



NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

A Historical Perspective on CIP

As we settle into our new office and get ready to kick off our annual membership and donor drive, together let's take a look back at CIP history. Reflecting on such a successful history, we're renewing our efforts and looking forward to making the future even more impactful. The following tells the story of CIP founder, Henry B. Ollendorff.

Henry B. Ollendorff was a young lawyer in 1930's Germany, raised as a Christian, but with Jewish heritage. Henry was a social democrat and legal advisor for a firm owned by Jews - not a good combination in Germany at the time. In defending some cases for the firm, Henry caught the eye of the Nazis and was put into jail for 13 months.

After this experience, he decided to leave Germany, and so in 1938 Henry and his wife, Martha, left for the U.S. He studied at the New York School of Social Work, graduating as a social worker, because he was not able to practice law in the U.S.



Henry B. Ollendorff

Henry already expressed the values that would come to define CIP, saying "I want to dedicate my life to ensure that something like the Holocaust never happens again. People, especially youth, must learn early to respect religious, racial, and other differences, understand each other, and to live together. There must be person-to-person respect and international understanding for peace."

When we look at the news today, we see distress. We can easily follow wars happening in many corners of the world. But Henry stressed in his speeches to participants that people from other countries are neither good nor evil, neither right nor wrong, merely different. He emphasized that we must **Respect** these differences, and **Engage** in dialogue as an alternative to war. Not only must we cross these boundaries, but more importantly we must **Help** others cross their boundaries toward us if we are to realize a universal human community. **Listening** to each other will lead to **Friendship** only if we understand that there is more to the truth than our **Truth**. Surely each one of us has the right to believe in our version of the truth, but we must come to understand that if every one of us insists on the superiority of our own version of the truth, there can be no friendship, no dialogue, no humanity, and no peace. It is up to us to act on this when we meet distress and injustice in our own societies, and globally.

This was excerpted from a speech by Gunvor Brettschneider, Honorary President of the Council of International Fellowship. The full text of Brettschneider's speech appears in the Winter 2014 edition of CIF's newsletter, "World News," which can be [viewed here](#).



Stay connected with CIP
by following us online!

Recap of Mark and Jiyu's Trip to China

Mark Poeppelman, CIP Executive Director, and Jiyu Jia, CIP Chinese Business Development Coordinator, recently took a two-week trip to China. While traveling between several cities, Mark and Jiyu had successful meetings with leaders in a variety of fields, including some of CIP's own former International Professionals in Residence (IPRs).

Mark and Jiyu had the unique chance to meet with officials from Columbus' Sister City, Hefei. They also met with officials from Hubei province, which has been Ohio's Sister State since 1979. In these meetings, Mark and Jiyu encountered one of the big differences between the Chinese and American systems. These meetings were arranged through the Chinese Foreign Affairs Office, and according to Jiyu it shows both the positive and negative challenges with China's bureaucracy - on one hand, it makes it easy to set up a meeting with the right government officials, but on the other hand, time can be wasted on paperwork.

Outside of business meetings, the trip was a great cultural experience for Mark, and a chance for Jiyu to visit his family. After a meeting at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, Mark and Jiyu visited the largest square in the world, Tiananmen Square, on a day that just happened to be a national holiday. "In my opinion there were 'few' people, but Mark was still shocked by the crowd and the size of Tiananmen Square," Jiyu said. After this they visited the famous Noon Gate of the Forbidden City, one of Jiyu's favorite places to take guests in China.

In Jiyu's home city of Tianjin, local food and drink was the center of attention. "Breakfast, breakfast, breakfast," was Jiyu's response when asked what the best part about visiting home was. "I can Skype or call my parents ... but I can not find authentic Tianjin breakfast in the U.S.," Jiyu said. As for local drink, with dinner at Jiyu's parents' home, Mark got the chance to try a traditional Chinese liquor, called White Spirit, made of rice or mixed cereals.

China trip results. Far more important than some fun cultural experiences, these two weeks were devoted to developing new CIP programs. New professional contacts were successfully developed in a diverse set of fields, from education to elder care, worker safety to business cooperation, and water resource protection to blogging. We will continue to create and develop new partnership opportunities with China in 2016!

For more photos and a more complete recap, please [visit our website](#).



Left to right: Jiyu, Lili Gao of the Disabled Children Care Center, Shuqin Liu of the Women's Social Organization Association, and Mark at a meeting in Shenzhen.



An impromptu visit to the Summer Palace when a meeting in Beijing changed location. Mark and Jiyu met a local landscape artist who drew simple portrait as a souvenir.

Former CIP Board Member Honored by Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame

We would like to congratulate long-time CIP board member, **Nirmal Sinha**, who was one of four inductees into the [Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame](#) this past October. Not only has Mr. Sinha been a strong advocate for the Asian Indian community, he has fought for equality for all Ohioans. This is exemplified by his 15 years as Commissioner on the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, during which Mr. Sinha developed programs to welcome new immigrants and created outreach programs for various ethnic groups. One of Mr. Sinha's most important roles came in the wake of September 11, 2001, when he helped to alleviate fears and improve relations during a time of uncertainty for the Muslim and Sikh communities, which faced racial profiling and discrimination.

Today, Mr. Sinha continues his work to improve intercultural understanding as a technology and trade consultant for several Ohio companies. He regularly hosts business leaders and diplomatic delegates from various countries in order to promote trade and Ohio's international relations.

To read more about Mr. Sinha's honor and his life of public service, [click here](#).



Welcome our Newest Participant, Melis Sedef Kahraman

Welcome CIP's newest participant, Melis Sedef Kahraman, who arrived from Turkey a couple weeks ago, and will be visiting and training in Columbus for the next six months.

Melis has a Master's Degree in Psychological Counseling from the University of Ankara, Turkey and has 10 years of experience as a family court psychologist in Ankara. Melis will be training at *Nemeth Counseling and Consultation*. She is excited to learn about our American family court system, while improving her English in a professional setting.

Melis has some knowledge of American family court systems, having previously studied the California system, and she is looking forward to learning more by immersing herself in Ohio's system. As Melis gets started she already knows some differences she will encounter. For example, she has no experience with juries, as they are completely absent from Turkey's system. While overcoming small challenges like this, Melis is anticipating a great experience, and hopes to gain plenty of professional insight to take back to her work at home in Turkey.

Be on the lookout for an event announcement in the near future, as we plan to host a country presentation on Turkey by Melis in January. Details will be announced as soon as possible. In the mean time, you can still take a moment to hear directly from Melis, in the article below.



Participant Perspective: *Under The Dark Shadow of Terrorism*



By Melis Sedef Kahraman

My name is Melis Sedef Kahraman. I am from Turkey, and I am a psychologist. I am here in the city of Columbus to participate in CIP's professional exchange program. Unfortunately, there had been a bombing in Ankara, the city which I come from, two days before my departure to the U.S. I would like to share my opinions with you about how it affects our lives to live with the fact of terrorism.

My country, Turkey, is often a subject of terrorism. In the last year, hundreds of civil Turkish residents passed away because of terrorism; besides this we have lost a lot of soldiers who were protecting our nation from all kinds of attacks. Turkish researchers Altan Eşsizoglu, et al. estimate the prevalence of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) after terrorist attacks to range from 7.5% to 50% in the year after the event, depending on the degree of victimization (Eşsizoglu, Aydın, Bülbul; 2009). Unfortunately, the impact of traumatic experiences such as terror attacks do not only affect their victims and the event witnesses as well as their family and friends, but also the people who have indirect access to the event, like learning about how someone is exposed to trauma. In daily life, it is observable that people tend to smile and communicate less, their conversations are generally focused on the event, and they seem to be much more anxious and much more depressive. A lot of people avoid the news and newspapers, and the ones who have up to date information tend to seem more nervous. Many people suffer from concentration problems and depression.

Briefly, it is obvious that terrorism has a considerable impact on society in terms of mood. Governments should be aware of these impacts and should make an effort to help people to overcome these symptoms. Otherwise, people living under these circumstances and atmosphere will always be less functional, unhappy and less concentrated. In other words they will be living under the dark shadow of terrorism.



November 7 & 8: Columbus International Festival

Time: Nov. 7, 10 am - 9 pm; Nov. 8, 10 am - 6 pm

Location: Ohio State Fairgrounds, Celeste Center
717 E. 16th Ave.
Columbus, Ohio 43211

Don't miss the 60th anniversary Columbus International Festival, from 10-9 on Saturday, November 7, and 10-6 on Sunday, November 8. CIP will have an informational display at this great annual festival, which will feature live cultural entertainment, ethnic foods, and two parades of nations. [Click here for details.](#)

NOVEMBER 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	1	1
15	16	17	18	19	2	2
22	23	24	25	26	2	2
29	30					

November 18: New Office Open House, Annual Meeting, and November Board Meeting

Time: 12 pm - 5 pm

Location: CIP Office
4900 Reed Road, Suite 331
Columbus, OH 43220

Join us for an Open House at our new office from 12 - 5 pm, and stay for our Annual Meeting later in the evening. After a few busy weeks of packing, moving, and unpacking we're settled into our new space and we'd love for you to visit. Light refreshments will be available. Our office is conveniently located just north of Henderson Road and south of Bethel Road, a few minutes from Rt. 315. To get directions, [click here.](#)

2015 Corporate Sponsorship and Memberships are still available and are always welcome. Go to www.cipcolumbus.org/join-us.html to obtain your membership today! Your partnership is valuable to our survival and continued success.



Columbus International Program - 4900 Reed Road, Suite 331, Columbus, OH 43220

(614) 221-0034 - cipcols@aol.com - cipcolumbus.org

Promoting International Understanding Through Intercultural Exchange