

2018 ICASSI Yearbook Entry

Jane Lawther and Eva Dreikurs Ferguson

2018 ICASSI located in the Venusberg area of Bonn, Germany had the the largest attendance ever for The 51st Rudolf Dreikurs Summer Institute. Thirty-five countries were represented, more than ever, and for the first time, 100 participants were from Germany. Registration had to be closed because more people wanted to learn from the finest and best practicing Adlerians in Europe and North America than could be accommodated in the facilities of this year's summer institute. Meals were in two sittings. As in the past, new friendships were forged and old ones were renewed at mealtimes, evening times, and throughout the classes.

Venusberg offered a quiet area that allowed walking in the park and nearby woods that were graced by one hundred year old trees. Block 0 participants cheerfully walked and ran in the town and woods for healthy comradery.

The plenaries were presented by experts from Germany, Spain, England, the USA and Israel. Offerings were both timely and historic resources for the professionals in attendance.

Courses provided experiential and interactive opportunities from accomplished new instructors as well as long time learned favorites. The Children's and Youth programs were unusually large and multi-lingual. An excellent staff provided fine programs and met the challenges created by large numbers and many languages. Classes for adults dealt with contemporary issues in the areas of parenting, coupling, counseling, workplace, and multicultural relationships, all from the perspective of Adlerian/Dreikursian psychology. The understanding of the whole person and how cooperation, equality, and mutual respect lead to healthy, strength-based lives was the theme that permeated the class discussions.

Haus Venusberg, our venue, provided fine opportunities for meals, conversation, and cultural growth in the outdoor picnic areas, and in the indoor/outdoor volunteer-staffed beverage bar.

Evening activities typically provided cooperative games, a rousing talent show, an excellently planned interactive German night, the international bazaar, and generously patronized auction. Hilarity reigned as different cultures found common ground in the joy of laughter, encouragement, and social interest (Gemeinschaftsgefühl)

ICASSI 2018 was truly a life changing learning adventure. Participants left with a deep abiding appreciation for the hundreds of hours of volunteering that resulted in this unique, enlightening, educational, multi-national experience that was ICASSI 2018.