worker from Canada telling me of the problems with laws around child abuse, when in rare instances, children would threaten their parents about complaining to the social welfare system that they were being abused, when this was not the case. Interpretations of abuse of individual rights are also culture-specific. For instance, in some parts of the world, sharing a bed with a teenager by a parent, especially of the opposite sex, is legally unacceptable. I would imagine that if such sharing did not occur

in some poorer homes in India, a child may well land up sleeping on a hard, cold floor due to lack of space or lack of beds. Context specificity is critical to all the work we do, but we have to be careful not to use culture as an excuse to deny human rights, which are clearly universally applicable.

### **Conclusion**

I started this presentation with saying "Imagine there's no family ..." As far as I can tell, John Lennon can rest in peace that he did not add this line to his famous song. Such a possibility is hardly likely to occur, as long as we are sensitive firstly, to how families have changed and will keep changing, and secondly, how families – whatever their shape, size, composition, or nature – need legal, social, cultural, political, and economic support in order to cope with changing times and contexts, so as to be able to remain dynamic institutions that serve individual and societal needs.

### **The Positive Side of Life**

**L**iving on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.

**B**irthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.

**H**appiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.

**E**ver notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?

**M**ost of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us.

**Y**ou may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.

**S**ome mistakes are too much fun to only make once.

**D**on't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.

**W**e could learn a lot from crayons: some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors....  
but they all exist very nicely in the same box.

**A** truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

## **Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting, February 28, 2003, India**

*Zarin GUPTA, Secretary*

1. **Acceptance of the minutes** of the last general assembly held in Sassone, Rome/Italy. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Purnima Mane (CIF India) and seconded by Roland Mattisson (CIF Sweden). Voted by all 131 members present.

2. **The agenda** of this General Assembly meeting was approved by all the members.

3. **President's report:** Agneta Bjorklund (CIF Sweden) welcomed all members present. In her report she thanked CIF India for the tremendous effort put into the organizing of the conference despite the threat of war.

She reported the main activities of CIF International since the conference in Italy in 2001. She informed that the Executive Committee (EC) Meetings were held in Paris, France, in November 2001 and in Athens, Greece in October 2002 and in Goa, India in February, 2003. The BD Meetings were held in Athens, Greece in October, 2002 and in Goa, India in February, 2003. She thanked Mirielle Boucher (CIF France), Lambrini-Ninetta Zoi (CIF Hellas) and Zarin Gupta (CIF India), and their branches fellow members for organizing and hosting the meetings.

She informed the general assembly that CIF has 27 branches and CIP USA. The new branches were Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania. CIF Japan branch has been revived. She briefly reported on the national branches. She appreciated the ongoing cooperation between Finland, Sweden and the Baltic countries. She also appreciated the inter-state program organized by CIF India.

The president explained the different activities of the EC Members and thanked them for their full involvement and teamwork. She was looking forward to the revised statutes to be registered in Bonn before handing over to the new president. On behalf of the EC, she thanked the Board of Directors (BD) for their support and encouragement.

She thanked Jane Ollendorff (CIF USA) and Roland Mattisson (CIF Sweden) for conducting the elections. She gave an overview of her work done while she was on the EC for the last 6 years and she welcomed the new committee which would take over in the summer of 2003.

4. **Report of Board of Directors Meeting** in Goa – The Board of Directors met on 23rd February and also on 28th February. Agneta Bjorklund (CIF Sweden) briefed the assembly on the strategic planning meetings of the board of directors during the conference. There were 3 meetings on different days. Dorothy Faller (CIPUSA) with the help of Nüket Atalay (CIF Turkey), Ulla Zumente Steele (CIF Latvia) and Lambrini-Ninetta Zoi (CIF Hellas) conducted the meetings. SWOT analysis was done. CIF mission statement and goals to be worked on. Nadine Rogue (CIF France), Trudy De Wit and David Scheele (CIF The Netherlands) put together the reports of the sessions. It would be an ongoing process and the BD Members would be working on it. Dorothy Faller (CIPUSA) would update CIF International President Agneta Bjorklund (CIF

Sweden) on all the work done and then she would distribute it to BD Members (action Agneta).

The Board of Directors had set up a Finance Advisory Committee comprising of CIF International Treasurer Mieke Weeda (CIF The Netherlands), Birgitta Holm and Håkan Berggren (CIF Sweden), Elisabeth Bruce (CIF Scotland) who would advise the Executive Committee on financial matters.

It was informed that CIF Latvia would host the next BD Meeting in Riga in July 2004. The next CIF International conference would be in Bonn, Germany, between 25th to 30th July 2005 at Bad Godesberg city center at the Gustav Stresemann Institute. The theme would be "Bridges for the future". Update information would be available on the CIF Germany website. Vote for having this conference proposed by Nüket Atalay (CIF Turkey) and seconded by Uma Nagarwalla (CIF India), voted by all members present.

**5. Report from CIPUSA:** Dorothy Faller reported about the work of CIPUSA. She mentioned that CIPUSA was facing a financial crisis after 9/11. CIPUSA had helped 9 persons to go on CIF Programs round the world, she however encouraged the branches and members to recommend more social workers for the CIPUSA program.

**6. Report of the Treasurer:** Mieke Weeda (CIF The Netherlands) presented the financial report. She presented the statement of accounts for 2000 and 2001. She informed that payments for around 600 members was made to CIF International. She also presented the Assembly with an overview of the assets and cash balances up to end 2002. She gave an overview of liabilities and reserves up to 2002. She presented the Assembly the budget for 2004–2005, which was passed (perhaps approved is a better word?) by the Board of Directors. The General Assembly accepted the budget. Mieke informed the Assembly that 7 grants were given for the conference this year, however 3 only could attend. Ulla Zumente Steele (CIF Latvia), Raul Kivi (CIF Estonia) and Abdullah Karatay (CIF Turkey), had come to the conference. She thanked Birgitta Holm, Håkan Berggren (CIF Sweden) and Elisabeth Bruce (CIF Scotland) for their willingness to work on the Finance Advisory Committee.

**7. Report of the editor of CIF World News:** EC Member at Large Nüket Atalay (CIF Turkey) reported that the World News was published in January 2002, July 2002, and January 2003. 1300 copies were made and sent to national branches and contact persons over 90 countries.

**8. Report on website:** Vice President Munira Merchant (CIF USA) reported that the site was updated once a year. Latest update was done in October 2002. Links to various CIF Branches Websites was put up. CIF International brochure could now be downloaded from the website.

**9. Registration of revised statutes.** Secretary Zarin Gupta (CIF India) reported that the necessary documents needed for the registration by the

German authorities in Bonn were sent to them. We are awaiting their response. She thanked Ilse Hoffman, Astrid Sehmer, and Gerhard Schmidt (CIF Germany) for their cooperation and assistance.

**10. Next conference in 2005.** Inge Bierbrauer (CIF Germany) presented the details of the next International CIF conference to be held in Bonn 25–30 July, 2005. At the moment without any grants or sponsors the fees estimated to be \$600. CIF Germany is trying hard to get grants and if the fees can be brought down the information would be passed on. The details of the conference would be put up on their website

**11. The Chairperson of the Election Committee,** Jane Ollendorff (CIF USA) announced the election results. They were as follows:



*President:* **Lambrini-Ninetta Zoi (CIF Hellas)**

*Vice-President:* **Nüket Atalay (CIF Turkey)**

*Secretary:* **Zarin Gupta (CIF India)**

*Treasurer:* **Mieke Weeda (CIF The Netherlands)**

*Members at Large:* **Leo Heikkila (CIF Finland)**

**Nadine Rogue (CIF France)**

Jane thanked the ex EC members and welcomed the new EC members who would take over the functions in the 1st week of August.

**13. Any other business:** Roland Mattisson and Harry Andersson (CIF Sweden) presented the assembly with a resolution to be passed by the General Assembly to send a letter to the US president to stop the war in Iraq. Some changes were suggested by the assembly. The president requested Purnima Mane and Zarin Gupta (CIF India) to re-word the resolution. All members voted in favour of passing the resolution.

**14. Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the EC members leaving and to CIF India for hosting the conference in Goa, India.**

#### **CIF BABIES**

Ulla Zumente Steele from Latvia wrote: I met my husband during the CIP/USA program, at a work placement agency, in 1993. He moved to Latvia in 1994.

On August 4, 2003, we had a baby, Jonnie Elsa. You can call our baby a CIF BABY ...

We all wish the baby a happy life in a peaceful world.

Irem Coiansu Yalazan, CIF Turkey's secretary had a baby boy in Sept.2003.

We congratulate the family and wish them a happy life.



## **CIF CONFERENCE 2005**

**Theme: BUILDING BRIDGES FOR PEACE  
AND UNDERSTANDING**

**- A PROCESS OF GROWING TOGETHER -**

The upcoming 50th anniversary of CIF International in 2006 gave us the idea to make a conference in Germany to begin the circle of celebrations in the country Henry Ollendorff was born.

Building bridges is the leading thought through the process of preparation.

Building bridges between nations, between different cultures, between people, between religions, between East and West, North and South.

How can we build bridges on those different levels? How can we overcome diversity? What can be helpful in the process of building multicultural societies? How can we deal in Germany with the new structure of our welfare system and the problems they result from this change?

Without dialogue there will be no step to each other. And so we'll try to look on this dialogue as a method to solve conflicts on different levels in societies.

We want share with you the view and reflection on our society with the problems in Germany as a country on the edge between East and West in Europe, a country that still works on the process of reunification from eastern and western Germany, as a country with migrants from all over the world, as a country with different religions and as a country with a changing welfare system.

We want to look with you through the "eyes of Henry Ollendorff" and think about what his ideas means to us in this Millennium. What can we do to build bridges in, out of and through CIF?

We hope that many of you will come and share with us your experiences, views and thoughts.

The conference will take place in Bonn-Bad Goldenberg from Monday July 25th to Saturday 31. 2005

Bonn can be reached very easily from Cologne Airport Frankfurt/M.

More detailed information will come in early spring 2004.

We offer pre and post conference tours through Germany.

Deadline for both registrations (conference and tours) will be end of March 2005.

Sorry that we are not able yet to give you a registration form. But we are still working on the reduction of costs for registration. Right now we still have to publish the price of € 600.

## **CIF CONFERENCE 2005, GERMANY GRANTS FOR THE CONFERENCE**

*Mieke WEEDA, Treasurer, CIF International*

**T**he Germany Conference is still 1.5 years away. That seems like a long time, but before we know we will have to make our plans, to calculate if we can be there. Some of our Members would love to join, but cannot afford it. As you know CIF International has certain designated funds for grants, like the Henry and Martha Ollendorff Fund. We request, for each Conference, all our Branches and Members to give us special donations to be able to provide as many grants as possible.

This message is just to alert you all that the '2005 Grants Process' has been started. This will give you time to discuss in your Branches how you will select possible candidates for grants as well as to decide on providing possible grants.

In the next meeting, this spring, the EC will - in consultation with CIF Germany - look at the specific criteria to be used for the selection of grantees for the 2005 Conference. You will be informed through email and in the next World News.

Just to remind you of some of the basics:

- The grants are only offered to members from developing countries and countries in Eastern Europe. This time it might be easier for Members from Eastern Europe to cover (part of the) costs as Germany is relatively close.

- Applications have to come through and be endorsed by the National Branch of your country. If there is no National Branch, but a Contact Person, it is advised to contact your Contact Person. You can find the names and addresses in the World News and on the CIF International Website.

- The CIF Fund grants are mainly to cover the Fees for the Conferences, only when there are additional Funds available support can be given towards the travel costs.

- A deadline for the receipt of applications will be set and the final decision will be made by the EC.

Detailed information about the selection criteria and procedure you will receive by middle of 2004.

### **IN MEMORIAM**

C.I.F. Jamaica announces with regret the passing of  
Gloria Wright Simmonds, on Sept.1, 2003.

Gloria was one of the earliest participants in the Cleveland International Program, knew  
Henry Ollendorff well and shared his dream.

She missed very few C.I.F. Conferences over the years and was well known to our  
members of the CIP/CIF family around the world.

She was also a founding member of C.I.F. Jamaica and the driving force behind the  
Conference held here in 1995. Gloria was a constant source of inspiration to us all, and  
we shall remember her with love and respect. RIP

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CIF-Sweden informs us of the loss of Ruth Schöier,  
a very dear person to all of us.  
She was our contact person for India for many years and  
hosted many Indian participants. RIP

## Baltic-Scottish-Nordic meeting in Helsinki

*Gunvor BRETTSCHEIDER, President of CIF Finland*

For the fifth time CIF-members from the Baltic countries and the Nordic countries met for a "CIF-miniconference" in September 2003. We have met earlier twice in Latvia and one time each in Lithuania and Estonia. This time we had the delight to welcome also three Scottish friends in our group. Unfortunately Norway has until now not been able to join us, but next time we hope ...

The weekend from Friday to Sunday afternoon was as usual spent in a real CIF-spirit with lectures, study visits, sightseeing, multicultural evening, CIF-meetings and a lot of discussions, laughing and fun. We were altogether 45 participants, 25 from



Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, three from Scotland, six from Sweden and the rest from Finland. The meetings were originally initiated by CIF/Finland in order to continue the professional and cultural exchange between former CIF participants from the Baltic countries and the Nordic countries and to act as supporters and consultants for the Baltic CIF-members in their efforts to find new participants for the CIF/CIP programs and to start their own Branches as well as Exchange Programs of their own. By now the three Baltic countries have their own National Branches and every year there are well-qualified participants from the three countries taking part in the different Exchange programs. In our evaluation and planning for the future meeting the last day together it was decided to continue to meet in the same way.

We were invited by the Lithuanian group to meet in their country in September 2004. After that we will meet only every second year between the CIF International conferences. The three Baltic countries also made plans for starting an Exchange Program together in a near future. On the request of the three countries Finland and Sweden declared their willingness to act as supporters and consultants in the beginning.

### What kinds of e-mails do you receive?

Being a member of CIF International makes me a privileged person. I open my e mail and see messages that begin with "Kalimera" – "Günaydın" – "Good morning" – "Guten morgen" – "Bon jour"

We all get jokes in our mail, but a CIFer's jokes come from different sources. They come from a German friend who sends a Jewish joke, or an Indian friend who sends a joke about the US president. We share humor.

We all listen to the news on TV and learn about the violent things we wish had never happened. We then hear from our CIF friends all over the world and they share our worries, our grief, and our helplessness.

We share more now than we have ever shared before. When shared, happiness grows and sorrows diminish.

Editor of the WN

**GOING BACK TO INDIA .... 15 YEARS LATER***Sonia BLANC-PANAFIEU, CIF France Member*

**I**t is in a spirit of fellowship that I took part in the conference organized by the CIF India.

The uncertain climate that preceded the opening of this conference connected with the indo-Pakistani conflict and the threat of war in Iraq, reminded me about our worries when the CIF France prepared the Dourdan conference during the gulf war. But it is particularly the very strong feelings that link me to India, the urge to meet my old Indian friends and immerge myself again in the social work was what motivated me with force to take part in this conference.

I attended the Indian program in 1987, 15 years ago. An experience so rich that it left a deep print in my life... I was eager for intercultural exchanges. To explore community social work was my main desire ... That program was helpful in giving me various experiences:

I was able to see community projects in slums in Bombay. CASP-PLAN Project is an integrated community development program, working in the areas of Health Education, Community Development and Resource and Skill Development; the ultimate objective of CASP-PLAN is to make the families self-reliant through sponsorship.

With the others participants, I went to a rural camp to see all the community projects in remote countryside, initiated by Baba Amte, well-known humanist and social worker, and his sons Prakach and Vikas. They run a tremendous work for destitute, disabled, lepers, Harijans, and the Mandiya tribal living in a very wild way in the most remote forests of Central India.

The development of agriculture on large spaces where jungle prevailed gave income and community support to thousands of families. To see handicapped and non-handicapped people living in a harmonious community life was a wonderful experience as well.

Go on tribal areas is likely a unique event of my life.

I was accepted to accompany a group of mentally handicapped children for a trip to south India. A continuous cohabitation with the team and children day and night was sometimes difficult, but a good opportunity to exchange about privacy in our own culture. Our relations were friendly, the children lovable, and the landscapes magnificent.

This program which led us from urban metropolis to remote rural areas was a great adventure, very rich in emotions and teachings. It allowed intercultural and professional exchanges not only with Indians but with other participants as well.

When I came back to France, I contributed to CIF-France, so I would give back to others what I received. I become engaged in different actions in India: providing children with schooling in rural areas, and helping women in local development projects.

What does my engagement in CIF brings to me? An open-minded way of seeing people and world events, a better intercultural understanding, deep friendships and a particular attachment to India.

15 years later, here I am back to Goa, such an original place! Where I discover not only the tourist side, but also the real Goa, with its people, its problems, and the social responses they have been able to create.

We visited interesting agencies as: The Rishta Center in Calengute, supports group for people with HIV/AIDS. It organizes sensitization and awareness programs and provides counseling services, including taxi drivers and beach managers as driving belts for prevention messages. It is a magnificent network. The Kripa Foundation in Panjim, a de-addiction and rehabilitation center, providing counseling, family therapy and care to individuals suffering from substance abuse, especially alcohol. I noticed that silence, yoga, meditation were part of the daily schedule. The Mother Theresa's Home for destitute, whose action is worldwide known.

As a non English-speaking person who is sensitive to non-verbal communication, I was amazed and enthusiastic with the workshop on Dance Movement Therapy, led by Tripura Kashyap. A great pleasant moment. I can confess, I loved every party where we dance during this conference week.



CIF France in Goa, India

I would like to point, a feeling of wonder and gratitude to the CIF-India women, from different religions; it was a real patchwork of Muslims, Hindus, Jains, Parsis, Buddhists, Catholics, Jewish... I saw that there was a great symbol of friendship and peace. My eyes keep in memory the dazzling sight of their multicolored saris.

## **Mieke Weeda travelling all over the world**

*By Mieke WEEDA, Treasurer of CIF International*

For my work I travel regularly to Asia and the Pacific. During these work trips, I try to meet with CIF members in the countries I visit. That does not always work, sometimes because I have no names and addresses, or they live too far away, or I just have no time. In 2002 I managed to meet with friends in India, when I passed through Mumbai.

In November 2003, I managed to meet with Sarah DeSouza in New Zealand, as far as I know, our only CIF International member. It was great to see her and her family when on my way back from Christchurch to Amsterdam. It was a more than welcome break before entering the plane for another 30 hours of travel – including the different stopovers in Los Angeles and London. Sarah managed to show me a little bit of the area where she lives – and it definitely gave me taste for more – and cooked me a nice meal. We talked about CIF International, how to get more people from New Zealand involved in the programme etc.

And best of all, Sarah agreed to be the CIF International Contact Person. Thus soon you will find her name on the web site and in the list for Contact Persons. Thanks Sarah for hosting me and I hope that we will meet up again ... wherever that may be.

## Zarin Gupta's visit to Sweden and Finland

*By Zarin GUPTA, Secretary of CIF International*

When the Goa CIF conference ended on a positive note despite the hanging warclouds, the CIF India organising committee heaved a collective sigh of relief and we broke into mutual congratulatory mode. The many months of preparation and pressure had had its toll and I decided to take a break and go on a vacation.

When I mentioned this to Pratima our then CIF India coordinator, she said she needed to do the same and suggested to have a vacation, after her CIF Sweden programme in which she was participating. Although that meant waiting until May for the much needed break I thought it was a good idea. The weather would be right, we could combine a trip to Sweden Finland and Norway and in May. Ravi, my husband, could join me.

What was meant to be a break turned out to be a wonderful meeting with the CIF family. We realised the deep bonds of affection shared between CIF members all through our visit. Birgitta Holm (President CIF Sweden) of course set the pace and insisted on picking us up at the Arlanda airport. We drove down to her beautiful forest cottage and spend a great weekend in the nature visiting some pretty Swedish seaside villages.

We visited the Swedish CIF office on our way to the Ferry to Gotland. Birgitta was apologetic about the office, but it was huge compared to our own office in India.



Gotland turned out to be a great meeting point. We had two former CIF International Presidents at one table (Carl-Henrik Guste, the very first President and Carl-Axel Valén the host of the evening). The participants of the CIF Sweden programme met several senior CIF members and were delighted at the induction into such a varied mix of people sharing common

values. Can you imagine three generations of CIF community together. One that had pioneered the movement, one currently holding the fort and the third being inducted to steer the future!

Carl-Axel and Ulla-Britt Eriksson were not only wonderful hosts but also very talented. Carl-Axel's collection of Art and Artifacts from around the world and his project of weaving history on wall-sized carpets were exciting. It was interesting to learn that every midsummer there is a reunion of old CIF friends at Carl-Axel's home. What a great tradition that has been kept alive. There is so much valuable information that I am tempted to spend a midsummer break with this group just to document memories of CIF community as a record for posterity. Carl-Henrik indicated that he already had a good collection of photographs. Some of

the photographs with Carl-Henrik, Carl-Axel and Gunvor Brettschneider (President CIF Finland) could be published in the WN and posted on the website.

We stayed at the beautiful country home of Lisa Coudek and visited the glass workshop of her neighbor as also the painting studio of the world famous ornithologist and painter Lars Jorgen. Unfortunately the painter himself was not there. But his works were a marvel and Ravi who is crazy about art and paintings was absolutely delighted about his visit to Gotland



where we also visited several countryside churches, natural rock formations, coastline flora and fauna and finally Visby. Visby was a great treat and Carl-Henrik was a greater guide. He had worked in this part of the world during the II World war when most of us were not even born. Yet when it came to energy levels Carl-Henrik was younger than most of us. Ravi had to repeatedly take over driving as

Carl-Henrik drove as if he were in a Formula one car race trying to overtake Michael Shumacher. More energy to Carl-Henrik! The lovely old fortress and the Cathedral of Visby in the conservation area are a treat to visit. Anyone who hasn't visited Gotland should target it for the next vacation.

Back in Stockholm, we had Monica Hedenbro and the lovely family (remember Marie from Goa, she was the driving force behind the teenagers in Goa and their performance on the last day!) as our host. We visited a great musical performance at the Kings own theatre in his palace grounds. We saw the changing of the guards, visited the palace to see the royal jewels and later had a lovely meal in a cellar in Gamla Stan (old Stockholm along with Carl-Henrik and Agneta Björklund the then President of CIF International). We also visited with Astrid Lundgren, the Vasa ship and the Nobel Museum.

I was very impressed with Monica's work on the attachment theory, which she had presented in Goa but which we saw firsthand in her beautifully located clinic. A visit by a child I had placed in adoption in Stockholm along with her adoptee mother turned out to be an emotional reunion after nearly 20 years. For Monica who is also researching on adoption this was valuable input.



The farewell meeting with the CIF participants was very warm and touching. It was clear that CIF Sweden had worked hard and spared no efforts to make the programme a success.

Birgitta had managed a good travel deal on the cruise to Helsinki. When Anita who was to join us dropped out, I offered the ticket to Carl-Henrik. He readily accepted the offer and even brought his car on the cruise.

Helsinki was another great CIF meeting point. I specially enjoyed meeting some of the very early members who Carl-Henrik took us too. These included the delightful Helmi and others.

At Gunvor's birthplace and her town Porvoo where everyone knows her, the mayor of Porvoo walked up to greet her; and in another street we met her sister. What a small world. With her popularity Gunvor should easily have won the election to the parliament. We wish her better luck the next time. Imagine we may have a CIF member as a member of the Finnish Parliament, or even a minister (We already have Mr. Jacob a CIF member as a Governor in a state in India and he was with Gunvor and Carl-Henrik in the CIF programme!). At Gunvor's home we also met the entire Finnish CIF team and saw some lovely old photographs of CIF members.

We visited the famous city of Turku and were fascinated with the archeological sites dug up. What history, and so well preserved! On the way back from Turku we had a lovely dinner at Gunvor and her husband's forest cottage. We had the great Finnish Sauna experience and the men ran out naked from the sauna into the cold outside. They tried to tempt us to do likewise but we did not want to risk the wild animals around (including men!).

Our host Leo and his lovely girlfriend Nina took us around Helsinki where there was a carnival and we saw dances from around the world, including Turkish belly dancing! We drank and drank and drank (the Finnish way) and visited some great restaurants and savored the reindeer meat in a Lappish restaurant. On the return cruise journey as we left the Finnish and Swedish Archipelagos behind, I felt like a citizen of the world, like a member of one big family who is together more than the sum of the parts.

## **Links with Japan**

*Margaret LONGUEVRE*

*CIF France Vice President in charge of Programmes*

Last summer my husband and I went on a tour of Japan, and we seized the opportunity to meet some members of CIF Japan. We received a very warm and friendly welcome from the Chairman, Mr Maeda, and other members, over an excellent French-style dinner at Ueno Station. This was a wonderful moment for mutual exchange and understanding. We could compare our respective practices and organization in our Japanese and French CIF groups.

The Japanese branch had organised a programme of visits and meetings for us and we could get some insight about the mental health care in Japan. Mrs Saito and Mrs Yuki Yosh accompanied us on these visits. They were extremely helpful and very good company.

These visits and meetings were made possible thanks to Mrs Asano's kind efforts. CIF French members had made friends with her when she stayed in France on a CIF programme in 1997, and we were quite happy to have the opportunity to strengthen these links.

We would very much like to organise a programme for Japanese colleagues and we would be delighted to receive our Japanese friends here in France and return their hospitality which has left us with splendid memories.

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**Directory of National Branches, JANUARY 2004**

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**Argentina:** President: Dora del Teso Neumann, Uriburu 1438, 1A, Buenos Aires (1114), Argentina. Tel: 54 11 4806 1561, Fax: 54 11 4806 1588 Fax: 54 114809 9908 e-mail: ddelteso@unimoron.edu.ar or doramaria31@hotmail.com

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