



*International Janusz Korczak
Association*

*Międzynarodowe Stowarzyszenie
im. Janusza Korczaka*



Minutes of the IKA

General Council Meeting – Ghent, Belgium

15th December 2013

The meeting concluded the International Conference

“In Relation with Socially Vulnerable Children and Adults” 13th to 15th December 2013.

Present: Batia Gilad & Avi Tsur (Israel), Colette Charlet (France/Swiss Association), Cornelia Muller (Germany), Malgorzata Kmita (UK), Daniel Halperin (Switzerland), Arie De Bruin & Theo Cappon & Joop Berding (Holland), Iwona Kamila Brzewska (Poland), Bogdan Bashtovyi & Mariia Prokopchuk (Ukraine), Romain Hulpia & Erik Tassyns & Annabel Vandezande & Aloys Rukebesha & Vee Vdm (Belgium)

Guests: Tami Shem Tov (Israel), Ewa Łukowicz (Poland).

All participants were asked to sign three copies of the attendance list confirming their details.

1. Welcome/Introductions/Apologies

Batia Gilad the Chair of IKA opened the meeting and thanked the Belgian J. Korczak Association for a very inspiring conference, invaluable seminars and excellent speakers. She also thanked the

J. Korczak Association in Belgium for their support and welcome to all Korczakians who gathered in Belgium. Batia Gilad also thanked All for their presence and participation in this very important event that took place in Ghent. Batia expressed her appreciation for all the efforts that went into the preparation of this international event which included the Belgian community and the Polish Institute of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Belgium.



2. Minutes of the last IKA General Council meeting were shared, there were no matters arising. All those present approved the minutes. The minutes were redistributed for signing and for final approval.

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3. Chairperson's Report



Batia Gilad presented her report and drew our attention to very full and active Korczakian year which included many events organised in the name of Korczak. She spoke about the Geneva Seminar organised on the 8th of June and thanked everyone for their contribution, she particularly expressed her appreciation for the presence and participation of the Latvian Ombudsman for Children's



Rights, - Juris Jonson and also to Gerburg Fuchs for the Film that she developed with the participation of children on the theme of engagement through play.



Batia Gilad mentioned that the last seminar was the 5th Anniversary since the seminars started and they were organised and supported by the Polish Mission to UN. She expressed our thanks for the commitment to continue with this valuable event which promotes Korczak all over and particularly among the members of the CRC. Batia referred to the production of the 5 postcards – each one relating to the experience of the seminar in Geneva. Batia and all participants are looking forward to the 2014 Seminar and welcomes proposals, feedback and suggestions. **(Appendix 1)**

Batia Gilad further referred to the experience of Korczakowo Camp in July 2013. Several members of IKA attended the camp for one week; Avi Tsur - Israel, Connie Muller - Germany, Batia Gilad and Mariola Strahlberg - USA with four young people, Irena Skipor Rybacka - Poland. Batia expressed her long standing aspiration that Korczakowo which has been run and supported by Jerzy Zgodzinski and his team from Poland should be established as an international camp where young people meet, exchange their ideas, music, food and cultures. Batia spoke about the activities on the lake, musical and guitar evenings, song festivals and a special activity "Days of dreams" where children participated in sharing their dreams. A special activity of building a boat was discussed as well as poetry and reading seminars. Korczak camp participants also visited a nearby Jewish cemetery which since the World War II has been in ruins but may see the young people's input in the future restoration of this place. Batia is planning to discuss this with the Chief Rabbi of Poland. Information was shared about other camps in Russia and in the Netherlands and Theo Cappon shared some feedback how to make these camps open to disabled children and also refugee children.



(Appendix 2)



Batia gave a short review of the Caux Seminar in Switzerland "Children as Actors for Transforming Society", enterprise by Jonathan Levy and supported by the Initiatives of Change, Child to Child Trust, UEF and IKA. She highly praised the Funky Dragon participants from Wales and all other communities, including Peru, the Congo, and the presence of Roma children from Europe. The event was very well organised in the beautiful Alps and received positive feedback from children and from adults. **(Appendix 3)**





In CAUX we had also IKA meeting of all the members who attended the Cats seminar. (Appendix 4)

Batia shared some latest information about new J. Korczak Associations being formed in Argentina, Brazil and also in Africa.

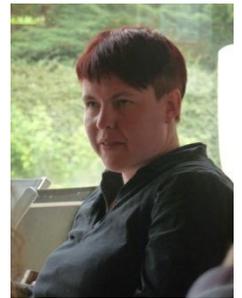
The last part of the Chairperson’s presentation was to do with filling some functions of the IKA. Batia mentioned Joop Berding’s resignation and also Prof. Binczycka resignation due to ill health. They were both thanked.



Jonathan Levy was proposed as Vice President. He is a freelance Pedagogue who lives in France and has strong connections with UK, France where he lives, and has been involved in consultative capacity with Initiatives of Change, co-organised Caux Events amongst many other events and training opportunities.

Voting was coordinated by Malgorzata Kmita, Secretary General of IKA. All present were in favour of Jonathan becoming the Vice Chair. There were no abstentions and no one opposed.

Connie Muller was proposed as a Vice Secretary General of IKA. Connie is the Chairperson of the German J Korczak Association. Voting was coordinated by Malgorzata Kmita, all supported Connie in becoming the Vice Secretary General, no one opposed and there were no abstentions.



Congratulations were extended to Jonathan and to Connie.



Further discussion took place regarding **Prof. J Binczycka being given the status of the Honorary Member of IKA for her long standing commitment, knowledge and devotion to J Korczak.** All agreed for Prof. Binczycka to become an Honorary Life member of IKA. There was full support for this title.

Batia Gilad requested Theo Cappon to report on the European Parliamentary Group devoted to the issues related to the quality of Childhood in Europe. Theo agreed to provide a full written report of activities and meetings attended.

4. Secretary General Report

Malgorzata Kmita, Secretary General of IKA shared information about the “Unfolding” Conference which took place in October in 2013. The Conference explored a range of holistic and interdisciplinary approaches to Universal Education which included a culture which allowed each and every child to unfold their unique potential and to engage in society with respect for each child’s uniqueness. Malgorzata also mentioned that a seminar was delivered in Brussels in which





Batia, Jonathan, Theo and Malgorzata took lead and introduced Korczak, his life and writings and the activities of IKA.

Malgorzata further shared an event which took place in Krakow in November 2013. This event was organised on the 60th anniversary of the Janusz Korczak Nowa Huta Youth Cultural Centre. The Director of the Youth Cultural Centre in Nowa Huta Monika Modrzejewska with her team organised a series of events which included a concert in the Tempel Synagogue and a day of activities and performances by children and young people from the Youth Centre. The event was very well attended by local, national and international representatives, and IKA was represented by Connie from Germany, Anna from Czech Republic, Malgorzata and Kelvin from UK, Barbara Sochal, Marta Ciesielska and Iwona Brzewska from Poland. This was very highly acclaimed cultural and artistically expressed event.

Malgorzata thanked everyone for their support and cooperation during 2013 in the name of Janusz Korczak.

5. Treasurer's Report

Mrs Teresa Skudniewska was not able to be present at the meeting in Ghent so Batia Gilad shared the treasurer's information. Batia shared that over 5.600 PLZ represented last year's spending which included flights incurred by Batia Gilad and expenses related to audit, and a contribution to Korczak vacation camp. Further contributions of 150 Euros are expected from many countries in lieu of the membership annual subscription fee. So far membership fees have been received from Poland, USA, Israel and Germany, still awaiting fees from other members of IKA – these contributions are essential for the running of the IKA.

Batia concluded that Belgium was exempted from this year's contribution as they hosted this event in Ghent. Once membership funds were received Batia will ensure that a written statement is provided and she hopes that we have balanced all the finances well.

During writing this minutes we already received membership fee from France, UK and Ukraine. The Korczak Academy from Germany Canada and Holland promised to transfer the fee.

(Appendix 5)

6. International Foundation for the Diffusion of J Korczak's Works

Daniel Halperin reminded all that the goal of the Foundation was to ensure that works of Korczak were known all over the world. Daniel briefed us about the history of the Foundation and that past participating members raised over 40.000 Dollars to pay for the publication of the complete works in Polish, German and Hebrew languages. This foundation was set up prior to IKA re-emerging as a strong and modern NGO. It is now believed that since the expansion of IKA the Federal Government of Switzerland can no longer consider the organisation as credible. Therefore it is proposed that the remaining of the money is to be transferred to IKA to continue in the diffusion of J. Korczak works, including translations into English and Spanish. The next step will be to dissolve the foundation officially for which authorisation will be needed from Switzerland in order to transfer



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the remaining assets to IKA for publication of Korczak's works. Representatives from IKA signed appropriate documents for this to proceed.

Following on from this Batia Gilad shared progress made by the Canadian Association who will be shortly publishing three volumes of Selected works of Korczak in English. This is a very important undertaking coordinated by Jerry Nussbaum the chairperson of the Canadian JK Association.

7. Book Review by Israeli Writer Tami Shem-Tov.



Tami presented a summary of her book "I am not a thief", which takes place in the Korczak's orphanage in the 1930's. The hero of the story is a young boy called Janek who later in his life became a journalist and a reporter. It is expected the book will be published in English. The book talks to young people about values and although these values were found in the orphanage they are applicable in the modern day societies. All those present at the meeting congratulated Tami for being awarded a prestigious award for this

book in Israel. First chapters of the book (**Appendix 6**)

8. Presentations of National J Korczak Associations and Networks.

Prior to national presentations Ewa Łukowicz-Oniszczyk, representing the Foreign Ministry of Poland shared some feedback about Korczak's year 2012 and her experience of J Korczak in the USA, New York. Ewa outlined her commitment to Korczak and her preliminary plans to hold an event in 2019 in Rabka, a place known as a children's spa, situated in the south of Poland. 2019 being a special anniversary year of Korczak would reinforce his position and values in the international context. We hope to hear more about this development in the future.

Various presentations were shared by associations from Switzerland, Ukraine, Germany, Poland and the Netherlands followed by Israel, UK, Belgium and France. All presentations will be available with the minutes. Some concerns were expressed about future developments from France and their future attempts to build a new association. Batia will await all the reports and will enclose them all with the minutes, including the report from the Munich Academy and the Alliance for Childhood. (**Appendix 7-20**)

9. Future Plans and Directions

A lively discussion followed about plans for the future Geneva Seminars, Korczakowo Summer Camp and CATS - Caux event 2014.

Batia has kindly requested that if anyone was to be organising a Korczak event, national or international, she would like to be informed about it so she can share it with others.

Further attention was given to IKA website development and assistance needed to have this established. Contact with Jacek Krugel will be followed up as we need a specialist to design a layout and to process and update it on regular basis.

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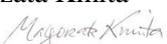
Batia Gilad appealed for help with the design of the IKA website as this is one of the top priorities for 2014. A well designed website will promote Korczak and all the activities taking place.

Next Meeting of IKA

It is proposed that we meet in Kiev/Ukraine possibly in October 2014. The Ukrainian J. Korczak association are happy to host it. More information on this to follow in due course.

Batia Gilad thanked all for attending this meeting and expressed sincere thanks to the Belgian Association and all those involved who made this such a welcoming and special event and also enabled us to meet in such warm and caring atmosphere.

Batia Gilad 
Chairperson IKA

Malgorzata Kmita 
Secretary General IKA

Minutes taken by Malgorzata Kmita
Edited by Batia Gilad

February 2014