



Report to IFF Paris May 2017

What:

The Legacy Forum is a yearly gathering of the training community of the Feldenkrais Guild of North America. Our intention is to further the growth of *The Feldenkrais Method*[®], through gathering as a community and fostering discussion on how we envision passing this method on to future generations.

Where and When:

The organization committee has been working since September 2014. We have met every 2 to 4 week via conferences since then.

The Legacy Forum Meetings (Each meeting was 4 ½ days):

- 1) The Garrison Institute in upper state New York in 2015, and
- 2) The Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park, California (near San Francisco) in 2016.

Finances:

The meetings are self – supporting through participant contributions and by generous donations from several Feldenkrais teachers and other Feldenkrais supporters. The FGNA has provided administrative support.

Who:

The initiative was made by Liza Weaver Brickey MA, Co-Chair of NATAB and Anna Johnson-Chase NATAB member. They spoke with Roger Russell at the FGNA conference in September, 2014 about the German trainer group (TFD) and the development of the German TAB.

By December 2014 the Legacy Committee was formed: Donna Blank (Trainer, Amherst 1983), Anna Johnson-Chase NATAB member, (Assistant Trainer, San Francisco 1977), Liza Weaver Brickey MA, Co-Chair of NATAB (Amherst 1983), Roger Russell (Trainer/Educational Director) San Francisco 1977 and Amherst),

Jeff Haller (Trainer/ Educational Director, Amherst 1983), Alice Friedman (Assistant trainer, San Rafael 1987), In New York meeting, Trainer Alan Questel (Trainer/Educational Director, Amherst 1983) joined the organizing committee.

The Legacy Committee began planning the first meeting for December 2015 in New York. Wolfgang Looss Ph.D. who was originally involved with the IFF Special Review Committee of training policy in 2009, and has worked since then with the German trainer group and the German Feldenkrais Verband was invited to moderate the committee meetings and the meeting in New York. The committee has been working under the sponsorship of the NATAB and the FGNA since 2015. The two meetings so far have involved 19 Trainers and 24 Assistant trainers and several guests, who are members of the FGNA. We also had representatives attending from the Board of Directors and FEFNA.

Why:

The Legacy Committee believes that by fostering conversation and improving trust and relationships in the Feldenkrais Educational Community, the issues that have prevented growth and needed changes can be successfully addressed. By creating an environment conducive to mutual respect the creativity of our community can emerge to support the dynamic future of our method

How:

All trainers worldwide, and all assistant trainers who are FGNA members are invited to attend the meetings.

The meetings and the preparations are moderated by Dr. Wolfgang Looss, Darmstadt, Germany. An organizational coach and psychotherapist with wide experience in industry and non-profit work.

As might be expected the meetings touch on many controversial themes. However, with skilled professional moderation the meetings have been successful and fruitful.

In preparation for the meetings we asked for proposals for the agenda. These are collected and made available to the participants.

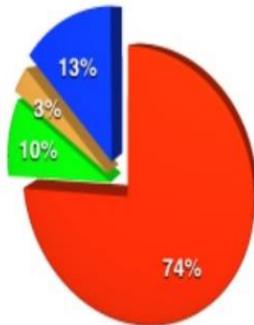
There has been internet participation in the New York meeting and email communication in Menlo Park meeting for the trainers and assistants who were unable to come, but wanted to participate. The meetings include planning an agenda, small group work, plenum discussions, morning ATM lessons taught by assistant trainers, evening presentations and a wine tasting. Detailed protocols of each meeting are edited and published to all trainers and assistants following the meetings.

Results (so far):

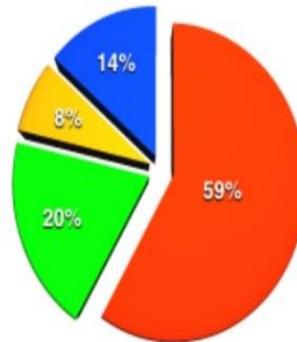
- Two meetings with 19 trainers, 24 assistants as well as FGNA board, FEFNA and NATAB members. 2015 had 22 attendees. 2016 had 26 attendees.
- Plans are in progress for a third meeting in New York in December 2017. We are establishing the beginnings of a vigorous culture of dialogue within the North American Feldenkrais training community.
- Regular information Bulletins go to all trainers worldwide and FGNA member assistant trainers. These serve as an avenue of communication with the training community.
- Participation of FGNA board members, NATAB members are by invitation.
Increased communication between trainers and assistant trainers. In planning 2017 the first Assistant meeting.
- Meetings on Zoom internet conferencing with the FGNA Board with all trainers.
- Pedagogy Zoom meetings beginning on May 1, 2017 with trainers invited.
- Presentation of the Legacy project to the FGNA members in the conference in August 2016

When we did some informal statistics of the 110 Trainers and Assistants who were invited responses to the New York meeting the results were:

- RESPONDERS
- NON NORTH AMERICAN/NO ENGLISH NON-RESPONDERS/
- NORTH AMERICAN NON-RESPONDERS
- TOTAL NON RESPONDERS



- COMING OR WISH THEY COULD
- DISTANCED BUT HOPEFUL: LOOKING TO ENGAGE
- NEGATIVE
- POLITE BUT DISTANCED/NOT INTERESTED



If you have questions you may speak with Liza Weaver Brickey Co-Chair of NATAB & Legacy Forum Committee Member, Bonnie Humiston Chair of NATAB, and Roger Russell Legacy Forum Organizer and member of Legacy Committee who will be present in Paris.