

ICASSI 1974, Noordwijkerhout, The Netherlands

The Netherlands welcomed its visitors amidst its famed, colourful profusion of summer flowers and under the valued leadership and guidance of Mrs Dreikurs, Bill Pew, Achi Yotam, and Erik Blumenthal.

With this ICASSI '74 came the realization of an annual International Summer School. For the first time it was possible to take courses for Academic credit, and an Administrator, Dr Hal McAbee, was appointed. Staff and participants alike felt profound appreciation for the impact of this type of International living and learning experience, in social equality and in the advancement of harmony and peace.

The Leewenhorst Congress Centre resounded with jubilation as participants arrived from many countries. Morning greetings began to have an international flavour: Guten Morgen!..Goede Morgen!...Kalimera!...Bokertov!...Good Morning! Once again everyone became enveloped in the intensity of studying together. Here at Leewenhorst were excellent facilities for all the group gatherings and meetings.

The morning and evening lectures and demonstrations were held in the pleasant "Aula" meeting room. Theo and Toni Schoenaker, who had just opened the Rudolf Dreikurs Social Therapy Institute in Germany, demonstrated their work with stutterers, and Dr Leo Gold, from the New York Adlerian Group, shared his expertise in Dream Interpretation. It was here that deeply moving exchanges were made with Israelis and Germans sharing what it meant for them to erase past history and to work together in an atmosphere of mutual cooperation and respect. It was after this ICASSI that Della Irwin of Canada was invited to become ICASSI's first historian.

The social aspects of the Summer School were once again shown to be an important part of the program – the Musical Evening that included magnificent singing under the leadership of Toni and Theo Schoenaker, candlelight Chapel Singing, and the Psychodrama evening. An Art Auction was made possible through "Tee" Dreikurs Art Therapy course which was introduced for the first time. The Israeli, Greek and North American nights of song, dance and much merriment added a special feature, as did the celebration of "Tee" Dreikurs' 75th ICASSI birthday.

As has become the custom, special events gave unique memories of ICASSI in the Netherlands: a National Conference at Utrecht; tours to Rotterdam, Delft, Amsterdam, The Hague, Leiden, Scheveningen, and Madurodam; a harbour cruise and canal trips; museums (Frans Hals and Rijks), and factories (diamond, famous Delft china, wooden shoes); Anne Frank's House, and Rembrandt's; the Stadsschouwburg Theatre and St Bovo Church organ recital; the Creperie and other famous Dutch eateries. Some participants found time for Alkmaar's Cheese Market, Aalsmeer's Flower Auction, Volendam, Edam and quiet cycling among the sand dunes and to the beach.

If one participant may be quoted – "it was a mountain-top experience".