

Dear members and friends,

After an eventful year, we can look back with gratitude on the work for the women in our three schools in Nepal. We hardly believe it ourselves - but this year has also progressed despite all adversities. On March 1, our 3rd school, the Laxmi School was opened in the neighboring village of Valche Gaun, where our Saraswati School is located. Barely opened, it had to close again at the end of March due to the lockdown in Nepal.

In November last year, we had once again a very well attended, atmospheric benefit concert in Hohengehren. A self-runner, you can say. We are already looking forward to when we may invite again on 20 November 2021 to a hopefully regular BOB concert. In addition, we are planning an evening of musical cabaret by Bianca Uhl on October 23, 2021. Both events will take place in the community center in Hohengehren.

At the concert in the Center for International Encounters in Schorndorf on March 7 with the group Carolezmer, where Klezmer and Irish folk music were played, we were pleased to welcome 90 visitors. A great concert with the musicians as well as the audience enthusiastic - a repetition is firmly planned.



Also the club hike on September 13 from Stumpenhof to Reichenbach to lunch at the Naturfreundehaus Lichtenwald and back, led by Beate Ternberger, was very well received.

At this point we would like to thank all the helpers from the association and around it - we are in a very good position thanks to a wide range of support.

From the very beginning, **Ulrike Hemminger**, as a founding member and 2nd chairwoman, has supported us in many ways - she will retire from the board at her own request, but will continue to be available to us in word and deed as an advisor. We would like to thank Ulrike very much for her constructive cooperation. As the organizer of our participation in the flea market at the Esslingen Bürgerfest, she helped us to make new contacts again and again. But she was also a helper at many other events. In addition, she was extremely important with her critical reflections and fact-oriented contributions at meetings. Thank you, Ulrike, and Danyabad.



Thanks go to Manfred Rank, who translates a lot of texts into English. Also thanks to Peter Winter, who takes care of the maintenance of our website. Many thanks to the generous donors who supported Robin Chamlin and his team of mountain guides so that they could survive the difficult months in the middle of the year. We were also overwhelmed by the great willingness to donate when we were able to provide the women and their families in the project with basic necessities on several occasions. We would like to thank many generous donors, including the Georg Kraus Foundation for the continuous financing of our sewing courses and the Erich-Türk-Foundation for

their donations. We would also like to express our special thanks to the Executive Board team, which once again worked together in a constructive and positive manner during the year under review.

The situation of the schools in Nepal

The Mahadevi School in Lalitpur, since October in Nakhipot

The school was able to move to a neighboring district, Nakhipot. Our school is located on the ground floor of a new building, we have a long-term lease, and on the floors above the NGO Surya Kiran (www.suryakiran.de) from Esslingen has set up a girls' school and a boarding school for the students. We plan a good cooperation between the two schools with hopefully some synergy effects.



Many students go along, new ones come, which has increased or will increase the number of students and also the number of courses. The literacy courses are divided into two groups, the junior course and the senior course, and the number of sewing courses will increase. So far there has been one course per day, and from 2021 there will be two courses per day.

Saraswati School in Valche Gaun

Our liaison Robin Chamlin writes to us about this on 9/12/2020: "Yesterday, Mrs. Tamang [the teacher of Saraswati School] called me and said that they will hold the class very soon, with protective measures like wearing masks. But I suggested them to conduct the class with half of the women at a time. The final decisions will come this week after talking to the ward chairman. The women are willing to go to the school, but the teacher is hesitant without getting permission from the community leader. Because if anyone is affected, the blame will fall on the teacher. Please note that the situation of Mahadevi and Valche school and administration is not the same. Namaste



Laxmi School in Nyuchet Gaun

We know so far only that the school was opened on time on March 1, 2020, and after barely 3 weeks had to be closed. The teacher gave homework - also because the students wanted to learn - and visited the students again and again at home. We don't know how long she was able to do this. The poster on the left was printed in Nepal and was supposed to be put up at the Laxmi School. Besides the board members, you can also see Iris and Steffi Becke, the main sponsors of the Laxmi School. We hope for good news and new photos from there soon! Good news reaches us just now: On December 16, all schools in Valche are supposed to be reopened!



Currently we have 54 members, 8 of them are sustaining members - they create the basis for our work in Nepal. In addition, we have a large number of loyal donors, many of whom have been with us for many years. However, the number of members should be even higher - please, everyone looks for it whether he cannot win one or the other for us. Especially now, when the money from the events is not coming in, a stable basis for the work of the association and the financial situation is all the more important.

Several women of the Mahadevi Women Education School in Nakhipot have sent us a little filmic Christmas greeting - you can watch it under this link:

<https://www.magentacloud.de/Ink/5GtgPwNB#file>

We wish all members with families and all friends of Mahadevi a wonderful Advent season, a peaceful Christmas and a hopefully good year 2021. Stay healthy and optimistic.

The board of Mahadevi e.V.:

Detlef Gründel, Ulrike Hemminger, Barbara Erhardt and Reinhold Keller

