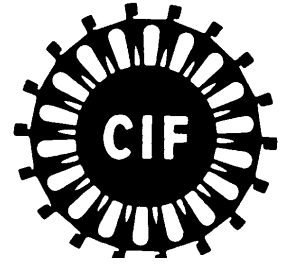


Council of International Fellowship in Deutschland e. V.

Inge Bierbrauer (vice president)



Impressions of the 27th CIF conference July 23-27,2007 in Cleveland, Ohio, USA with the theme:
"Training Builds Bridges for a Changing World"

28 Germans, many of them former participants in Cleveland, visited this great conference. Wherever you could listen to them, they were talking about Cleveland in former times, about their visits in their hostfamilies and of course they were sharing memories about Henry Ollendorff and how it all began. For them it was like coming home. And for all the other Germans it was again like belonging to a large, worldwide spread family, **our CIF-family.**

Have you ever eaten and danced next to an huge dinosaur? Did you ever see children dancing in a hall of the Botanical Garden? And did you ever visit a building, constructed by the famous architect Frank Gehry? All these events happened during the conference: the opening ceremony was in a wonderful hall of the Botanical Garden, the closing ceremony took place in the Cleveland Museum of Natural History and in the Business School, whose architect was F. Gehry, was a reception for the board Members, before the conference started.

All participants lived on the campus, the dorms were just reconstructed and in an excellent shape. Lectures and workshops took place in different buildings of the university or in the above mentioned museums. This meant for all of us some walking every day, while you could meet and talk to other CIF members. The living on the campus gave us a feeling like being an American student.

In the Plenary Presentation, Mr. Holkenstad talked about the Realities of global Interdependance and the Challenges for the Social Work Profession, his main impact was to claim for human rights worldwide, also in Western countries like in USA where is no right for health care.

The workshops were excellent prepared and fulfilled, each participant got hand-out material and the themes were wide spread. I learned about intergenerational school in Cleveland, about nursing homes, other participants were impressed (better: depressed) learning about the political situations in Aethopia and Sudan. It would go far too wide to look in all the workshops. It was a very good idea having asked CIF members for giving workshops and that so many followed this request.

Last but not least I want to mention, what a wonderful feeling it was getting picked up from the airport and being returned. Many helping hands from CIP-USA were always around, whenever one of us had a question, a favor or even a problem, it was solved.

Thanks again to CIP –USA, especially to Lisa and Dorothy and to all the volunteers who made this wonderful conference possible.