

Dear members of ISNA

Just a short newsletter this time just before the official 9th ISNA conference in Paris.

ISNA will be celebrating its 10th anniversary next year, and of course this Jubilee Conference will be held in Germany, where ISNA was founded.

Next weekend I will participate in the teachers meeting in Berlin, and at this meeting we will, together with the local president of ISNA Germany, Krista Mertens, find the exact appropriate title for the conference next year.

But I guess it might be something about learning from the past, and developing in the future...

Last week I participated in a conference on Gentle Teaching, in Troy, MI, USA.

Gentle Teaching is a relation orientated philosophy, trying to make caregivers understand that human relations in all situations are in front. This fits, in my opinion, to Snoezelen, and the GT board have asked me to organize a conference in Denmark, where Snoezelen will be a big issue on the agenda. More about this later.

The Snoezelen house in The Village of Soelund, Denmark, is developing.

Many of you have seen the house at the grand opening, but many things have happened since. Much more scenes in the church room, in the white room, and in the pool system (the fishes on the floor: we now also have flowers for instance)

We also made a very interesting cooperation with a Danish/Argentine artist resulting in a project connecting art and Snoezelen in a very specific way. The idea is that a mannequin, as used in shops, comes to live with the help of projection on and around the mannequin. This is a very strong experience, probably not suitable for everybody, but Snoezelen is also about the possibility to choose! You can see more about this artist on this link:

http://www.ingrid-kristensen.dk/home/ingrid_kristensen.html

Many visitors from all over the world get inspired in the house in Denmark, but we see many initiatives all over the world.

In spite of a very poor economy we hope to establish a white room in Crete, Greece, within a few months. Also a local ISNA will come here.

As the board has been informed about recently, we have to make an official legal organization of ISNA. Therefore we arrange a "Statutory General Assembly" at the conference in Paris. This is a demand from the authorities in order to be able to receive funds, avoid taxes and for instance to use PayPal. It also gives ISNA members the right to elect the board members in the future and to have a satisfactory insight in the economy of the organization.

Since Israel I have been in contact with people working with Snoezelen in South Africa, and I am planning a trip down there at the moment. I hope to use this year and the year to come to establish as many local ISNA boards as possible.

I am looking forward to see you all in Paris to enjoy the conference our French friends have worked with so hard, already now I would like to thank you for your efforts.

I will use a short time in introducing the position paper we made in Alabama, with the up to date definition of Snoezelen and its practice.

This process has been demanding, and therefore we were not able to send the papers out before the conference. But we will do so at the conference.

It will also be possible to read everything on our official webpage later as well.

We do unfortunately have the experience that we to assure a paper like this for some American companies are waiting to use our knowledge and claiming it as their own. Strange.

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Since Krista is not attending this year in Paris, I will announce and present next year's theme, place and date of the conference in Germany.

See you all in Paris I hope

Maurits Eijgendaal
President ISNA international