



# World News

Winter 2019

*Let's head for*  
***Saint-Malo***



*July 1<sup>st</sup> - July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

**The Council of International Fellowship Magazine**

## From the Editor's Corner

Dear CIF members and friends,

One more year has passed and so many things have been accomplished by our CIF members all over the world. It is so precious to be able to share with so many friends your thoughts, your ideas, your beliefs, knowledge and accomplishments. This year's Board of Directors (BD) meeting in Austria was so intense, so interesting, a source of learning; but, at the same time a pool of experiences, sharing, friendship and group bonding. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all to live a very happy Christmas, Hanukkah and a Happy New Year 2019 with your families and friends. May this New Year bring only happiness, health, peace and prosperity to the whole world.

2018 was a difficult but good year. Regardless of a lot of obstacles and problems it was a productive and successful year. The meeting in Vienna, Austria gave us the opportunity to share a lot, to build stronger bonds among all of us and gave us the strength and enthusiasm to continue our work to bring peace to the world and bring quality of life to those around us. I made new friends, met new people, shared room and board with them and now continue our friendship. This is CIF! Our CIF family is growing slowly but steadily, and it is now the time to find ways to attract more young professionals not only in social work but in all other health sciences. This will open new doors and strengthen our work.

Peace projects are moving along smoothly, slowly but again steadily; and the 2018 conference on Peace in Italy was a landmark.

This edition of World News (WN), Fall 2018 is again a rich edition with new and very interesting articles from all over the world. The content of this WN is rich in information, in sharing experiences, in building bridges and showing how CIF networking is moving along in a successful way. You cannot imagine my joy when articles from new members or friends of CIF come in with so interesting things to read, learn and share.



by Maria Christopoulou,  
Editor, *World News*

other nationalities and give them an opportunity to share their experiences as students in the fields of social sciences. If any of you would like to join in this project with your students, you are more than welcome to do so. We would be delighted to have you with us.

It is with great pleasure and satisfaction that I address this editorial to you all once more. My experience as the editor of the

World News for CIF International always excites me as it opens up my horizons regarding the multicultural status, and gives me a lot of joy to be always learning more and more about people around me with my main concern being SERVICE ABOVE SELF. The CIF fellowship has expanded worldwide, and the connectivity among its members and friends is unbelievable. META-KINISIS

(the concept and theme of the last CIF Conference in Greece) has actually taken a real place in our lives. Only with positive thinking will we continue to grow and make the difference. All and each one of us is important and can make a difference to bring only happiness, love, and smiles to all people on earth.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR,**

Maria Christopoulou, CIF Cyprus  
World News Editor

*The CIF fellowship  
has expanded worldwide  
and the connectivity among its members  
and friends is unbelievable.*

## CIF International President's Message

Dear CIF friends,

I begin by wishing you a happy new year 2019: Positive moments, beautiful encounters and a lot of success for you and the people who are very dear to you.

On behalf of all CIF members, I thank the CIF Austria team for organizing a beautiful board of directors (BD) meeting in the center of Vienna, the city that some discovered and others returned to with pleasure. The two days of executive committee (EC) meetings held in a dream setting of the Austrian countryside have been conducive to work. Thank you, Judith! The sun and heat accompanied our meetings.

We had the pleasure of confirming the birth of CIF Algeria; we are proud of the work they have done and the success of this motivated young team. Welcome to CIF Algeria!

The CIF 2028 project mobilizes us to build the CIF of tomorrow. We must continue to move forward to develop CIF. The work is



Mireille Boucher,  
President CIF International

important but by our will, we will succeed in promoting the CIF around the world. Let's build bridges to be stronger. Everyone is able to participate in a spirit of peace and respect for each other. Some teams work on the Peace Projects and CIF Italy celebrated its 40th anniversary on this theme. **We all have ideas and will power too... be proud of what we do.**

In 2019, we will have the pleasure of meeting for the CIF International Conference in Saint Malo, France. I invite you, as president of the International CIF and also president of CIF France, not to miss this event. The CIF France team is at work and relies on your presence. The theme: **MARKET ECONOMY AND NEW PUBLIC MANAGEMENT IN SOCIAL FIELDS, impacts and alternatives.** These conferences every two years are great moments of meetings, encounters. We will make these new times unforgettable. Come many, Brittany more is a very beautiful region!

Have a good time before our next meeting. Amitiés from France,

**Mireille Boucher**

## From July 1st to July 6th, 2019 let's head for Saint-Malo

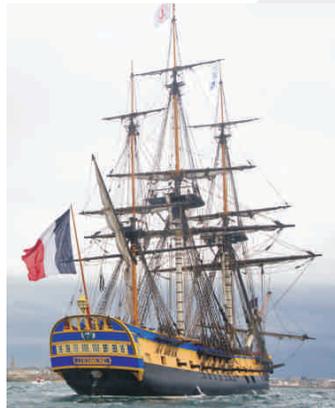
It was a challenging decision but we made it, along with the EC of CIF : after Marly-le-Roi in 1968 and Dourdan in 1991 CIF France will host the 33rd Conference in Saint-Malo, from Monday afternoon **July 1st to Saturday July 6th** (check-out). The idea of the project emerged during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of CIF France and Mireille, our president, found the way to motivate a branch where very few members thought it was possible until the decision was made. We are now facing a very stimulating moment (as you can see on the picture !) in the history of our branch with the involvement of all our members in preparing these 5 days.



**THE THEME** of the conference came out after the exchanges we had in Kalamata when we found that the feeling of loneliness that the workers in the social field could experience in the past years in France was shared by many colleagues in other countries. It has resulted in a greater focus on case management than on the relation to a person having a problem to solve.

We started to document this issue with the help of Michel Chauvière, a sociologist who has supported CIF France for years, and we came up with the theme of MARKET ECONOMY AND NEW PUBLIC MANAGEMENT IN SOCIAL FIELDS, impacts and alternatives.

Initially, New Public Management in the social field was considered as a more democratic practice, whereas the welfare system could be considered as a paternalistic relation based on charity. The goal of NPM is to focus on case management with better service at a lower cost.



Consequently, the efficiency of the social service becomes the main objective and we can observe how gradually the field of social work has been facing new standards which came to change the nature of social work. The focus on the relation with a person or a group has been replaced by good practice procedures sustained through an assessment of the implementation of the protocol.

Ken Loach's movie «I, Daniel Blake» offers a good picture of this policy, and a debate around the film will be organized.

Considering the evolutions of social services in different countries we will ask ourselves which alternatives are possible, with examples of present practices. This is to say that we will ask the participants to report the evolutions in their countries and in their practice. It will be also an opportunity to involve our members who have retired and ask them to pass on their knowledge and their skills.

**THE PROGRAMME** will include CIF council assemblies and we will try to develop a collective reflection through plenary sessions with a keynote speech and panel discussions and also workshops and agency visits. Of course we will also take some time for entertainment, sightseeing at Mont Saint-Michel and also the historic walled city of Saint-Malo.

**THE LOCATION** was found by Margaret Longuevre, our vice-president who lives in Rennes, the capital of Brittany.

The Centre Varangot, located in Saint-Malo is a Youth Hostel with comfortable rooms all equipped with private bathrooms. To meet the needs for single rooms, which are very few in the Varangot centre, we will book 25 rooms in hotels within walking distance so that the double rooms at Varangot can be used as single rooms.

The Centre Varangot is close to the long sandy beach of Saint-Malo which should not be too crowded as the school vacations will start at the end of our conference.

Since Saint-Malo is a holiday resort, you can easily arrive by train coming from



Paris (or Massy or Roissy Airport), by bus (very cheap), by plane (some charter companies arrive at Rennes or Dinard Airports very close to Saint-Malo), or even by boat! Saint-Malo being a historic harbour.

All the arrival details are given on our website

<http://www.congres2019@cif-france.org>

#### POST CONFERENCE TOURS

**Loire Valley castles and vineyards**

**Normandy and the D Day beaches**

**A tour in Brittany**

See all details on our website

<http://www.congres2019@cif-france.org>

#### THE FEES - per person

Registration	Until February 8	After February 8
Single room	690€	740€
Double room	590€	650€
Triple room	530€	570€
Double room in a hotel	650€	700€



## CIF blossoms at the BD meeting in Vienna

My first attendance at the board of directors (BD) meeting and my first visit to Vienna in August 2018 was a great experience. I enjoyed the interaction, communication, workshops and the positive feed-back; in conclusion it was a perfectly organized BD meeting.

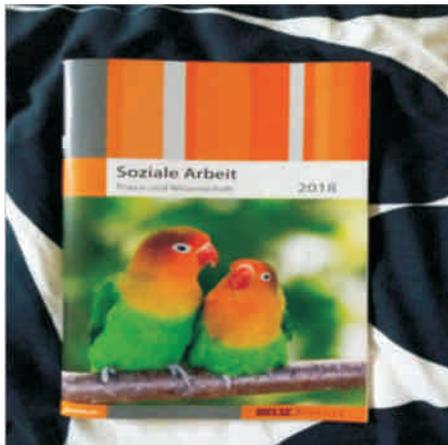
I and Maria Christopoulou, our CIF World News editor, were hosted by a wonderful person, in her lovely home; we had the opportunity to explore a fabulous city and make new friendships. Isn't that CIF?

Just a few days were enough, to learn from the more experienced and draw inspiration from the youth.

Dear CIF friends, I have the hope and the hunch that CIF is experiencing a new blossoming. Looking forward to meeting all of you soon!

### HELLAS

*By Amalianna Dedousi,  
Secretary of CIF Hellas*



# A dream becomes reality as **CIF Algeria** is born!

It was a dream that was thought impossible, then a project to finish a reality –the creation of CIF Algeria, after several years of effort and work. This is also CIF magic. The CIF Algeria in three dates: In 2007 – a dream, in 2017 – a project on paper, in 2018 – a reality.

A thought a few months ago, carried by several people who believed in the project; he finally arrived and made his first steps, in Vienna August 2018, and called "CIF Algeria: yes we do it!" CIF Algeria was born. A few words and a few sentences to begin by thanking all our CIF friends who contributed and supported this initiative which is ours and for which we were very well supervised, advised and oriented.

It all began with beautiful meetings between 2007 and 2018, during which former CIF France trainees gathered and federated their efforts to create this hard core which is now the basis of CIF Algeria. This core has grown, like a snowball effect, with new allies, allowing young Algerians working in the associative field to participate in its exchange programs and discover this CIF world and join our team.

Today, the CIF Algeria is there and intends to gain strength and expand and contribute to the development of professional internships by sending and receiving trainees and participate in various programs organized. The association will be, for the actors of the associative movement and social workers, a lever and engine for dynamic training activities in hospitals, specialized centers for people in difficulty and / or sick. These training and learning cycles will make it possible to make social work in Algeria known but also to discover and share experiences in other countries while strengthening the skills and knowledge of our candidates (educators, professional healthcare, etc.), while paying particular attention to the cultural, human and social aspects.

**We wish to take this opportunity to share our joy and success by thanking all CIF members.**



**ALGERIA**

*By Hocine Hamoudi,  
President CIF Algeria*



**Mireille Boucher**  
President  
CIF International

**Mohammed**  
Representing  
CIF Algeria

**Hocine**  
President CIF Algeria

# Participant finds Austria PEP intense and enriching

**ARGENTINA**

*By Susana García Peñaloza,  
CIF Argentina*

They were three intense weeks in Austria, full of enthusiasm, meetings, conversations and new learnings. Everything was part of the Professional Exchange Program (PEP) organized by the CIF Austria team, together with teachers and students from the University of Applied Sciences FH in Vienna.

We experienced an excellent program, with a complete agenda that included political, academic, cultural and specific aspects of the approach of social work in different government institutions and NGOs, such as centers for young people, shelters for women and hospitals. Among the planned activities, we were with a legislator, with teachers from the University, the Association that brings together the social workers, we visited the historic city and the Museum of Natural Sciences.



I participated in the Program with social workers, social pedagogues, psychologist and NGO worker from seven different countries, Mila from Spain, Kristzia from the Philippines, Sushmina from Nepal, Lela from Georgia, Eija from Finland, Inci from Turkey and Pantelis from Greece. That was really enriching: sharing the experience of other colleagues, knowing about other diverse realities and realizing that we share respect, caring for each other and our work for the expansion of human rights.

And the experience with my host family was also very significant for me; new friendships arose and having lived with a beautiful dog in Vienna gave me the courage for my children's long-awaited request to have a dog. So, back in Buenos Aires, we adopted Makuin.

So, not only me, but also my family are so grateful for the experience in CIF Austria PEP 2018.

Thanks again to each member of the CIF Austria team, and congratulations for your excellent work!!!

## Nepal participant reflects on Finland PEP experience - 2018

I had an exciting moment when I flew from Kathmandu in a fine morning on the 4th of May after having breakfast at my home and reached to have dinner on the same day at Adolcent Kenneljervi Folk School guest house Lohja, Finland. Mr. Kauko Heikkila my host was in the Helsinki airport to pick me up. We reached School guest house a distance of approximately 50km at about 9:00 pm amidst pleasant sunshine. CIF president, Mr. Leo Heikkila, and vice president Ms Anita Kytokangas were present to receive us there. Other participants: Marya from Spain, Ahyan from Turkey, Subha from India had arrived little earlier that day. Almost everybody surprisingly asked me that how I reached there in such short time from a very far off country like Nepal. I jokingly replied them that the whole world is a village now, so it matters less about the distance and the country in this modern world.

Any way, we had informal talks for some time and in the meantime, we took some tomato soup and went to take Sauna bath in front of the lake just down below the guest house. I felt just like winter season in hills of Nepal with cold wind, where trees were without leaves and look open and dry. In Finland, there used to be snowfall and cold during this time in the past several years - everybody told that we were lucky to be in such a favorable weather condition. We had opportunity to know each other for two days at the orientation program in Lohja. On the third day we had host family placement, therefore Mr. Kauko came to fetch me to his home in Helsinki where I lived for one week. In the very first couple of days there were presentations and lectures by us and other senior academicians in the Swedish School Of Social Work, University of Helsinki. Thereafter, we had a program to visit to parliament house and meetings with Parliamentarians, Mr. Anders Adlercreutz and Pekka Haavisto. They were very knowledgeable and interacted with each of us regarding unemployment and social welfare system of each participating country.

Another interesting program was a day trip by ferry to Tallinn the capital city of Estonia to have interaction with CIF family. Ms. Margit Randaru, CIF president and other members gave us high-level treatment and guided us in city tour of historical places in Tallinn which still is fresh in my mind.

My second hosts, Mr. Matti and Ms. Stina Stengard, provided me opportunity to visit social work institutions in Tammisaari, Kaarja, Hanko and Turku where I had meetings, interactions with hospital personnel, academic persons, human right activists, social workers, political man, red cross office authorities, employees in reception centers and so many others who were present and shared information with full enthusiasm.

In the beginning of the third week, we had evaluation of field experience in Lappeeranta about 248 km and two hours travel by train east of Helsinki. We again went further by car to lakeside villa Helmi (Tapion Huvilat) Ylammaa, South Kerilä. It was a very beautiful resort situated inside the forest. CIF members, Merja Niemela and Tuija Nummela, did a lot to make us fully involved for two days in quiz contests, presentations, sharing about host family experiences, international dinner, boating, visiting to kindergarten school, Orthodox Church, marketplace, etc.

In the third week, we had meetings with authorities of DIAK an academic institution, a University of Applied Science, which besides other subjects, provides education to social work degree students. Visiting to other social organizations like, League of Social Workers Talenta, multicultural women's association, men supporting each other were of more interest to me.

Another fascinating event was a picnic arranged by CIF members of Helsinki at Suomenlinna Island, a fortress built by Swedish rulers during middle of eighteenth century. It was about twenty-five minutes travel by boat from Helsinki - now an attractive touristic place as well as a recreational park. We were about fifteen in number, each of the members carried different food items like breads, fruits, jams, cake, coffee, tea, milk, beer and non-vegetable items, etc. We all enjoyed the picnic in a very nice spot at the top of the park from where we could see the ships going back and forth in the sea and the birds flying over our heads. Later we walked around the fort and the seaside for some time and played a popular Finnish throwing game, Molkkyy, a wooden pin to knock over other wooden pins set up about 6-7 meters away. It was a very enjoyable and memorable moment for me.

My most memorable and unforgettable time was with my host families. It will not be complete even if I write very long about their contributions. Their enormous support, help, and love in every moment of my work while living with them, and in free time activities, is unforgettable. Moreover, I am extremely thankful to Mr. Kauko Heikkila for all that he did before and after I reached Finland, walking around with him in parks, livestock farms, Tamminiemi and museum at Seurasaari is deeply imprinted in my mind. I had a long and joyful



### NEPAL

By Prof. Resh Basnet, PhD,  
CIF Nepal executive member



Resh from Nepal, Marya from Spain,  
Ahyan from Turkey, Subha from India

walk with Mr. Matti and Stina in the forest, seaside, town area and other places for hours when we all were free. In addition, the farewell party thrown by them on their big lawn and the garden in the presence of Tor Eric and other friends remains as an extra wonderful memory in my mind for life. All my hosts including Olli, Hanne were my real parents when I was with them in their homes. Mr. Leo Heikkila, Anita Kytokangas did everything from the first to the last day of my stay; I always bow my head before them. I am always obliged to Merja, Tuija, Jaanna and Susanne for their love and generous support.

Last day of program was farewell party in The House of the Laajasalo-Degero Society, a local club in the outskirts of the city. We participants, CIF members and some other guests reached the Club some time before 5:00 pm, in total we were around 20 or more people. At the outset, President Leo Heikkila highlighted about the program and introduced each one present in the hall to others. Then Leo distributed the certificates to all the participants. Merja Niemela, executive member, distributed the badge of CIF Finland, Stina gave flower buckets with great love and affection, Matti and Kauko sang a beautiful Finnish song. At last we participants sang well known international song, "We Shall Overcome Some Day," and all the members accompanied us with great passion and interest. We had dinner at the end of the program. Finally we all gathered outside in the lawn in front of the house and had a photograph session in groups. All enjoyed, talked, laughed and finally hugged each other and dispersed. This was again a most memorable and enjoyable day of my three weeks in Finland.

In the end, I would like to remember a man whom I did not see and meet ever before in my life, but I have heard and read about him and he is always in my heart. He is none other than Mr. Henry Ollendorff. I have strong belief that if there had been no Ollendorff in this world there would not have been such nice meetings with the people from different parts of the world who work for human services. Therefore, I remember utmost the late Ollendorff, founder of CIF and CIP whose vision made it possible for me to participate in the Finland PEP. His dream - social workers and youth leaders of several countries can meet together to enhance and exchange the knowledge of professional social work, understand diverse culture, and promote world peace has been coming true in the real sense. Long live the vision of Henry Ollendorff!



## CIF France provides a heartwarming welcome to PEP 2018 participants

Sami and Chahine from Constantine (Algeria), Amine from Oran (Algeria), Gabriela from Buenos Aires (Argentina), Thang from Hanoi (Vietnam), Paloma from Madrid (Spain), Fatima from Redondo (Portugal) participated in a program of Social Work organized by CIF France (an international association of social workers whose head office is in Saint Florent sur Cher). In addition to professional exchanges, they were able to share the lives of the families who welcomed them. Cultural discoveries and conviviality have enriched this program held from September 19 to October 13, 2018.

**FRANCE**

*By Mireille Boucher,  
President CIF France*



This year Fatima, Chahine and Thang discovered various social service structures of the Cher and were able to share with the professionals of Tivoli initiatives, the IME Chatelier, the ADAPT of Trouy, Prométhée. Paloma, Amine, Sami and Gabriela were also welcomed in social service structures in the Paris region: Local Mission, Sesame Autism, Reception for Women, Migrants and they were invited to discover the Berry to close this action.

The results of this program were held in the Mission Locale. Thank you to the team of the Mission Locale of Saint Florent sur Cher – the discovery of Bourges and Saint Florent completed this action.

With great pleasure Friday, October 12 the group (Paloma and Fatima had to leave for professional reasons) was welcomed by Mr. Roger Jacquet, Mayor of Saint Florent in the presence of a few elected officials and partners, professional reception areas. This moment was rich in exchanges and sharing and all admired our beautiful castle and the banks of the river Cher. In the evening, CIF France invited participants, host families and partners. Other cultural discoveries awaited us with spring rolls, caramel pork made by Thang and also potatoes herringsalad, lentils and cheeses of Berry, not to forget to mention apple pies. The mayor honored us with his presence. This intense moment of conviviality closed the program and the strong emotions were for the next day on the platform of the station.

**Thank you all and continue to share professionally and culturally our knowledge.**

## *CIF France organized a day of sporting events for special needs youth*

*September 26, 2018 Orientation morning EuQual Day  
A European ReSport Erasmus meeting in Saint Florent sur Cher*

As part of the European ReSport project CIF France, with its partners the Mission Locale of Saint Florent sur Cher and the ADAPT, organized the orientation morning for people with specific needs. The project partners from the eight countries participated at the same time in this meeting: Slovenia, Hungary, Turkey, Croatia, Italy, Northern Ireland, Portugal and France. The objectives were to share fun and sporting moments with people of all ages with specific needs or not.

In France, Dr. Mohammed Mammad of Algeria, head of the Information Education Communication (IEC) cell at the local public health institution Hai El Ghoualem in Oran and communication expert particularly for this project, had formed a group of young people from the Mission Locale and the ADAPT to be the ambassadors of this day joined by the participants of CIF France: Chahine of Algeria, Fatima of Portugal and Thang of Vietnam. The local members of the association also actively participated, the youth of the ADAPT, Tivoli, the Mission Locale, the Voltaire College, the Handibasket and local people came to share a beautiful moment of solidarity.

Mrs. Agnès Sainsoulier, Vice President Region Centre Val de Loire, Mr. Roger Jacquet Mayor of Saint Florent sur Cher, elected officials of the City Council and the Director of Mission Locale honored us with their presence and some of them also participated in sports events. Everything took place in a friendly atmosphere, all orchestrated by Dr. Mohammed Mammad. Everyone left with a gift to remember this moment of meeting. We ended this morning sharing a nice buffet offered by CIF FRANCE which was also a part of the activity of this morning.

The joy of young people with special needs such as Emma, Jeremy, Charlotte, Enola and all was so strong that words alone cannot describe.

Thanks to Marie-Agnès and Quentin de l'ADAPT for your mobilization during the training mornings and during this special day for all of us.

Thank you to all participants, professionals, volunteers, Dabya, Christelle, Philippe and finally all who have contributed to this morning of which we will soon have a filmed memory. Thanks to you this moment was a success that we will share with the partners at our next meeting in Lisbon (Portugal) in December. We are proud of you and we thank you.

**Mireille Boucher  
Mohammed Mammad**



## USA psychotherapist experiences CIF Hellas PEP

### "At the right place, at the right time!"

You know that feeling of being in the "right place at the right time;" well that happened to me a lot on one trip far outside my comfort zone. After traveling over 8,000 kilometers I emerged from the underground metro station at night in the center of Athens, Greece. I had prepared my thinking to keep an open mind and to expect the unexpected so I could keep my feelings contained. So, there I was with no Greek language skills, a fully loaded backpack, and my suitcase trailing behind me in Syntagma Square all alone in the darkness. I told myself, "I've got this, I can do this." The first two



nights of my CIF Hellas program were to be spent in a hostel. I had the address, but then realized that my cell phone had no signal so my plan for directions was not an option. I told myself this was okay; I had planned for the unexpected, challenge accepted.

I was fortunate to have a small section of a map for that part of the city in my backpack and my brain began problem-solving to get me where I needed to go. I began walking in what I guessed to be the right direction, my suitcase with those little wheels were clicking on the ground behind me as I explored the unfamiliar sidewalks trying to find my way. I found myself stopped along a street asking myself why I could not find where I needed to go. It was at that moment that I looked up to see a man cleaning cafe tables behind glass windows and he looked up at me. He quickly responded and walked through the doorway of the cafe and asked me, in English if I needed some help. "Okay, this is a relief," I thought. As a male who does not feel comfortable asking for directions, I broke out of my comfort zone. This Greek man helped me figure out that I was heading in the right direction, asked me if this was my first time in Athens, and said, "I hope that you enjoy your stay here." This interaction became the pattern of my trip. I learned how to trust in myself, to have more trust in others, and that I am not the same person after this trip.

I am an American who had never traveled abroad and had only given the idea little thought. The media in my country had done well to paint a picture of a dangerous world beyond the borders so I stayed home. For more than 20 years as a psychotherapist in outpatient mental health agencies I stayed within the lines on the map. However, people began to enter my life with real experiences from other countries and I was listening closely to what they had to say. The vague, frustrating, and powerful thought I had been having, "I need to do more," began to take shape. My first thought was to return to university where I could learn and broaden my impact on the world, but my place in life would not accommodate such a step. My next thought was to take a sabbatical, but my agency does not offer

By **Daniel Taylor**, social worker – psychotherapist  
Working Agency: **North Country Community Mental Health,**  
Michigan, USA

that option. The Doctors Without Borders idea seemed like a good one but I am not a medical person so that did not look promising either. And then there was that one day when I mentioned to a colleague my crazy idea of wanting to become involved in some sort of program where I could travel abroad to learn about the type of work I do from people in different cultures, and she said, "You know they have that..." She was talking about CIF, and in my hometown. I mentioned the right thing to the right person and there was no turning back for me.

My first full day in Greece, I met three incredible people who had also come for this CIF Hellas program. Spending time with these three people would have made the entire trip a success and I will never forget them. But, I got to meet people from Greece and it just kept getting better, and just in the first day. At the end of that first day we were invited to the home of a CIF Hellas member for a welcome dinner. The home was beautiful, the food was amazing, but it was the people that surpassed all my expectations. There were eighteen people in the room and I have never felt so welcomed, accepted or connected. It was the feeling that I had come home and that these people were my family. We talked, ate, laughed and there was even some singing in Greek. It was with careful consideration that one of the CIF Hellas members paused from singing to explain in English the meaning of the songs. It took just one day to know that I was in the right place and at the right time.

My two weeks in Greece had begun with a fullness I could not have predicted and every day had more to offer. The organization of this program was superb. We traveled to many agencies that catered to the interests of the four of us participants. We all stayed with host families and that was another point of excellence for me. My Host Father stayed up late many nights exchanging therapeutic approaches and took care of my every need. I have offers to return to stay with my Host Father and even with his family. I have been inspired for much more cultural exchange now that I have created new relationships. A CIF member warned me before taking this trip that I might not be the same when I return, and she was right. I am having trouble not talking about it, thinking about it, and even doing presentations about my CIF experience now that I am back in America. Since my return I have been getting consistent feedback that something has changed about me, and for that I am grateful to all the people of the CIF Hellas program.



## India hopes to host CIF International Conference in 2021

Dear All CIF International,

Hope all is well with you. Recently CIF India had an election and at present we have a strong group of members to work, as we are expecting to get permission to work on CIF International Conference 2021. Hope you liked the small presentation in Vienna. I and our committee have to work hard to give you memorable conference.

We have already received two applications for our upcoming CIF India PEP. The program will commence from 7th January 2019 and will conclude on 26th January 2019 in Mumbai. The Registration Fee is 325 Euros. We request you to forward CIF India PEP information to all your known social workers to apply.

An incorrect email address on published materials may cause

a problem. My email address:

[ivathavia\\_17@yahoo.co.in](mailto:ivathavia_17@yahoo.co.in) which I

have used for the last several

years has not changed. At present I request you that you kindly correct my email ID as our PEP Program is very close; otherwise this may cause problems for participants.

Just today CIF India received CIF Taiwan PEP brochure, best wishes for them. CIF India will soon conduct selection process to recommend other countries.

Best Wishes,

**Iva Athavia**, immediate past president  
CIF India

# INDIA

## TISS lends a helping hand to CIF India

Greetings from CIF India!

I am glad to inform you that CIF India has been allotted space by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai to operate from and conduct meetings and programs within its premises. With kind support of Dr. S. Parasuraman, (Ex - Director, TISS) and Dr. Shalini Bharat (Current Director, TISS), CIF-India can now operate in clean and green surroundings! ([www.tiss.edu](http://www.tiss.edu)).

Prior to that CIF India was operating from a room in a dilapidated Historical Structure and meetings were conducted at members residences. I am confident that with my new versatile and energetic team of Governing Board members and the advantage of having space will add vigour and strength to ongoing efforts to promote world peace, harmony and solidarity through professional exchange programs.

Looking forward to CIF World News communities support and cooperation.

Thank you,

With solidarity,

**Ratnakar Khaire** (president, CIF India)

On behalf of the CIF India TEAM

*The newly elected CIF India Governing Board members with the Returning officer Ms. Noella Pinto Antaoat TISS, Mumbai 1st September, 2018.*



*Representatives of CIF India Governing Board members meeting with Dr Shalini Bharat, Director, TISS, Mumbai.*



## CIF India member, Meenal Thakore, receives child welfare award

With pleasure we inform you that Meena I Thakore has received an Award for best performance of Child Welfare Committee at Delhi on 27/7/2018.

The Award is given by Plan India. Niti Ayog of India is a partner Plan India. It's an International NGO working in 70 countries. For seven categories there were 289 applications from 400 districts of 22 States of India. Each category gave one Award. Ms. Thakore is the first Award winner in the country for Child Welfare Committee as Plan India started to give Award for this category from 2018.

Meenal Thakore, a CIF member since 1998, worked as co-opted member, joint treasurer, treasurer & joint secretary on the CIF India Governing Body.



# Peace project meeting, highly interesting!

I've just returned from the CIF "Peace project" mini conference in Italy organized by the Italian CIF branch celebrating their 31st anniversary. It was a highly interesting meeting with new and old friends who came to share ideas in the spirit of CIF around the world.

Along with CIF Italy Mimmo's presentation, CIF Norway Signe's presentation, CIF Finland Leo's presentation which dealt with their point of view regarding "Peace project" within the organization, I presented CIF Israel "Peace project" experience and outcome carried out on April-May 2017 with four participants.

Along with explanations what is Israel today and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, I concentrated on our cooperation with the "Ossim Shalom" organization (presented by Juliet Dabbikeh, CIF Israel member and the Arabic Chairperson who participates in the Italian PEP 2018 and attended the conference), to explain CIF Israel perception of the "Peace project" within the organization's goals. One of the outcomes of our "Peace project" experience is our continuous activity for peace and understanding offered to our PEPs participants every year based on CIF Israel "Peace Project" model and perception.

Our programs are based on the many cultures and segments of the Israeli society, and offer professional information and discussions as well as cultural, social and personal experiences.

The other part of the conference was a fruitful and enlightening workshop dealing with Dialogue led by Nansen Center for Peace and Dialogue.

The discussion on the future of CIF Peace project enabled more clarifications and further ideas.

A four member sub-committee volunteered to work on ideas about "Peace project" future which were discussed at the conference. The ideas will be collected from the members to be presented and recommended to the CIF International board of directors (BD). I wish the committee success and we are looking forward to discussing their input at the BD meeting in France.

## ISRAEL

By Edna Bar-On,  
CIF Israel president

## CIF Israel program 2018 generated renewed energy and many new ideas!

I read about Israel before coming to CIF, but it was not the same as experiencing it in person. During the CIF Israel program, I learned about and visited many cultures, including the Jews, Bedouins, Arabs, Ethiopian refugees and Holocaust Survivors. In Yeruham, I experienced a traditional Shabbat with Shlomo and Renana Ilan and their family. We went to the synagogue for Friday night services, walked home and had dinner which included the blessings over the wine and challah. We continued observing Shabbat all day on Saturday.

I visited the Old City of Jerusalem including the Western Wall, the Israel Museum, Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, Machne Yehude market, Masada, Dead Sea, Bethlehem, a Bedouin family and a kibbutz.

We visited over 15 agencies that serve the elderly, victims of domestic violence, Ethiopian immigrants, persons with developmental disabilities, runaway homeless youth and children. Some of the services for the elderly were similar to the ones I oversee in Arizona, but I garnered some ideas, especially about the "Senior Clubs." I am definitely going to use that approach in our senior center. It was pointed out that services for the elderly are focused on "giving meaning to an older person's life."

I observed that the highly successful programs are led by strong leadership: Mariuma Ben Yosef: Shanti House, Ruth Reznic: Domestic Violence Shelter, Mahmoud Jamal Al-Rifai: JCRD, An NGO for Better

Jerusalem, Nili Dror: Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Social Services, Ilana Engel: Herzelia Municipality.

Many of the programs and services run by the municipalities and NGOs/NPOs complained about not enough funding to meet all the needs of the clients they served. The same is true in the United States. We all struggle to find private funding to supplemental government funding. We also share the belief that elected officials don't value social services enough. Volunteers are critical to all social services in both countries. There are also many dedicated social workers and administrators implementing these critical services.

I was grateful to have the opportunity to present at Hadas Ze'ev's seminar "Elderly Domestic Violence, Abuse and Neglect in Israel and the US." It was a seminar for professionals in the welfare and health services. I was one of three speakers on Elder Abuse Prevention, sharing the programs and services we have for victims of late life domestic violence and elder abuse in Phoenix, Arizona.

The CIF Israel program was a meaningful experience for me personally and professionally. I returned to Arizona with renewed energy and many new ideas.

By Mary Lynn Kasunic, Arizona USA

## USA participant finds a piece of home in Israel and much more!

After much anticipation, preparation, hugs and goodbyes to my husband and children, I set off on my journey to Israel. My flight arrived in the middle of the night and my hosts Hagit and Howie were there waiting for me. As we were driving home that night, I first noticed the big bright blue banners on the side of the highway for the annual May celebration of Israel's 70th year of independence. I also noticed a familiar plant that I have back at my home in Arizona, the big colorful red and purple flowering Bougainvillea bushes on the side of the road. It was special to see that there was a piece of home in Israel.

The next day the program began in Tel Aviv with our presentations and meeting of all of the CIF Israel group and my fellow participants, Mary Lynn Kasunic, from the US and Anna Rosenberger from Germany. Mary Lynn is also from Phoenix and she is president and CEO of the Area Agency on Aging in Phoenix. Anna is a social worker in the area of child and youth welfare. After the meeting we left to go to our new home for a few days in Jerusalem.

I was very excited to be in Jerusalem, the history, the religion, the

conflicts and the people. I finally was there! Our first meeting of the day was with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services, where we were presented information about the state departments, NGO roles in Israel and other pertinent information that gave us context for the program. We also received a brief history timeline of Israel and also about Aliyah, the immigration of exiled Jews back to the land of Israel. After the meetings we explored the 'old city' with Ruti and I enjoyed some Falafel for the first time, which was very tasty. In the evening we were hosted at Miriam Bar-Gioria home for a wonderful home-cooked dinner.

The next day, was a big day! First thing in the morning we headed over to Mevaseret Senior Social Services to attend a seminar with professionals working with the elderly, where Mary Lynn Kasunic, CIF participant was presenting on the Area Agency on Aging along with two fellow Israeli presenters - Mara Shecter, SW Protecting older adults in the Israeli health system: Cross cultural interactions involved in legal and social elder abuse interventions, and Lilach Yarden, SW Elder abuse

By Toireasa Corrales, Arizona USA

characteristics and intervention. I learned valuable information about the Israeli elder population and abuse interventions. From there we headed over to visit Yad Vashem - Holocaust Museum. This was one of the most solemn and impactful museum visits I have made in my life. The images were very powerful; I was in tears as I viewed the images. The visit was very intense, but when you come to Israel you must go.

Over the next few days in Jerusalem with Miriam Bar-Gioria, we visited the Idan Services for the elderly, Beit Frankforter Day Center and Hadassah Hospital Child Protection Center. We also got to see the Machne Yehuda market with Nili Dror and her sister Mira Dror, and buy a few items to bring back home to make with our friends and family. I really loved the bakery treats and as it was Thursday afternoon, the market was becoming very busy in preparations for Shabbat.

Then we were on our way to Yerucham by bus; arriving late in the evening, we were greeted by Shlomo and Renana Ilan. Ana, Mary Lynn and I settled in and met with Dr. Vershviski who spoke with us about the needs of the Bedouin youth and the formation of a High School in Yerucham with private funding to serve the Bedouin youth.

The next morning was another big day! We had a packed agenda and it was my birthday. First, we went to visit a Bedouin settlement and then we were off to see the Dead Sea and Masada. It was a cloudy day, which is not very common at that time of year. It made for a nice day, not too hot and the sun was not too intense. At Masada we got to go up in the cable car (I have a fear of heights, so this was a bit of a challenge for me), but the views were beautiful, and we learned about the history of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. On our way back, we stopped for a quick hike at Wadi



**"Ossim Shalom" chairpersons Juliet and Baruch and participants at Hostel in Jerusalem Arab area**  
Photo: Anna Rosenberger

Boqeq, then back home for Shabbat. I was excited to participate with the family at Synagogue and the Shabbat dinner blessing. Renana made a very beautiful dinner and I was very touched for the special birthday blessing tradition from all of the family. Toda raba, this was a very special birthday I could not have asked for anything more. The next morning, we continued to observe Shabbat and I attended a bat mitzvah celebration at Synagogue. After sundown we visited Dr. Moshe Landsman and he spoke



**Participants at Israel Museum in Jerusalem with CIF Israel members - Photo: Toireasa Corrales**

with us about the challenges with psychology services with the Bedouin populations.

On Sunday, we went to visit a Jewish elementary school with Ethiopian immigrant children and visited a Jewish agency that supports Ethiopians who make Aliyah. After that we traveled to the train station to head back to Tel Aviv, where we meet again with Edna Bar-On and had some free-time to explore Tel Aviv. We headed to the flea-market and Old Jaffa, and I had an ice cream overlooking the sea and the sunset. In Tel Aviv we visited the Woman's Courtyard, "Amicha" day center for persons with developmental disabilities and Shanti House social home for youth. We also got to tour with Ilana Engel at the social service office and an elderly community center in Herzelia. We met with Ruth Rasnic at the women's shelter. She spoke of the many challenges the non-profit have to overcome to make a voice for women and the need for these services in the community. This was the final day in Tel Aviv before we were to head to Haifa in the North of Israel. Due to a small change and we had to return to Jerusalem.

Arriving to Jerusalem, we meet up with Juliet Dabbikeh and she took us to our Hostel in the Arab area of Jerusalem. From there we visited Israel Elwin services for children with disabilities in the Arab section of Jerusalem. We also visited the Jerusalem Consortium for Research & Development where they work with Palestinian youth to solve the urgent problems and necessities, in areas of social development, humanitarian services, and business support. In the evening we attend a nice dinner from our host Mouhamad Diab who treated us to an enjoyable Arabic dinner where we got to see Arab youth celebrating something similar to a high school prom in the USA, sukran (thank you) Mouhamad.

I would like to give a heartfelt toda raba (thank you) to all of the CIF Israel members: Edna Bar-On, Miriam Bar-Giora, Hadas Zeev, Nili Dror, Mira Dror, Shlomo Ilan, Ilana Engel, Hagit Freidus, Juliet Dabbikeh, Eilat Galili, Gila Atal, Judith Shalaski, Yaron Ziv, Mouhamad Diab, Ruti Flesch and all the families of the CIF members who also took part. I will never forget your kindness and hospitality. "Shalom Chaverim, shalom chaverim, Shalom, shalom, L'hitrahoat, L'hitrahoat, Shalom, shalom. Goodbye my friends, be safe my friends, have peace, have peace, 'till we meet again, 'till we meet again, have peace, have peace."



**CIF Israel members and participants - evaluation and farewell meeting - Photo: Anna Rosenberger**

## Italia Hosts the 1st CIF Peace Project Meeting!

On Thursday, September 27, all our participants arrived safe and sound and settled in at the Sassone-Ciampino (Rome) venue where CIF Italia had the honor and the pleasure to host the 2001 CIF International Conference. After dinner, we had the chance to socialize informally and made sure that everyone had a chance to exchange some information with the people they would share the following couple of days with.

Friday morning **Mimmo Merola** of CIF Italia opened the actual Meeting welcoming the 40 participants present from ten different countries and introducing what would follow until Sunday. He rightly mentioned the support of people who were not physically present, as **Carolyn and Reid Sutton** from the USA and **Ilse Hoffmann** from Germany, who offered a generous financial contributions that helped us make **Mohammed Alami's** participation possible and more. He then gave a general overview on how the Peace Project started and its development within the CIF Community until now. Mohammed then spoke as the first Palestinian participant to the Project in 2011 at the CIF International Conference in Cyprus, giving his experience and perspective.

We then had the pleasure of listening to the former CIF Norway president, **Signe Skare**, who illustrated their experience and innovative solution to the Peace Project, started in 2014, that opened the way to the constructive collaboration with the Nansen Center for Peace and Dialogue, an active and much appreciated contribution to the Meeting itself.

It was then the turn of the president of CIF Finland, **Leo Heikkila**, who illustrated the 2017 Peace Project within their exchange program

with participants from Kosovo and Serbia; concluding with a relevant question: "What is our focus in our

PEP in peace perspective – how to establish the essential elements of

# ITALY

Report by **Bruna Palonta**,  
CIF Italia member



peace as the concrete part of our PEP?"

The president of CIF Israel, **Edna Bar-On**, who has had a primary role in the initiation of the Peace Project came next, explaining that the content of her presentation would not repeat things already written in their 2017 Peace Project article published in the *CIF World News*, but emphasized the multicultural side of Israel and its connection to the issue at hand. In any case, a salient aspect of their 2017 experience was the cooperation and alliance with *Ossim Shalom*, which would be introduced and explained in the following presentation.

*All about Ossim Shalom*, NGO of Arab and Jewish Social Workers for Peace and Welfare - retired social worker and the present co-chairperson, **Ms. Juliet Dabbikeh**, one of the participants selected for the CIF Italia 2018 exchange program.

*Ossim Shalom* is a Peace Association which promotes peace and gathers Jewish and Muslim social workers, who work together on a volunteer basis in order to:

- Give rights to all the population, especially children,
- Carry on different activities of informing, teaching and integrating.

On Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, *The Nansen Center for Peace and Dialogue* - Norway, through the person of **Christiane Seehausen**, offered the 40 people present a precious opportunity to go through a highly appreciated and resourceful workshop. CIF Italia and the Center shared the costs of her transfer and stay.

*Nansen Center Workshop – 2018 CIF Italia Peace Project meeting*

This Center has more than 20 years of experience developing methodologies and implementing dialogue projects in the Balkans, Afghanistan, Kenya, Iraq, Poland and Norway.

The Center is implementing a variety of projects focusing on dialogue for overcoming segregation, creating inclusive societies, transforming conflicts and building peace. In the latest years, they have had a major focus on training dialogue facilitators. The aim with these trainings is to educate interested people to use the method in their context.

For the Nansen Center, dialogue is a process of genuine interaction through which human beings listen to each other deeply enough to be changed by what they learn. No participant gives up her or his identity, but each recognizes enough of the other's valid human claims. Used over a longer period of time, this method produces small and bigger changes in society.

Some of the **workshops** we did were:

- Find the key elements in dialogue (workshop in small groups),
- What shaped me to who I am today? (workshop with a partner),
- Workshop of the 4 Corners (I don't know, I don't agree, perhaps, I agree) to express my opinion on a certain issue and maybe change



*All participants of September 2018 Italia meeting and conference evening out.*



*CIF Italia Peace Project meeting and Italia Conference 2018 – participants from 33 countries*

it,

- Talk about a prejudice I have and think where it comes from and where it takes me (workshop with a partner).

#### **CIF 2028 – The future of the CIF Peace Project**

On Saturday afternoon, **Mimmo**, president of CIF Italia, *showed the guidelines for Peace Project Proposals:*

- Proposals will be reviewed by projects with different countries or groups,
- Conference participation grants with equal representation from conflicting countries/groups with the condition to jointly conduct a workshop on the conflict situation experience,
- Any other project in collaboration with other organizations involved in peace and conflict resolution issues.

*Along with explaining the present review process*, there was a discussion and a need for further considerations on the guidelines and the review process. On Mimmo's request for volunteers who would be willing to invest some time on the issue along with him, **Mohammed Alami** from Palestine, **Despoina Oikonomou** from Greece, and **Therese Ferragut** from France (looking towards the CIF International Conference in France) have offered their support. The group hopes to bring something useful and significant next July to France.

#### **Conclusions and New Beginnings**

These days of September in Italy gave to the participants a chance to look back at the five years of the CIF Peace Project, on how it started and developed up to now, but now the question is how we can proceed in the future.

CIF Italia has come to the awareness that the best thing we can do

is connect with movements and organizations in conflicting scenarios that have already started working along these lines. We can provide an opportunity in our Programs to have them meet in a safe neutral ground to enhance and deepen their intention and willingness for reciprocal understanding and effective dialogue, in order to hopefully strengthen their relationship once they are back continuing the commitment in their conflicting environment. This solution also to safeguard the actual professional exchange program for them and the other participants from non-conflicting areas, which could otherwise risk to be disruptive and counterproductive. Hence, the priority for alliances with partners like Ossim Shalom, The Nansen Center for Peace and Dialogue, the Parents Circle-Families Forum and hopefully more!

This Peace Project has been going on for five years and the people present at this Meeting would like to continue it, because there is a great need of peace in our world, not only in the countries where there is a war or a conflict, but everywhere!

*We know that our Project Peace is a drop in the ocean, however many drops can make a change in the world; we now need to decide how to insert the drop/drops in this ocean the best and most effective way. We encourage CIF people who share these thoughts to bring new ideas, maybe even thinking a bit outside the box!*

We should point out that the meeting has been accredited by the S.W. Licensing Board for the Region Lazio, thus getting formal recognition according to the Italian regulations.

Finally the Meeting was also a joy and a pleasure just sharing each other's company, not to mention the wonderful duo-guitar concert on Friday night and the two excursions to Rome by night on Saturday and Castel Gandolfo on Sunday morning – so there's little more to say, but *arrivederci* in France next July!

## CIF Italia produced video of 2018 Peace Project Meeting

Dear Friends of the CIF Community,

We have just experienced the 1st CIF Peace Project meeting held in Sassone (Rome) from September 27 to 30 –here is a video shot for the occasion, all very spontaneous and unexpected without any real previous planning: [C.I.F. Conferenza di roma Settembre 2018.wmv](#)

We thank two young social workers in Rome who suggested and realized the video that gives a general idea of the event and will remain in our records. We also express our gratitude and thanks to **Carolyn Sutton** and her husband **Reid** (USA) along with **Ilse Hoffmann** (Germany) for their generous contribution to the initiative which allowed the participation of **Mohammed Alamif** from Palestine and more. The meeting has been accredited by the SW Licensing Board.

We hope to send you soon more details/considerations on the Meeting and the future plans that we hope will develop.

Hugs to everyone,

**Mimmo Merola**, On behalf of CIF Italia

(Contact Mimmo Merola: [cifitalia@cifitalia.it](mailto:cifitalia@cifitalia.it) for a link to the video.)

# How a Village Survived!

Taking my personal advantage, I am pleased to send a seasonal greeting to the CIF friends. Therefore, here is just a self-introduction: born in 1936; met with Dr. Ollendorff in 1963 in Tokyo; met him again in Cleveland in 1964, seven years after the Program was established for the German youth; former secretary of CIF Japan; now aged 83, the eldest among Japanese participants to the program.

The above photo shows a scene of my native village and the mountain is called Eight Peaks, less than 3,000 meters high above sea level. In my school-days I commuted to and from looking at the mountain. The school master used to tell pupils the mountain would have collapsed if one peak missed. I had not realized what he meant. Rather, I wondered what could appear in the world on the other side across the mountain.

The Story is about the self-help effort of the villagers for the last

50 years. Villagers succeeded at last in restructure of their agricultural production mode from the grains harvest to the vegetable growth. Immediately after when they were manifoldly highlighted in

a series of TV news programs, such people as policy maker, officer of provincial administration, agronomist, economist, journalist, and students, etc. visited the tiny village one after another. They had a briefing at the office of the village-master; had a close look at growing vegetables on the highland plateau at the mountain foot; had a close observation of farmers picking up each cabbage from plowing soil in early zero-hours which is required to deliver fresh vegetables to the market; and the visitors interviewed the seasonally migrated laborers from southeast Asia under the strict arrangement of both

## JAPAN

By Yoshio Koike, CIF Japan  
CIF Cleveland participant, 1964

governments.

The economists estimated average income of a family unit, of which labor force is composed of husband, wife, eldest son and a migrated helper from another country. Accordingly, villagers believe it is approximately five-times bigger than the personal salary income for the mid-level clerks of major city banks. Economy in the village nowadays induces the pull factor for internal population movement. The new aspect of village is utterly changed from the poverty-broken families in old days. All were really poor 50 years ago. Farmers could not yield enough crops and grains needed for the whole family to consume throughout a year. Therefore, fathers together with eldest son had to shift to the southern farming area where they were employed for nearly half a year from October until March and the mean payment was sent to the remaining family to clear the deficit. The family members left behind were always uneasy and had only to be endured. Further-more, the villagers could not provide the proper opportunity of education to their children exceeding 9 years, i.e. obligatory 6 years of primary and 3 years of secondary school. Children were ready, after completion of 9 years fundamental education, to be pushed out of their own community and pulled into the industries in the big cities where the managers badly needed inexpensive labor forces. Most villagers had no knowledge nor any doubt that the village administration would come to bankruptcy because of decreased population which affected the taxation paid to the local administration. They took it rather as a matter of acceptable course in order to lessen numbers of mouth to be fed.

National government allows the taxpayers to designate payment in which system a certain portion of his/her payment can be channeled to the individual's native administration, but effectiveness looks still half-and-half. To look at sequence of efforts in the village, momentum for renovation existed even at an early stage. There was a group of several people formed who were looking forward to seeing the village in future. Those were retired from the national government administration and newly assigned young school teachers to mid-level education. They were originally the outsiders of the village and more-or-less critical to any administrative authority. In the meantime the young and old were well mixed-up in a good harmony. Some were experienced with knowledge,



and it was remarkable that each member respected the cultural value of any society. They appreciated villagers' daily doings which were traditional habits. They were experienced to deal with and acknowledged different phenomenon in the different segments in the society. They had once observed, for instance, administrative mal-practice that had led to taking bribes in exchange of providing unlawful privileges to a certain group of people. Therefore, they advised the villagers not to depend too much on the public sector. In other words, they encouraged the villagers to think, to

decide and to do, using their own muscle and own energy with confidence of self-independence. The group of young teachers and well-experienced elders became gradually acceptable particularly to the local community leaders of eight small neighborhood associations, because outsiders were no longer simply outsiders; they approached the villagers with a sincere and genuine positive attitude.

Thus, the meeting of friendly talks in a larger circle had started and repeated. The villagers came to realize pros and cons of the village.

Advantages are: (1) Pure and ample water from the river which flows from the village as the longest one in the country; (2) Fresh air and cool summer. Disadvantages are (1) Topographical location; The village is at the bottom of the great valley which causes lack of sunlight; (2) Land-ownership; farmers owned small pieces of cultivation land which were spotted here and there surrounded by networking access lanes. In analyzing such factors as mentioned above, villagers decided: (1) to grow vegetables; (2) to organize all the farmers into eight cooperatives under the chairmanship of the leaders of traditional neighborhood associations; (3) authorized the cooperative chairman to collect individual farmer's land and put them together; (4) allocated profit in proportion to the acres the individual farmer offered.

Cultivation land came to be larger as the unnecessary access lanes were changed into plowing soils, agriculture machines were possible to lend. Each cooperative did study and research regarding access to the market, daily index of commodity price, cold delivery chain, etc. Productivity of commodities was unexpectedly expanded to respond to the overseas markets. The village master concludes in speaking, "Ruins of Rome tell us, Rome was built not in a couple of days." Likewise, villagers' confidence on self-reliance is the source of success. Local administration just exists to assist them.

## This visit to Italy was "different" for participant from Palestine Israel

### Conference:

The conference of CIF Italy 2018 in Sassone-Rome included the 1st CIF Peace Project Meeting 2018 and celebrated the 31st anniversary of the CIF Italy Branch.

The conference took place from September 27-30, 2018 at Carmelitani Institute on the outskirts of Rome, in a quiet beautiful site.

The conference was comprised of three sections that included first the presentations which were made by various representatives from Norway, Finland, Israel and Italy. The presentations gave me a comprehensive orientation about CIF International, and introduced me to an outstanding and broad community that honors me to be part of it.

The second part of the conference was the workshop on Dialog that was extremely interesting and provided easy and practical tools. It was given with great charm by a facilitator from the Nansen Center for Peace

and Dialog.

The third and last part was the brain-storming and discussion of the CIF members about what is the best way and what possible projects the members perceive in the near future. How we as CIF can add a "drop in the ocean to make it larger and larger."

### Professional exposure:

The participation to the actual exchange program began on October, 2018. It involved me from Palestine Israel and young Tong Ying from Taiwan. The program was designed to include the two of us for the first week in Santa Maria CV, and later split us so that each one had her own placement, and finally we met again for the evaluation in Milan.

The program was excellent; it was well planned and provided

By Juliet Dabbikeh / Palestine Israel

considerable knowledge and satisfaction. I had a rich and rewarding experience. I learned about Italy's demography and general history, in addition to learning about the public systems, including the social, the health and the education system. I had beneficial professional exposure to issues such as immigration, which I was not exposed to before. It was remarkable because I visited cooperatives that provided services for immigrants on my first placement and actually visited immigrants in their home in

Padova on my second placement. Such visits gave clearer picture to the problem of immigration in Italy from the perspective of the Italians as much as from the immigrants themselves.

I had the honor to meet civil and human rights educators in Padova and was invited to witness the dedication of a square for the "No abuse of little girls and boys," which was extremely impressive for me because this was a very strong practical social and human rights message; I hope I can witness similar actions in my country.

#### Cultural Exposure:

I had unforgettable cultural visits to the Ancient Roman Amphitheater in Santa Maria Capua Vetere, the impressive Mitreum, the Royal Palace of Caserta, the archeological park of Ercolano and Napoli by night – where we and the two hosting families together had a Pizza Margherita. In Padova, the most impressive visit was the Scrovegni Chapel and the town Hall on the Plazzo della Ragione and being



Juliet with host family.

introduced to the drink spritz by my young host family.

#### Evaluation:

In Milan, we had a very energetic walking tour lead by Anna and finally rested in the Castle grounds and enjoyed the evaluation process of our participation in the open air. The evening at Anna's parents' house was special. They were very gracious and received us in their home and gave us a Milanese dinner complemented with enjoyable exchange talks that supported our evaluation.

I have been in Italy several times, but this visit was different. I was like the locals, every morning I walked or ran to catch the tram on my way to work – my appointments. Prior to my arrival, I was excited to meet the real Italian people in depth, and wanted to become familiar with their culture and enjoy their local food; although Giovanna (my first host family) cooked before I got home...it was like she wanted to keep the cooking secrets to Italy! This visit was energizing and made me full with appreciation, and I could say that I came back home with the feeling that I have made friends. I would love to stay in contact with them and I am looking forward to hosting them.

Finally I wish to thank CIF Italy for the opportunity to participate in the program, and I am grateful to my host families who were so generous to open their homes and hearts and expose me to the fabulous Italian warmth.

## Morocco: CIF International Executive Committee (EC) and the Board of Directors (BD) will Meet in Marrakech 12-15 November 2020

By Aziz Elboudiri, CIF Morocco, Oct, 05 - 2018

CIF Morocco is glad to inform you of the last cheapest offer we could find submitted by SEMIRAMIS HOTEL (4 stars) located in the main center of Marrakech "Gueliz" (Gueliz known as new city center "ville nouvelle"). We hope that this exceptional offer submitted to you in Vienna 2018, will help you and encourage all of you to come to Marrakech 2020 to attend the first event of CIF International in Africa.

The offer is for a number of persons starting from 30 to 40:

**Availability:** Single Rooms, Double or Twin Rooms and Triple Rooms.

#### Rates:

Single Room with Breakfast	45.00 euro per night
Double Room with Breakfast	58.00 euro per night
Triple Room with Breakfast	85.00 euro per night
City Tax	1.65 euro per person per night
<b>Meal (Lunch or Dinner)</b>	12.00 euro per person per meal (Not including drinks)

Coffee Break: 5 euro

Accommodation per person/per night in **single room** with full board is:

$$45+10+24+1.65 = 80.65$$

Accommodation per person/per night in a **double room** with full board is:

$$29+10+24+1.65 = 64.65$$

Accommodation per person/per night in a **triple room** with full board is:

$$28.34+10+24+1.65=63.99$$

**Added Value:** 01 Meeting Room for up to 48 persons with equipment: Free

**Added Value from CIF friends:**

**Transport from the airport to the hotel:** The process of receiving our guests from Marrakech airport and transferring them to the hotel has been decided to reduce the burden of travel and taxi expenses by renting a car or two, provided that CIF members and friends would be in charge of welcoming arrivals at the Marrakech airport.

**Added Value from CIF Morocco in connection with local authorities of Marrakech possibility of:** A City tour by carriage for all participants present.

#### To note:

- Please understand that the hotel prices were prepared for the current year (2018) and might have some changes in 2020.
- Please understand that some extra expenses for the meetings are to be paid
- The prices mentioned above of accommodation and meetings at Hotel SEMIRAMIS (4 stars hotel) are for both Executive Committee members and Board of Directors. (Thursday/Friday/Saturday/Sunday).
- Date proposed and confirmed by the BD in Vienna from 12 to 15 November 2020.
- Participants might arrive to the hotel before or stay after the confirmed



date but please let CIF Morocco know for booking.

#### Marrakech cheaper by international planes:

Marrakech has an international airport with direct scheduled flights from many major European centers, including flights operated by a number of low cost carriers. Connections via Casablanca (45-min flight) are also possible.

- **EasyJet** flies to Marrakech from Manchester, Stansted Gatwick Airport, Madrid, Lyon, Amsterdam and Basel
- **Ryanair** - direct flights from Oporto (Portugal), London Luton, and London Stansted to Marrakech. They also fly from Frankfurt-Hahn (Germany), Alicante (Spain), Girona (Spain), Eindhoven (the Netherlands), Milano Bergamo (Italy), Madrid and Reus (Spain) to Marrakech.
- **TUIFly** flies from Cologne and several other European destinations.
- **Transavia** a low-cost airline from Air France-KLM group coming to Marrakech from several cities in Europe, including Paris.
- **Norwegian** offers direct flights from Copenhagen, Oslo and Stockholm.
- **Iberia** offers two nonstop flights from Madrid.
- **TAP Portugal** offers direct flights from Lisbon
- Domestic flights operated by Royal Air Morocco, with flights from Agadir, Casablanca (daily), Fez (daily), Ouarzazate, Al Hoceima, and Tangier.

Marrakech by train from airport from Casablanca:

Trains from Casablanca (2nd class: 10 euro, 1st class: 20 euro, about 3 hours), Rabat and Tangier connect with most domestic rail destinations in the country, with Marrakech as the southernmost stop. Trains run regularly between Marrakech and Casablanca (including the International Airport). They arrive around every two hours and regularly from other destinations like Rabat. Every day there are 8 direct 7 hour trains to Fez via Casablanca Voyageurs station and another two direct connections to Tangier.

#### Leisure time

Among the things you might be interested to see and do in Marrakech during your free times:

- **Djemaa El-Fna.** The highlight of any Marrakech night. Musicians, dancers, and story tellers pack this square at the heart of the medina, filling it with a cacophony of drum beats and excited shouts. Scores of stalls sell a wide array of Moroccan fare .
- **Saadian Tombs.** The tombs were not discovered until the beginning of the 20th century. They have been preserved just like they were during the glory days of the Saadian rulers.



While you are here, look for the tombs of Jews and Christians; they are noted by their different markings and direction of the tomb. Entrance 1 euro

- **Jewish Cemetery,** The largest Jewish cemetery in Morocco, characterized by white-washed tombs and sandy graves. The men selling tickets are full of interesting information about the cemetery but you have to ask. Entrance 1 euro

- **Agdal Gardens.** It consists of groves of orange, lemon, fig, apricot and pomegranate trees in rectangular plots, linked by olive-lined walkways. Together with the medina of Marrakech and the Menara Gardens, the Agdal Gardens were listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 1985

- **Majorelle Gardens (Jardin Majorelle),** It provides an excellent respite from the hustle and bustle of the city streets. The park was designed by the artist Jacques Majorelle in the 1920s and 1930s. Since 1980 the garden has been owned by Yves Saint-Laurent and Pierre Berg?. It boasts a collection of plants from around the globe, including what seems like every cactus species on the planet. Get here early to avoid the crowds. Inside the gardens is also the Berber Museum. Entrance 7 euro

- **Yves Saint Laurent Museum,**(next door to Majorelle Gardens) Entrance 10 euro.

- **The Menara gardens** (west of the city in walking distance). 09:00-17:00. A mixture of orchards and olive groves surrounding the water reservoir with the central pavilion which is a popular sight on tourist postcards. The pavilion was built during the 16th century Saadi dynasty, and renovated in 1869. Free admission

#### Information:

CIF Morocco, Aziz Abdelaziz Elboudiri, President  
 Cifmaroc2014@gmail.com // cifmorocco.president@gmail.com  
 And for more information about Semiramis hotel, here is the website:  
<http://www.hotel-marrakech-semiramis.com>



## 2019 ANNOUNCEMENT OF CIF Morocco INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM (IPEP) MARCH 15<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> 2019



**Deadline for applications will be JANUARY 10th 2019.**

#### Eligibility for participation:

Candidates should be professionally qualified and employed in social work related area, with a minimum of three years of professional experience.

Candidates should be able to communicate with both languages: French & English. From candidates application form, we will know which language we shall be using for the orientation period.

#### Program activities:

The program has **five stages:**

#### 1. Introduction and orientation period: 3 days 2 nights

Participants are given topics about social policies of historical

developments, political and socioeconomic situation, cultural events and special emphasis is placed on an introduction to Morocco social work, social policies and welfare.

#### 2. Fieldwork exchange experience: 8 days

The agencies and institutions placement are related to different areas of social work.

#### 3. The agencies visits : 1 day

Visits are prepared according to participants' professional interests and field of expertise. Participants are advised by experienced qualified colleagues working at the institutions of social work. This is experience is one of observation and discussion with agency personnel rather than being able to work with clients.

**4. Week-end tourist trip** discovering part of Morocco (Saturday-Sunday)

**5. Evaluation period :** 1 day

The last day of the program is used for evaluation, filling survey, the sharing of experiences and the farewell party.

**Financial Conditions:**

Participants are asked to contribute 350 euros as a contribution to cover the financial expenses.

CIF Morocco supports all the living expenses related to the orientation

period, week-end trip, all domestic and national travel during the program and the evaluation period with the farewell party.

**Number of participants: 3 or 4**

For more information about CIF Morocco please contact:  
cifmaroc2014@gmail.com / cifmorocco.president@gmail.com  
/whatsapp:+212661514102

*Looking forward receiving your application form before the deadline.*

*On behalf of CIF Morocco /Elboudiri*



Photos of 2017 Exchange program:



Photos of 2018 Exchange program:

## Young Finnish participant recommends Nepal program!

Looking down from the blurry window of the Boeing-747 on the grey city of Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, just didn't give justice to what my life would be like for the two upcoming months. After reaching ground level, I was faced with a wall consisting of fumes and dust, making it a struggle to breathe. Everywhere around, people were walking around with filter masks, protecting their precious lungs, and they were right to do so as Kathmandu has the 5th worst air quality in the world according to the 2018 Pollution Index Rate. Regardless of this shocking first encounter, Nepal ended up being one of the most fascinating places I've been to so far and thanks to the CIF Nepal program I was able to experience it first hand, in the absence of frustrating tourist goggles.



The first week was quite hectic, as there were many places to visit and things to see. Since Nepal hasn't yet been struck and modified by tourism to the same extent as many other Asian countries, it was easier to get a more genuine picture of everyday life. We were a group of five people in the program, I being the youngest in the group. Luckily, we ended up getting along perfectly and the fluctuation in age was not an issue what so ever. Together, we explored the many temples and statues typical of the Hindu and Buddhist religions, the two biggest religions in the country. Of all cultural and religious sites we visited the one that touched me the most was the Hindu cremation temple called Pashupatinath, where bodies were burned and dumped in the sacred river on display to the public eye. Maybe this sounds strange to you, but I must admit, there was something incredibly peaceful and magical about the whole place. I bet it's an eye-opener for most westerners though, as we are used to dealing with death in a completely different manner.

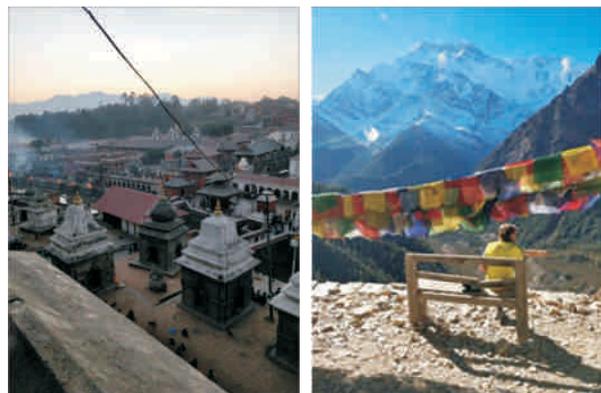
Included in the introduction week were also a few interesting social welfare facilities. We were able to familiarize ourselves with, for example,

the care of mentally and physically handicapped children, as well as the routines of a child care center. Despite Nepal's economic problems, the facilities we visited were surprisingly good and it was obvious that the employers really put their heart and soul into helping these individuals.

Even though the first week was educational and interesting, the real adventure began when I moved in with my host family and started working at the psychological clinic together with an inspiring and skilled psychologist. As a psychology student, I couldn't have asked for a better place and together with my mentor, we held group therapy sessions, individual therapy as well as a few lectures for the psychology students at the university. We spent many afternoons and evenings sharing professional ideas and theories and we became really close during a short period of time. Both my mentor and my host family showed an admiring hospitality and really introduced me to Nepalese traditions and culture. In a naive way, I think living everyday life together with the locals, is the best way to really get a look into the essence of a country.

### FINLAND

*By Reidar Nervander, CIF Finland  
(A young student of psychology,  
with long enough experience as a  
social educator of a Helsinki intake unit.)*



I was honestly blown away by Nepal, its people and incredible nature. Because of this, I chose to stay longer after the official program had ended. This was encouraged by both the CIF Nepal organization and my host family, and they helped and guided me afterwards as well, something I'm truly grateful for. Partly because of this, I was able to do my dream hike in the Himalayan Mountains where I walked for 19 days up to an altitude of 5400 meters. Trust me, if you believe you have it in you, try for yourself and you won't regret it!

In conclusion, I'd recommend the CIF Nepal program to anyone who

is interested in experiencing a genuine country, with all its astounding perks of not yet being shaped by the dagger of tourism. The hospitality and helpfulness of the locals are undisputed and the nature, once outside the foggy mist of Kathmandu, is unreal. However, you'll have to be prepared to step outside your comfort zone, as this is a very poor country, still recovering from recent catastrophes, like the 1996-2006 civil war and the horrific earthquake of 2015. If you are able to see through all this, I'm sure Nepal won't disappoint you!

## Nepal participant from USA reflects on people and places...

A small country wedged between the giants of China and India, our 2017 CIF group admittedly knew very little about Nepal. But, that would change quickly! A gracious and welcoming CIF Nepal board provided the necessary structure and support to ensure that Monique and Reidar (Finland), Hetty (Scotland), and Danielle and Marcia (USA) would come to know the history, culture, landscape, the sacred and spiritual. We were informed, challenged, and inspired at every level; our professional exchange experience was as rich and life-changing as we hoped it would be.

The first week we participated in a variety of cultural immersion experiences to deepen our understanding of Nepal. We were briefed by K&K College faculty (head of social work) on all things Nepal, including the most recent earthquake that killed 8,500 people and impacted Nepal at every turn. We visited sacred places including 1) the most important Hindu temple, Pashipanath, where we observed grieving families and open air cremations and 2) the sacred Buddhist shrine of Swyambhunath (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) where we spun prayer wheels, learned about stupas and their symbolic meaning, and bought prayer flags to later hang in high mountain passes. We engaged in on-site meetings with administrative directors of various NGOs: The Butterfly Home (and winner of the prestigious CNN Heroes Award) which houses and educates children whose parents are in prison; Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN) which addresses children's rights, dignity, empowerment and protection; SERC, a facility for handicapped children...and more. We glimpsed, surrounded by a 360 degree view of the Himalayas, the early morning sunrise on Mt. Everest, the crowning glory of Nepal and the world! We savored momo's (delicious dumplings), juju dhau (the creamiest yogurt in the world) and daal boat (traditional rice and lentils). We concluded our week by choosing our own personal weekend adventure: Flying to Bhutan, adventuring in Chitwan National Park, or exploring charming Pokhara. There was so much more to our week of learning and bonding as a group...but, time to meet our host family and work assignments!

For the next few weeks, our host families were tasked with sharing the pulse of daily life with us. I quickly developed a deep affection for my host family. Two accomplished university professors, together with their daughter-in-law, and an energetic eight year old granddaughter welcomed me unconditionally into their home, hearts and lives. No matter what we did together, there was always a free and authentic flow of conversation that kept us closely connected and the learning going forward. I would ask: "Why do you wear a bindi showing you are married, but your married daughter-in-law does not? How do you feel about so many college students leaving to study elsewhere in the world? Why do you give me a spoon, when you don't use utensils yourself? What would

the Hindu religion have to say about my own personal struggle with my neighbor? Does today's generational shift in behavior and attitude cause you to be more excited or upset? Why are your political elections so policed? Tell me about the son you tragically lost a few years ago in the USA, and how you find the heart to go on. Can I go with you to the women's hostel that you started 40 years ago, and spend the night? What heat source do you use when this cold turns even colder? How do you feel about driving in the sea of motorcycle traffic at your age? What impact does the frequent load shedding (power outages) have?"

My host family might wonder: "Isn't it true that Americans eat big breakfasts? (That's why we serve you so much.) Why do you encourage your children to leave home, often far away, and not stay in your house? Who will take care of you in your advancing age? Are you sure you know how difficult your Himalayan trek is going to be - do you think this is a good idea? Tell us about (your grief in) losing your husband. What do you think of your current president/policies? Will you come with us to the meditation center? Can we have our daily family meeting now? What is that on your teeth (Invisaline braces) and what purpose does it serve?" And, regarding my placement with the Nepalese International Red Cross: "What is the condition of the high and remote tribal villages that you were escorted to? What progressive Nepalese government policies seem to be working to effect change? What new ways of thinking are being encouraged in the mountainous regions regarding community living, earthquake building, government support, available medical care? We can't advise you on how much to leave as a gratuity, follow your heart."

At the conclusion of our time together, all CIF board members, host families and participants gathered for a celebrator cross cultural meal, awarding of CIF certificates, and acknowledgment that we had all grown from meeting each other at life's crossroads. My parting gift to my host family was a set of large silk prayer flags. My goal was to undertake a two week post Himalayan trek in the Annapurna Mt range - and hang the flags at the top of Thorung La Pass, 17,500 feet.

Today they are fluttering (or whipping furiously, as the case may be!) as a way to honor my CIF Nepal family, my host family and my family back in Cleveland - to sweetly remember those family members my Nepalese family and I both lost and grieve - and to celebrate all friends and colleagues who have supported and cheered me on to this point and place in my life fills me with gratitude as deep, wide and high as the Himalayas themselves.

# USA

By Marcia Mauter,  
USA



## 2018 PEP in Nepal underway

Submitted by **Manil Neupane**, secretary CIF Nepal

Participants from Germany (Dr. Hubert Bernhard Jall), Italy (Ms. Stefania Nerva) and Sweden (Ms. Anna Cecilia Armandt) gathered for the 2018 exchange program. CIF Nepal thanks participants and other applicants for their interest in the Nepal program.



## CIF Aotearoa-New Zealand PEP receives a definite 'YES'!

I fondly remember New Zealand, lovingly called Aotearoa by its inhabitants the outdoorsy “kiwis,” from my visit in the CIF professional exchange program, 2016.

Besides its rich cultural heritage, Maori cultural belongings that have been so well preserved – the country is a cosmopolitan blend of culture, architecture, hospitality, technology and not to be missed amazing geography and beautiful landscape.

The program offered placements in two cities for each of the participants, five of us in number from Estonia, Nepal, Germany, Finland and Sweden. I would have to say I was happy to be hosted by the president of CIF New Zealand, Sue Ross and her husband Murray (*an amazing person, who took us fishing on his boat and I caught my first fish when on his boat with my dear friend from Estonia; a memory I will cherish always.*) Living with Sue and her family was a humbling experience, from her lovely home, her family and bubbly grandson, to their amazing hospitality with a different cuisine for us to try out every night, and a daily smart exchange of international social work scenario-led discussions at the dinner table. The team from around the world and the CIF board members from New Zealand were a good blend of individual social workers, and we ended up parting ways as great friends with plans to visit each other in the near future.

The program is an amazing blend of cultural exchange at the Waikatore campus in Auckland, child youth and family (CYF) services department, the Auckland city hospital and the Salvation Army. It was

indeed a great experience to meet various people involved with CIF, some of who had been to Nepal, and we were happy to share some common insights on the similarities and relationship that the two countries share, Sir Edmund Hillary being a local favorite. The Auckland placements provided us with a birds-eye view of the social work and social administration process of New Zealand.

New Plymouth, where I flew to after my first ten days in Auckland is another great place to be, with Mt. Taranaki and dear Sarah and her team

taking care of us with our every little query about the quaint town, even drove us around for our placements some days. November proved to be a decent time of the year weather-wise and is perfect for participants wanting to get out on some outdoor adventures during the weekend when we have a little time off from our visits at the organizations. We were pleasantly surprised to be able to have a walk with the horses and try their techniques at the Equine therapy clinic, used as a behavior modification therapy for the differently-abled children living in New Plymouth.

Overall, Aotearora is an amazing country boasting of a great landscape and admirable hospitality. The program is very well organized and shaped so well that one would easily tick off everything on one's participant list as well as on a vacationer's checklist – *definitely a yes for participants contemplating their next CIF-PEP applications to New Zealand any time!*

**NEPAL**

By Dr. **Jemish Acharya**



Sue Ross, president CIF-2016



Sarah, host from New Plymouth with participant PEP-2016



At the Waikatore campus



Equine Therapy



## CIF Taiwan International Professional Exchange Program March 9<sup>th</sup> ~ 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 CIF TAIWAN SINCERELY INVITE YOU TO OUR IPEP!

### THE 15 DAYS PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- ◇ **Orientation:** Participants attend a range of seminars, visits and discussions to enhance the understanding of Taiwan's history and political, educational, social welfare and social work system.
- ◇ **Experience in a multicultural group:** Participants have the opportunity to exchange work methods and intervention strategies amongst them.
- ◇ **Individual Program:** Each participant undertakes an individual arrangement in their selected areas of interest where they will visit related agencies and have discussion with Taiwanese social workers.
- ◇ **Host Family Living:** Each participant will stay in one or two host families during the program.
- ◇ **Reflection Activities:** Reflection activities play an important role in helping participants to organize their thoughts and experiences during the process of exchange program. We will also ask participants to connect what they learn from PEP and their experiences from their own countries to make the cultural exchange.
- ◇ **Evaluation:** Including discussion, questionnaire and presentation before the end of the program.

### CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION: (there will be 3~5 participants)

- ◇ **Eligibility:** Candidates should be professionally qualified and employed in social work or a social work related area, plus have a minimum of two years professional experience and be proficient in English.
- ◇ **Commitment:** Participants must attend for the entire program. Family member or friends' visits during the program are not accepted.



### EXPENSES AND FEES:

- ◇ **Participants:**
  - registration fee for each participant amounts to **NT\$13,000** and is **to be paid upon arrival**;
  - participants pay their own travel expenses to and from Taiwan and all personal expenses (lunches during the program, living expenses not related to participation in the actual program, personal insurance covering luggage, medical treatment, hospital stays and medication, etc.);
  - participants are required to apply in their country for a visa to enter Taiwan.
- ◇ **CIF Taiwan:** costs of organizing the program and public transportation cost related to the program.
- ◇ **Host families:** accommodation, breakfast and dinner.

### APPLICATION:

- Please send the application form to the CIF National Branch or Contact Person in your country. Then NBs & CPs please email the recommendation and application form to CIF Taiwan by **October 31st 2018**. For more information and download the application form- CIF International website: [www.cifinternational.com](http://www.cifinternational.com)
- Contact CIF Taiwan: [ciftaiwan@gmail.com](mailto:ciftaiwan@gmail.com), <http://www.facebook.com/ciftaiwan>



## An invitation to join CIPUSA's new Cuba program

CIPUSA is excited to announce its **Global Learning Programs** designed to study social issues outside of the United States. These programs are open to university students, faculty or professionals in the study trip field. These programs will be led by our own CIP Phoenix Branch director and former CIF Netherlands alumni **Stacy Moreno!** These programs will vary from country to country, but will

*By Lisa Purdy, president and CEO  
Council of International Programs (CIPUSA)*

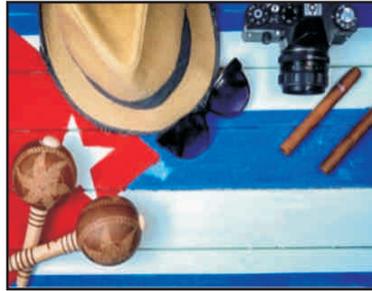
focus on social issues of the day. Some of the programs will be service trips and others comparative learning. We want our participants to recognize the global world they live in and be aware of the

commonalities of our challenges, successes and how we can learn from each other. We designed these programs to Build Bridges by having meaningful excursions, build relationships with others across cultures, and allow individuals to learn from one another.

Anyone who is interested can join us! Our inaugural trip will be to Cuba from March 2 - 10, 2019. This trip will focus on Cuban Society and Culture. Social work students at university or master levels, social work faculty and social work professionals are welcomed to join us. The trip cost is \$2,760 USD and includes room and board for a 10 day stay with host families. Costs include two meals a day, local transportation, a full-time guide in Cuba, and daily cultural and educational exchanges with local Cubans about social work, education, politics, US embargo, history, arts and more. Please see our link for more information. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me at [lisa@cipusa.org](mailto:lisa@cipusa.org).

Below is a sample of visits we will do:

- Discussion of the Role of "Race and Gender in Cuban Education and Culture"



- Meeting with the Federation of Cuban Women to learn about the struggle of gender equity in Cuba
- Center for Sex Education in Cuba to discuss the impacts of tourism on contemporary culture and health in Cuba
- Briefing by the Ministry of Education to learn about the structure of education in Cuba

- Literacy Campaign in Cuba - learn how Cuba educated its entire population
- University of Havana where we will learn about secondary education and pedagogy
- Meet a representative of the Cuban Association of Social Workers
- Visit Casa de Abuelos to learn about the community care model for Cubans in the "third age"
- Plus, so much more!

If you want to join us or need more information contact: **Lisa Purdy**, 100 North Main St., Suite #309, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022; t: 440.247.1088; [lisa@cipusa.org](mailto:lisa@cipusa.org) [www.cipusa.org](http://www.cipusa.org)

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## BD Meeting - Vienna



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CIP/CIF

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### 2019 Election Committee appointed...

The CIF Board of Directors recently appointed three CIF members to facilitate the 2019 executive committee (EC) election to be held at the July CIF Conference in Saint Malo, France: **Nuket Atalay** (Turkey), **Ilse Hoffmann** (Germany), and **Jane Ollendorff** (USA). The election committee will convene and CIF branch presidents will receive a call for nominations in early 2019. CIF members may contact the convener of the committee, Jane Ollendorff, with suggestions or questions at [jane.franko@charter.net](mailto:jane.franko@charter.net).

We're on the Web!  
[www.cifinternational.com](http://www.cifinternational.com)



*Frank Ollendorff visits with Anita Gerdes and Ellen Schnedler  
 Berlin July 2018*



*Frank Ollendorff visit with Dagmar Demme  
 in Hamburg July 2018*



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