

ICASSI 1991, Limerick, Ireland

The 24th Rudolf Dreikurs Summer Institute was held in South Western Ireland in the modern buildings of the University of Limerick. On one side of the campus, the river Shannon flowed gently toward the sea beneath overhanging trees. On the other side, participants and faculty walked daily along tree studded paths from Plassey village residences, nearby homes or the campus hostel.

This ICASSI was the first to have local Mini-ICASSI's to prepare and interest parents, teachers, and other professionals in the major event to come. Following Ger van Eldert's successful 1988 outreach for teachers in Tralee, the group there continued for '89 and '90 with John and Ann Platt while other ICASSI faculty, Edna Nash, Manford Sonstegard, Achi Yotam and leaders from the Adlerian Society of Great Britain, were resource people for week long courses in Clonmel. The schools and communities benefited, a strong local community developed, and many more individuals and families attended and warmly welcomed others from 18 countries. Special greetings were extended by all to five participants, the first from the then current and former Eastern Bloc countries: two from Latvia, (Victor and Janis, a Sociology Professor and a Minister of Health), one from Russia (Ludmilla, a psychologist), one from Czechoslovakia (Vladimir, Head of Psychology Faculty, University of Brno), as well as one from Kenya (a charity social worker).



The opening ceremony began with lilting accordion music (Maire Ni Shea) which set the tone and spirit for other evening programs, and for later singing and dancing in the

campus pub when a fiddler (Anthea Millar) joined in the fun, much to everyone's delight. Another fascinating evening program was an auction of small treasures representing each country, city or town, with the proceeds going to scholarships (Rita Udall was the witty, skilful auctioneer). A bag of pistachio nuts from Greece brought the highest bid!

The courses included an in-depth training in family counselling led by Manford Sonstegard. Twenty families came from near and far to be counselled by ten trainees under supervision, all of which was broadcast over the radio by Val McGinley.

Other successful features of this ICASSI were two well attended community family outreach evenings led by Oscar Christensen.

Weekend bus excursions complimented day trips south to the beautiful Killarney Lakes and North West to the picturesque Cliffs of Mohr. Some went by car to Galway, Connemara, the Ring of Kerry or to visit Fungie, the healing dolphin in Dingle Bay. A must for nearly everyone on the weekend or a free night, was to step back in history for a rousing evening at nearby Bunratty Castle.

At the closing ceremony, "Sonste", who had introduced Adlerian Psychology to a small group in Tralee in the early 80s, fittingly expressed everyone's appreciation to John Murphy and the Irish Committee for the huge success of the 24th year and for adding another chapter towards achieving Dreikurs' vision of freedom and respect throughout the world.

Before returning to the various countries the Irish Committee recorded interviews on Adlerian Psychology with participants and faculty for regular national radio programs.

Little did we realise as we benefited from the able administration of Roland Hawes that our friend would die within months of the end of this 24th Rudolf Dreikurs Institute. Even as we bid adieu to Roland, with fond thoughts of his contributions, it seems especially fitting that we take note of another significant step towards Dreikurs' wish that the Institute contribute to enlarging the group of people who would experience living in harmony and peace – the involvement of ICASSI '91 of five participants from Eastern Bloc countries.