

# SFIP People

San Francisco International Program

Professional Training and Cultural Exchange for a Changing World  
An Affiliate of The Council of International Programs USA (CIPUSA)

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## 2003 Closes with 27 Participants from Around the World

2003 was an exciting year at SFIP. SFIP has brought in 23 participants from around the globe as near as Canada and as far as Cameroon and Egypt. We have participants who have come to us via referrals from immigration attorneys at Bernard Wolfsdorf Associates. Through the law practice we have brought in participants who are training in 3D film animation with such companies as CafeFx, Digital Domain and Stratus Film. We also have a participant from Cameroon who is training with a social service agency, Youth and Family Services in Fairfield. Other participants are in Business Management, Architecture and the travel industry.

As a small organization, we are engaged in our participant's immersion into their new lives in the Bay Area during their training programs. On several occasions participants have gathered for cultural activities and or we meet for social gatherings and have had heated political policy discussions affecting their countries' people. Various ethnic differences and stereotypes slowly unravel and dissolve as we learn about each person's culture and perspectives. These stereotypes that are barriers are inevitably broken and global understanding begins on a grassroots level. These experiences create the participant's opinions as their lives change while in America.

SFIP continues to bring participants to the Bay Area as a solution for your personnel needs. We provide personal assistance and ongoing guidance to participants with any U.S. State Department visa regulation. Participants are of a high caliber with Masters Degrees and a minimum of 3 years experience in the social services and specialized fields in high tech, law, architecture, Business Management etc. For your personnel needs consider SFIP trainees. All J-1 visas are processed through our Bay Area office.

## Volunteers for Schools Needed on March 12

A local organization, San Francisco School Volunteers, [www.sfsv.org](http://www.sfsv.org) is dedicated to providing a resource of volunteers to assist in classrooms throughout the San Francisco Metropolitan area. The San Francisco School Volunteers is sponsoring a Dictionary Day to distribute pocket size dictionaries to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students throughout San Francisco schools on **Friday March 12**. Any participant or volunteer of SFIP is welcomed to partner with a SFIP Boardmember or other trainee and distribute dictionaries to two classrooms in a designated school.

For more details please contact Jenny Sowry at 415-896-0126 or Glenn Davis, Recruitment and Training Coordinator, San Francisco School Volunteers at 415-749-3700 x3026.

## Keeping in Touch

By David Strand, past President, SFIP

During the last few weeks I have received e-mail from two former SFIP participants who also served as Directors of SFIP, Christian Schmidt and Eunju Oh.



Christian, a German lawyer, was one of many referendars who have been SFIP participants. Referendars are graduates of German law schools who are required to participate in apprenticeship type training programs for at least two years before admission to the bar. A portion of this training can be under the supervision of lawyers outside of Germany. Many referendars come to San Francisco to train with American lawyers, and many have been SFIP participants.



Christian worked under my supervision both as a legal assistant and as executive director of SFIP during my presidency. Chris did a great job as Director of SFIP. More than anyone else, Chris was responsible for building the Global Partnership Program at SFIP, the program that allows participants to train with private businesses. San Francisco now has more Global Partners than any other affiliate of our umbrella organization, the Council of International Programs, and the Global Partnership Program provides substantial financial support for both SFIP and the Council.

Chris now lives and practices law in New Orleans, Louisiana, one of America's most charming cities, where he and his wife Kirsten have bought and remodeled an old "shotgun" house a few blocks from the French Quarter. Lorna and I visited New Orleans in June where I attended the annual conference of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. We stayed with Chris and Kirsten, perfect hosts, in their beautifully redecorated new home, and we are extremely grateful for their hospitality. Their e-mail address is [chris.schmidt@cox.net](mailto:chris.schmidt@cox.net).

Many former referendars who worked in my office over the last twenty years, many of whom were SFIP participants, will be gathering in **Cologne, Germany, the weekend of July 17, 2004**. Cologne is a beautiful city. Lorna and I will be there and I encourage any other participants, from Europe or elsewhere, to contact me if you are interested in joining us.

Eunju Oh of Korea, one of the most charming people I have ever met, also did a wonderful job as executive director of SFIP. After returning to work in Korea for several months, she traveled extensively, including a visit to former referendar and participant Arno Lampman in Cologne, Germany, and then headed to Afghanistan where she now works in Kabul as Program Coordinator of a Korean NGO called Good Neighbors International which provides health and educational services for Afghan women. Their website is [www.goodneighbors.org](http://www.goodneighbors.org). Eunju looks forward to working in cooperation with SFIP as we attempt to launch our Muslim Women's Program for Afghan women. Eunju's e-mail address [seunju\\_oh@hotmail.com](mailto:seunju_oh@hotmail.com).



I urge all readers of SFIPeople to contact me at [dnstrand@strandandseaborn.com](mailto:dnstrand@strandandseaborn.com) with any information you may have about former participants so that we may share information with our friends through SFIPeople and add them to the SFIP People mailing list. I wish you all a Happy New Year that will bring peace in the world.

## Be a Host Family— Welcome a Stranger and Say Farewell to a Friend!

Host families provide a valuable and memorable experience for our participants and giving them an insight into American home life. Volunteer host families provide a private room, if possible, and share meals with participants for short-term stays between two to four weeks. If you are interested in hosting a participant please call us at 415-896.0126. We are currently looking for home-stay families for participants from Ghana, in early March.

## Participant Profile: Ms. Hala Shendy

In October, Hala-Shendy a short-term participant from Cairo, Egypt arrived in the Bay Area to meet with organizations to learn about non-profit Leadership and Management. Hala, an expert in family and childhood planning in the development department for the Ministry of Social Affairs, manages the overall operations of the non-profit community in Cairo. While in the Bay Area, for a two week period, Hala met with representatives at The Arc, San Francisco, an organization dedicated to providing opportunities for individuals with developmental challenges. She also met with the San Francisco School Volunteers as well as the Global Fund for Woman to learn about volunteer recruitment and fundraising efforts. Hala stated "that this training opportunity was a turning point in her career and her life." As a traditional woman traveling to a foreign country, Hala's impressions of American women is one of strong minded individuals who maintain a certain stature in society while balancing home life as dedicated care givers.



This opportunity for Hala, along with 11 other leading women from non-profits throughout Egypt was made possible through funding from the U.S. State Department, from a grant awarded to our Headquarters Organization CIPUSA.

### Save The Date

**February 19, 2004**  
**4:15 pm - 6:30 pm**

Tax filing assistance for participants.  
 Provided by Spott, Lucey, Wall Accountants,  
[www.spottluceywall-cpas.com](http://www.spottluceywall-cpas.com)  
 Please RSVP by 2/12/04 (415.896.0126)

### Save The Date

**July 17, 2004**

Referendar and SFIP Participants'  
 Reunion in Cologne, Germany  
 Contact: [dnstrand@strandandseaborn.com](mailto:dnstrand@strandandseaborn.com)

## Events in and around San Francisco in Winter 2004

J1 Participants attend cultural activities to fulfill visa requirements.  
 Below are suggested places and events to visit in our culturally rich city

January 29-March 25

### NAPA VALLEY MUSTARD FESTIVAL

Napa County  
 Features Mustard Magic at the Culinary Institute of America, Mustard Festival Chef of the Year Competition and world-wide mustard competition awards ceremony. Call (707) 259-9020 for more Info.

January-April (No Specific Date)

### WHALES, WILDLIFE & WILDFLOWERS

Point Reyes, Free  
 View elephant seals, great blue heron, egrets and gray whales; wildflower walks, art exhibits and historic lighthouse tours.. Call (415) 499-5000 for more Info

January-April

### PIRKLE JONES AND CHANGING CALIFORNIA

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art  
 151 Third Street  
 San Francisco  
 A one-time assistant to famed landscape photographer Ansel Adams, Pirkle Jones went on to become one of Adams' respected contemporaries and an important

documentarian of Northern Californian life and nature.

In 1956, Jones collaborated with his long-time friend Dorothea Lange on 'Death of a Valley,' a series of photographs documenting the final year of a small town now submerged under Lake Berryessa. The project is the departure point for an exhibition of Jones's work, which consists primarily of California landscapes.

Also on view are 60 additional California landscapes from the SFMOMA collection by photographers ranging from Lange and William Garnett to Robert Adams and Lewis Baltz.

Saturday 2/7/2004

### CHINESE NEW YEAR PARADE

5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
 Market and Second streets  
 San Francisco  
 The Southwest Airlines Chinese New Year Parade in San Francisco is the largest celebration of its kind outside of Asia. This year's theme is Year of the Monkey and highlights include elaborately decorated

floats, school marching bands, martial arts group, stilt walkers, lion dancers, Chinese acrobatics, the newly crowned Miss Chinatown U.S.A. and the Golden Dragon ("Gum Lung") which is over 201 feet long and will be accompanied by over 600,000 firecrackers. The parade starts at Second and Market streets, turns right on Geary Street, right on Powell, right on Post and left on Kearny, ending at Kearny Street and Columbus Avenue. Free

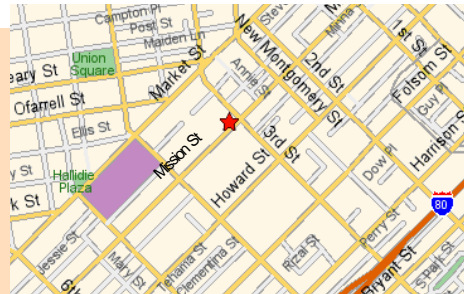
Ongoing

### YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS

701 Mission Street @ Third  
 San Francisco  
 Tel. 415.978.2700  
 Fumihiko Maki's daring architecture is home to eclectic exhibitions, performances and films. The lawn of Yerba Buena Gardens above is great for frisbee throwing. The nearby Sony Metreon, which opened in 1999 has become a major South of Market destination with 350,000 square feet of shopping, restaurants, movie theaters, interactive arcades and attractions.

## New SFIP Home

SFIP is now Blocks from the Heart of downtown, San Francisco. Our new address is **706 Mission Street, Suite 502**. Our new phone numbers are **415.896.0126 and 415.896.0127**. We are sub-leasing from a well known organization, Compasspoint. Compasspoint provides nonprofit services to organizations and agencies throughout the Bay Area. This Relationship will provide new opportunities for SFIP's growth.



## Be a SFIP Volunteer

The volunteer base of SFIP is growing, we always need more assistance! Invite friends to contact us. They can support SFIP and Volunteer in the office, on special projects such as fundraising events and do airport pick ups. Contact [jennys@sfip.org](mailto:jennys@sfip.org)

Visit our new  
Website!  
[www.sfip.org](http://www.sfip.org)

## SFIP Programs

- Core Program - social services & public sector - Placements are arranged by SFIP.
- Global Partners -pre-arranged placements.
- Referendar Program - Junior Lawyers from Germany.

SFIP provides J-1 Visas for Professional and Cultural Development to Participants from all over the World

The **San Francisco International Program** provides  
Career Development and Training for Mid-career Professionals from around the world

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donate to our organization and help further Global Understanding and Building Peace

Member \$50

Diplomat \$100

Ambassador \$150

I would like to be involved as a: Host Family\_\_\_ Citizen Diplomat\_\_\_ Mentor\_\_\_ Other\_\_\_

Make checks payable to San Francisco International Program  
706 Mission Street, Suite 502, San Francisco, CA 94133  
[www.sfip.org](http://www.sfip.org) 1-415-896-0126

Thank you for your tax deductible contribution ( June 03. 1/1)