

The Hummingbird Project

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June 2015



The author, (right) meeting a contact in a hotel in Austria in December 1985

In 1976 our members in Vienna established the magazine *Integral* as a platform for ideological debate. The magazine focused on the conflict between communism and democracy in all fields of society and world politics. They organized VOC lectures, which contained many aspects of the head-wing ideology later propagated by True Father. In the mid-seventies, this was a unique viewpoint, which even many of our church members did not understand well. During twenty-one or forty-day workshops, Peter Koch (Austrian national leader) started to select potential candidates to work against communism. The selected candidates took missions as either a “butterfly” or “hummingbird.” I had been selected to work as missionary to Ukraine.

Hummingbird Project aims

Hummingbirds were to search for good people that had emigrated from communist countries to Western Europe. The hummingbird team introduced them to the Divine Principle and trained them as lecturers. With the dissolution of the communist regimes, these lecturers were to return to their respective homelands and teach their fellow citizens, who would better understand and accept our teachings if delivered by native speakers in their mother tongue.



Integral harmonized left- and right-wing thinking.

Elites among the immigrants were to help our movement fill the ideological vacuum that would emerge after the abolition of communism. By spreading our teachings, they could prevent their nations from repeating the mistakes of the Western societies. The hummingbirds had the important task of forming a protective shield for the butterfly missionaries.

Whereas the butterflies worked secretly and underground, the hummingbirds would attract public attention and be the focus of communist agents and other enemies of our VOC activities.

Since the 1970s, the influence of the liberal and leftist media in Western Europe was overwhelming. To counterbalance this, our magazine tried to spread a view uniting left wing and right wing philosophy. In the

summer of 1978, our team went to sell the magazine in Munich, where many refugees from communist countries were living. We diligently sold *Integral* in pubs, from door-to-door, on the university campus and in front of metro stations.

My favorite place was in front of the University of Munich and the National Library where I sold many

copies and felt strong guidance from good spirits. One day I met a Ukrainian man who was greatly inspired by our ideology. Ivo was enthusiastic about our counterproposal to Marxism, which Dr. Sang-hun Lee had developed and our brother Herbert Giller had extended and refined.



The hummingbird group hosted Michael Voslensky author of Nomenklatura: The Soviet Ruling Class

Ivo inspired us to found the club “Contemporary Questions Study Group.” We held monthly conferences and public lectures. We published the newsletter “Dialogue” and networked with similar organizations like the Institute for Soviet Studies, founded by the dissident Michael Volensky who wrote the famous book *The Nomenklatura*.

In all my endeavors, I relied on protection by Heaven. I made many conditions such as a daily prayer march around the famous Oktoberfest Meadow. On September 26, 1980, though, I felt a strong resistance to going there and stayed away. The next morning I heard on the radio the news of the Oktoberfest terror attack: At the main entrance where I used to march, a bomb had exploded killing thirteen and injuring 211 people.

Remaining a hummingbird



The author and her husband today

I reflected about my own future and one day phoned Peter Koch. I had the feeling that I should not to go to Ukraine but stay in the West and work with the exiled. I remained with the “hummingbird” project. Thus, I was able to participate in the famous conference, *The Fall of the Soviet Empire*, in Geneva. When, in June 16, 1984, Peter Koch died unexpectedly, I stood at his grave and told him how sorry I was that I could not realize his vision better and that I would do my best to continue the project he had envisioned.

From 1982, I started to work with the other team members among refugees from East Europe and the Soviet Union that lived in the German speaking nations Austria, Germany and Switzerland. The next level of “hummingbird” activities was our establishment as a legal association; thus,

we founded Forum Ost (Forum East). I moved from Munich to Vienna and helped establish the central office there. On International Human Rights in 1984, the Forum Ost received legal recognition. Our team often met with Christa Segato, who led Mission Butterfly in order to coordinate the activities of butterflies and hummingbirds.

To protect them in case we were questioned about them, we were not given any details concerning the

identity and work of the butterfly missionaries. We did many seven-day fasts, night vigils and intensive prayer conditions.



The dance troupe Perkut performed at events

We organized weekly book tables, VOC workshops, discussion evenings and similar outreach work, such as the publishing of the monthly magazine *East West Perspective*. Until the end of communism, Forum Ost worked on different levels.

We organized lectures and press conferences with well-known dissidents from communist countries. At central locations in Vienna, we organized weekly book tables to inform the passers-by about human rights violations in communist countries. We carried out

signature campaigns for the release of religious and political prisoners incarcerated in communist countries and called on our politicians to intervene on their behalf. We organized protests and put up posters, sometimes in cooperation with other NGOs. For example, on June 17, 1987, we joined hands with youth groups who built an effigy of the Berlin Wall in front of the State Opera House in Vienna. We wanted to commemorate the victims of June 17, 1953, when Soviet tanks crushed the people's uprising in East Germany. As a grammar school teacher, I used the opportunity to invite Professor Konrad Loew, a famous German critic of Marxism, to speak to the students.

Forum Ost also invested in relief actions like clothing collections for impoverished Poland. After the fall of the Iron Curtain Forum Ost was transformed into the Austrian branch of IRFF. Together with Professor Michael J. Higsberger from Vienna University, we founded PWPA Austria in 1992. He attended many ICUS conferences and admired Rev. Moon above all for his 1985 prediction of the imminent collapse of the Soviet empire, when literally nobody dared to imagine such a thing would happen.