

COMMON CONCERNS

A Publication of the International Institute of San Francisco

From Our President . . .

BY WELLS WHITNEY

It is a real pleasure for me to be writing my second President's letter for the annual report of the International Institute of San Francisco. It has been another tough year for our cause and for our agency. We have not only survived, but the Board of Directors has added some new members, we have helped the staff acquire some new funding, and it has been fun. We know that the staff of the International Institute is solid, dedicated, and professional in what they do, and the Board of Directors is working more strongly and positively toward our collective future.

As we all know, the needs of our client population are very real. Still, government funds for immigrant services are getting harder to find, and the political climate here in California continues to make our job very difficult. Despite all this, the International Institute of San Francisco, as an agency, continues to do fine and well appreciated work.

In addition to fundraising and community relations, one of the major tasks of the Board of Directors is oversight of agency operations. When we look at operations, we see our Executive Director, Margi Dunlap, together with our experienced and capable staff, running the Institute well. We are operating under a balanced budget this year, matching expenses with income through good fiscal and program management. The ongoing programs are viable and serving the needs of the community, and the Executive Director has been able to spend significant and important time on community and public relations, developing new contacts, fundraising, grant writing, and overall activities that will have a long term benefit for the Institute.

Every year we seem to have a particular crisis to overcome—this year is no different. After making a number of successful transitions in 1993–1994, which included a naming a new Executive

Director, studying and then rejecting the possibility of merging with another agency, and closing our Marin County Office, we faced the possibility of eliminating whole programs of needed services. Still, in 1995, we show a significant increase in the number of clients served, despite a decline in revenues of thirteen percent.

This year, we have learned United Way is withdrawing all support from our programs in June, 1996, after many years of declining funding, competition from other workplace giving federations, and a focus on donor satisfaction that has overwhelmed any residual commitment to social service planning. Our overall income for next year will be down unless we can replace some revenue with funds from other sources. Several years ago, after learning of United Way's plans for eliminating the concept of "Member Agencies" from its view of the future, we began making a concerted effort to diversify our funding base, and despite the success we have had in that area, the loss of United Way as a responsible, service-oriented



Wells Whitney

partner ends a relationship that has lasted for over fifty years.

Given the crises and pressures on the Institute, the Board of Directors faces many challenges. There are two that stand out: setting an example for direct donor giving to the Institute, and encouraging others to make their gifts directly; and mobilizing the development of a Corporate Giving Program which will focus on a few leading corporations where we already have friends who can help us access corporate giving programs quickly and effectively.

This is a Board that can do it. We are diverse with regard to gender, race, and ethnic background, we have good energy, we work well together, and we know how to have fun together. We support Margi and the staff, and we want to help and guide them as we face this latest set of challenges. We are people who are connected to our communities, and while our intentions are honorable, we are not rich ourselves, and we are seeking to gain more experience in fundraising. Therefore, we will focus on those things that we can get done, on those potential sources of funding that have some reasonable chance of supporting our work at the International Institute, and on those programs, new as well as enduring ones, for which we reasonably believe we can generate sustainable funding.

I am honored to be your President. I enjoy working with the other Board members, with Margi, and with the staff of the Institute. I pledge to do what I can to support and sustain the IISF in carrying out its important work in this community that we all love and live in. In turn, I encourage all of you, friends and family of the International Institute, likewise to support the Institute with your energy, your active participation, and your generous financial donations.

Wells Whitney, President,
Board of Directors
January, 1996

COVER PHOTO
Georgette Guinasso
teaches puppet-
making. Children's
Workshop, 1953

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Singing Songs

BY MARGI DUNLAP,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A few weeks ago, an attorney from Marin County dropped by the Institute to pass on to us a collection of scrapbooks from the estate of his mother, Georgette Guinasso, who died in 1986. The scrapbooks were a record of Mrs. Guinasso's involvement at the Institute throughout the 1950's. She created a successful program of drama workshops for adults and marionette classes for children that emphasized multi-cultural themes. Programs for the original plays and skits were included in the collection, as well as many wonderful photographs.

I looked through Mrs. Guinasso's photographs and play programs, forty years after their first debut, and they stirred my thoughts as I wrote a summary of the past year at the International Institute, as we work to help new immigrants move toward citizenship in what is possibly the most harshly anti-immigrant time since the 1920's. The contrasts between now and Mrs. Guinasso's time were striking, and ironically, so were the similarities.

To say the 1950's were a simpler time is disrespectful of people who arrived here as immigrants during those years, before national origins quotas were eliminated from immigration law, before we had a statutorily defined refugee program, before we had the War on Poverty or the civil rights movement. As a nation, we were recovering from the divisiveness of the McCarthy era, inventing suburbs, and oversimplifying the world into good guys (capitalists) and bad guys (communists). We were in love with gadgets, appliances, efficiency experts, Ozzie and Harriet, and The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit.

In 1953, Mrs. Guinasso produced and directed a play called "The Invisible Animals" by Lee-Chin Yang, and admission to the performance cost \$1.00. Later, this play would evolve into the Broadway smash hit, "The Flower Drum Song." Asian Americans today might look back at this piece of theater and question its lack of employment of Asian actors or its stereotyping, but back then it was, in its way, a step toward greater understanding of one world by another. It started at the International Institute.

Another product of the Creative Drama Workshop of the International Institute was a play called "The New Dawn," written by immigrant members of the workshop in 1956. In three acts, the play joins eight immigrants as they progress through their first five years in the United

States. In the last scene, at a gathering to celebrate becoming citizens, the group sings "America the Beautiful."

Sitting in my office in 1995, I paused after I read the closing scene. I thought of the blatantly political theater that came out of China during the Mao years, with adoring dutiful workers and culminating songs that praised the revolution, while the more textured and candid art forms were suppressed, writers and artists imprisoned. Folded into the yellowing carbon copy of the typewritten script for "The New Dawn," along with a congratulatory note to Mrs. Guinasso from an admirer, was a separate scrap of paper with the words of the first verse to "America the Beautiful" on it, as if the words had been mimeographed and distributed to the audience so that all could join in the song.

How would an audience of today's San Franciscans respond to a play that ended that way? How would you respond? Sing it to yourself right now. Are you embarrassed? Touched? Are there memories and images that flash through your mind?

We read in the papers, often on the same pages that describe yet another anti-immigrant legislative proposal, about a rising tide of nationalism in the world. The new republics of the former Soviet Union are racing to encourage the expulsion of ethnic Russians from their countries as they move toward re-adopting their own discreet national languages, eliminating the use of the Russian language, as if this could undo the last century of their history. Here, we argue about bilingual education as if we still want to believe that being bilingual is a liability and not a needed asset in today's world. As immigrants are applying for United States citizenship in record numbers, there is still a lot of talk about how today's immigrants don't try hard enough to belong.

Most developed countries of the world are tightening up their borders, adopting more rigid immigration policies, debating the concept of citizenship and what new criteria should be imposed on its adoption. In Germany, immigrant hostels are firebombed. In California, a group of Chinese people who believed they could buy entry into the United States from a smuggler are still in INS detention, after more than a year. *The New York Times* boasts of "Record Ousters" of undocumented people from the United States this year, quoting INS statistics and providing the visual aid of a clearly escalating bar graph. In Rwanda and Burundi, where circumstances fostered a brutal absence of due process, genocide was the method chosen to accomplish what seems to be the

unstated, long-term desire around the world for ethnically and linguistically homogeneous polities. And yet we all claim to be horrified by what happened there. We resolutely shun the method while at the same time we appear to be ever so antiseptically seeking the same result. Now that's a shocking thought, isn't it.

In 1995, there were more than forty-two million people in migration in the world. Sixteen million, almost the population of New York and Los Angeles combined, are refugees who have crossed an international border seeking safety. Twenty-six million people have been forced out of their homes because of conflict or civil war and are displaced within their own national borders. There are forty countries in the world today where at least twenty thousand citizens fled across an international border last year, seeking protection or political asylum. Our nation's response is to rewrite our procedures for claiming asylum. We are poised to renege on our promises of safety to the Iraqi soldiers who defected from Saddam Hussein's army during the Gulf War, which they helped us win. Jesse Helms would like us to abandon them in refugee camps in Saudi Arabia, and let the Saudis send them back to Saddam.

I try to imagine myself today in the back row of the audience, at a production of "The New Dawn." During the intermission before the last act, small sheets of paper with the words to the first verse of "America the Beautiful" are passed down the rows of seats. The papers rustle. People clear their throats. I remember being taught the descant to the last two lines when I was in the third grade. "And crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea."

Are you with me? As a people these days, we Americans aren't very beautiful. There is a mean-spiritedness to us. It's as if we, the most prosperous people on earth, are grasping with a new desperation at our various collections of familiar things, clutching our property and our privilege close to our chests. The boundaries are drawn, the security systems are properly coded and armed with infrared. Do we want it to be this way?

As any opera singer will tell you, such a constricted stance will destroy even the loveliest voice, even the most beautiful song.

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Margi Dunlap,
Executive Director

English In Action—Continuing the Conversation For 26 Years

BY KATHY STAHLMAN

With the support of volunteer tutors, English In Action has been an active project of the International Institute since 1969.

Volunteer tutors meet individually with newcomers for twelve session cycles to practice English conversation, helping newcomers to move from isolation to assimilation.

Three years ago, English In Action expanded its activities by adding group citizenship preparation classes to help newcomers with United States history and civics requirements for their citizenship exams. Now, with applications for citizenship at an all time high in California, English In Action also coordinates volunteer-staffed group English conversation classes. Since August, 1995, forty-one people participated in the weekly drop-in conversation class while they waited to be assigned to individual conversation partners.

English In Action added new computer technology and a new coordinator this year. English In Action expanded its administrative capabilities thanks in part to a computer system whose purchase was made possible by a grant from the S.H. Cowell Foundation. The English In Action computer has a newly installed CD-ROM English language skills development program which complements our citizenship education resource library.

I joined the International Institute this year as the Coordinator of Volunteer Development, giving us for the first time staff support and coordination for volunteer activities that help to better integrate the program into the ongoing activities of the Institute. My efforts are supported by a grant from the Walter and Elise Haas Foundation.

English In Action's strength has been, and continues to be, the loyal volunteers who help keep the program running. We would like especially to thank administrative volunteers Janet Raische, Natasha Kosarev, Ida Daroza, Fernando Somoza, and all the volunteer tutors past and present whose contributions to English In Action have done so much to help build bridges between the newcomer community and those of us who have been here longer.

One hundred twenty conversation partners were matched this year. And the need keeps growing. Last year, our waiting list for the service averaged seventeen people waiting for every available conversation partner. This year, with a more active effort to recruit conversation partners, with the computer system fully

operational, and with additional resources strengthening the administrative unit, we were able to reduce the ratio between the waiting list and available conversation partners from seventeen to three.

We're proud of this improvement, but there is still a great and growing need for more conversation partners. Local schools and colleges are crowded with people who want to improve their English, and most private programs are quite costly. People who are applying for citizenship are highly motivated to practice English. They demonstrate a great deal of initiative in seeking out opportunities. As the negative side of the immigration debate implies that newcomers don't want to learn English, we see around us enormous evidence to the contrary.

But immigrants can't learn a new language in a vacuum, they can't teach it to themselves. They need the help of the whole community. As a community, we all lose when new immigrants ask for help with their new language, and find no one willing to help them. We need your help, too. To volunteer as a conversation partner, call us at 921-0884.

Volunteer with English In Action, help us build a unified community one citizen at a time. One hour a week is all you need to share to make a difference. At the end of the year, there were ninety-five people waiting to practice their English with a partner.



Kathy Stahlman, Coordinator of Volunteer Development



Ida Daroza, English in Action Volunteer

Congratulations, Silen Nhok

Silen Nhok has worked at the International Institute since 1978. As a counselor at the Indochinese Family Services project, he helped newly arriving Cambodian refugees learn about life in this country. As Coordinator of the Refugee Information and Referral project, he has worked with Cambodian refugees in San Francisco's Tenderloin, assisting groups and individuals in close cooperation with other Tenderloin organizations. He represents the Institute at the San Francisco Refugee Forum, participates in the Department of Social Services' Asian Pacific Islander Community Advisory Committee, has worked with the North of Market Senior Services, Tenderloin Self-Help, and Cambodian Family Services, an after-school children's program he helped to form. Throughout his time with the Institute, he has patiently and consistently been working toward his Masters in Social Work degree, and this year he completed it, with a thesis based on an evaluation study he did at the Institute. We applaud you, Silen!

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF SAN FRANCISCO

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Exploring Youth Attitudes Toward Assimilation

BY LARA SHALOV

We are a nation of immigrants. Recently, however, anti-immigrant sentiments have surfaced and grown throughout the United States. These sentiments hold within them the assumption that assimilation is not taking place. Yet, it is unclear what is meant by the word “assimilation.” To what extent are immigrants expected to embrace American culture and relinquish their own? The first step toward understanding and successfully combating anti-immigrant feelings might be to define the term “assimilation” better.

The Institute’s Youth Attitudes Toward Assimilation Project seeks to find a working definition of “assimilation” and its specific behavioral markers. San Francisco’s high school seniors will come up with these answers. Surveys and class discussions will be conducted in ten to twenty public and private high schools in San Francisco. We expect the participation of at least four hundred students. After the survey phase of the project, selected, interested students will also be interviewed. Then there will be an inter-school group discussion at the Van Ness office of the Institute.

I first became interested in conducting this study when I realized that an investigation into the way immigrants assimilate formed a perfect bridge between my past experience teaching English in Thailand and my long term goals of producing change in the public educational system. With this study, I am able to get a good view of how our educational system runs, from experience in the classroom to the hierarchy and procedures of the school district. Also, by coming to an understanding of the status quo among this group of students, I will have a base from which to begin envisioning steps towards change.

The specifics of this exploration go like this. First, the students will be divided into three groups depending on how long they have lived in the United States: their entire lives, for less than five years, or for more than five years. Then, all students will complete a short series of questions related to the students’ opinions of themselves and their family units, a brief survey of characteristics they feel define “typical” native born and immigrant youths, a request for descriptions of personal experiences relating to assimilation, and an opportunity to make suggestions for building unity and diversity within their communities.

The survey for students born in the United States focuses on characteristics these students would use to describe “typical” immigrant youth, how the adults in their household would describe “typical”

immigrant youth, aspects of “American” culture they feel immigrants might be unaware of, behaviors they feel indicate that an immigrant has “assimilated,” and how they feel about impending limits on immigration.

The survey for students who have lived in the United States for less than five years centers around characteristics they feel define a “typical” American youth, characteristics their parents would use to describe “typical” American youth and culture, aspects of American culture which are different from the culture in which they were raised, behaviors they feel constitute assimilation, and whether or not they feel they have assimilated.

The survey for students who immigrated to the United States more than five years ago is similar in content to the survey for more recent immigrants. These students, however, are also asked about behaviors they associate with recent immigrant youths.

The purpose of the survey is to get students’ individual views of assimilation, how they view adults’ opinions, and to ask them their ideas on increasing constructive dialogue between immigrants and non-immigrants. The class discussions will provide students with a forum to voice their opinions. We hope that common bonds and similarities will be highlighted and awareness of the issues surrounding assimilation will be heightened.

Since the turn of the century, many terms have evolved to identify trends of, and strategies for, degrees of assimilation. Initially, there was the “melting pot” where everyone eventually becomes “Americanized.” The analogy gave way to more racially, ethnically, culturally, and religiously inclusive terms such as “the marvelous mosaic,” “cultural pluralism,” “additive acculturation,” “subtractive acculturation,” and “structural assimilation.” I’ll be able to tell you more about these terms in the project’s report, which should be ready late in the Spring.

If, for a moment, we can set aside this assortment of old labels, and take time for realistic study of today’s terms, asking young people directly for their input, we will be able to achieve a significant step toward understanding current trends in the definition of assimilation, gaining new tools that will help us combat anti-immigrant sentiment, and move toward greater unity and shared understanding of the process of migration.

A Climate of Hostility

It hasn’t been an easy year for our clients. The heated debate about immigration and immigration policy doesn’t consider how it makes immigrants feel.

You live in a climate of hostility. People yell at you on busses. They snarl at your accent, which is especially hard to take when you’re on your way to an English class after working all day, and you’re tired, and the class is so crowded all you can do is sit in the back and participate in the exercises and pay attention.

You watch the papers and listen to the radio as new laws are proposed and discussed. You call an assistance line to get help with a question and the line is busy. When you finally get through, and you’re given the name of someone who can help you, you make more calls and find out that agency is closed. So you ask around. You hear of a place you can go for good advice, but that place doesn’t have any openings in the next three months to see you. You make an appointment anyway.

While you wait for your appointment the papers say the law that’s being discussed has changed again, it’s worse this time. That visa petition you filed for your sister seven years ago may just be tossed out, she may never be able to come. If your mother’s going to come here you have to find a way to earn the money to pay for her health insurance, and who would insure her anyway. She’s elderly, she needs you to take care of her.

Then there’s a raid at your job, and several of your co-workers are arrested and deported. This makes your boss uneasy, so he has you bring all your papers to work so he can make sure you’re legal. You’ve been here for fifteen years, you’ve been a citizen for three. But he’s just checking. You sound foreign.

Then a childhood friend from your village shows up at your house. You don’t expect him, you don’t know how he got here or how he found you. He wants to stay with you for a few days. You’ve known him all your life, as boys you played together. You can’t say no. You’re afraid. Down the street the immigration raided a house like yours last month, took six people away. You find yourself wishing your friend hadn’t been able to get past the border, to put you in this uncomfortable place. You tell your friend a few days, only.

At night, after work, after class, you feel weary. Your little girl is still awake when you come in the door of the apartment. She wants you to help her with her homework. She has a list of spelling words. Democracy. Equality. Government. Freedom. She smiles at you and beckons. When she speaks she has no accent at all.

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Lara Shalov, Project Coordinator

Serving on the Institute's Board

Why I Find the Time to Volunteer

BY JENNIFER BECKETT,
VICE-PRESIDENT

For fifteen years I lived in Asia, where I experienced firsthand some of the challenges that immigrants confront: language acquisition, learning appropriate behavior, understanding political systems, and appreciating the richness of diversity. I was an American transplanted to another culture, working within an array of transplanted people from all over the world. Working and living with people from many other countries taught me new and different ways of doing business, new approaches to problem solving, how to build consensus, and it gave me a valuable collection of different lenses through which to look at the world.

So, one afternoon in 1992, I met Mark Ong at a memorial reception at the Asian Art Museum. He asked me if I would be interested in joining the Institute Board. In a crowded hall, with voices reverberating throughout the stone-floored room, a more substantial conversation wasn't possible. I thought I might like to do what Mark was asking, but I had never heard of the Institute, and wanted to know more about what it stood for. We agreed to meet for lunch, and Mark sent me several recent annual reports and the eighty-year anniversary publication.

The cappellini and fettuccini at Prego's was delicious, and the conversation surpassed the food. Mark's life, I found out, was connected to mine from two directions. He and his family had been very close to an avuncular figure in my husband's life, Jim O'Brien, who was also a colleague of the father-in-law of one of my closest friends in Indonesia. Because of these connections, I knew of Mark's literary reputation, and I had even attended a book signing for his trilogy *The Wandering Taoist*, *Seven Bamboo Tablets of the Cloudy Satchel*, and *Gateway to a Vast World*, each of which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Mark talked about growing up virtually on the Institute steps, and his involvement with the Board and the programs, which he outlined for me. I was particularly taken with the Institute's goals statement, identifying the aim of the Institute as encouraging the integration of immigrants into the community and the economy, while helping the community to appreciate what newcomers have to offer.

To me, to be able to apply some of my international expertise in my own country as a member of the Institute's Board of Directors was an opportunity not to be missed. My experience in Asia had attuned



Kathy Stahlman, Amelia Wu, Margi Dunlap, Wells Whitney, Jennifer Beckett, Sue Taha, Jane Rush.

me to the genuine value of diversity, a value that seems to me to be in great danger now, in California and in the United States.

I also thought I could contribute my business perspective, and indeed, this has turned out to be true. As soon as I joined the Board, we faced the painful job of restructuring the agency to compensate for United Way funding cuts, and I served on the Finance Committee. This effort was followed closely by merger discussions with the International Institute of the East Bay, where I represented the Board on the Program Committee. Then, choosing not to merge, we implemented our own management changes and strategic planning process.

This year's annual meeting is my fourth. I joined the Board in February, 1993. I have trouble believing that I have only been here three years. When Margi asked me to write something about how I find the time to participate in the Institute's activities, attend Board and Executive Committee meetings, it surprised me.

When you believe in something and it squares with your values, you reorder priorities so there is time. I don't *find* the time, I *make* the time. When I get the year's meeting schedule, I enter it on my calendar. The meetings are locked in, programmed. There's never any question. I'll be there.

Working with the Institute has provided me with so many benefits—new friends, new activities, new insight on the problems of a non-profit, and certainly a new awareness that some people don't like what

we are doing. But every now and again an article appears in the paper like the *San Francisco Chronicle's* "Rally Protests Proposed Immigration Law" on Monday, January 22, and I realize that there are others who feel as strongly about the Institute's goals as I do, and my challenge is to identify those people and get them involved in our activities. My challenge is to recruit new board members. My challenge is to get new funding. My challenge is to keep others as engaged as I have been over the past three years.

Time? I'm no different from other active people in that I, too, have precious little of it. But I like to spend the time I have doing challenging things with interested, committed people for a cause I strongly support.



Staff of the International Institute

Citizenship Programs

Last year, staff from the International Institute's Citizenship Programs, which include both San Francisco and San Mateo County immigration services programs, increased services to unduplicated clients by twenty-five percent while integrating a twenty percent decrease in available funding. How was this possible? As is true for so much of the work world, everybody worked harder. We find our motivation and our energy in the special feeling of helping others who need us in a time when immigrants have fewer and fewer options for service or for assistance.

Throughout our service area, people are applying for United States Citizenship in record numbers. Our information sessions for prospective applicants serve as many as two hundred people every month. They come with expectant faces, often with small children in tow, and spend an evening listening to the pros (many) and cons (a few) of opening up their lives to the scrutiny a citizenship application invites. They ask questions, mostly about whether or not their English is good enough to pass the interview phase of the process. Once they have made the decision to apply, we help them with English classes, conversation partners, and assembling the documentation they need to complete the application form properly.

This wave of activity is the last step of the Amnesty process, and it comes during a time of unparalleled anti-immigrant activity at both the state and the national levels. In addition to the people who gained legal status during the Amnesty, hundreds of residents, who had for any number of reasons delayed their natural-



Phung Ngo, Information and Referral Specialist



Phoebe Wan, Student Intern



Llorette Tamayo, Casework Supervisor



Elba Mata, Receptionist



Marina Castillo, Immigration Caseworker

ization applications before, are also coming forward. They tell us the climate makes them uneasy. They worry about whether or not their family members will be able to join them, even when they

have petitioned for visas and been waiting in line to come to this country for years. They worry about whether an elderly parent will lose an emergency medical care safety net, or whether their children will be able to continue to attend school. If, in their years in this country, working and paying taxes, someone in their family has become blind or disabled or injured, what will happen to them? There are some things over which we have little control,

even with the best of intentions. If people work and pay taxes, shouldn't they be eligible for the same benefits as other people who work and pay taxes?

Changes in the law are pending that would deprive non-citizen legal permanent residents of a number of benefits and opportunities. In the weeks right before the Christmas holidays, the final versions of both House and Senate bills were being negotiated, and early in the new year a conference bill is likely to emerge. Stay tuned.

We've been determined to sustain our operations, and so far, we've been successful. Accredited representatives Llorette Tamayo, Phyllis Silva, Jackie Winant, and Marina Castillo found the time to provide ongoing hands-on training and support for our representatives in training, Monica Regan, Anna Castillo, and Phung Ngo. Carlota Garcia, Carlos Rodas, Veronica Ochoa, Clemencia Dedet, and Elba Mata provided essential assistance to our efforts.

Every week of the year, all year, at least one hundred fifty people asked for our help with immigration law problems. Every member of the casework staff averaged seven client visits and ten client phone calls each workday of the year. The voluminous paperwork that accompanies most requests for action was done between visits. With changes in immigration law imminent, and many immigrants experiencing a high degree of uncertainty and some fear, a large part of our job last year was to keep people informed, and when possible, reassured.

To be candid, though, as the year passed we found ourselves relaying very little news that would reassure anyone.

Refugee Health

The Newcomers Program at District Health Centers, and the Refugee Clinic at San Francisco General Hospital, provide health screening for newly arrived refugees, with International Institute staff serving as trained medical interpreters fluent in the languages of the refugee groups being served. This year, more than seven hundred new arrivals received the assessment, testing, and treatment services they need to begin their new lives here in good health. New arrival screening also protects the public health of all San Franciscans by assuring that no contagious disease is transmitted from the war-torn countries refugees have fled.

This year, reflecting the terrible situation in the former Yugoslavia, more refugees from Bosnia arrived than ever before.



Redwood City Staff and Volunteers at Volunteer Appreciation Party. Monica Regan and Jacqueline Winant are second and third from left, second row.

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Unduplicated Client Counts, By Continent of Origin

JULY 1, 1994-JUNE 30, 1995

PROGRAM	ASIA	AFRICA	AMERICAS	EUROPE	TOTAL
Refugee Information and Referral	3,391	303	50	3,206	6,950
Refugee Health	266	88	13	343	710
San Francisco Immigration	707	22	716	44	1,489
San Mateo Immigration	16	8	5,159	34	5,217
English in Action	92	8	18	46	164
Reception and Placement	8	0	1	9	18
TOTAL	4,480	429	5,957	3,682	14,548
% of Total	31%	3%	41%	25%	100%

NOTE:

"Asia" includes Chinese, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Lao, Tibetan, Mien, Pilipino, Burmese, and other immigrant groups.

"Africa" includes Ethiopian, Eritrean, Haitian, Liberian, Sudanese, and other immigrant groups.

"Americas" includes Mexican, Brazilian, Cuban, Salvadorean, Guatemalan, Peruvian, Colombian, and other immigrant groups.

"Europe" includes Russian, Bosnian, Ukrainian, Armenian, Polish, Bulgarian, Romanian, Hungarian, Czech, Iranian, Afghani, British, Irish, and other immigrant groups.

Financial Status

INCOME

Federal, State, and other Government Grants	376,447.
Immigration and Refugee Services of America	9,324.
United Way	109,010.
Other Revenue (Grants, Fees, Memberships)	264,659.
TOTAL INCOME	759,440.

EXPENSES

Staff to Service Programs	629,060.
Financial Aid to Refugees	3,800.
Operating Expenses (Utilities, Insurance, Supplies)	103,449.
TOTAL EXPENSES	736,309.

With Continuing Appreciation for the Support and Contributions of:

- The Asia Foundation
- The Atkinson Foundation
- The Centers for Disease Control
- Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and Services
- Cooper White & Cooper
- The Compton Foundation
- The S.H. Cowell Foundation
- County of San Mateo
- English Speaking Union
- Fair Oaks Community Center
- The Ford Foundation
- The Walter and Elise Haas Foundation
- The Immigrant Legal Resource Center
- Immigration and Refugee Services of America
- The Jewish Community Endowment Fund
- The Law Offices of Zuzana Goldstein
- The Peninsula Community Foundation
- Raychem Corporation
- The San Francisco Foundation
- San Francisco Department of Public Health
- San Francisco Department of Social Services
- San Francisco General Hospital
- Side By Side Studios
- State of California Department of Health Services
- The United Way of San Francisco County
- The United Way of San Mateo County
- The US Committee for Refugees
- Wells Fargo Bank
- The Law Offices of David K. Yamakawa, Jr.

And special thanks to all of our members, volunteers, and friends!

Please Become a Member!

If you would like to become a member of the International Institute of San Francisco, just use the enclosed return envelope!

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Sandra Sessler, Office Manager, and Silen Nhok, Information and Referral Coordinator



Monica Regan, Anna Castillo, Ella Rozman, and Silen Nhok

COMMON CONCERNS

A Publication of the International Institute of San Francisco

SPRING 1996



Annual Report 1995

MISSION AND GOALS STATEMENT

The purpose of the International Institute of San Francisco is to enable immigrants, refugees, and their families to become effective, responsible participants in community life.

GOALS:

1. To promote, protect, and advocate for the rights of refugees and immigrants.
2. To facilitate the reunion of refugee and immigrant families.
3. To assure that immigrants and refugees have access to public and private resources.
4. To educate the public about the social and economic contributions made by refugees and immigrants.
5. To create awareness in the community of the dynamic, positive impact of immigration.
6. To bridge ethnic and cultural differences, and increase understanding of cultural pluralism.

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