

FELDENKRAIS GUILD[®]
OF
NORTH AMERICA
2009
ANNUAL REPORT



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8 July, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

These are times of cautious optimism for our Guild on a number of fronts. Not only have we tamed our financial bug-bear, but I think there is also a sense of more possibilities and a better feeling of community within the Guild.

The Board identifies priorities for the year annually. The 2009 priorities were noted in *In Touch* (see 2009 Priorities) and the 2010 priorities were noted in "FGNA News," (see: 2010 Priorities). Many of the priorities from 2009 continued in 2010:

Develop an attractive and technically capable web site

Improve Member Service

Improve the culture and contact of FGNA

Support an effective process for changing training policy

Continue and improve financial stability of FGNA

I would like to highlight four areas that have been particular focuses in the past year: 1) staffing changes, 2) financial health and resiliency, 3) website, and 4) growing the Guild and connecting with members.

Staffing Changes. Though some staff has changed, we've maintained a strong core of very dedicated staff. Significant changes included the start of Jan LaRue as our new Executive Director in September, 2009, and later, her departure, on March 31, 2010. The basis for this was described in the Spring *In Touch* (See: The FGNA Board's Process for Continuing Review of the Executive Director). Susan Marshall was rehired as our Acting Executive Director; as you know, Susan came to work for the Guild office about three years ago in November 2007 - September 2009 and helped the Guild come back on to steady financial footing. After this Conference, the Board will begin the process for a search for a full-time Executive Director.

Financial Resiliency. Financial resiliency has continued to be a top priority for the Board. As reported to the members on February 26th, "as of December 31, 2009, the Guild is operating solidly in the black and we have paid off all our old debts!" This reminds me of a time when I was learning to ride horses. It was spring, the snow had melted, the horses were frisky. I was shown how to put on the saddle and how to tighten it for stability. I was told, "This Pinto is about your size, but he has some tricks.

Make sure you stop and tighten the cinch." I jumped on, the horse's backside was slapped, and away we went! In no time, the saddle was slipping from side to side. For a moment the horse stopped on a hill; I tried to get off, but as soon as he felt the shift in my weight, he took off at a gallop! Flying downhill, with each step of the horse rocking me more and more, the only thing I could think of doing was to jump/fall off and embrace mother earth. Ignoring my bruises, the ranch crew gave me serious grief for risking the health of the horse! Returning to the Guild in this analogy, we have come through the winter of our discontent, we have weathered the storms of financial crises and, like the pinto, we feel ready for some great fun! Frisky as we are, however, we need continued vigilance, guidance and restraint.

Website. The FGNA Website is dear to our hearts. CORR members and staff have worked diligently, developing ideas for upgrading and redesigning the website to the highest standards of current conventions bringing the website into the modern times. Implementing the changes needed and wanted has been more challenging than expected. Recently, a project manager was engaged to review our needs and examine the software we are currently using for the site. We anticipate the report will give us a basis for moving ahead and delivering a powerful website to public and members alike.

Growing the Guild and Connecting with Members. Last but certainly not least, the final area I want to highlight is growing the Guild and connecting with members. Between 2006 and 2009, membership numbers decreased slightly which I believe was due to the controversy about finances and then the world-wide financial turbulence that we all have felt. As the Guild has steered itself clear of the financial difficulties, we thank the members who supported the Board and the Guild through these times. We are also reaching out and reconnecting with those who did not renew their membership or chose to switch to being "Certified non-members." Attracting graduating practitioners into the Guild is an ongoing consideration. Toward the goal of growing the Guild and welcoming new graduates this year the Board approved an extension to an already existing policy granting free certification for a period of time after non-members graduate from a training. Consequently, new graduate members were to get free upgrades to practitioner membership approved in 2010, and this was made retroactive to 2009 members.

This year (again from last Conference until 2010 Conference), the Guild has been increasing connections between practitioners. One connecting theme was developing community. At the Forest Grove Conference we had common ATM's in the morning and a special day-long event called "The Tipping Point" led by Donna Blank,

Board of Directors continued

Alice Friedman and Keith Johnson. (See the article from last year's *In Touch: Tipping Point*). Another theme at the conference was the evening presentation entitled "Moshe's Legacy—the *Feldenkrais Method*® and Beyond" a panel discussion with Mia Segal, Russell Delman and Linda Tellington-Jones, facilitated by Donna Blank. It was an inspiring meeting of three people who have brought their own unique expression of the teachings of Dr. Feldenkrais to the world.

Engaging the perspectives and the inherent diversity of practitioners has been a continuing activity. For example, the Continuing Education forum has had lively debate on what constitutes continuing education within our Guild. On another topic, discussions have occurred regarding enabling practitioners from other Guilds to teach in North America in order to continue our education and to expand our experience. We now have an official process to enable this to occur, called "Portability."

Further, the Board and the Guild are engaged in supporting conversations between members of the training community (assistant trainers, trainers, and training organizers) to develop a shared vision of training standards and policy. Completing the communication loop back from the Board and the office, the office has made major strides in communicating by sending "FGNA News" updates to members via email almost weekly. Last, but

not least, the Board has experimented with non-traditional ways and new media to connect with members, including producing short videos from the February In-Person Board meeting.

Change is happening within your Guild.

Warmly,

Rob Black
Chair, Board of Directors

FGNA Board of Directors:
Michael Purcell, President
Jaclyn Boone, Vice-President & Secretary
Dwight Pargee
Elinor Silverstein
Chris Kresge
Dale Jensen
Gisele St. Hilaire (incoming Q3 2010)

Outgoing Directors during Q3 2009:
Gwendolyn Schwinke, VP & Chair of the Board
Peter Jenkins, Secretary
Staffan Elgelid
Rich Goldsand
Mary McCutcheon



Finance Report

by Tom Bode, Treasurer

2009

The Accompanying Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2009 and Profit and Loss Statement for the year ending December 31, 2009 and the Expenses by Job for the year ending December 31, 2009 of the *Feldenkrais Guild*® of North America (FGNA) were prepared from the books of the *Feldenkrais Guild*.

In the last two years, FGNA has reduced its accumulated deficit by approximately \$240,000. The Guild's accumulated deficit included about \$300,000 from attorney fees defending the service mark lawsuit nearly ten years ago. The reduction of the deficit over the last two years has put FGNA in a much better financial position.

Balance Sheet as of December 2009

Assets

Cash in Checking-Chase	\$74,229
Business Money Market - 0315	\$214,013
Cash in Checking-Wells Fargo	\$3,509
Chase - SW Region	\$6,191
Commerce Bank - NY Region	(\$108)
Union Trust - NE Region	(\$15)
Chase - SE Region	\$226
Chase - NW Region	\$809
Chase - MW Region	\$489
Chase - S CA/Nev & HI Region	\$1,157
Chase - N CA/Nev Region	\$1,063
Chase - NY Region	\$15,565
Chase - Eastern Region	\$100
Chase - NE Region	\$2,907
Chase - MM - SE Region	\$8,501
Chase - MM- NW Region	\$5,526
Chase - MM - SW/Rocky Mtn Reg	\$5,995
Chase - MM - MW Region	\$10,686
Chase - MM - S CA/NEV/HI Regio	\$3,671
Chase - MM - N CA/Nev Region	\$1,000
Chase - MM - NY Region	\$3,500
Chase - MM - NE Region	\$843
Petty Cash	\$84
Dues and Fees Receivable	\$124,087
Equipment	\$37,408
Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(\$31,027)</u>

Total Assets

\$ 490,421

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$9,090
FEFNA Funds Held	\$50
FEFNA Thelen Funds Held	\$275
Chase Business Card	\$34
Payroll Accrued	\$9,437
Payroll Taxes Accrued	\$1,135
Prepaid Dues and Fees	
2010 Prepaid Dues & Fees	\$386,380
2010 Prepaid Stu Dues & Fees	<u>\$6,525</u>

Total Liabilities

\$ 412,927

Equity

Unrestricted Net Assets	(\$87,365)
Current Earnings	<u>\$164,858</u>
Total Equity	<u>\$77,493</u>

Total Liability & Equity

\$490,421

Finance Report continued

Profit & Loss Statement for January 2009 through December 2009

Income	
Professional Dues & Fees	\$471,684
Student Dues & Fees	\$12,615
TAB Training Accred Fees	\$45,707
TAB Late Fees	(\$248)
TAB Application Fees	\$2,100
Donations-Unrestricted	\$4,753
Donations-Restricted	
Hardship Dues Fund	\$633
Sales	\$11,839
Shipping & Handling	\$93
Conference	\$44,139
Conference Housing	\$1,146
Interest	\$312
Miscellaneous	\$3,464
Region Income	<u>\$24,228</u>
Total Income	\$622,465
Expenses	
Personnel	
Wages & Salaries	\$205,496
Employer Taxes	\$22,959
Employee Benefits	\$13,600
Paid Service	
Contracted Services	\$42,428
Legal Services	\$3,878
Professional Services	\$10,913
Information Technology	<u>\$995</u>
Total Paid Service	\$58,215
Occupancy	
Rent	\$24,250
Utilities	<u>\$1,100</u>
Total Occupancy	\$25,350
Office	
Telephone & Email	\$9,019
Copying & Printing	\$4,332
Postage & Shipping	\$8,404
Supplies	\$10,397
Equipment, Leases, R & M	\$8,576
Insurance	<u>\$5,525</u>
Total Office	\$46,252
Event Facility & Food	\$16,800
Marketing	\$31
Advertising/DVD Gifts	\$108
Training	\$185
Travel & Lodging	\$16,286
Meals	\$1,943
Dues, Subscriptions, Pubs	\$29,479
Region Library	\$248
Taxes, Licenses, Fees	\$50
Merchant Services Fees	\$14,392
Bank Service Charges	\$541
Online Processing Fees	\$399
Depreciation	\$3,735
Total Expenses	<u>\$456,067</u>
Operating Profit	\$166,397
Other Expenses	
LOC Interest	\$1,009
Other Interest	\$530
Total Other Expenses	\$1,539
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$164,857

North American Training Accreditation Board Report 2009

by Keith Johnson

The North American Training Accreditation Board (NATAB) is established by the FGNA Board of Directors to:

- 1) Uphold and further the international *Feldenkrais*® standards of the *Feldenkrais Method* of Somatic Education through recommending policy and changes in policy for accreditation of training, certification of trainers and assistant trainers and other related policies;
- 2) Review for approval applications for accrediting training programs and certifying trainers and assistant trainer, and approve other related positions (such as trainer candidate).

In striving to fill these roles in 2009, the NATAB volunteers met by phone 18 times, and for an in-person three-day meeting (housing and meeting space were graciously donated by Donna Ray at her home in San Diego.) Two representatives of the TABs, Alice Friedman and Keith Johnson met an additional 10 times by phone with members of the European and Australo-Asian training accreditation boards to coordinate the actions of the three TABs. Training policy recommendations, trainer candidate and trainer applications require agreement of all three TABs while training programs and assistant trainer applications are decided by each TAB alone.

The following applications were approved in 2009:

Training Programs (Training Organizer/Training/Educational Director(s):

- ISSE, ISSE Chicago III Training, Paul Rubin and Julie Casson Rubin
- Feldenkrais* Resources Training Institute, San Diego Hillcrest 2, Elizabeth Beringer
- Feldenkrais* Resources Training Institute, Berkeley 7, Dennis Leri
- Movement and Healing Center, Michigan/Ontario, Jeremy Krauss
- Mind In Motion, New England, Larry Goldfarb

Assistant Trainers:

Laura Sebastian

Trainer Candidates:

Ted Presland
Susanne Schoenauer
Anne Candarjis
Mara Fusero

Trainer

None

Policy Exceptions Approved:

Bend Oregon training: Permission for Educational Director to teach additional 4 days.

Major Topics Discussed:

-Exploration of how to develop and implement one model of post-graduation, competency-based certification. This

subject was later introduced to and discussed by the Policy Review Subcommittee, which continues to meet in 2010.

-Training Policy review. By NATAB's request, the FGNA Board of Directors approved NATAB to form a subcommittee dedicated to training policy review. NATAB instigated this in recognition of several factors:

- o FGNA policy stipulates training policy be reviewed every five years.
- o NATAB volunteers are kept busy with application reviews, and the role of policy development does not get sufficient attention
- o Trainer input on training policy is crucial to any successful changes that may be proposed.

Therefore, NATAB invited all trainers residing in North America to participate in the subcommittee, and asked for NATAB members, as well as members of the board of directors to participate.

The composition of the committee is:

Alice Friedman, assistant trainer & 2009 Chair of NATAB
Keith Johnson, NATAB member, practitioner
Ellen Soloway, NATAB member, assistant trainer
Donna Ray, NATAB member, trainer
Paul Rubin, trainer
David Zemach-Bersin, trainer
Jerry Karzen, trainer
Elinor Silverstein, Board member, practitioner
Dwight Pargee, Board member, practitioner

The subcommittee began meeting in November 2009, and continues through 2010.

- Brought proposal to IFF that the TABs withdraw as members of the IFF. This was voted down by the IFF Assembly. The TABs remain IFF members.
- Tracking trainer email discussion of competency evaluation as proposed by Jeremy Krauss
- Discussed using majority vote among TABs to settle decisions that are taking too long in coming to consensus regarding applications. Not adopted, agreement of all three TABs continues to be the practice.
- On-going work to recruit volunteers for TAB positions, including trainer seats.
- Tracking Continuing Education committee email discussion group.
- Discussed requests for credit toward graduation for educational experiences outside of accredited training programs. Culminated in recommendation to Board in February 2010 to continue policy of not granting such credit.

The *Feldenkrais Guild*® of North America is an organization dependant on volunteers. To get things done, it is essential that members feel called to offer their time and expertise, moving projects from inception to completion. Volunteerism begins in the regions and the Council of Regional Representatives (CORR) recognizes that we are the front line in the encouragement and creation of new volunteers. In the past, when someone agreed to serve in an official capacity for their region, there was minimal information available to prepare them for the job they had volunteered for. In an effort to clarify the roles of Region Representative, Regional Treasurer, Regional Secretary and others, and to expand the resources each region can offer to one another, we started the process of creating the CORR Handbook at last year's conference and will complete the project this year. This document is intended to be a "living document," one that is routinely reevaluated and modified to keep up with the organization's needs. This way, new volunteers can "hit the ground running" without spending time figuring out how to find information, who to ask for help, how to report regional finances and when, etc. We believe this will promote increased regional activity that helps get our name out in the public.

In an effort to promote financial clarity and save both the regions and the main FGNA office time and money, the process of putting all regional accounts in the Chase Bank system was completed early this year. This allowed financial reporting to be expedited by providing the ED the ability to view monthly statements and checks from each region. Each region maintains to control of their region's account and, because each account is interconnected with the main FGNA account, money can be transferred into a regional account to pay for regional expenses in a matter of minutes rather than days. Placing the majority of a region's funds into a money market account rather than keeping it all in a checking account has allowed regions to earn interest and eliminate most monthly fees. Chase banks are found in most communities, allowing each region's accounts to remain in the same institution while also allowing an incoming treasurer electronic access to their region's money without moving the entire account from one bank to another, something that occasionally happened with a transfer of leadership in the past.

The third major project that CORR tackled this year was instituting the foundation for a new tradition. Through the work of Jane Johnson, Eastern Co-rep, Richard Newton, New York Rep, and Josh Schreiber-Shalem, New England Rep, CORR developed "*Feldenkrais*® Week" during the first full week of May every year. For this "first approximation," members were asked to open their classes for "*Feldenkrais* Week" on a "Bring a Friend

for Free" basis. A web site was created to help people locate a class near them and to provide practitioners with resources to help advertise their offerings. Many people participated throughout the United States and Canada, often seeing a 2-3X increase in the usual number of ATM class participants for the week. Will that make a difference? I believe that every new person who has the opportunity to experience the *Feldenkrais Method*® is another person who can spread the word, or at least be someone who won't say "Felden-what?" ever again. CORR is strongly encouraging all FGNA members to plan ahead for "*Feldenkrais* Week" next year and to celebrate the occasion annually.

For 2011, the preparations and announcements will begin much earlier and build on what was created for 2010. Help us to make the first full week of May every year a special week for promoting our life-changing Method. Remember, we are a member driven organization – we are the people who can make anything happen, when we work together with a common purpose!

Jeanne Hills
CORR Chair 2009-2010

Regional Representatives

Canada- Rosa Murnaghan
Eastern- Jane Johnston & Tammy Spitzer
Midwest- Mary Susan Chen & Joanna Myers
New England- Pat Lovejoy & Josh Schreiber-Shalem
New York- Richard Newton
Northern CA/N. NV- Paulette Dolin
Northwest- Johanna Rayman & Vicki Robinson
Southeast- Bob Boyd
Southern CA/S. NV/HI- Bridget Quebodeaux
Southwest/RM- Jeanne Hills



A New Regulatory Posture for the *Feldenkrais Method*®? 2009

by Michael Purcell, National Regulation Coordinator

From the very beginning of its life in North America, our profession has been held captive to a regulatory conundrum: How do you regulate a profession which has no clear single field of endeavor or stable context that practitioners normally function within?

This is a corollary to what has become the perennial question: What is the *Feldenkrais Method*? Most of our usual definitions are of little use if we are to consider our work a profession.

If the Method is a way to help dancers and musicians to improve their performance, is it a specialized form of training, a way of enhancing skills? If it helps people with pain and disability, is it a form of therapeutic Health Care? If it is a way to work with athletes and martial artists, is it a means to avoid sports injuries and keep athletes on top of their game? If it is a way to improve self-image and self-esteem, is it personal growth? Obviously, we know the *Feldenkrais Method* can be all of these, or none of these, but it appears it has also inspired many practitioners to make “tweaks” or adaptations to find new ways of applying aspects of what Moshe’s thinking generated, and find additional applications--such as improving posture, bone density, sleep, “embodiment,” increasing vitality, slowing aging, etc.

Recent events indicate that it is time to take stock of our regulatory structures. The usual sequence is to look at the past and what is happening today, and then try to do something to project the future. Let’s turn that around this time, and take a look at what might be coming first, then see how that relates to what has happened in the last year.

A long discussion at this year’s meeting of the Federation of Therapeutic Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Practice Organizations revolved around what is seen by some as a national trend towards a new “umbrella” view that could include professions like ours, and a new term or set of terms such as what people are calling “Integrative Health Care.” This is perhaps meant to be an alternate or further development of what up till now we have heard described as “Complimentary and Alternative Health Care,” but with a fresh approach to the concept that is gaining traction. Many types of practices are said to be included, not only those traditionally considered as health care.

The Federation formed a Task Force to look at these new developments, which could be tied in with regulatory changes. Many experienced people at the meeting (including the American Massage Therapy Association’s full-time Legislative Chair, who is well aware of national lobbying and legislative developments) observed that the new Health Care Reform bill has buried in it opportunities for alternative practices to emerge and to have a more

prominent place in Health Care in the US. Also, a lot of work is being done right now on taxonomies for various practices to explore how they fit under what is often conceived of as an “Umbrella” overview. For example, a “Structural, Functional and Somatic Education” category was used in a chart from an influential group of scientists in Canada.

We have always striven to define ourselves as *Feldenkrais*® practitioners, but how well would we accept it if we were to lose some of our distinctiveness? If these views are correct, a new way of seeing alternative practices could emerge in North America over the next few years. Probably some *Feldenkrais* practitioners would embrace this as an opportunity to move towards recognition. Others will no doubt oppose it. The big question is whether we are yet a large enough body of professionals to even be a dot on the map. This also seems at odds with our current policy, which tends to eschew affiliation with Health Care practices. But that could easily be a knee-jerk reaction, because the original intent of FGNA policy was to be sure the *Feldenkrais Method* is not confused with massage. Over the last 20 years, we have largely succeeded in that. Perhaps now the question is more about how to have connection with other professions than whether to have it.

There are strong reasons to participate in this work now (even if it were ultimately to decide not to develop this avenue). For one thing, other Guilds around the world are looking for a new strategic direction that allows us to be visible within an accepted model. For example, it was reported at the last International *Feldenkrais* Federation meeting that the Australian Guild has been working to find an interface with Government, to make the work more available. There have also been similar explorations in Europe. We cannot simply ignore this, because if many other practices develop well-calibrated positioning in the context of the new health care policy reforms, and we don’t, *Feldenkrais* practitioners might be at a disadvantage when it comes to ways of making our practice more recognizable and accessible to the public.

In summary, here is a list of important considerations:

*For nearly 20 years, FGNA has had one basic policy and approach towards Regulation issues, which says that the *Feldenkrais Method* is not to be regulated as massage, nor anything else for that matter. Instead, we have used the service marks and some minimal internal controls to maintain a moderate amount of quality and professionalism.

*We have put out strongly that the Method is not therapy

New Regulatory Posture continued

and should not be confused with health care.

*Nevertheless, people come to us with pain, disabilities and other medical conditions. And we help them--sometimes more than others can.

*We also work in many other spheres, which clearly are not Health Care.

*The Australian *Feldenkrais* Guild recently did an interesting review of the Method there, to see if the work could become better positioned. They concluded that it makes good sense to work to interface with Government protocols, if possible, in order to gain access through the Health Care system.

*In Germany and other countries they are looking for similar options, that we don't know nearly enough about yet; but word is that the issue is contentious.

*To address this properly, we need to fully explore the legal issues around positioning of the *Feldenkrais Method* in North America. We need to dedicate time to understanding what is at stake, what the possibilities are, and whether there are trends that we must respond to.

What is the role of our service marks, Certification and other regulatory policies in today's environment?

*If we do nothing, FGNA will most likely continue to go on with the same policies, which the office and staff will continue to enforce and carry out in the same way.

The last year is notable for what did not happen in regulation, as much as for what did. We did not encounter numerous crisis states in the last year, as we did in previous years. The path we set and the policies we created largely have taken hold and influenced new legislative attempts, more or less automatically, with less effort on our part than before. So our policies are working--if what we have is still what we ultimately want.

In a few states like Minnesota and Oklahoma, there were attempts to file new legislation that failed. In Minnesota, we would have been fine with the new law, which integrated our exemption language, but other forces killed it for this year. In Oklahoma, there would have been some

problems for us, but that bill also died because the same problems we had with the bill also made it a bad enough bill that almost no one liked it.

There was interesting new legislation filed in New Hampshire, that did pass into law. This had our accepted exemption language in the bill and was a tremendous example of numerous professions working together for an acceptable goal in a difficult state. The ironic thing is that we have had very few *Feldenkrais* practitioners working in New Hampshire, perhaps because of the previously difficult environment. If you ever wanted to live in NH, now would be the time to open up a practice there--no one will bother you any more as needing a massage license to practice!

The other really major regulatory event is one that is still in process. One of the most difficult regulatory states for us over the years has been Oregon. Through a remarkable level of cooperation between representatives of various practices, we are now making significant strides in overcoming an attitude prevalent among massage therapists and those on the Oregon Board of Massage Therapists that all practices are really massage and should be regulated by the Board. This is a long term effort, and what happens in the next year in Oregon could be a major precedent and confirm that the *Feldenkrais Method* should not be seen as a subset of any other touching profession.

Nevertheless, all of the actions of last year are based on past policies and on a dying regulatory environment. What may be far more important is what is coming down the road; and the biggest question is whether we, as a community of practitioners, have the group "will" to address any significant change in our existing regulatory approach at this point in our history. Entrenchment happens so easily, and as we know, habit runs deep. We need to be able to look authentically at the possibilities for change and the effect of change--without being chained to prior beliefs, attitudes and established structures. Are we up to this?



“The Feldenkrais Educational Foundation of North American (FEFNA) is a charitable organization whose mission is to advance human development and learning through education and scientific research.”

-FEFNA Mission Statement

FEFNA is organized to act in the domains of Public Awareness, Supporting Research and being a vehicle for Strategic Giving. I would like to recognize and thank Pat Buchanan, Esther Thelen Fund Research Committee Chair, Suzane Van Amburgh, project manager, Roger Russell and Jim Stephens for completing phase one of the *Feldenkrais Science Network (FeldSciNet)* project <http://www.feldscinet.org>

The purpose of FeldSciNet is to provide an internet-based vehicle to promote networking and collaboration worldwide among members of the *Feldenkrais Method*® community and interested scientists, scholars and researchers. The goal is to foster the specific communication and coordination needed for collaborators to generate new research projects. FeldSciNet is a space in which Feldenkrais practitioners, with research interests and researchers who are exploring human development in educational, clinical, and research circles, can all cross paths.

The FEFNA Research committee sees a need in our community to collaborate with others outside our field. Collaboration leading to high quality research projects will advance understanding of the Method and solidify the efficacy and respectability of the *Feldenkrais Method* within public perception. As this trend grows we will see wider adoption and use of the *Feldenkrais Method* in a variety of fields. An increasing number of people around the world will make healthy choices to improve their quality of life and live enjoyable and authentic lives. If there were more dialogue between scientific researchers and *Feldenkrais*® professionals, both fields would gain from a deeper understanding of human development thereby serving the public.

Dr. Esther Thelen made an important contribution to building this bridge. This project carries on her legacy by putting in place structures to continue the dialogue across disciplines. New discoveries in the fields of human development are being documented and we must seize this opportunity to show the correlations with the *Feldenkrais Method*. As stewards of Moshe Feldenkrais' work, it is incumbent upon us to actively participate in the progression of human development research.

Initiation of the international network will serve to further ongoing research and support professional education. This network will benefit professionals from a variety of fields including *Feldenkrais* practitioners and academic scientists. The website serves first as a research tool in establishing network, and later as a structure for sustaining network.

-(FEFNA Symposium Project Overview, version June 2007)

Another one of FEFNA's objectives is to support ways of generating increased public awareness of the *Feldenkrais Method*. FEFNA supports the publishing of the *SenseAbility* Newsletter and, through the Bookstore, sells a marketing brochure, postcards, a PR kit and a DVD. FEFNA also supports projects that have to do with the website design and maintenance, the online bookstore, sending out information to the public on classes and trainings, encouraging the public to support the Method through the *Friends of Feldenkrais*sm program and sponsors public classes and workshops at the annual FGNA conference every year.

As of December 31, 2009, FEFNA's accounting system reported year-to-date income and assets of \$58,703.68 against total liabilities of \$97,780.64. Sources of income include bookstore sales, individual and foundation donations, as well as generous support from FGNA. FEFNA's total liabilities and equity in December were \$58,704.

On behalf of the FEFNA Board,
Dwight Pargee
President

2009 FEFNA Board Members:

Dwight Pargee, President
Tom Bode, Treasurer
Peter Jenkins, Secretary
Rich Goldsand, Board Member

2009 Research Committee:

Pat Buchanan
Roger Russell
Jim Stephens