



# Janusz Korczak International Newsletter

## N° 20 (November 2006)

<http://korczak.info>

Amsterdam, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Dear Korczak friends world-wide.

First of all we have good news for all of you. Together with the French Korczak Association and with great help of our colleague Bernard Lathuillere we may introduce the new International Korczak Website with a wide choice of News items and interesting texts.

Please go immediately to <http://korczak.info>: You will find all information and instructions about this website.

Why this website-service? You see, until now we sent you several times a year a rather long letter with many details or extensive stories. We noticed that many readers shrink from reading all this information. So, the new formule is like this: We continue to send you the Janusz Korczak Newsletter on line (but in a more compact format). At the same time we refer each time to the website for more details and extensive texts. More over, you will discover that the new website gives a lot of possibilities. (full color pictures, interactive contacts and mail box, special headings, links with other national (korczak) websites, forum for discussions etc.)

Please serve to “korczak.info” and you will enter an amazing world.

What are the news today? We received news from Poland & Germany, The United Kingdom, France, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

- Poland & Germany (pp. 1-3)
- France (pp. 4-5)
- The United Kingdom (p. 6)
- Switzerland (p. 7)
- The Netherlands (p. 8)

### POLAND & GERMANY

Two importants invitations!

One for the members of the 24 Janusz Korczak Associations world-wide and the second comes from Collegium Polonicum in Slubice (Germany, at the border with Poland). Accommodations and practical informations are now available on the new website.

Warsaw, 15 September 2006

According to the Statute of the Association I summon the Annual Meeting for the Board of the International Janusz Korczak Association, to be held upon **November the 25th, 2006** in Slubice.

**Preliminary Program of the Meeting:**

- report on the situation and the program of the activities in each country
- discussion on possibility and direction of future initiatives, and eventual changes to the organizational structure of the Association
- the succession of the Association presidency

According to the above you (the representatives) are asked to prepare a brief report regarding Korczak related activities in your region, plans for the future and the concept of Association existence on both the local and international scales.

The venue of this meeting will be in Slubice, where Collegium Polonicum shall host the conference. This will coincide with the grand opening on the 24<sup>th</sup> of a museum exhibition devoted to the memory of Prof. Erich Dauzenroth, the prominent researcher and “korczakist”.

We shall participate in these events. We believe that attending these dual events; a reflection upon the heritage of Erich Dauzenroth and the discussion toward optimizing our activities in the International Association, is the right decision.

All details regarding accommodation, participation, and travel-directions are included in the invitation and materials from Collegium Polonicum.

Waiting for fruitful meeting in Slubice

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Jerzy Kuberski  
President of the International Janusz Korczak Association

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Slubice, 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2006

Dear Sir or Madam,

Collegium Polonicum in Slubice, which is an affiliated institution of both the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan (Poland) and of the European University in Frankfurt/Oder (Germany), has acquired the scientific estate of the celebrated researcher – Professor Erich Dauzenroth, a most outstanding academic. This collection is of immense worth to us, and not purely for its scientific value. Custodianship of these materials gives us the possibility to honor Professor Dauzenroth, a wonderful person and scientist. Furthermore, it means a possibility of spreading the ideas and values of Janusz Korczak throughout the spheres of science and culture.

The estate of Erich Dauzenroth, in accordance to the wishes of his wife, is to find a permanent home here in Slubice, so that it may, firstly, be used to deepen mutual knowledge and respect in the German – Polish relationship, ultimately, strengthen relations between these nations and the Jewish diaspora. The person and memory of Janusz Korczak, on which Prof. Erich Dauzenroth focused much of his research, brings together equally Jews, Poles and Germans. It is difficult to find any greater example, that inspires ideas of such importance or that will lend such human insight to the next generations of Germany, Poland and Israel. This cultural triangle, firstly charted by Janusz Korczak and later by Prof. Erich Dauzenroth, gives an outstanding opportunity for the intensification of scientific contacts between people from many countries. Also of interest is the immense variety of the estate, as this collection includes materials in all major world languages.

The honour of this guardianship further provides us with opportunity of hosting an exhibition, to be held in Collegium Polonicum entitled: “**Janusz Korczak in the estate of Prof. Erich Dauzenroth**”. This exhibition should act as a memorial to the person and achievements of Professor Dauzenroth.

We would like to invite you to the opening of this special exhibition that will commemorate two important people. The opening will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2006 from 2 to 6 p.m. in the Collegium Polonicum, Slubice. We would be glad if you accept this invitation. We attach an reply form that we would ask you to complete and return as soon as possible. There will also be a possibility to express personal reflections. Please, let us know if you have any wishes relating to this. All speeches should be hold in Polish or German.

You will find in attachment further invitations to the exhibition opening. Please pass these on to any person who expresses an interest in attending the exhibition.

We hope to be able to open the exhibition with you.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Krzysztof Wojciechowski  
P.p. Blazej Kazmierczak

E-Mail: “kazmier [[@]] euv-frankfurt-o.de”

URL: <http://dedecius.ub.euv-frankfurt-o.de>

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## FRANCE

The French Janusz Korczak Association announces two exhibitions and the publication of a new translation of Janusz Korczak: *Teaching moments*.

The work is at the initiative of professor Remi Hess, who was the honorary president of the French Association in 2003 and who had organized on this occasion a conference on Janusz Korczak at the University of Saint-Denis Paris 8. *The teaching moments* is a compilation of texts of Janusz Korczak published at the time *How to love a child* (1919), for the parents and professionals of education. Their translation, by Anna Royon-Weigelt, is an interesting contribution to the study of the work of Korczak at University and in teacher training centers.

The French Association has a large and beautiful exhibition on about Janusz Korczak consisting of forty panels including four impressive kakemonos. Accompanied by its teaching bag, its videos and its quizzes, it is used for the association and its hosts of teaching support around the respect of the child.

This exhibition will be presented:

- **From the 7 at November 18, 2006 at Pézenas**, in Hérault (close to Spain), within the framework of a festival of Youth literature youth entitled “**The mom of fish**”, the name of a famous song of the French singer Boby Lapointe originating in the city. Korczak will be the guest of honor of this young popular festival which marks in its area a strong citizen engagement for the defense and the promotion of the rights of the child.
- **From the 6 at January 19, 2007**, the exhibition will be held in Crosne, in Parisian suburbs, at the time of the inauguration of the Club of the teenagers of the city, installed in a very new house of the Childhood, which will receive the name of Janusz Korczak. This inauguration will change to six the number of streets or establishments in France bearing the name of the great educator.

Find this information more in more detail, in French on <http://korczak.fr>, in English on: <http://korczak.info>.

Lastly, in his mail, Bernard Lathuillère, the copresident-organizer of the AFJK, announces the positive repercussions of a first action of “sponsoring” of this association:

[...]

Through circumstance, AFJK had been able to become interested in the action of local Congolese “NGO” of the DRC (ex-Zaire), **CHILDREN'S VOICE**, in Goma in the middle of the disturbed area of the Large lakes, on the border with Rwanda. In a fifteen years context of bloody war and serious violations, repeated and ceaseless violations of the rights of the children by the populations themselves, twelve women from the civilian population, all mothers, have gathered to react and defend in priority the children by creating this association.

It is remarkable to observe that they haven't chosen “to do humanitarian”, but to put the priority on the respect of the Child and to concretely organize the defense of the rights of the children while acting by all the all possible means to make themselves heard and to have their “cries” recognized.

At the time of its participation in an important international conference on the rights of the child in Gent, 19 May 20, 2006 in Belgium, the AFJK received Christine Musaidizi in Paris, the coordinator of the Children's Voice.

Its three weeks intensive stay had made it possible to organize its presence with the international Living room of the defenders of the Peace which was held in Paris and to make him visit Warsaw, on the track of Janusz Korczak, at the time of a conference on child welfare. Each one will keep, the members of the AFJK like our French and Polish contacts, the memory of the splendid personality of our new friend.

Six months later, Christine directed the Commission of the Childhood of North-Kivu and Children's Voice was a privileged partner of all the international NGO. But, the short term working methods of these organizations have their limits because they do not make it possible to attack the structural causes and the precariousness of the statute of the children, exposed to all this violence (children: soldiers, slaves, known as "wizards", removed, etc). It is undoubtedly for that that our modest "korczak" approach seems always useful to them, in terms of moral support and contribution to the populations and the authorities consciousness-raising.

We are happy to see that here, it is not with money that we could be useful to our friends of Goma, but simply in being used as a relay, by facilitating documentation and experience sharing and integrating their combat in the historical context of the universal recognition of the rights of the Child.

Today, AFJK has become a partner of Children' S Voice. We undertook to develop their Internet site to support their actions on the ground. We will also try to implicate ourselves in the success of of the project of scale of Children' S Voice, that of construction of a a refugee center for the children of the street and the "wizard children" having survived (they are often condemned to be burnt alive).

The project develops little by little, on a ground offered by the Goma's Bishop in a very poor district of the city. The important ones, the inhabitants of the district, the soldiers of Monuc, many people are taking part. But here all is still to be done, because one is starting from scratch and all kinds of assistance will be necessary, from construction, to the education of the social workers, in the long run, technical and also financial support of course.

We thought that the action of this meeting and the current course of a civil society mobilization around the protection of its poorest children could be interesting information within the framework of the international newsletter of the Friends of Janusz Korczak.

More on the korczakian action of our friends of Goma, while waiting to be able to visit them, is on: <http://korczak.fr/cv>

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## THE UNITED KINGDOM

Mrs Helena Abram from the Galatea Trust in London, send us the information below about the exhibition and a very interesting article about the Hermitage museum In Saint-Petersbourg

published in the latest Galatea Newsletter, with their authorization to use. See further the heart of the publication. The full text is on the website.

5 December 2006 – 8 April 2007  
The Jewish Museum, Camden Town

*Champion of the child: Janusz Korczak* tells the heart wrenching yet inspiring story of Janusz Korczak (1878-1942), who devoted his life to establishing and defining the rights of the child, regardless of nationality or religion. His work was eventually posthumously adopted by the United Nations as the Convention of the Rights of the Child and the exhibition at the Jewish Museum, Camden Town, shows how his teachings on the treatment of children continue to resonate around the world today.

The universalism of Korczak's message and the effect of his teachings on modern thinking are examined in case studies highlighting the treatment of children today.

The exhibition will feature original paintings and drawings of Korczak by Israeli artist Itzhak Belfer, who was born in Poland in 1923 and raised in the Jewish Warsaw orphanage.

The exhibition is in association with the Polish Cultural Institute and is accompanied by a wide-ranging programme of talks and discussions, and creative workshops for children

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## **THE MUSEUM AS AN ENVIRONMENT FOR THE HUMANISTIC EDUCATION OF SPECIAL CHILDREN**

by L. Ya. Shostak

These days it is customary to call 'special' those children suffering from some kind of physical or psychological ailment which affects their development and behaviour. They require care and attention, especially in these current uncertain times in which they have even fewer opportunities than their contemporaries for the development of their individuality and for preparing to lead normal lives. (...) The Hermitage assists those special schools that are dedicated to the humanistic education of sick children and their integration into society. It helps those teachers who understand the enormous contribution of art to the formation of the personality and its beneficial effect on the psyche of the sick child.

We offered the schools a programme of systematic studies at the Hermitage aimed at second to ninth year pupils and adapted to the ages and specific psychological characteristics of children with retarded mental development.

We developed our methodology by observing the effects of art on the children and their reactions to the material presented to them. We trained members of Hermitage staff who were already experienced in working in our school lecture hall and who had the desire and requisite skills to find a common language with our target groups of children. (...) Our staff treat each child with respect, irrespective of his state of health, avoiding pity and condescension. Equally, they respect the child's personality, recognising its unique value and potential.

The goal of our work is to help the sick child develop his personality and to build his mental strength through contact with world art and culture. We proceed from a basis of humanistic psychology, which believes in the unique individuality of each person and in his creative potential. It affirms that true mental health depends upon the opportunity for the self-actualisation of the individual.

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## Switzerland

“The Letter” of French-speaking Swiss Korczak Association n° 52, going back to August 2006, contained interesting texts:

- **“Korczak, the priest and Kibboutznik”**, by Ryszard Wasita (POL.), translated by Tomasz Szymanski, previously published in the Polish review *Slowo Zydowskie*. This article evokes the memory of the priest and poet Jan Twardowski deceased this year at the age of 91 years, who was a witness to Janusz Korczak, who he admired since its childhood and who it considered “a saint” because he “let Good God act through him”. The account of Ryszard Wasita is completed splendidly by a short poem of the old priest to Janusz Korczak.
- “The Letter” gave to reading a new page translated from Polish by Lydia Waleryszak, of chapter XV of the novel of Janusz Korczak *Slawa (La Gloire)* in French), which had been removed in the French adaptation of the novel [published at Flammarion]. This passage is however very important since Janusz Korczak warns the children against the injustice to which they may be confronted. It prepares them to enter life and does not try to make them believe that all is rosy. [The Letter dixit, p. 7].

Another notable fact in this letter is the remarkable standpoint of its president, Dr. Halpérin, in sound leading article, counters the new law on asylum and on repression from abroad in Switzerland, judged by the whole of associations of defense of the human rights like an attack to Convention of the rights of the child. This courageous standpoint did not prevent the voting of the law on September 24 last, but the international standpoint of the Korczak movement is rare enough to be underlined. If by definition, the associative movement in general is held everywhere with an engagement of respectful neutrality of the opinions of each one, this gesture points out in an interesting way to us that it is sometimes necessary to be seen as “a Korczakien” implied in the defense of the rights of the Children when they are threatened.

Lastly, let us announce the results of the “Korczak 2006 Prize” of Swiss Association, annually decreed with the author of a school work in the private or public schools of Geneva, on the topic of the childish creativity or the rights of the child, announced three prizes out of fifteen projects presented this year.

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## THE NETHERLANDS

The Second Call and Invitation (full text and details of the program, see on the website)

*Dear colleagues, dear friends,*

*In 2007 the Janusz Korczak Association in The Netherlands likes to celebrate her 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special meeting for young people from different countries who work with children or teenagers as professional or as volunteer.*

*We therefore want to invite young participants (18-35 years old) to the:*

***International Janusz Korczak Youth Meeting,***  
which will take place in Holland **from 22-28 September 2007**

(People older than 35 are welcome of course, but we ask them to look for one or more young people to join them).

**Theme: “When I was little again”** *(based on the title of Korczak’s book)*

Our mission for this conference is:

*How to understand children and how to communicate with them;*

*What can we learn from children;*

*Mobilizing the competencies of children.*

***Objectives of the International Meeting***

After the conference the participants:

- \* are able to map clearly their own plan of work or professional duty.
- \* are better able to reflect on and consider their methodical work (the participants are introduced to a range of working-methods, from simple ad hoc activities to very professional methods).
- \* will gain a better insight into their relationship with children.
- \* are able to translate the basic elements of Janusz Korczak’s pedagogies to the practice of every day.
- \* are able to utilize and turn to account the experiences of colleagues and to apply them in their work in Youth Care/Education.

***Suggested topics of the International Meeting***

- 1. Growing up in two cultures; Problems vs positive experiences in a multi- cultural and multi-ethnic society**
- 2. The need of education for citizenship; active participation of children in society.**
- 3. Children and multimedia (tv, internet, video-games, mobile telephone); risks and opportunities; influence of consumer society.**
- 4. The right of children and youngster on sexuality.**
- 5. “Learning for life”. How can children be active in their own learning process**
- 6. Integration of disabled children and youngsters in society**
- 7. The Right of Children to mental and physical protection.  
(or: Our fight against mental and bodily child abuse)**
- 8. How can we help children and young people to deal with aggression?**

*We explicitly invite you to suggest more or other themes for the meeting. And if you are interested in organising a workshop, training, lecture or round table, please let us know!!*

### ***Practical information***

**Dates:** ..... 22-28 September 2007  
**Place:** ..... “Het Zeehuis” (The Seehouse), a house for nature lovers; 300 m from the beach (North Sea) on the edge of a big forest. 50 km North of Amsterdam  
**Conference fee:** ..... € 225, – (incl. meals and overnight stays)

### ***Contact***

*If you are interested to receive more detail information or to receive the final invitation, please let us know:*

*Our e-mail address:* ..... “[info \[\[@\]\] korczak.nl](mailto:info@korczak.nl)”  
*Telephone:* ..... +31.20.644.70.18  
*Telefax:* ..... +31.20.644.81.54  
*Post address:* ..... Janusz Korczak Stichting, PO-box: 70048, 1007 KA  
 Amsterdam, the Netherlands

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### **A new publication. Let us retransmit to you this message!**

Dear friends from the Janusz Korczak Stichting,

With pleasure, I hereby announce the publication of my new book [see below]

The effective mapping of behavioral dynamics between pupils, teachers and parents. A helpful tool for educational psychologists dealing with problematic pupils and classrooms.

This book would have been welcomed by Janusz Korczak. Here is a psychologist who, during his work in primary and secondary schools in Israel, observed how easily children are defined as problems, whereas in most cases feelings of teachers and parents were dominant and the child’s feelings skipped. The approach in this book defends the children and makes use of the way children define their situation [More on the website].

#### **The DYnamic Interactive Attitude List (DYAL)**

Author: Jeroen M. Petri Eburon Academic Publishers, E-mail: “[info \[\[@\]\] eburon.nl](mailto:info@eburon.nl)”  
 ISBN: 90-5972 131 4 (ISBN13: 978 90 5972 131 9)

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**Dear friends.**

**We hope you will enjoy the new Internet website. A presentation will be done during the meeting in Slubice. From now, your experience and your feedback about our new services will be precious to help us to make them better.**

**You are also invite, especially as Members of the IKA, to use it to make better known yours activities or to share your reflexion.**

**We wait your news items for the next Newsletter no 21**

**Please note we have got a new e-mail address for the newsletters and the website: "ikanews [[@]] gmail.com"**

Thank you to note that we ask you to use from now this new address, especially created to facilitate a better management of your information and documents, for the newsletters as for the website. At this new address and by using the Contact form of the site, you can send more easily your articles, and, why not, your photographs, videos, songs, poetries, etc!

**Greetings from the editors of the Janusz Korczak International Newsletter on-line.**

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\*[[@]]: You will see often this sign, in the newsletters or on the website: It's justs a protection against robots and spam engines. Internet is an other world, we must adapt. For the moment, only humans are able to reconstitute the right addresses!