

A Non-Official Report from The International Focusing Institute (TIFI): An overview of the Membership Committee

By Ruth Hirsch, *Certifying Coordinator, Member International Leadership Council*

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For this edition of the column on what's been happening in the TIFI world I thought it might be interesting for readers to know something about the relatively new Membership Committee: it's history, goals and a few of its accomplishments to date.

To prepare for writing this article I turned to Susan Lennox, one of the founding members of the Committee as well as it's Chairperson for the first 3 years of its existence.

In late 2015, Susan was asked by David Rome, at that time the Director of the Board of Trustees for TIFI, and Catherine Torpey to take on the task of creating a membership committee. After Susan created and chaired the committee for three years, she turned the chair over to Mary Jennings, another former member of the board.

The goal of the committee is to offer more connection and value for membership in TIFI. The committee currently includes 13 members who represent a variety of countries, languages and perspectives.

Some of the projects that the committee has undertaken include creating and being in charge of the Focusing Roundtable series which is open free of charge to all members of the institute. There have been roundtables in English, Italian, and German. They are currently working on putting together programs in French and Greek as well. A related offering is the Cafecitos Webinar series in Spanish. In the past, more than half of roundtable participants have been outside the US.

Here's are the titles of some roundtables that have been held in the past year:

- *Somatics and Focusing: Informing Each Other & Working Together*
- *Focusing and Mindfulness*
- *Bringing it All Back Home: How Focusing can Illuminate and Transform your Challenging Moments as a Therapist*
- *Long-Term Focusing Partnerships*
- *Focusing Research: Exploring the Realities and Possibilities*
- *How Can Focusing Help Us Embrace Our Creativity?*
- *Focusing and Cancer*
- *Meet the TIFI Board*
- *TIFI's International Leadership Council: An Informal Dialogue*

For professional members of TIFI, a series of Trainer Talks on topics including Research in Focusing, An Introduction to Gendlin's Philosophy, How to Run a Virtual Changes Group, and How to Build your Focusing Business have been offered as a free benefit

The membership committee is also working on reviewing and updating the focusing institutes Partnership Pool, which they have renamed The Partnership Network.

The next phase of the membership committee's work will be to help with testing different aspects of the new website before it goes live. It is expected that the website will be live and available for everyone sometime in the next several months.

In order to continue to build resources for members, the committee is interested in finding volunteers to help with various aspects of their activities. The committee meets once a month; most of the work however is done by subcommittees between meetings.

For a comprehensive list membership benefits, please see:
https://www.focusing.org/eShop/store_membership_benefits.asp

***Ruth Hirsch, MSW, MPH, CMT** has been enjoying teaching Focusing internationally for over 25 years. Based in Jerusalem, Ruth is a Therapist and Focusing Trainer who shares Focusing online with therapists, coaches, and others as a life-enhancing practice as well as to enhance and deepen their work with clients. Besides teaching all levels of Focusing, she offers Guided Focusing Sessions and Focusing-Oriented Therapy to individuals world-wide both in-person and online.*

www.ruthhirsch.com ruth@ruthhirsch.com

