

As in the previous years, the European Janusz Korczak Academy again takes the Universal Children's Day on November 20 as an opportunity to invite you to take part in the

2015 International Janusz Korczak Week

The Janusz Korczak Week, themed "The Child Before Us – Capable of Love, Capable of Hate", will focus on the issue of respect as a necessary prerequisite of a considerate and amicable social conduct, i.e. a society based on mutual respect. He who does not feel respected or noticed is most likely to be a person lost to society. A person's unconditional desire for attention can push them to demand their rights and turn them to extremism as an obvious, if deceiving, way out.

Selected events from the program for IKA conference participants

Wednesday, November 18, 2015

17:00

Alte Kongresshalle, Theresienhöhe 15

Opening Ceremony of the 2015 Janusz Korczak Week

Welcome address by Eva Haller, President of the European Janusz Korczak Academy, Munich

Performance of **Brundibar**, children's opera by Hans Krása. Performed by Jewish and non-Jewish children and youngsters under the direction of Verena Sarré.

Written in 1938 by Prague-based composer Hans Krása for a competition, the piano reduction of the children's opera "Brundibar" adventurously made its way to the Theresienstadt concentration camp. In the camp, it was reunited with its creator who had been deported there in August 1942, only to perish in Auschwitz later. The opera was performed in Theresienstadt, by the Jewish children in the camp, over 50 times. The surviving children later emphasized how strongly they felt about the opera. Verena Sarré is the director of the children's and youth choir of Munich's *Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz* and of her *Sarré Musical Projects* initiative aimed at providing children and youths from all social and cultural backgrounds with the opportunity to experience the world of classical music through song and dance under professional supervision. In 2013, Verena Sarré staged "Brundibar" for the first time.

Thursday, November 19, 2015

19:00

Janusz Korczak House, Sonnenstraße 8

“The Smallest Stage in the World” – by Jörg Baesecke and Hedwig Rost

Through Hasidic tales that playfully incorporate as well as underline the notion of “respect for the Other”, the artists bring back the life of the Shtetl. After the

performance, a discussion will give us the opportunity to trace the stories' continued appeal. How do they manage to captivate even younger audiences today, with all their educational, moral, and instructive value? Simply through concentrated listening, one can understand how the notion of respect is inherent to almost all the Hasidic tales. And so, it comes as no surprise that Janusz Korczak, too, valued the power of the simpler experiences with his children, such as the spellbinding quality of story-telling – which can showcase the closeness between individual human beings.

Jörg Baesecke, a lawyer by training, has been a freelance actor since 1980 in addition to presiding over the Society for the Promotion of Puppets at the Munich City Museum. Hedwig Rost studied the violin at the Richard Strauss Conservatory in Munich. She also received therapeutic as well as training on education through dance.

Friday, November 20, 2015

9:00

Janusz Korczak House, Sonnenstraße 8

Welcome meeting at the Janusz Korczak House

9:30

"Contra Obedience" – Lecture by Prof. Dr. Arno Gruen, Zurich

What is it that turns a child into a compassionate teenager and adult while another ends up heartless, cold and hateful? How do expected obedience on the one hand and respect granted to a child on the other figure into its personal development? What good can the individual liberty as demanded Janusz Korczak ("the child's right to his or her own death") really do? The psychologist and psychoanalyst Arno Gruen argues that from the experience of powerlessness and the demand for strict obedience arises a feeling of helplessness that disrupts the normal flow of communication so severely that the child's capacity for empathy is permanently reduced. A lack of loving attention can lead to an underdeveloped personal identity in a child. One possible consequence of such an abnormality can be a proclivity towards following leaders or ideologies blindly and without question.

Prof. Arno Gruen, a psychologist and psychoanalyst, was born in Berlin in 1923. In 1936, he emigrated with his family to Poland, later to Denmark and eventually to the United States, where they settled in New York. Later, he studied psychology there before moving to Zurich in 1979, where he still lives and practices today. His most recent publication *Wider den Terrorismus* ("Against Terrorism") appeared in 2015, so far only in German.

10:30

short break

10:45

Lecture by Thomas Mücke, Berlin: “The Slow Departure from Violence of Ideologically Motivated Criminals”

Educator and political scientist Thomas Mücke regularly deals with violent youngsters hoping for orientation through strong and authoritarian structures as typically present in extremist orientations. In order to be able to address them to present an alternative way of action, Mücke focuses on personal appreciation given to each individual as well as the time one is ready to invest into individual attention for the endangered youngsters.

Thomas Mücke is the co-founder and CEO of the *Violence Prevention Network*, an NGO based in Berlin. Additionally, he works as a coach for anti-violence trainings and mediations.

12:00

Open Discussion: Arno Gruen and Thomas Mücke meet the audience

13:00

short break and snacks at Janusz Korczak House

13:45

Basic Lectures

Option 1: Janusz Korczak's Life and Work

Lecture by Gérard Kahn, Bern

Gérard Kahn studied education, child and youth psychology and therapeutic education in Switzerland and Germany. He is a lecturer and project manager and has worked extensively on Korczak in his capacity as a board member of the Swiss Janusz Korczak Association, including on the topic of Janusz Korczak's relationship to Judaism. The European Janusz Korczak Academy has hosted Gérard Kahn both as a visitor and a lecturer multiple times in the past.

Option 2: Fundamental Questions instead of Fundamentals

Lecture by Prof. Sigrid Tschöpe-Scheffler, Cologne

The lecture is based on the thesis that Janusz Korczak's own critical pedagogy has never claimed to be a specified, teachable theory. However, it can be described as "trial and error", which also has to do with the fact that Korczak himself continued to learn from his everyday experiences, trying to apply what he saw to the next individual case, even if realizing often enough that this is hardly possible.

Sigrid Tschöpe-Scheffler is Professor of Education at the University of Applied Sciences in Cologne.

Saturday/Shabbat, November 21, 2015

14:00

16:00

Meeting at Janusz Korczak House, Sonnenstraße 8

**Book Presentation: “A White House in a Gray City” by Itzhak Belfer, Tel Aviv.
Presentation and Discussion with Author and Translator Mirjam Pressler, Landshut.**

Itzhak Belfer, born in Warsaw in 1923, lives in Tel Aviv as a painter and sculptor. As a child, he spent eight years in Janusz Korczak's orphanage, a time still vividly imprinted in his memory and expressed in his art. In his autobiography "A White House in a Gray City", he wrote down his memories of Janusz Korczak. The book's illustrations will be exhibited at the Janusz Korczak House. The book was translated into German by Mirjam Pressler, one of Germany's best-known authors of youth books as well as an accomplished Hebrew-German translator.

Sunday, November 22, 2015

Meeting at Janusz Korczak House, Sonnenstraße 8

Morning session: Cultures of Dispute from a Pedagogic Perspective

10:00

Input lecture by Michael Kirchner, Bielefeld

“Observations of Dispute Situations in the Work of Janusz Korczak”

During a dispute disagreements are tackled in a visible and noticeable way. Dispute will always happen, whether we want it or not; with it, it can bring the opportunity to settle scores so long as no party oversteps the boundaries of respect. It is obvious, at the very least from Korczak's diary, that disputes did happen in his orphanage as well, sometimes spilling into a violently physical quarrel. The question remains whether quarrelling can serve as protection against hatred in the long run. Michael Kirchner has analyzed conflict situations as they are observed and described by Janusz Korczak.

10:30

Workshops

Option 1: **Debating Club with coaching by Roman Grinblat and Georg Sparberg**

Option 2: **Theater workshop led by actress and director Anastasija Komerloh**

The group will prepare a several scenes featuring disputes while exploring the very mimics and body language that signify dispute and render it interpretable.

11:30

short coffee and cake break at Janusz Korczak House

12:30 pm

“Women, mothers, educators: The Position of the Child within Family, Society, and Tradition as Understood by Various Cultures and Religions. How Much Respect is Granted, How Much Obedience Expected?”

Panel discussion with audience questions. Panelists include:

Diana Liberova, educator and member of the Nuremberg City Council (Nuremberg)

Nükhet Kivran, Chairman of the Munich Foreigners’ Advisory Committee (Munich)

Charmaine Hedding, non-profit NGO manager (Munich)

Natalie Schmid, wife of the vice mayor of Munich (Munich)

13:30

“Project Fair” – Presentation of Projects for Self-Fulfillment, Self-Determination, and Child/Adolescent Participation