



**A Message from the  
IASE President  
Zandile P. Nkabinde**



Welcome to all IASE members! As we start a New Year of IASE service, with the past year of great accomplishments including a successful conference this past July in Magamba, Tanzania behind us, I wish to thank the previous Board under the leadership of Dr. Beatrice Adera, Committee Chairs and participants for a job well done. I am delighted for the opportunity to serve as the next President of IASE in its next phase of continued growth and commitment in improving the lives of people with disabilities worldwide. I have served on the IASE since joining the organization in 1993. I am committed in working collaboratively with every member of the organization to attract more members from different regions around the world who will contribute their talents and time in order to promote the mission and vision of IASE.

We have much to do in the year 2020-2021. I am very much looking forward to working with each one of you. Preparations for the 17<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference to be held at the Ho Chi Minh City University of Education, Vietnam are

already underway. Last November, Ginny MacEntee, President Elect and a conference planning committee chair, Barbara Lewis and I went to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. We met with Dean Nga, the Director of International Education Mr. Huynh Xuan Nhut and other faculty members to review the MOU and the conference expectations for both parties. In addition, three special schools were visited, a Rehabilitation Center, School for the Mentally Impaired and children with autism and School for the Deaf. We also visited hotels from the low, mid and high end to compare prizes and to determine which hotels were closer to the conference venue.

In 2020 our focus will be on the following activities/projects:

- The Biennial Conference in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam July 11-14, 2021;
- Elect members for the open positions e.g. Archive Report/Historian and Website
- Elect someone to chair the Marg Csapo Scholarship for the 2021 Conference;
- Continue with the Membership drive through social media and other professional platforms.

I am delighted to say **TOGETHER** we can lead the organization in its mission to improve the quality of life and service delivery for all individuals with disabilities across the globe. Serving as a National Chair Co-Coordinator in the past four years and being able to attend board meetings has given me much-needed experience for the position of IASE president. Moving forward I will use my experience to work with all board members and the IASE members to contribute to the growth and development of this organization. I challenge all of you to share your time, talents and expertise for the benefit of individuals with disabilities. I am looking forward to working with every member of the organization in promoting the IASE mission as well as to increase membership both nationally and internationally. If you are interested in being involved with IASE activities/projects visit our website at

<https://www.IASE.org>

Dr. Zandile Nkabinde  
New Jersey City University, USA  
IASE President (2020-2021)

## IASE VSP- A BRIEF ON SANKALP SOCIETY

*Anupria Chadha, Founder- Sankalp Society*



Sankalp Society in India has been working for children from marginalized groups since 2007. It has been associated since IASE since inception. The key areas of work of Sankalp are Education, Skilling,

Sanitation and ICT support. Sankalp currently (since March 2018) works in three urban slums located in South Delhi reaching out to 130 children. The key target group of the project is children from lower socio-economic groups who need individualized attention after school hours. The children come from poor families and have no home support in education as the parents are largely uneducated. **IASE Volunteers and GIVING Funds helped to provide supplies and support to make this happen.**



### CURRENT WORK

- Running a preschool for the underprivileged children covering 25 children
- Providing free education and snacks to 100 underprivileged children
- Giving vocation training to young women and girls from urban slums, covering 10 women

The Centers have been opened with the following objectives:

- Provide free snacks and education after school to children from urban slums
- Give free vocational training to young women and girls from urban slums
- Give free preschool education to make young children school ready
- Create awareness in the local community on the importance of education, especially to girls
- Expose children to extra-curricular activities
- Empower parents through regular workshops and PTMs.
- **IASE current year funds were particularly used for procuring supplies for the play school, including a computer.**

Sankalp's play school provides Early Childhood Education (ECE). ECE is more than preparation for primary school. It aims at the holistic development of a child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical needs in order to build a solid and broad foundation for lifelong learning and wellbeing. The emotional, social and physical development of young children has a direct effect on their overall development and on the adult they will become. That is why understanding the need to invest in very young children is so important so as to maximize their future well-being. It is with this objective that the play school was opened. The play school has various activity centers which keep the children meaningfully engaged. Supplies for these activity centers were bought with the help of IASE funds. The computer is used with the older children for computer training. It is hoped that these activities will help children learn and grow.







### The Annual Exhibition at the SPJ Sadhana School Tejal Kothari

The month of December 2019 was a grand finale to a ‘Memor(y) – able’ year. The **Annual Exhibition ‘Memory’ held on 13th December 2019**, was the penultimate strategy in interweaving this year’s theme of memory into the educational streams, so ably represented in the innovative, exclusive and traditional creations of the different classes. The site of the Exhibition was at the SPJ Sadhana School in Mumbai, India which is one of the IASE Volunteer Service Projects.

The exhibition opened on a delectable note - a mystical land entered only by the 3 keys of “Mystical Memories”. The enticing students of the Formative Years won hearts all round, with sweet recall of the sounds of bells, brought in by piping little voices singing and ringing ‘Jingle bells’ and an agile dance with complementary clothing, revisiting the Christmas season. The Vocational Classes showcased their exclusive items with ‘live’ counters to demonstrate their expertise and finesse. The Hospitality and Catering department, apart from serving up delicious meals, offered bottled items with an almost total sell-out. The widely popular range includes such varied condiments as exotic sauces, and masalas. The Visual Arts introduced colorful fridge magnets, customized tea-sets, decorative lights and exclusive hand painted materials. All departments presented new and old favorites and traditional items with a twist, such as the ‘flower rangoli’ designed and produced by the Work World Skills. The event was graced by Mrs. K. Majula, EVP, Chief of HR and Management Services, SBI Life. Mrs. Manjula’s obvious enthusiasm was contagious as she participated in the event delightfully wearing the scarf crafted for her by the students of Visual Art & Crafts Department. The school was also happy to invite the Divyang School from Palghar to participate in the exhibition with a display and sale of their own tailored cloth bags. With each passing year, this colorful and progressive event raises the bar, sets traditions, creates new memories and

broadens our horizons, taking S.P.J. Sadhana School to greater heights as each December rolls by again.



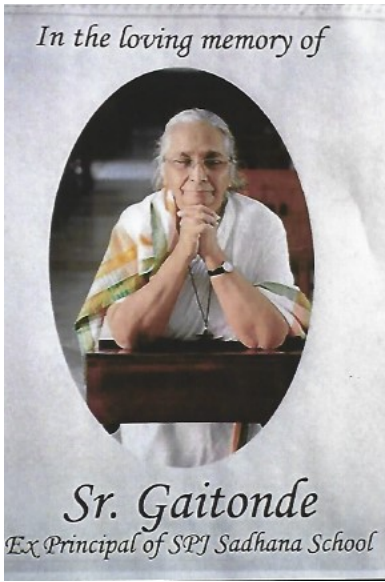
### A Tribute to SPJ Sadhana School Mary Gale Budzisz

It has been my pleasure to be able to visit the SPJ Sadhana School in Mumbai, India for the past 10 years. This wonderful school has been an IASE Volunteer Service Project site which has developed and flourished during these years. I have been able to see wonderful ideas become realities, students become part of the community, local businesses hire special students, and classes such as “diamond sorting” give students real life skills.

Located on the campus of Sophia College, since 1973 the SPJ Sadhana School has been empowering persons with special needs. One of the more recent events was the annual EXHIBITION. Students are able to demonstrate a variety of their skills. The school courtyard setting is transformed into a huge showcase venue. I have been happy to purchase many student handmade gifts, tasted delicious gourmet food, and been entertained by special students during this event. It is thrilling to return year after year and see the students who have evolved into entrepreneurs and gifted salespeople. The smiles on their faces really exhibit what inclusive education is all about.

Credit must be given to the administrators, teachers and staff who continue to amaze me during my visits. The IASE Volunteer Service Project has been able to provide some funds for school supplies. Sister Gaitonde, former Principal of the school who recently passed away, was very instrumental in helping her teachers and staff members travel to the IASE Conferences all over the world. She was a kind and loving person who greeted me warmly and provided me lodging and food when I visited. Former Vice-

Principal Dr. Radike Khanna created an exciting curriculum to engage the students. Many of the teachers and staff members have served long terms and received accolades for their dedication.



*Sister Gaitonde, Ex. Principal of SPJ Sadhana School, who died on November 27, 2019*



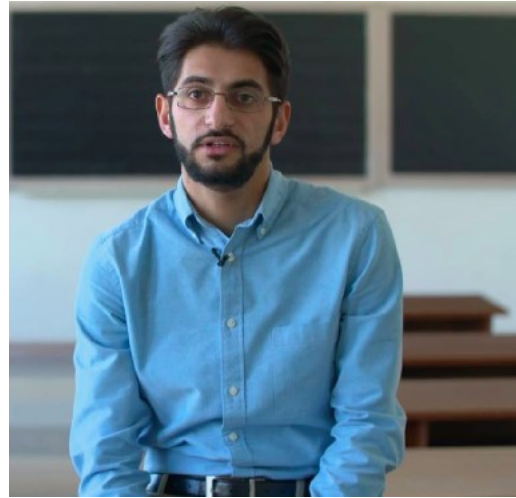
*EXHIBITION held on December 13, 2019 at the SPJ Sadhana School, Mumbai, India*



Teacher Tejal Kothari just received the “Excellence Award for Mentally Disabled Education” on November 17, 2019 at the Business Awards & Summit at the JW Marriott in Baku, Azerbaijan. The students at SPJ Sadhana School are lucky to have such a high caliber staff to provide education for them.

### Meet our New Member-At-Large Manuk Khachatryan

Manuk Khachatryan is one of three new members-at-large who assumed the role as of January 2020. He is an



educational psychologist, teacher-trainer and pedagogical coach by profession. Manuk is actively involved in improving educational opportunities for students with disabilities. As part of Teach For Armenia's two-years

Leadership development program, Manuk served at a secondary school in a border community from 2015 to 2017, where he taught in an inclusive school as a psychologist and special educator working with students with special needs.

In 2017, Manuk participated in a 5-week fellowship program at Arizona State University, which was the Americans with Disability Act Inclusive Education Anniversary Program (ADA). During the program, he learned disability rights and inclusive education-related issues doing an internship in different organizations and a public inclusive school in Mesa. In 2017-2018 Manuk worked as a Leadership Development Manager at Teach For Armenia with the role of training and coaching Fellow-teachers to maximize their impact on students and ensure the strategic development of their teaching and leadership capacity. In 2019, Manuk was appointed the Inclusive Education Manager of the organization and was responsible for building and developing the tools, research, and strategies for inclusive education to build the capacity of teachers to provide effective and differentiated instruction for all students.

Collaborating with different local and international institutions (such as UNICEF Armenia, Ministry of Education of Science, etc.) Manuk is actively involved in a challenging process of overcoming inclusive education-related challenges and educational inequity across Armenia. In 2019, as the Program Manager, with his team, Manuk implemented the “Developing Inclusive Education Teacher-training and Mentoring Capacities” program with the aim of building and strengthening the capacities of public school teachers in different regions of Armenia to develop their inclusive teaching knowledge and skills. This year, Manuk and his colleague codesigned and published a practical teachers' guiding book called "Modern approaches and methods of teaching" focusing on UDL and co-teaching strategies.



Currently, Manuk is the Systems change manager at Teach For Armenia Educational Foundation. His role is to initiate, design and/or manage projects in partnership with public and private institutions and CSOs that lead to systemic change in the field of education with the engagement of Teach For Armenia 2-year Leadership Development Program participants and Alumni-Ambassadors. He primarily takes on projects that interface with external stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Education or local and international organizations.

### IASE Highlights Student Members



Mohamed has been an IASE student member for over 4 years. Mohamed Abdalla, a current doctoral candidate at Arizona State University in Behavioral Health, has managed the Global Development Research program (GDR) since its launch in 2014. Through

the GDR Program, he works to create a space for dialogue and learning across diverse perspectives, reflecting on development research, collaboration and the generation of new actions towards local and international community engagement and social transformation. In his role, Mohamed continues to empower and build sustainable capacity and networks among Fellows, partner Universities, USAID, and the international community, in particular host countries prioritized by USAID. As of 2018, he led a team of 70 GDR Scholars, impacting 24 countries across the globe contributing to all 17 United Nations Sustainable Development goals. During his tenure at ASU, he co-founded Heal International, a non-for-profit organization that works with people living with HIV/AIDS both at the local and international level. He has promoted educational and health outreach programs based on World Health Organization curriculum for communities in Kenya and Tanzania. While in Tanzania, he worked to promote social entrepreneurship by collaborating with African villagers and businesses to increase their profits, part of which were donated to local orphanages for medical treatment of children affected by HIV and other comorbid diseases. His work built a foundation for future development by empowering the community to continue the program even long after his departure.

### Membership Report Rachel A. Gonzales

Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much

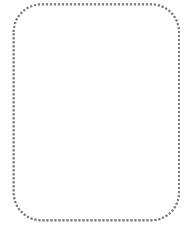
Thank you to all who have renewed your membership. We had a great January response to individuals renewing their membership. Let's keep those renewals coming in. IASE is only as strong as our membership. We do not want you to miss the *Annuntius*, our quarterly newsletter and the annual *Journal of the International Association of Special Education* along with other information about IASE such as participating in the Volunteer Service Projects.

Encourage your colleagues to join IASE. If you are a member please consider sponsoring an individual from a developing economy. <https://www.iase.org/membership>.

### Treasurer's Report As of January 25, 2020 Iris Drower

Account	Amount
Checking	\$6,406.24
VSP	\$12,549.62
Marg Scholarship	\$6,001.07
Operational Budget	\$128,084.90
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$153,041.83</b>

**Renew and Join IASE Today!**



To join IASE, contact Rachael Gonzales, email: [rgonzales@csus.edu](mailto:rgonzales@csus.edu)

**Please print information clearly:**

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State / Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues: Regular \$US 50 \_\_\_\_\_ Regular/Sponsor \$US 70 \_\_\_\_\_

Student Membership \$US 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Developing Country \$US 20 \_\_\_\_\_ Institution \$US 70 \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person sponsored: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail of person sponsored: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of person sponsored: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Marg Csapo Scholarship \$US \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Enclosed \$US** \_\_\_\_\_

**Payment Information:** \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ Master Card \_\_\_\_\_ Discover \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized.net *(Please follow link on the website @www.iase.org)*

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Name of Cardholder (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque (Payable to IASE, US funds)

Please send your membership form to:

**Mail:** IASE Treasurer, PO Box 2159, Mesa, AZ 85214, USA **E-mail :** [irisdoug@cox.net](mailto:irisdoug@cox.net)

**IASE operates on a rolling membership year; you will be invited to renew your membership one year after joining. All other membership inquiries contact: [iasemembership@gmail.com](mailto:iasemembership@gmail.com)**