

WFWP Germany, Board Meeting, Dresden, Germany

Ann Schaffner
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The following report was sent to us by Ann Schaffner, about the recent Board Meeting of WFWP Germany, in Dresden, Germany:

“It was eight weeks ago that twenty-three women travelled to Dresden, notably labeled „the most beautiful city in Germany”. It was as if the participants stepped back in time to a city of grandeur!!

From 08.-11.04.16 the Biannual General Meeting (BGM) was held in Saxony at the invitation of WFWP Board Member, Dr. Elke Preußer-Franke, who is likewise the Chairwomen of the Jewish Women’s Organization Dresden (JWOD).

The actual venue was the “City-Herberge”, directly in the city center, with extremely good accommodations. Attendees from all over Germany journeyed to Dresden, in order to partake in most interesting lectures and reports, but most importantly to elect a new WFWP Board.

The first guest speaker on Saturday morning was Mrs. Irma Leontina Castillo-Ledesma from the City Hall in Dresden, specifically the assistant to the Integration Commissioner of the State Capital City of Dresden. The title of her presentation was “The Concept of Integration of People with Migration Background 2015-2020.”

After this talk and a lively discussion, Dr. Preußer-Franke presented and explained the work behind the JWOD. A few members of this organization were present, as were their husbands, however, it must be stated that since the late ‘90’s there have been many meetings between the WFWP and the JWOD, either in Gießen, Dresden, or in Frankfurt, the Bridge of Peace a most central theme.

Mrs. Elisabeth Heil then took the stage and through the use of a power point she told of the refugee/migrant work that WFWP members are engaged in across Germany, as well as her involvement in the Intercultural Meeting Center for Women in Schweinfurt. From 2005-15 she was a Board Member, a founding member of this center, which has allowed the public the chance to meet one another, thereby

disbanding of prejudices.

The fourth and last speaker was Mrs. Clemence Nsengimana-Uwimana from Ruanda, who has lived for twenty years with her family in Trier. She has always felt very intimately her migrant background, and explained many aspects of the conflict in her home country.



In the afternoon the BGM took place, at which time a power point of all the activities and finance report since the last BGM in August 2014 were presented. The past WFWP Board was released, and a new Board was elected, which stands as such:

Chairwoman Elisabeth Heil
Vice-Chairwomen Rita Seewald and Magda Haugen
Secretary Christine Sato
Treasurer Brigitte Makkonen
Observers Elke Preußner-Franke, TeeSun Waldner, Ute Lemme, Ingrid Lindemann, Ann Schaffner, Althea Corlett and Nicole Thurner

The following morning Ann Schaffner led the morning service and at 10:00 Ingrid Lindemann gave an inspiring talk entitled “A Love Declaration to the Women’s Federation”, a vision that she imagined. With inspiring words she answered the question, “What does the Women’s Federation mean to me?”.

To nudge the participant’s brain cells board games were played on Friday and Saturday evenings, and on the latter evening a small group of women attended a concert at the Albertinum.

In addition, when the official segment of the weekend was put aside on Sunday, roughly ten women visited the “Frauenkirche” at 15:00 for an afternoon concert. A smaller group returned to this utterly magnificent church at 18:00 for an evening service. A perfect conclusion to a full day of events!!

On Monday morning ten women then journeyed by car to Meißen, visiting the demonstration work benches and museum. This was real treat and rounded out a most wonderful weekend!

A long weekend to be remembered, with a sparkle in the hearts of the attendees!!!”