Welcome to this month’s newsletter!

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Catch up on previous newsletters with these handy links.

Can you believe it? 32 DAYS TO GO!

**REMINDERS**

**PRACTICE VOTES**
Votes close on 23 May - last chance to try it out before IFA!

**INVITATION TO THE IFA CLOSING CELEBRATION**
Find invitation resources on the IFA website: bit.ly/IFA_resources

**“MARKET” YOUR PRODUCTS.**
Enjoy participating: 29 May – 12 June – Facebook or Slack.

**DELEGATES’ Q&A ZOOM**
Join us on the 8th June
- EN: 07:00 UTC
- ES/EN/ FR: 14:00 UTC
- ES/EN/FR: 21:00 UTC
Here is the link: bit.ly/8.6.23_Zoom

The Federation Assembly. Just one month to go before we all gather in one space:

This is a rare chance to look back together at our shared story, pool our ideas, and decide on our future.

A great opportunity to connect with other members of the Federation, learn from each other, and look ahead with renewed hope.

Are you ready for this exciting event? If not, don’t worry! You still have time to prepare. Talk about it to as many people as you can in your community.

Please do invite your friends, family, and neighbours to the closing celebration. Let’s spread the word and make this Assembly a great moment for all!

Jasper Keus
Coordinator
IFA2023
Hello from Vanessa (left) and Sian (right), from L’Arche Manchester, UK.

On the last day of the Assembly, before the Closing Ceremony, our Community will be Walking Together with our friends locally and we invite you to do the same.

The Aim? To raise awareness about L’Arche across the world, raise money, and have a party at the end!

All UK Communities are taking part, and challenging ourselves to walk together differently.

Find out more by watching our video.

vimeo.com/827279069

Check out the Walking Together Brand Pack and templates in Canva here:

bit.ly/walking_together_poster

Hello friends, we are Justin (left) and Chip (right) from St. Louis, USA

Hi. As a delegate alongside Chip from L’Arche St. Louis, I am hopeful about feeling more connected with others in L’Arche around the world after years of distance and difficulty.

I am worried about the limitations of a virtual assembly, but I may be surprised by how engaging it will be (The Inclusive Teleconferencing Formation was great and encouraging).

I feel proud that Chip and I get to represent our community and I hope we do them proud too!

See you in a months time!
Have you made any new friends?

Revived old friendships or re-lived any memories in L’Arche communities you’ve been to? Have you spotted any familiar faces? Have you been inspired by the sharing of other delegates about their communities?

This has been the experience of delegates in each of the monthly small groups, in the big group meetings and the formations on inclusive video conferencing.

In the spirit of "Together in the world" we encourage each community to expand these links: do please invite your friends and partners to come and experience L’Arche during the closing ceremony on:

**Saturday 24th of June at 6pm UTC**.

Look out for the link in the next newsletter.
Over the coming months, try out some of these ideas in your community:
It is exciting to encounter and learn from each other.
Please do take videos and pics and upload them to the Facebook members page:
bit.ly/larche_members
bit.ly/larche_slack

On the Road to the Assembly:

We can continue to use nature: an object, words, photos, drawings, as symbols to help us prepare and learn more about ourselves.

- We can share about the symbols, why we chose them, what they mean, to get to know each other.
- What is something we all have in common?
- Is there anything that we think is Universal, true for everyone?

Together in our World

As we continue to prepare ourselves and our spaces for our time Together, we have had the chance to add symbols of connection. The invitation this month is to explore our world, and how we take care of it.

It’s hard to know what is true for others. What we all have in common. One of the few things we all directly share in, is our earth’s resources, the air, the water, the earth, and light from the sun.

What are the qualities of these 4 elements, what do they have in common? How are they different?

Find, choose, make a symbol together to represent each of these elements to add to your space, as a reminder of our shared home: Earth, Water, Air, Fire.

SHOW US!
SHARE YOUR SYMBOLS ON FACEBOOK & SLACK
We have many expressions of care for our world:

L’Arche Genesareth, Australia recycling plastic caps (top), or L’Arche Kenya’s APT Paper-based Technology initiative that transforms paper waste into assistive devices and toys for children (middle).

We also look to the collaborative manufacturing, packaging, and distribution of environmentally friendly soaps hand-made in L’Arche Kana-no-ie in Japan (bottom).

What are the ways that you use your creativity and hard work to take care of the planet?

Often it is in these small gestures of care that we make an impact, or effect change.

Make a Playlist:

Are there songs that connect you to our world, to the elements? Water, Air, Fire, Earth?

Together you can make a playlist of these songs, play it as you clean, during dinner, or as you wind down in the evening.

“With My Own Two Hands” Ben Harper

Song Around The World | ATD Fourth World
Playing For Change (EN/FR) with (English French Japanese Spanish Subtitles)

bit.ly/ben_harper

Sharing TOGETHER

As we go forward we also look back to the year two thousand with the wisdom and call of ‘The Millennium Resolution’ a shared moment of national reflection (in the UK):

“Let there be respect for the earth, Peace for its people, Love in our lives, Delight in the good, Forgiveness for past wrongs And from now on, a new start.”

Do you feel drawn or connected to one particular element? Air, Water, Earth, or Fire?

Take some time to reflect, to make notes, draw, collage and then share.
In order not to forget anything, everyone gets ready in their own way. For example:

- A card with words and drawings.
- For each idea, a drawing on paper.
- A PowerPoint presentation with an image and its caption on each slide.
- A box with objects to pick out as they come.
- Gestures, or a dance, or music... As you wish!
PART TWO

Distribute the roles, for example

1. I ask you real questions. You answer whatever you want, as you wish.

2. I speak with words and objects. You translate them into drawings. Or the other way around...

3. Every time one of us expresses an important idea, we give time to the other to freely add their comments.

4. Each one of us speak in turn, since we have shared the various parts of the speech between us beforehand.

Beware of inclusion accidents

- No "lame ducks" not allowed to express themselves!
- No "loudspeaker" made to repeat!
- No "puppet" that is handled this way and that!
HAVE YOU MISSED A NEWSLETTER?

**FEBRUARY**

WEB: bit.ly/IFA_Feb_News

PRINT: bit.ly/IFA_Feb_News_print

**MARCH**

WEB: bit.ly/IFA_March_News

PRINT: bit.ly/IFA_March_News_print

**APRIL**

WEB: bit.ly/IFA_April_News

PRINT: bit.ly/IFA_April_News_print

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**IFA2023**

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**WEB:** federationassembly-2023.larche.org