

## **ICASSI 2011 Hitzkirch, Switzerland**

ICASSI 2011 held in the center of Switzerland, took place at the International Police Training Center within a lovely village of pubs, shops, a grocery store and one incredibly beautiful church. Everything was within walking distance including the Castle on the hill, to which all participants paraded on August 1<sup>st</sup>, the National Switzerland Day to watch fireworks.

A thirty minute train ride took travelers to the historical city of Lucerne, which provided vistas of the mountains across the lake, walking tours of the historic district, and shopping galore for those who could afford the exchange rate from their country.

The sound of the bells around the necks of the cattle, goats, and sheep will ever be reminiscent of the rolling pastures, flower boxes, gardens, woodpiles, yodeling, and tasty foods of this hospitable country.



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Classes were held in Kommende, a structure that housed our dining, sleeping, and socializing (along with the Hotel and the IPH rooms with “paths” to the bathroom.) Some classes were held in Lerner, which housed the heartbeat of the organization, the

ICASSI office, as well as the cafeteria and our bookstore. Classes ranged from Encouragement to Group Dynamics, Art Therapy, Men’s Issues, Spirituality and Religion in Counseling, Dreams and Early Recollections, Life Style, Trauma, Conflict Resolution, Transitions, Intergenerational Patterns, Fairy Tales (which included a walk to the castle above Hitzkirch), Addictions Counseling, Emotions as Tools, Couples Therapy, Adlerian Respect in



Education, among others.

Bloc 0 was a tip of the hat to wholeness and wellness. Helmut Heuschen let a group of enthusiastic walkers and joggers in warm up stretches, then around the village and up to the castle before breakfast each morning.



Bloc 1 morning lectures were held in a lecture room, which later served as a dance hall, auction setting, stage show, and coffee/bar as needed. Lectures were uncommonly informative and provocative from these contributors: Eva Dreikurs Ferguson, Jurg Ruedi, Marion Balla, Theo Joosten, Yvonne Schurer, Paul Rasmuessen, Gerhard Baumer, Zivit Abramson, Frank Walton, , Rachel Shiffron, and Betty Lou Bettner. Topics ranged from Humans as a Social Species to Adlerian View of Education, Cooperation Between the Sexes, Power of Encouragement, Lifestyle Demonstration, the Adlerian Road to Joy, Dream Analysis, Social Equality in Partnerships, Most Memorable Observation, to Envy in Intimate Relationships.

The bookstore sold out of many offerings. The Youth and Children's program proved meaningful to the participants

The auction materials/homes/and treasures provided by ICASSI participants brought in scholarship moneys for future ICASSIs which was the goal. However, many enjoyed the opportunity to see what everyone had brought and had bought.

Well-selected weekend trips took participants to Rigi, the Queen of the Mountains (1800 Meters) for a



cog railway ride or to Mt. Pilatus, the very well known tourist attraction in central Switzerland, where panoramic views were available but not possible through the clouds of Sat., July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.



On Sunday, a trip to Lake Urner nurtured the travelers with idyllic bays, dramatic rock faces, and historic villages in the scenic mountains surrounding the lake. The full-day trip to Ballenberg was an adventure for the historic buffs where an open-air museum took them through centuries of traditional crafts, topped off by a typical marketplace with products from the region. The drive home over the mountain pass on Bruenig where the Brienersee and Berner Alps could be admired rounded out a fine day of Swiss culture and beauty.

The weather ranged from a high of about 80 degrees down to 60 in the evenings. Rain made umbrellas useful, but no spirits were dampened with the reigning sunshine of the spirit of ICASSI.

Singing, dancing, GEMEINSCHAFTSGEFÜHL, plays, skits, and participation by children, youths, adults, parents, teachers, and students brought the participants from 25 nations into a respectful, laughing, caring family, which will never be forgotten.