



International Institute of San Francisco



Programs That Strengthen and Unite Us

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.

President's Report

Wells Whitney

I've been involved with the International Institute of San Francisco for over 10 years, and before that my family had been involved. I am now coming to the end of my second series of terms as President of the Board of Directors. It has been a tremendous learning and interactive experience for me; as the last ten years has been a period of outstanding growth and change for the organization.

Most recently we have seen our budget and breadth of programs expand a great deal, enabling the organization to serve broader parts of the community, different populations and age groups. Within the IISF organization we have grown a group of young managers and staff who have the energy, skills and smarts to continue to lead and invigorate the Institute over the next period of time. And particularly satisfying for me personally, I have seen our ED, Margi Dunlap, grow as a person, and helped her celebrate 25 years of service and growth with the Institute, as she has become a leader

who now has the knowledge, time, and confidence to work as a spokesperson and advocate on a national level for our causes.

But these are particularly tough times for our clients and our communities. Margi has outlined the specifics elsewhere in this annual report. Essentially, as a society we are waging a battle between a critical war on terrorism on the one hand, and the maintenance of individual rights that we have grown to expect for ourselves and others in our communities. It is also a battle between a country dominated now by restrictive so-called "Homeland Security" and a country that has always encouraged and prospered from new immigration.

While it is a tricky dynamic to find the balance between these extremes, we must be careful not to lose essential elements of what has made us great to the short term illusion of security and control.

The International Institute of San Francisco, its staff, Board of Directors, members and friends must all be attentive to these issues. We

must learn about the issues and their ramifications, both short and long term. Then we must find new ways to help support our immigrant clients, our foreign born residents, and our own rights as individuals, all the while assisting in the right fight against terrorism, wherever it may arise or whatever form it may take.

These years have been an exciting learning and participatory experience for me and I know that I leave this current role with the confidence that the IISF, in all aspects, is stronger and better prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. Let us all try to encourage and support these efforts in whatever way we can in the difficult years to come.

IISF Financial Status July 1, 2001 through June 30, 2002	
Income	
City, State & Other Government Contracts	\$852,245
Other Revenue (Grants, fees, donations)	\$605,096
Total Income	\$1,457,341
Expenses	
Staff	\$1,317,845
Occupancy Costs	\$85,211
Operating Expenses	\$97,505
Total Expenses	\$1,500,561
Net Deficit	\$(43,220)

International Institute of San Francisco

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Board of Directors

Wells Whitney, **President** – Science & Technology
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Margi Dunlap

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Best of Times, Worst of Times

Margi Dunlap

It has never been more difficult for me to find the words to summarize the accomplishments, and the challenges, of a year. By all measures, the International Institute of San Francisco is thriving. Last year, we served more people, grew more programs, and did more work to create a stable and creative infrastructure than ever before. 17,000 people came through our doors to receive assistance.

The development of capable leadership in our management team has been an inspiration to me. Sheryl Bergman, Director of San Mateo County Programs, has been tenacious and focused, a source of enthusiasm and support. Laura Congdon and Jennifer Berger, leading our YouthCares Program, have shown both creativity and grit as they took the program to many new sites all over the City and kept finding ways to increase our capacity to help young people build a commitment to service while they have their first work experience. Ildar Hafizov has been our anchor, as Director of San Francisco Immigration Programs, assuming responsibility for four complicated service contracts and fee-based immigration services while integrating programs in new ways. Patricia Erwin, from the Department of Public Health, and Yin Yan Leung, who leads the Bosnian Community Wellness Program, have brought a record of solid accomplishments as they work to develop leaders and health awareness in a new community. And Paul Aguilar, who started in October as the Executive Assistant, has upgraded our website (www.iisf.org) and reorganized our lives. His energy and humor bring everything into perspective. Every member of the staff of the International Institute has put in long hours at low rations this year, and

all are to be commended for their dedication and diligence.

But when I look at the external climate and the world in which our clients have to live these days, it's another story.

First, there were the No-Match letters. The Social Security people were discovering in their attempts to create a national database that people had been making up Social Security numbers to get work. Many hard-working, taxpaying clients lost their jobs, because their employers got scared. Then came the edict from the Justice Department requiring non-citizens to carry identification with them at all times. Refugee resettlement, nationally, ground to a virtual halt as security systems were imposed on the one aspect of our immigration system that was already thoroughly scrutinized. The President last Fall signed a Refugee Determination letter allocating a smaller number of refugee arrivals than at any time in 25 years. And of those 50,000 visas, fewer than 4,000 refugees had entered the country by the end of December. Our international stature as a leader in refugee protections continues to erode. People whose lives are in jeopardy fleeing persecution overseas are being told that their situation is too dangerous for INS employees to travel to the refugee camps and interview them, to determine their eligibility for refugee status. Duh! If the situation wasn't dangerous, would they be risking their lives to flee?

Then came the registrations. All male visitors and visa-holders between 16 and 45 years of age from dozens of different countries were ordered to report to the INS to be photographed, fingerprinted, and registered. So many people voluntarily appeared to comply that the INS, clueless about the staff capacity required to hold up their end of the requirement, ended up detaining hundreds of people, with no due process, no right to counsel, and no phone calls, for as long as ten days.

We all want to be safe and secure, but these methods simply do not work. More than 24,000 men have been questioned, no terrorists have been found. More than



Margi Dunlap, Executive Director

1,200 people have been involuntarily detained, not one terrorist has been found. If you were a terrorist, would you trot down to the INS and offer yourself up to be photographed and fingerprinted? The only result is an increasingly suspicious and uneasy population, looking over our shoulders to see what Big Brother will do to us next. We hear frequent stories of Department of Justice raids on agencies to subpoena their refugee program files, we hear of visa petitioners being investigated and arrested because of information submitted on behalf of a relative abroad. We hear of a grandmother in England being denied a visa to come to her grand-daughter's wedding because, although she has lived in the UK for fifty years, she was born in Iran. We wonder if the King of Bahrain, one of the countries whose nationals must register, was fingerprinted and questioned before he visited the President in February.

We commend the City and County of San Francisco's refusal to participate in the implementation of The USA Patriot Act. The USA has declared war on immigrants at a time when we need to be uniting and strengthening our determination to oppose the violence and destruction wrought by a few fundamentalist extremists committed to the annihilation of the United States. To quote my friend Frank Sharry of the National Immigration Forum, our national leaders, frustrated at trying to find the needle in the haystack, seem to have settled for piling on more and more hay.

It has never been more important to stand up and be counted as people who believe these methods and tactics are counter to our national interests, traditions, and values. I urge every one of you to write to the President, write to your Congresspeople and Senators, learn about the issues, and talk to everyone you know. We are and have always been a nation of immigrants, and this has been the source of our strength and our success as a country. Those of us who live and work in immigrant communities have an obligation to call attention to the injustices we see around us, and to do everything we can to help our leaders stop their scapegoating and make things right.

Staff List

Paul A. Aguilar, Executive Assistant
 Maria Barraza-Calderon, Citizenship Program Director
 Jennifer Berger, YouthCares Associate Director
 Sheryl Bergman, Director, San Mateo County Programs
 Helen Boikan, Clerk
 Danielle Bolden, Staff Attorney
 Maria Reyna Cabral, Administrative Manager
 Samira Causevic, Clinic Site Coordinator
 Laura Congdon, YouthCares Program Director
 Vanja Danilovic-Jones, Community Health Outreach Worker
 Margi Dunlap, Executive Director
 Stephene Forté, YouthCares SoMa Program Coordinator
 Carlota Garcia, Clerk
 Ildar Hafizov, Citizenship & Immigration Program Director
 Yuliya Kogan, Health Worker
 Senad Kulenovic, Community Health Outreach Worker
 Yin Yan Leung, Program Coordinator/Health Educator
 Carissa Lopez, Partners in Learning Coordinator
 Freda Luu, Administrative Assistant
 Russell Mahakian, YouthCares Richmond Coordinator
 Florence Nacamulli, Fiscal Contractor
 Xuang-Huong Nguyen, Health Worker
 Amy Petersen, Community Organizer
 Olga Radom, Clinic Site Assistant Coordinator/Health Worker
 Carlos Rodas, Clerk
 Ella Rozman, Teacher/Caseworker
 Irina Rudoy, Tuberculosis Clinic Liaison
 Marisa Singer, Immigration Caseworker
 Sacha Steenhoek, Immigration Caseworker
 Long Van, Health Worker
 Jacqueline Winant, Immigration Program Coordinator

YouthCares

YouthCares (YC) brings together a diverse group of youth to gain leadership skills and become active participants in the community. This past year was one of transition and continued success for YouthCares. We saw increased need for our programs at a time of declining funding. Last Fall we received more than 90 applications for 29 available positions at YouthCares.

Highlights and accomplishments from this past year

Youth from all three programs and a couple of YC alums took an overnight camping trip to the Marin Headlands. It was a great opportunity for youth to get outside the city and develop new friendships with their peers from the other programs. We went to the beach, played sports, took walks, made a campfire (with s'mores, raccoons and skunks!), told stories and played games. This was the first camping experience for many immigrant teens in the program.

At **YouthCares Partners in Learning**, youth tutors continue to provide individualized homework help and English

acquisition support to their peers at Newcomer High School, a transitional school for recently arrived immigrant students in San Francisco. In addition to acting as teachers and mentors to Newcomer students, peer tutors have taken on more of a leadership role in running the program. Tutors now help their Coordinator lead classroom presentations to recruit new tutors, interview potential participants, and plan and facilitate the orientation for new tutors each cycle.

Last spring, tutors planned a College Information Workshop for Newcomer students, which was conducted in Mandarin, Cantonese, Portuguese and English. More than 25 students attended and learned about the college application process.

And with the support and guidance provided by the Program Coordinator, (by writing letters of recommendation, editing personal statements and answering questions about financial aid) four tutors were accepted to and now attend U.C. Berkeley.

In preparation for expanding our peer-tutoring program to Galileo High School, we hired and trained a Coordinator to oversee the daily operations of the YC Partners in Learning Program. Youth tutors were involved in screening and interviewing finalists for the Coordinator position.



Partners in Learning tutors getting to know one another.



Tutors relax after an orientation.

As a way to provide increased leadership opportunities for current and past youth tutors, we have started a Youth Leadership Council (YLC). The YLC is working with staff to help plan and launch the new peer-tutoring program at Galileo High School, with support from a Youth Initiated Projects grant secured by YLC members.

At **YouthCares South of Market** (YC SoMa) teens provide service to seniors at six different sites throughout the South of Market and Tenderloin neighborhoods. This fall, YC SoMa became actively involved in a variety of community events such as The Tenderloin Health Fair and SoMaFest. Since 95% of YC SoMa participants are bi-lingual, they were able to provide much-needed translation services. SoMa Fest was a great way for YC youth to meet others from the SoMa neighborhood and for YC to educate community members about our program.



New friends.

Youth Leadership In Action

Annie Tran

I joined YC Partners in Learning as a Peer Tutor one year ago and have been in the program ever since. YC Partners in Learning is very important to me because it has allowed me to learn new skills and meet all kinds of different people. Many of the other tutors I've met are really good, positive people who want to help their peers. Working with other youth who are interested in helping others has motivated me to be an even better tutor. In this program, I have been able to find my own strengths and weaknesses as a tutor while helping immigrant teens. I am very grateful to be in this wonderful program where I have been able to grow and develop my skills.

I was very honored to be chosen to serve on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC). It makes me feel great that my opinion and ideas are important and can be used to benefit the community. We were all chosen based on our potential and the skills that we bring to the group. As a YLC member, I have a chance to do something that will change and affect the community in a positive way. Most recently, the YLC decided to apply for a grant to start a new peer-tutoring program. I enjoyed writing the grant to the Youth Leadership Institute because it allowed me to work with both past and current tutors. The process of grant writing was great and I love the fact that the grant was youth-driven.

Some of our most successful projects last year at YC SoMa included an afternoon of intergenerational cooking (youth taught seniors how to make "TODCO Tacos"), making paper lanterns for the Chinese New Year, carving pumpkins for Halloween and planting daffodils and tulips. At Dorothy Day Community, one of our senior sites in the Tenderloin, we are adding to the beauty of the center's garden by adopting and sculpting young Bonsai trees.

Our newest site at YC SoMa is The John King Center in Visitation Valley, where youth will teach seniors how to use the computer and Internet. YC has already created a curriculum for teaching computers and Internet to seniors, which we translated into three languages for our YC Richmond program.

In the **YouthCares Richmond** (YC Richmond) Program, youth provide service to seniors throughout the



Happy New Year!



Making lanterns for Chinese New Year.



Youth assisting seniors at Lincoln Park Presbyterian Food Bank.



Preparing for the food bank.

Richmond District neighborhood. YC Richmond operates out of the Richmond Village Beacon Center at Washington High School and has become one of the most popular after-school programs there. YC Richmond has developed a strong partnership with the Food Bank at Lincoln Park Church, where youth participants distribute groceries to low-income seniors and families weekly. We now introduce ourselves to the Food Bank seniors in five languages. Many seniors come early to help us prepare the food and several seniors play the piano for everyone. We are now feeding upwards of 90 families a week, a real indicator of the tough economic times people face.

This Fall YC Richmond started a new service site at Little Sisters of the Poor, St. Anne's Senior Home. Seniors at this site are low-income and come from all

over the world. YC youth work with up to 15 seniors each week, playing games together and providing companionship.

Two YC youth also read to an elderly Russian doctor who has lost his vision. He was concerned that his loss of vision

would deter his ability to keep up with world events and medical breakthroughs. Since both YC youth are fluent in Russian, they can read to the senior in his native language. They have already developed a close relationship.



Working on an art project.

YouthCares Program Statistics				
September 1, 2001– August 15, 2002	YouthCares: South of Market	YouthCares: Richmond	Partners in Learning	Total
Youth Served	41	29	132	202
Seniors Served	171	307		478
Leadership & Skills Training Hours:	88	102	109	299
Service Hours Provided:	1,550	1,834	908	4,292
Linguistic Breakdown:				
<i>Youth:</i>				
Russian				12
Bosnian				2
Eastern European				2
Tagalog				7
African (Nigerian)				1
Spanish				37
Hindi				2
Chinese: Cantonese, Mandarin, & Taiwanese				107
English				3
South East Asian; Includes: Bengali, Thai, Burmese, Khmer & Vietnamese				21
Other/Bi-Cultural				8
<i>Seniors:</i>				
Chinese	117	116		233
Russian	4	111		115
Spanish	10	6		16
English	14	59		73
Eastern European		1		1
Tagalog	26	4		30
South East Asian: Cambodian, Vietnamese		3		3
Other		7		7

Valuing Families in San Mateo County

Sheryl Bergman

The San Mateo County Office of the International Institute provides legal services for family-based immigration, citizenship and community education and outreach. This past year, we increased our capacity to serve immigrant survivors of domestic violence. Our immigration services program helped over 6,000 families as they stabilized their situation, educated themselves regarding US laws and processes, and increased their ability to participate in their community. Here is the story of a family that we have served during the past year.

Mrs. R. has a ten year old son, Mauricio, who was born in Redwood City. Mauricio suffers from seizures, and when he was nine years old, he was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The child underwent an extensive series of tests, and finally was operated on. His mother made extraordinary efforts to support Mauricio, guaranteeing that he was on time for all his appointments at the Oakland Children's Hospital, even though she has no car, and staying at his bedside day and night while he was hospitalized. One of Mrs. R's biggest fears is that she may not be able to stay in the US to take care of her son. Why? Even though her husband, Mr. R., is a legal permanent resident here, and has

This is the heart of what we do – keep families together, and help to build stable, diverse communities where everyone can participate and contribute.



Maria Barazza-Calderon answering questions at a "Platica."

"Thank you for helping me with my VAWA paperwork. Now I am free to leave an abusive situation and start a new life on my own."

IISF client

petitioned for his wife, complicated changes in immigration law may bar Mrs. R. from remaining here to care for her child, who is a US Citizen. Mr. R. is a construction worker – he labors long hours to build homes for other families to live in. Mrs. R. cares for her family of four children, including Mauricio, who is an excellent student. International Institute's Immigration Program Coordinator, Jacqueline Winant, has dedicated hours to consulting with pro-bono attorneys and researching the laws to determine Mrs. R's eligibility, and is now able to proceed with the case. Mrs. R. is grateful that IISF staff has helped her to navigate this process, so that her family will not be torn apart. Mauricio needs his mom here so that he can get better. Mrs. R. knows that no-one else would be able to provide the support her son needs to recuperate fully. IISF's

role is to provide legal counsel to ensure that this family will remain intact, so that they can continue to be productive and contribute to the health of their community. This is the heart of what we do – keep families together, and help to build stable, diverse communities where everyone can participate and contribute.

The R. family has faced great hardship, but their support for each other has kept them strong.

Other families face different challenges. A few months ago, a young woman visited our office. Elena is a troubled youth, traumatized by witnessing her father regularly beat up her mother, for years. Elena was taken from her grandmother's house in

"The presentation was greatly beneficial, especially since I have a number of patients with various immigration statuses. I will refer them to the International Institute"

Dialysis Clinic Social Worker, who participated in training workshop

“I can’t believe it! I am finally a US Citizen! The first thing I did after taking my oath of allegiance was to fill out a voter registration card. I was so excited on November 5th when I voted for the first time. I am so grateful to the International Institute for helping to prepare me to become a Citizen.”

New US Citizen, community center staff person.

Mexico by her father when she was a toddler, moved to Los Angeles, and used by her father to “persuade” her mother to move back in with him. After years of abuse, Elena’s mother summoned up the courage to leave her husband, and fled to a shelter in the Bay Area. Elena, her sister and mother now live on the Peninsula, where the mom works hard to support herself and her daughters. Because of the nature of her entry into the US as a very young child, Elena’s immigration status has been problematic. While her father, a legal permanent resident in the US, qualified to petition for her to get a green card, he never did, as part of the abuse and

“The International Institute provided very interesting information about how voting is really important everywhere you live. Now I can inform my friends about how important it is to vote, and how they can make a difference for the Hispanic or other community. I will let them know when the voting date is, and how they can do it.”

ESL/civics student at Cañada Community College, who participated in voter education workshop

“Thank God the US renewed Temporary Protective Status (TPS) for Salvadorans. The small village that I fled immediately following the earthquake last year is still rubble. I recently received a letter from one of my old neighbors, and they are still living in temporary housing, literally without a roof over their heads. Thank you for helping me to renew my TPS papers, so that I am safe until my hometown can be rebuilt.”

Salvadoran mother of four.

control he maintained over the family. Sacha Steenhoek, Accredited Representative in the Institute’s San Mateo County Office, has begun to specialize in cases under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), and is now helping Elena to submit a VAWA self-petition as the only way to stabilize her immigration situation, obtain her work permit and green card, and become a productive member of her community.

During the past year, our San Mateo County Office has not only provided legal assistance for immigration and citizenship, but we have also conducted community education and outreach with newcomers and the broader San Mateo County Community. We provided training workshops on immigration law and procedures for other service providers, enabling them to serve their immigrant clients better. IISF staff led presentations with community groups, answering questions and providing information so that families can make educated decisions regarding their own future. Importantly, we helped community members leap forward in their process of civic engagement. In the Fall of 2002,

we held five voter education workshops, with 262 participants learning about voter registration, how to fill out the ballot, what are the political parties in the US, and what the ballot issues were. One of our dedicated volunteers, Clarissa Eakin, stated it this way “The International Institute helped me to become a US Citizen, and I want to help others as they naturalize and exercise their rights and responsibilities as Citizens.”

San Mateo County Office: Immigration Services Report	
1. Number of Office Visits	5,392
2. Number of Telephone Contacts	18,240
3. Informational Workshops and Community Trainings (# of participants):	1,293
Citizenship Workshops	549
Citizenship Interview Preparation	79
Other Immigration and Citizenship Topics	590
Volunteer Trainings	35
Social Service Providers	40
4. Clients Assisted with INS Procedures	3,282
Adjustments/Removal of Conditional Status	103
Citizenship Procedures (N-400, N-600, Acquisition)	303
Visa Petitions	224
Consular Processing (Packets 3&4)	52
Affidavits of Support	189
Work Authorization	353
FOIA/FBI Requests	129
VAWA	6
Family Unity	13
Waivers (1-601)	4
Replacement of Green Card (I-90)	168
Temporary Protective Status	69
Visa V	97
Visa K	8
Legalization	12
Miscellaneous	38
Other Procedures:	
Translation of Documents	640
Letters/Inquiries	707
Declarations	167

Safety Network Program Update

Amy Petersen

South of Market and Tenderloin Restorative Justice Project Succeeds!

Skeptics said it couldn't be done, but on June 17, 2002 the South of Market and Tenderloin Community Court opened its doors. Since June, the Community Court has seen over 300 misdemeanor offenders and made a tremendous impact in the community. The Community Court is run by 23 neighborhood volunteers including service providers, SRO Hotel Residents, loft dwellers and neighbors who are interested in preventing people from entering the formal justice system. Volunteers and coordinators give offenders an opportunity to understand how their crime affects a community and what they can do to repair that harm.

The principles of Restorative Justice are clearly carried out through this process. A community member who comes to the court as a result of a shoplifting case expresses her remorse, "I was with my mom and she didn't know I had taken anything, I wasn't thinking and I was so ashamed when I

was caught." A community court panelist asks the cited individual, "How did your crime affect your relationship with your mother?" These kinds of questions help people who commit crimes express their remorse, and enable them to explain what they would want to do differently. Panelists decide on sentencing with the understanding that the Community Court cannot ask for accountability if it cannot offer support. Cited individuals are encouraged to put in hours of community service in the South of Market and Tenderloin neighborhoods. In addition, if they agree, they are encouraged to take advantage of social service programs in the area that can keep them from re-offending. Giving people meaningful experiences in the community reasserts that they are thought of as assets to the neighborhood, not as outcasts.

South of Market Recreation Center Advisory Board

The Advisory Board at SoMa Recreation Center works actively with Center Directors and Recreation and Park Department representatives to ensure that the Recreation Center is maintained and supported as a safe place for families, children, youth and adults in the South of Market. This year the Advisory Board was awarded a grant from the Friends of Recreation and Parks to create a mural. The project brought together kids from the neighborhood to

develop two murals representing their happiest times at SoMa Rec. In the end, the murals represented the imaginations and artistic ability of SoMa youth. The murals now hang at the entrance on Harriet Alley and inside the lobby of the Center. The Advisory Board also helped establish a new partnership between the Center and the Southern Station Police Department. Seventy-five officers participated in a gift give-away with South of Market youth. Hopefully, this burgeoning partnership will strengthen the relationships between local families and the police officers that serve the district.

Southern Station Gets a New Captain, and with that, a Council

The Police-Community Relations Advisory Council was recently established to help build more effective police and community partnerships that utilize problem solving to address neighborhood crime. At present, the local police department is discovering the productivity in building mutually beneficial relationships with residents as well as other City agencies that serve the area. Officers and community leaders are learning how to leverage coordination and support from City departments who play a role in combating neighborhood issues that contribute to crime. A community-centered approach to policing is working to alleviate perceptions of crime as well as prevent crime.



Amy Petersen, Community Organizer.



Supervisor Chris Daly at a Safety Network event.

Significant Changes in Immigration Laws and Implementation Since September 11, 2001

09/23/01	Bush signs Executive Order prohibiting transactions with terrorists or possible terrorists.	10/29/02	Canada issues a travel advisory to its citizens advising that Canadians born in Middle Eastern countries be cautious about travel to US
10/26/01	USA PATRIOT Act (Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism) signed into law. Requires entry-exit tracking system by 2005 to monitor whereabouts of all nonimmigrants entering the US. Permits vast expansion of the Justice Department's surveillance powers, eases restrictions on FBI agents to infiltrate churches, mosques and political groups where terrorist activity is suspected, permits secret detention of foreigners with suspected links to terrorism. Allows the government to exempt itself in certain cases from Freedom of Information Act requests without any judicial review.	11/02/02	US Dept. of Justice issues statement that in response to concerns previously expressed by the Canadian Government about the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS), in late September the United States changed the treatment accorded to those individuals who were born in the countries listed in the regulations and who are Canadian citizens. Place of birth, by itself, will not automatically trigger registration. The Department of Justice and the Immigration and Naturalization Service have instructed immigration inspectors at US ports of entry accordingly.
04/12/02	New INS rule limits B-1 (business visitors) and B-2 (tourists) nonimmigrants to 30 days unless proof of legitimate need for longer stay is presented. Only unanticipated circumstances permit extension of B-1 or B-2 status beyond initial period of stay granted.	11/06/02	Special registration call-in for anyone already in the US, from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, or Syria. Must be registered between 11/15/02 and 12/16/02 at designated office.
05/14/02	Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act signed into law. Mandates additional screening, training; mandates sharing of data among agencies.	11/22/02	13 additional countries added to those designated for special registration call-in: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Eritrea, Lebanon, Morocco, N Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia, UAE, and Yemen.
06/06/02	Ashcroft announces National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS) to be put in place. This is Special Registration now in effect.	11/25/02	Department of Homeland Security legislation signed into law.
07/18/02	Dept. of Justice announces that all non-citizens, including lawful permanent residents, must notify INS within 10 days of address change. Willful failure is a criminal offense.	11/28/02	The Justice Department challenged a court order instructing it to release the names of hundreds of people arrested on immigration charges after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.
08/12/02	NSEERS (Special Registration) final rule published. Male visitors over age 16, arriving from specific countries, must be registered upon entry, and must report to local INS office within 30 days of arrival to prove where they are staying and that they are fulfilling the purpose of their visit.	11/28/02	A special federal appeals court rules that the Justice Department has broad powers under the Patriot Act enacted last year to use wiretaps, read e-mails and conduct searches of suspected terrorists. Attorney General John Ashcroft called the ruling a victory for liberty, safety and the security of the American people and immediately stepped up the use of intelligence, saying the decision revolutionizes our ability to investigate and prosecute terrorists by allowing criminal investigators and intelligence officers to share information.
08/26/02	Ashcroft guts Board of Immigration Appeals, cutting number of members from 19 to 11. Mandates single-member review of cases and sets accelerated schedules/time limits.	11/28/02	Last weekend, the Afro-Cuban All Stars, one of Cuba's most famous musical acts, was scheduled to perform in Berkeley in front of sold-out audiences. But the new visa policy prevented them from entering the United States. Other recent cancellations include the Cuban-Haitian group Desandan, which was supposed to play at La Pena Cultural Center in Berkeley; Cuba's Los Van Van, which had been scheduled to perform at this month's San Francisco Jazz Festival; Cuban jazz pianist Chucho Valdes, who couldn't attend the Latin Grammy Awards in September; and the Whirling Dervishes of Syria, who had to miss their scheduled performance at the L.A. World Festival of Sacred Music in September. Last month, Hossein Alizadeh, one of Iran's most acclaimed musicians, secured a visa only after members of Congress and scores of concert promoters contacted the US embassy in Paris, where he had applied for the visa. Alizadeh ultimately missed the first nine performances of an American tour with other Iranian performers. Iranian instrumentalist Kayhan Kalhor, who performed with Alizadeh on his tour, was so flustered by the fingerprinting and the exhaustive checks of his luggage that he has vowed never to perform again in the United States. Even though he is a Canadian citizen, Kalhor was subject to more stringent scrutiny because he was born in Iran. Kalhor, who had lived on and off for years in New York and performed on Yo-Yo Ma's recent Silk Road Project tour, said he believes the US government's new visa restrictions and security measures are harassment and discrimination.
09/05/02	INS issues confidential memo to port-of-entry inspectors, instructing special registration for Pakistanis, Saudis, and Yemenis, as well as anyone who has recently visited Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, N. Korea, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Yemen, Egypt, Somalia, Pakistan, Indonesia, or Malaysia.		
09/06/02	Federal register notice stating arriving nonimmigrants from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and Syria must be registered on arrival.		
09/30/02	Announcement that as of 10-1-02, those subject to special registration can only depart US from one of the designated ports of departure.		
10/13/02	In an embarrassing episode in July, the State Department was forced to cancel about 100 visas that had already been issued — and in some cases used to enter the United States — after the FBI reported that the names had raised concerns. Since then, visa delays have increased greatly. Consular officials declined to comment on the extent of the problem, except to say that their abrupt release of 10,000 visas last month was an attempt to clear the backlog.		
10/13/02	Chinese scientist who played a role in a recent breakthrough in AIDS research is unable to return to the biotech company in the Bay Area where he works until he clears a new security review. The scientist, Siyu Fu, who has lived in the United States for more than three years, has been told to prepare for a wait of up to three months in Switzerland, where he traveled in September for what he thought would be a routine business trip.	12/11/02	Report: US citizen client from Israel selling gas to a customer at his gas station; customer gets upset and flashes his INS officer badge and demands proof of status.
10/23/02	Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) will be operational by 1/1/03.	12/11/02	Report: AAO (Administrative Appeals Office) denies an immigration benefit to applicants, stating (anonymously) he or she didn't think a

Significant Changes in Immigration Laws and Implementation Since September 11, 2001 (continued)

	child born in US to Pakistani parents was the sort of citizen the laws are designed to protect.	01/18/03	Massive protests take place worldwide against Bush administration policies.
12/11/02	At San Jose INS, a US citizen and spouse appear for the spouse's permanent residence interview. INS officer confirms US citizen is present, then police appear and arrest the USC for an outstanding warrant. INS must now perform IBIS checks on USC petitioners and notify local law enforcement officers if the USC appears.	01/31/03	Letter from 83 academic, business, professional, and cultural organizations asks US Secretaries of State and Homeland Security to address intolerable multiple-month delays in visa processing. Uncertainty in visa processing is negatively impacting our activities and the US economy.
12/13/02	Report from attorney: Client goes to be registered in Miami; he is in lawful status but is detained, interrogated and threatened for 4 hours, told his marriage to a US citizen is invalid, etc.	02/20/03	Dept. of Justice announces that permanent residents of Canada will need passports and visas to enter the US, beginning March 17, 2003.
12/18/02	Mass arrests start in Los Angeles, mostly of Iranian men appearing for Special Registration.	02/26/03	Domestic Security Enforcement Act of 2003 (aka USA Patriot Act II) Draft legislation prepared by the Dept of Justice (DOJ) and leaked to the public contains a number of provisions that would diminish significantly the already compromised due process rights of lawful permanent residents and other non-citizens. This bill: authorizes secret arrests; opens immigration files to local police; broadens rescission of US citizenship; authorizes summary deportations and expands expedited removals; authorizes removal to non-recognized countries.
12/19/02	A report released on 12/19/02 by the State Department's Office of Inspector General found, among other things, that current visa issuance procedures are inadequate to prevent terrorists from traveling to the US, adding that the Department at every level must rethink its approach to this task and devote the necessary resources and effort to it.	02/28/03	Title 8, Code of Federal Regulations, is reorganized to Title 28 to reflect the transfer of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Dept. of Justice, to three new federal agencies in the Dept. of Homeland Security.
12/23/02	Sen. Kennedy, Sen. Feingold, and Rep. Conyers protest the special registration program.	03/01/03	New Department of Homeland Security begins operations.
12/26/02	Class Action complaint filed by Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and others.		

IISF On-line

<http://www.iisf.org>

Paul A. Aguilar

For several years, the Institute has had a presence on the Internet. It was time to give the site a facelift. Beginning in September 2002, the Management Team began the long, arduous process of re-building our website.

In January 2003, the Institute launched the newest version of www.iisf.org. This new version combines the best of the previous versions with many new and exciting features and information.

IISF Programs provides detailed information on San Francisco Immigration and Citizenship, San Mateo Immigration and Citizenship, YouthCares, Newcomers Health, and the Safety Network Programs.

About IISF contains "Meet the Staff," "Meet the Board," "History of IISF," "Hand Me Down History," downloadable Annual Reports since 1996, and a list of corporate and foundation supporters with links to their websites.

Contact IISF is a convenient way for people with Internet access to find out how to reach the Institute.

Resource Links provides current Bureau of Immigration and Citizenship Services information, including Special Registra-

tion dates and Priority Dates for Family Based Immigrant Visas. Also included here is a feature called "Write Your Elected Officials" that includes the addresses and e-mail links to local elected officials. We want you to be able to say what you think, quickly and conveniently.

Support IISF is a safe and convenient way for people to donate directly to the Institute using PayPal®, the most popular secure on-line payment company.



San Francisco Program Update

Ildar Hafizov

The San Francisco Immigration and Citizenship Program continues to provide very needed immigration and naturalization services to the low-income immigrant population in the City and County of San Francisco.

Staggering changes in federal regulations and legislation this past year continue to affect our clients in ways that we are still unable to quantify. Confused and scared by the changes, people come to the International Institute to get answers to their questions. This past year we served 2,043 clients and received 7,410 phone calls, which is a 12.5% and 21% increase over the last year.

One of the most significant changes in federal law was the passage of the Homeland Security Act in late November of 2002. The Act creates the Department of Homeland Security, which encompasses the current functions of the Immigration and

Naturalization Service (INS), previously part of the Department of Justice. The department's new Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services will adjudicate all petitions, including asylum and refugee applications, formerly reviewed by the INS.

Under this new law, the Department of Homeland Security is mandated to undertake wide-ranging border-control and immigration enforcement functions of the INS and the Border Patrol, including detention and removal of

Many of our clients fear a backlash against immigrants and fear being targeted due to their ethnicity, culture and country of origin.

immigrants, intelligence, investigations and inspections. The Department will also administer all laws regulating the granting and refusal of visas and create a central electronic database to track all denials of visas from US consulates around the world. At this time, the

sweeping reorganization of the INS has a profound effect on all of our clients who have pending petitions and applications before the INS.

We experienced a major victory this year. On August 6, 2002, President Bush signed into law the "Child Status Protection Act." Co-sponsored by California's Senator Dianne Feinstein, this long awaited law provides important protections to children who "age out" or become ineligible to receive permanent residency or naturalize through a parent due to INS processing delays. With the enactment of this new federal law, children's eligibility for immigration benefits is determined by their age at the time the application was filed, rather than their age when the petition or application is adjudicated, which is often after years of processing delays. For many of our clients, this means allowing sons and daughters over the age of 21 to receive a visa, to adjust status or to become naturalized with a parent. This supports the continued unification of the family.

The tragedy of September 11, 2001, deplored by citizens and newcomers alike, profoundly influenced our national political debate on immigra-



Ella Rozman leading a citizenship class.

tion. Many of our clients fear a backlash against immigrants and fear being targeted due to their ethnicity, culture and country of origin. We believe that such a backlash is profoundly un-American, it is contrary to our values of democracy, freedom and embracing diversity and difference. We support these core American values by providing a range of needed immigration and citizenship services to the immigrant and refugee community.

Our program continues to focus on family-based immigration. We added

some new services as our capacity grew: re-registration for Temporary Protective Status, assistance with mandatory change of address notification for legal permanent residents, and help with special registration for non-immigrants from certain countries. We continue to assist our clients with visa petitions, adjustment of status, and citizenship. We worked with a number of Violence Against Women Act cases. Our English and citizenship classes remain very popular among Russian-speaking senior

refugees. We have also developed a manual on Pedestrian Safety and held workshops for Bosnian, Russian and Vietnamese-speaking immigrants and refugees. We continue with outreach efforts, attend health and resource fairs, senior events, and community meetings to increase the awareness of our program throughout the community. We provided a number of free, informational workshops, helping immigrants with a basic understanding of the immigration system and educating them about legal services offered at IISF.

We continue to help immigrants and refugees to become effective, responsible participants in our community, and we work with renewed vigor and purpose during these changing times.



San Francisco Immigration & Citizenship: (left to right) Ella Rozman, Carlota Garcia, Ildar Hafizov, Danielle Bolden, Amy Petersen, Helen Boikan.



Santa's from Kyrgyzstan!

San Francisco Immigration and Citizenship Program

Immigration Services Report July 2001 through June 2002

1. Number of Office Visits	2,034
2. Number of Telephone Contacts	7,410
3. Attendance at Informational Workshops and Community Trainings	661
Citizenship Workshops	104
Citizenship Interview Preparation	146
Voter Education Workshops	80
New Immigration Legislation and Procedures	161
Other Immigration and Citizenship Topics	77
Pedestrian Safety Workshops	93
4. Clients Assisted with INS Procedures	1,198
Adjustments/Removal of Conditional Status	73
Citizenship Procedures (N-400, N-600, Acquisition)	192
Visa Petitions	125
Consular Processing (Packet 3&4)	18
Affidavits of Support	90
Work Authorization	181
Advance Parole/Travel Permit	7
FOIA/FBI requests	7
Replacement of Green Card (I-90)	3
Temporary Protective Status	106
Visa V	18
Legalization	19
Miscellaneous	45
Translation of Documents	57
Letters/Inquiries	257

Newcomers Health Program

Over the past year the Newcomers Health Program has overcome challenges, assisted individuals with nowhere else to turn, and organized celebrations as we continued to provide services to address the health issues of refugees, asylees and other immigrants.

In the clinical setting we face the challenge of continuously declining numbers of refugee arrivals to San Francisco, which may impact our funding, and decrease our ability to provide health services for these vulnerable newcomer populations. However, we continue to serve newcomers by providing outreach and services to asylees — individuals who come from many different parts of the world and are lucky enough to have been granted an opportunity for a new life, free from persecution in the United States. Our biggest challenge is identifying them, since their eligibility for services only comes after they have been granted political asylum, often

many months after they have arrived. Once identified, we can respond to their health care needs, and through successful collaborations with other service providers and word of mouth we are reaching these individuals.

Our bilingual and bicultural staff continues to bridge cultural and linguistic gaps between newcomer patients and their medical providers at two public health clinics in San Francisco. From the Bosnian patient with cancer to the monolingual Vietnamese-speaking pregnant woman to the Russian-speaking patient with dangerously high blood pressure, the patients, many of whom have nowhere else to turn, continuously express their appreciation and gratefulness. We also had the opportunity to sponsor two trainings free of charge to health care providers on working effectively with medical interpreters this past year. Over 100 participants, all of whom are health care providers, joined the training, which was funded by the California Refugee Health Section.

Our chance for celebration this past year came when we hosted a Russian-speaking newcomer community celebration of health and well-being in September. Well over 100 people

Newcomers Health Program Services July 2001 through June 2002	
Total Number of Contacts through Health Assessments, Medical Interpretation and Clinical Health Education Services:	8,690
Comprehensive Health Assessments of Newly Arriving Refugees and Asylees:	207
Russian-speaking	123
Vietnamese/Chinese	27
Bosnian	14
Burmese	9
Ethiopian	7
Iraqi	3
Other*	24
Contacts for Medical Interpretation for Ongoing Primary Care Visits:	4,258
Vietnamese/Chinese	1,943
Russian-speaking	1,346
Bosnian	589
Iraqi	322
Ethiopian	19
Burmese	9
Other*	30
Total Contacts for Clinical Health Education Services:	4,225
Russian-speaking	2,206
Vietnamese/Chinese	1,283
Bosnian	736
*Other includes refugees and asylees from Cuba, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Kurds from Iraq, Liberia, Malaysia, Nepal, Somalia, Tibet	



Art class for all ages.



Outreach Worker Senad Kulenovic, leading a workshop.



Bosnian Expression through Art Workshop.

attended this lively event that highlighted the release of our “Russian-Speaking Community Assessment Report,” offered recognition of community members and service providers, presented cultural dance and music, as well as delicious Russian dishes and plenty of information on services for the community. We look forward to opportunities to celebrate the health and well-being of other newcomer communities in the future as our work continues on.

We have yet another reason to celebrate — one year ago we faced the challenge of securing funding to continue our work with the Bosnian refugee community, an isolated, vulnerable newcomer community in San Francisco. We are very grateful to The California Endowment for granting us the funding in January, 2002 to launch a comprehensive three-year program with a wider variety of services than ever before, the Bosnian Community

Participation in Bosnian Community Wellness Program Activities January – June, 2002

Workshops	35 participants in 3 workshops
Resources & Referrals	94 hours of assistance provided to 87 participants.
Social Support Groups	90 participants during 9 field trips/group discussions

California Immigration Fact Sheet

There are currently 28.4 million foreign-born residents in the United States, and 8.8 million (or 31%) of these people live in California. This is more than twice as many foreign-born people than there are in any other state. In New York, there are 3.6 million, and in Texas, 2.4 million. Proportionately, New York, Florida, and New Jersey follow California as states with higher-than average percentages of their total populations being foreign-born. Still nationally, more than one out of every twelve residents of the USA is foreign-born. This is the highest percentage of foreign-born residents this century, and represents a rapid rise from 1970, when the USA foreign-born population was 5% of total residents.

More than one fourth (25.5%) of the population of California is foreign-born. Still, 39% of California’s foreign-born people (close to four out of every ten) are already US citizens.

Where Do California’s Immigrants Come From?

In California, foreign-born people come most frequently from Mexico (44.3%), the Philippines (7.5%) and Vietnam (4.7%).

Speaking English

Of California’s 8.8 million foreign-born residents, more than 85% speak some English already, with 65% claiming they speak English “well” or “very well.”

Living in Poverty

In the USA as a whole, 13.3% of people live in poverty. In California overall, 16% of people live in poverty. For foreign-born Californians, this figure rises to 19%. Foreign-born people who have become citizens have poverty rates (10.6%) that are less than half that of foreign-born people who have not yet become citizens (24.5%).

Wellness Program. Over the past year community members attended health education workshops, joined in social support groups, and some successfully completed a community leadership training. In May we celebrated the opening of our Bosnian Community Resource Room housed at the Institute’s main office. At this site, clients can receive a range of services, including assistance with health and social welfare benefits forms and referrals and help with immigration and naturalization questions, as well as have the

opportunity to socialize with other Bosnians.

Though Newcomers Health Program will continue to face challenges, we feel confident that we will find ways to overcome them, and opportunities to celebrate as we work to strengthen the communities and improve the health and well-being of newcomer communities in San Francisco during these challenging times.

With Continuing Appreciation for the Support and Contributions of:

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