2014 ICASSI University of Kent Canterbury, UK

Rabbits hopping, pigeons cooing, and sea gulls crying contributed to the sights and sounds of an awesome educational and cultural experience known as ICASSI 2014. The summer school of ICASSI at the University of Kent will be long remembered for the distances among the classes and accommodations. Many mentioned how the walking was good for them.

Two hundred fifty three participants and 37 faculty and staff gathered at Keynes College to greet each other and attend lectures and demonstrations. Those who attended previous ICASSI summer schools welcomed new participants, including this year a number of students from Holy Family University in Philadelphia and from University of Kent itself. The college-aged persons added considerably to the classes with their curiosity and contributions.

Memorable were two fire drills that sent participants out into the sunny mild breezy days that graced our fortnight beautifully. ICASSIans are prone to gratitude so all celebrated the lovely weather every day.

Bloc 0 included Helmet Heuschen's walking/cardio/stretching exercises for over 100 participants over the two weeks. Brenda Vainker led a group of participants in mindfulness exercises. Rachel Shifron provided a unique mind focusing meditation time to start each morning.

Bloc 1 lectures and demonstrations included the following faculty: Eva Dreikurs Ferguson, Jim Holder, Yvonne Schuerer, Zivit Abramson, Anthea Millar, Yoav Shoham, Hala Buck, Betty Lou Bettner, Ursula Oberst, Frank Walton, Anabella Shaked, Rachel Shifron, and Marion Balla.

Classes that provided personal and professional enhancement were facilitated by an impressive number of well-known faculty members: Zivit Abramson, Marion Balla, Gerhard Baumer, Betty Lou Bettner, Hala Buck, Joyce Callus, Jay Colker, Erika Echle, Eva Dreikurs Ferguson, Richard Grunig, Hagit Hauzer, Helmut Heuschen, Willy Hoekstra, Pauline Hofstra, Jim Holder, Magnus Irvine, Karen John, Theo Joosten, Galit Krizhak, Uti Landscheidt, Anthea Millar, Margaret Nimmo-Smith, Ursula Oberst, Paul Rasmussen, Andrea Salewsky, Yvonne Schurer, Anabella Shaked, Rachel Shifron, Yoav Shoham, Bruce Tate, Ellie Vainker, Frank Walton, and Richard Watts. They were ably facilitated by the team of John Neubauer, Administrator, and Betty Haeussler and Amelie Festag, Administrative Assistants.

Participants from the host country, the UK, provided a raucous night of dancing, games, mixing and music. The addition of a free night each week was welcome, enabling participants to enjoy Canterbury and its Cathedral, a world famous historic sight. Weekend trips to Bodiam Castle, Sissinghurst Gardens, Tenterden and the White Cliffs of Dover were adventures in seeing the English countryside and enjoying the beauty and traditions of the days of yore.

Memories will linger of old and new friends hugging and remembering together among the cultures of 23 countries, savoring the fact that any activity, class, meal, or gathering was a culturally mixed experience, a joyful side effect of every ICASSI.