

"I have come to feel that the only learning which significantly influences behavior is self-discovered..."

Carl R. Rogers

NETWORK TO BECOME ASSOCIATION IN 1986

The Person-Centered Therapy Network is in a transitional phase. After four and one half years since its inception in the summer of 1981, the network has grown and evolved. Its original focus was on person-centered therapy. However, as the Network developed it became clear that many of its members were from many disciplines, including a large number of educators. In keeping with the changes that have taken place, the Network will broaden its purposes in 1986 to encourage participation from persons from a variety of professions who are interested in the philosophy of the person-centered approach. Therefore, the Network welcomes the involvement of counselors and therapists, educators, health professionals, clergymen, professionals in organizational development and leadership, psychologists, and other professionals and laypersons involved in the fields of human relations and development.

Over the last two years, since the publication of Renaissance, the Network has grown steadily in numbers. Approximately 175 persons have been Network members, with over 140 active at present. The membership has doubled in the last year and is expected to continue its growth. As the Network has grown in numbers, it has also expanded in its needs, purposes and potential. Members have a desire to meet each other, to share their knowledge and to learn from other members. Some means is necessary to accommodate this need. It would seem that an annual meeting of Network members and invited presenters would now be appropriate and desirable. Therefore, tentative plans are being made to create an annual meeting.

Other changes are occurring which would seem to lead the organization in new directions. With the advent of the Person-Centered Review, the person-centered approach now has an international forum for sharing and expanding its knowledge. Consequently, the Network newsletter, Renaissance, may alter or expand its purposes.

Since it seems appropriate that the Network evolve in its function, a more formal structure involving additional members is desirable. Therefore, all present members are encouraged to take a more active part in the future development of the Network. The tentative name proposed for the

PEACE MEETING HELD IN AUSTRIA

We are writing to tell you of a remarkable experience which we had in Rust, Austria, from November 1-4, which your personal and financial support helped to make possible to a large degree. While this will be our first informal report to you, more information will follow in time, as the bank which sponsored the event in Austria will help to support publication of a book about the meeting in English, Spanish and German. Additionally, we intend to prepare an evaluation of the gathering itself from reports from participants and staffs from all three sites--Center for Studies of the Person; University for Peace, Costa Rica; and Austria.

The financing of the operation has been complex. More than a year ago Dr. Karl Vak, head of a large Viennese bank, offered to pay the expenses of the Workshop at the Seehotel, and he more than kept his promise. That help, and a \$30,000 anonymous gift, and \$25,000 from the Carnegie Corporation, were the largest gifts, but there were many, many individual donors, and two special benefits. We have gone ahead on faith, and the event has been held! We think everyone will be reimbursed for expenses. Any payments beyond that will be minimal. Payments or not, we believe all of us would agree that it has been eminently worthwhile.

As you will recall, our original plan was to bring together a group of influential individuals, shapers of international policy or opinion makers, with a focus on "The Central America Challenge." In many respects we were more successful in this hope than we had dared to imagine. In the first place we anticipated twenty-four participants. At the last moment the numbers grew to fifty (although four could attend only one or two sessions.) In make-up they were indeed a distinguished gathering. There were three former Presidents of Central American countries, the current Vice President of another, three representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs, seven ambassadors, seven legislators, four lesser or retired government officials; there were eight from academia--mostly professors; there were eight participants from institutes, foundations and other organizations, several of them concerned with communication and cooperation; there were five primarily invited because they were peace activists, including Dennis Weaver who was there because of his leadership in the peace movement, not as

organization is the Association for the Development of the Person-Centered Approach. As its name implies, the focus of the organization would be the continued development of the philosophy and application of the person-centered approach. It would continue to serve as a network whose aim is to enable members to interconnect and to draw from the range of resources provided by its members.

The membership benefits in 1986 will include:

- (1) Subscription to the Person-Centered Review (quarterly)
- (2) Subscription to the Association newsletter, Renaissance (quarterly)
- (3) A copy of the Association Resource Directory
- (4) Free listing in the Directory
- (5) Discounts on the Association's Annual Meeting
- (6) Discounts on the Association's Tape Library.

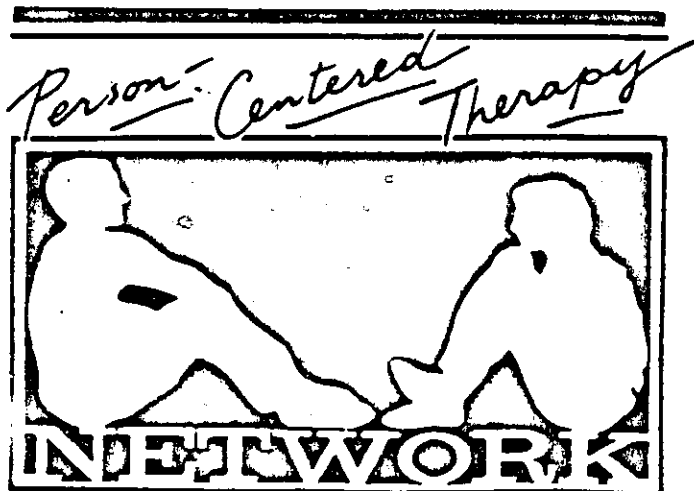
The evolution of the Network is a shared endeavor. If you would like to be part of a core group of members who will chart the Network's future please contact me at the Network address. I welcome your ideas and your suggestions about how you might contribute to the Network's evolution.

The cost of membership in the Association is \$45 annually. Membership renewals received by March 1, 1986 are \$40. (Add \$5.00 if out of the U.S.) To renew your membership, fill out and return the information below. Make your check payable to: Person-Centered Therapy Network.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

- I would like a general membership \$45 (\$50 out of U.S.)
- I would like to make a contribution of \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$10 _____

Make check payable to:
 Person-Centered Therapy Network
 Send to: David J. Cain, Ph.D.
 Person-Centered Therapy Network
 PO Box 3637
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93403
 (805) 466-1546



"McCloud"; there were two who were invited primarily because of books they had written (though many others had also written books); there were two officials from the bank which subsidized the gathering in Austria. As to staff, there were nine facilitators: two for each of the four small groups which were formed (but active also in the general group), and Carl; there were three translators, all from Latin American countries, all experienced in working with us; there were six administrative staff who worked very literally day and night to keep things moving smoothly, getting out materials in Spanish and English, and devoting themselves selflessly to making the conference work.

In all of this, new lines of communication were opened, tentative and strong friendships formed, and efforts begun to open lines of communication between countries at great odds. In this regard, although much remains to be done, and many obstacles still exist, there is an important glimmer of hope. The conference therefore ended with not only feelings of goodwill, and with some strong differences still remaining, but with positive steps that individuals were going to take when they returned home. Suggestions were made for such events as this in other areas of the world. For example, the Swedish member of parliament is going to suggest to the U.N. that they utilize this same person-centered approach with their Commission on Building Trust; a Palestinian is going to see whether such an approach is possible with some of the Middle-Eastern groups; a professor of international relations is going to include "persons" as an important factor in international relationships, along with abstract principles and forces.

After the conference a dozen participants joined together for a press conference in Vienna and spoke very favorably of their experience in the workshop. They expressed hope for similar meetings in the future. Although the workshop itself did not issue any documents, two declarations were developed and signed by individual participants, one focusing on the value of the person-centered approach itself and the other a statement of support for the Contadora process to finding solutions in Central America.

During the gathering we believe we were able to contribute significantly as a staff to creating the kind of climate which would enable this meeting to be private, informal and personally involving. There were many things which helped this. The hotel was very comfortable, located in a small village with no distractions. Our own informality seemed to permit others to move gradually to more casual ways of being together, and encouraged a freedom of expression unusual for many of the participants. It was kept private and no media were permitted, so that people could speak off the record. In addition to the general sessions from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. and the four small groups held from 3:00 to 5:30 each day, the first two evenings were occupied by talks and dialogues by Carl and Dr. Carazo. There was also ample opportunity for very informal get-togethers, some of which lasted on through to the early hours of the morning, and dealt very frankly, intensely and caringly with highly volatile issues.

