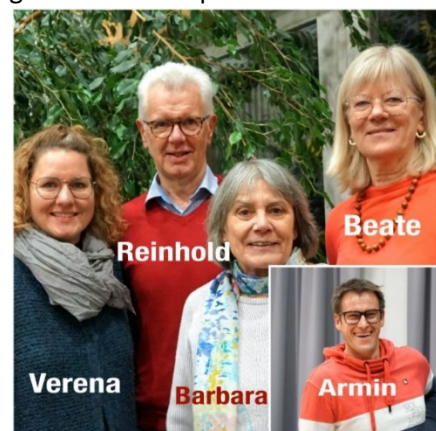


Mahadevi News – December 2023

Dear members, friends, supporters and those interested in the work of our association Mahadevi e.V.!

This issue of Mahadevi News in December 2023 is the first to be chaired by a new Board of Directors. Detlef Gründel, who founded the association 16 years ago, has stepped down from the chairmanship at his own request. I, Reinhold Keller, who has been treasurer and co-founder of Mahadevi since then, was elected as his successor at the general meeting on November, 23rd 2023. I would like to thank you for the trust you have placed in me and hope for good cooperation. This solution was made possible by Verena and Armin Lutz taking over the treasury together. In addition, the current Board members Beate Ternberger (2nd Chairwoman) and Barbara Erhardt (Secretary) remain in their positions. And: We have an Advisory Board that advises us and also takes over tasks - according to the African proverb: "When everyone holds up the sky, no one gets tired." The Advisory Board members are Detlef Gründel, Brigitte Spieth and Christiane Riedel (not yet in the photo).



Mr President,

Detlef Gründel - thank you for 16 years of association management, for many impulses, many meetings, many trips to Nepal, the establishment of many networks on which we can build. Thank you for the basis, the very good relationship with our local partners. This goes hand in hand with a great deal of trust on both sides, which makes our work much easier. Thank you also for providing the impetus for many charity events, without them the organisation could hardly survive. Take it easy now - it is reassuring that you will continue to be on the advisory board and responsible for contact with the Mahadevi Women Education Centre in Patan.



Detlef was unanimously appointed an honorary member by the general meeting and honoured with a gift basket - also for his wife Helga.



Many thanks to Dagmar Leippert (right) and Günther Seybold (centre), who have acted as cash auditors for many years - and will continue to do so.

What else was there?

Charity event on October, 21st 2023 with Bianca Maria Uhl



For the 3rd time, Ms Uhl performed for the Mahadevi e.V. association in the community centre in Baltmannsweiler. Bianca Maria Uhl has been travelling in the Alps with her dog Rosa for several days a year since 2018. It is not unusual for them to cover more than 1000 metres in altitude per day. The special hiking duo have already travelled in the Lechquell mountains, the Rätikon, the Verwall and the Brenta. For Bianca Maria Uhl, hiking is more than just being out and about or doing sport. It is a source of inspiration, strength and tranquillity: "When feet hike, thoughts also hike and the fountain of ideas begins to bubble". The charity event with numerous experiences, pictures and songs to the piano took place on **October, 21st 2023** in the community centre in Hohengehren. The audience was very impressed - a new lecture next year about a hike through the Pyrenees is being considered.

Two travel reports about the trip to Nepal in April: The somewhat different Nepal trip - picture lecture with Dr Beate Ternberger and Reinhold Keller - on 10/28/2023 in Schorndorf and on 11/04/2023 in Esslingen:

In the spring of this year, a trip took two Board members, Dr Beate Ternberger and Reinhold Keller, to the school projects and on a hike lasting several days near Pokhara.



Their presentation conveys some of the life and ideas of the local people and their families, especially the women studying in the schools. The two conducted a number of interviews with female teachers and students. They opened up and talked about what learning means to them and what future they see for themselves. In addition to the beauty and dignity of the people, the lecture also showed some of the beauty and dignity of Nepal's landscapes. The two lectures at the VHS Schorndorf and the Begegnungskirche in Esslingen were well attended.

This lecture will be held a 3rd time - on Saturday, February, 24th 2024 in Plochingen, 7.30 pm in the St. Konrad community centre, Hindenburgstr. 57.

November, 18th 2023: "Heinz und die Bembel" played for Mahadevi - a band full of perfection and polyester

On Saturday, November 18th, the 6-man band "Heinz und die Bembel" played at the venerable community centre in Hohengehren. And how!!! After three hours of first-class musical perfection and



endearingly anarchic verbal contributions, the audience at the charity concert did not want to let the completely convincing musicians leave the stage. The covered songs are often placed in a new, bizarre context - Johnny Cash's ring of fire (of love) becomes a ring of fire after eating chilli con carne. One of the musicians, dressed in wigs and polyester clothing, plays with precise timing and yet nonchalant nonchalance. Of the many hits from the 70s, the mercilessly perfectly timed version of Stevie Wonder's hit "Superstition" deserves special mention. Jazz, swing, country and even rock'n'roll - everything is at its best. The songs are old, but in the Bembel's version they are refreshingly new in a special way! A few more people could have turned up. Everyone in the community centre - the musicians, the audience and the team from the Mahadevi e.V. had a great time on a well-rounded evening. A new edition is planned for next year.

To summarise: if you weren't there, you missed something.

And something else very special: our 4th school in Salme, the Parvati Women Education Centre, opened its doors at the beginning of November!



In April, the mayor of the neighbouring municipality of Balche, where the Saraswati School is located, asked Beate and Reinhold to open a school. The municipality of Salme is now making a room in the primary school available free of charge, or several rooms if necessary. After we had procured larger school desks and a floor covering against the cold (the women sit/kneel on the floor), the teacher, Mrs Bresh Mayu Tamang, was able to start. The lesson times could already be in the afternoon, but in fact lessons are now held from 8-10pm. The reason for this is that the women can only attend lessons after they have finished their housework or fieldwork. Lessons take place on 6 days from Sunday to Friday. The subjects are Nepali, maths and English.



We would like to thank our project partners in Nepal, Mayor Binod Tamang, our two contact persons for the mountain schools, Robin Chamlin and Buddha Ghale, for their commitment! Namaste and Danyabad.



We wish the students and their teacher a good, harmonious co-operation and the success they desire.

October, 7th 2023: Club outing to the Sieben Linden between Esslingen and Stuttgart-Rotenberg

On October, 7th, we once again went on our traditional club outing, this time organised by Barbara Erhardt. We set off from ES-Hohenkreuz in wonderful weather on good hiking trails towards Stgt-Rotenberg with beautiful views all around - including the Württemberg burial chapel. A relaxed get-together in the Sieben Linden restaurant rounded off the successful tour.



The earthquake on November, 3rd & 4th 2023 in Western Nepal, in the Chaurjahari/Jajarkot area, approx. 500 km west of Kathmandu. There were 157 fatalities, many houses in the sparsely populated area collapsed and many people were left homeless. We had our presentation in Esslingen on the evening of 4 November. We spontaneously asked for donations for the hospital in Chaurjahari, to which a doctor from Filderstadt has good contacts. We transferred the €530 donation to the hospital. We were thanked in an email: "The hospital is only 25 km away from the epicentre. The hospital team was therefore on site immediately and was able to care for the injured and traumatised. The hospital has been helping right from the start: with food, water, warm blankets and hygiene products." Thank you for your support!

Our schools were not affected. They are located 80 km NNW of Kathmandu or close to Kathmandu.

Looking ahead to 2024: The long-awaited sewing courses will soon begin at the Saraswati School. After minor renovations in Buddha Ghale's house, we will set up a sewing room there. As in the Mahadevi School, the main sponsor will be the Georg Kraus Foundation. Thank you for your great support!

A trip to Nepal is being planned for spring 2025, as many supporters and members have asked about it. Florian Gründel, in collaboration with Robin Chamlin, will probably organise a trip to the most important sights in and around Kathmandu. Visits to our schools are also planned. A moderate trek lasting several days in the Langtang region is also planned. Details of the programme, time and costs will be announced in good time.

More about all other activities in the next "Mahadevi News", on our homepage <https://verein-mahadevi.de/en/> OR new on Instagram: www.instagram.com/mahadevi2008. This page is maintained by Sonja Schweizer from Schorndorf. Thank you for your support.

Thank you for all your support in the year that is drawing to a close. I wish everyone a peaceful pre-Christmas period, a Merry Christmas and a good, hopefully more peaceful 2024.

Even if it is difficult after another year full of terrible developments and wars perhaps Friedrich Nietzsche was right when he said: "Heaven has given mankind three things to counterbalance the many hardships of life: hope, sleep and laughter."

Stay healthy and stay committed to our work.

Best regards and good wishes on behalf of the entire Executive Board team,

Reinhold Keller