



**THE INTERNATIONAL  
FOCUSING INSTITUTE**  
*Building on the work of Eugene T. Gendlin since 1979*

**ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

In recent years, we have established a strong Board and International Leadership Council. A number of committees and processes are now in place, and we have shifted towards serving our members, promoting the work of Focusing Professionals, and embodying our international character.

In 2019, we enjoyed the support of many volunteers who teach classes, serve on committees and organize gatherings. The first Weeklong in Chile was a great success. We finally launched our new website and, despite some frustrating glitches, certified members have been able to upload their own courses. The Stepping Up fundraising campaign was very successful. All of this has been important groundwork for our next phase of expanding Focusing into the public arena.

**Membership**

As of the end of 2019, have 1,671 members. Of these, 192 are Coordinators, 44 are Coordinators in Training, 840 are Focusing Professionals (Trainers), 342 are trainees, and 253 are affiliate members (friends, supporters, professional associates).

Members come from 52 countries around the world: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Morocco, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, S. Africa, S. Korea, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the UK, Ukraine, and the USA.

**Coordinators**

At the end of 2019, there were 192 Coordinators representing 36 countries: Afghanistan, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Taiwan, the UK, and the USA.



We welcomed new Coordinators during the year:

Cecilia Burgos, María Cristina Collia, Eduardo Blacher, and Eny Ottini from Argentina; Ruth sar Shalom from Austria; Jiang Hui and Guang Wang from China; Sylvia Hübschen from Germany; Tom Larkin from Ireland; Annat Gal-on from Israel; Roberta D'Ottavi, Laura Pappada, Donatella Morelli, and Monica Zambelli from Italy; Svetlana Kutukova from Russia; and Mentxu Martin-Aragon from Spain.

**Committees**

We have a number of committees to oversee aspects of TIFI's work, with volunteers from 18 countries helping on them. These include the Membership committee chaired by Mary Jennings; the Nominating committee chaired by Paula Nowick; the Gendlin Research Center committee chaired by Kevin Krycka; the Children's Focusing Advisory Group, and committees for our programs as well as for the website.

Seven countries are represented on committees that are planning various events such as the World Focusing-

Oriented Therapy Conference (originally planned for Lima, Peru in 2021) and the Advanced and Certification Weeklong planned for August (originally April) 2020.

## **Volunteers**

We have had over 100 volunteers each year for several years now. They teach classes, lead Roundtables or Cafecitos, help with social media content, write newsletter articles, translate documents, serve on committees including the Board and International Leadership Council, help with fundraising – and many other tasks large and small that make TIFI the place to connect. Many thanks to all of them. They were all named in the spring 2020 In Focus newsletter.

## **The TIFI Board - [focusing.org/board](https://focusing.org/board)**

The members who served as Trustees through the whole of 2019 were Paula Nowick (USA – president), Leslie Ellis (Canada – vice president), Hanspeter Mühlethaler (Switzerland – treasurer), and Nancy Falls (Canada). Departing members who left at the end of their term were Susan Rudnick (USA) and Dana Ganihar (Israel). New members who joined were Nelle Moffet (USA) and Peter Afford (UK). The Board meets once a month for an online meeting, and members look after portfolio interests between meetings.

## **The International Leadership Council (ILC) - [focusing.org/ilc](https://focusing.org/ilc)**

In 2019, the members of the ILC were Ruth Hirsch (Israel), Claude Missiaen (Belgium), Sergio Lara (Chile), Roberto Larios (Mexico), Evelyn Fendler-Lee (USA/Germany). No one left during 2019, but the ILC welcomed one new member, Yongwei Xu of mainland China. The ILC continued its work of clarifying processes that are relevant to Coordinators, including monitoring the Pilot Program for the new process of appointing Coordinators.

## **The new website**

A major accomplishment in 2019 was the launch of the website. Progress towards the final version continued, with some content remaining on the old site for a while. We faced several unexpected technical challenges on this project. A steering committee oversees the development process and a new webmaster was hired.

The most important goal of the site was to allow certified members to upload details of their own courses. The site will eventually give us the capacity for new services including multiple content editors in various languages, content for members only, an improved Partnership Network and a new Member-to-Member search.

## **Online classes, workshops and courses - [focusing.org/events](https://focusing.org/events)**

We ran eight courses in 2019, two of them with live translation into Spanish. There were 12 Focusing Highlight classes, one each month. Most were in English, but we also had some in Spanish and Dutch. "Contract courses" (including a Focusing Basics course and a Focusing-Oriented Therapy course), where TIFI organized a training and contracted a trainer to teach it, were discontinued with the launch of the new website. We may resume similar courses in future, but in a way that allows for more fairness and transparency.

## **The Partnership Network - [focusing.org/partnership](https://focusing.org/partnership)**

The Membership Committee put much time and energy into revising the Partnership Network and it was prepared for launch early in 2020. It used to be called the Partnership Pool. The new Network will make it clearer and simpler for members to take advantage of this benefit of membership.



## **Roundtables and Cafecitos**

Roundtables and Cafecitos are free online gatherings for TIFI members that are held most months and organized by the Membership Committee. We had 14 Roundtables in English and four in Italian, and began a series of "Down Under Roundtables" for members in Australia and New Zealand. Spanish language gatherings for members are called "Cafecitos" and were led by teachers from Argentina, Chile, Puerto Rico, the USA, and Norway.



**Conferences and other events**

We held the second Felt Sense Conference in New York with the theme of Creativity. It attracted 70 people from Israel, Hong Kong, Finland, Chile, and Canada, as well as the USA. Scholarships totaling over \$5,000 were given. The Advanced and Certification Weeklong was held outside the USA for the first time in Punta de Traica, Chile. There was one of the highest attendances ever at a Weeklong – almost 60 people. A second Northeast FOT Conference was held in Connecticut, USA.



**The Gendlin Research Center**



The Gendlin Research Center gave its first grant to Siebrech Vanhooren at Leuven University in Belgium for a study exploring whether and how experiential openness is related to meaning in life, and demonstrating Focusing as a promising method for treating depression.

The Center has announced a "Saying What We Mean" Conference in Fall 2020 at Seattle University. It is being sponsored by both the Psychology and Philosophy departments in cooperation with TIFI. The Center committee welcomed Joao Messias from Brazil to the team.

**Gene Gendlin’s legacy**

Dana Ganihar was appointed as Special Envoy for the Review of legacy materials. She is editing transcripts of dialogues Gene had with Dave Young in the last years of his life. The TIFI office fielded various requests for the use of, or translation of, Gene’s works.

**Projects and outreach**

The *Pause for Peace* initiative funded Ghada Radwan from Gaza to attend a Children’s Focusing conference in the Netherlands, and continued to sponsor Focusing El Salvador. Scholarships were given to help focusers from less wealthy countries to attend the Felt Sense conference, the Weeklong, and the 2-Year FOT training.

**Fundraising - [focusing.org/donate](http://focusing.org/donate)**

We had one of the most successful years in TIFI’s history, with more than 200 donors giving a total of almost \$140,000. We are very grateful to everyone who donated to the Stepping Up or Giving Tuesday campaigns, to the Janet Klein Fund, or to any other aspect of our work. Special thanks to these foundations: the Sparks Fund of RSF, the Canaday Family Trust, the Hemera Foundation, the American Endowment Foundation, and the Network for Good – and to anonymous donors who gave especially generously.

**Finances**

Income from membership and certification grew by around 20% from 2015 to 2018. Donations are now back up to the level they were before the transition TIFI underwent in 2014. Income from programs was down this year, and is much lower than it was around ten years ago. This is because in past years, large income came in from the Focusing Institute Summer School (FISS), the FOT conference, the 2-Year FOT certification course, and other trainings we used to run. However, we are now growing our income from online classes. Below is a summary table of our income and expenses from January to December 2019, showing a small surplus for the year of \$ 3,505:

Income		Expenses	
membership, certification	\$ 190,052	personnel	\$ 283,245
programs	\$ 150,763	program costs	\$ 72,132
books, DVDs etc.	\$ 8,497	website	\$ 27,012
donations	\$ 139,088	rent, utilities	\$ 17,220
miscellaneous	\$ 2,927	other expenses	\$ 88,213
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 491,327</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 487,822</b>