

FALL NEWS



„Kaffee und Kuchen“...

...is a big deal in the German culture. In September we, along with Friedenshaus volunteers and participants, had the opportunity to sell coffee and cake at a large gathering of south-west German Mennonite churches. It was a chance to put a face on our work for our supporting churches and raise some funds for the work.

“Kebabs”...

...are a big deal in middle eastern cultures. We celebrated fall with a “Grillfest” (BBQ) together with Friedenshaus participants. What you see is a non-middle easterner preparing his first ever kebab and the joy of BBQing.



Learning from each other

Courses begin again:

To be honest, we had anticipated fewer participants in our courses this fall since all other courses and language support programs in the city are once again up and running post COVID. However, the demand is at least as high as it was last fall. As has been the case all along, the folks looking for help in the entry level represents the largest group, making the class size less than ideal. In addition, the volunteer who supports part of this group has been unable to be here most of fall so far due to family matters. We are also minus one volunteer this year in the class with the more advanced learners. The good news is, that the participants enjoy coming and are not shy to spread the word and bring friends and family members.

What does “sewing hour” and “trauma” have in common?

As we have shared before, a few of the newcomers take part in quilting on two days of the week. Now and again they have also expressed the need to be able to do some sewing for their families. Starting this fall, we have made the machines available to our participants to do their own sewing or sewing for others.

It is well documented that people who cannot contribute to a community lose their sense of worth and dignity which in turn can feed pre-existing trauma or is itself a traumatic experience. Many people in Germany, including lawyer and activist Ulrich Hahn, have identified the asylum seeking process in Germany as a contributor to this trauma. By not being allowed to work and contribute while the asylum request is being processed (and of course having difficulty finding work as long as they don't know the language well enough), refugees continue to be traumatized or develop trauma. Giving opportunity to use their sewing skills allows at least a few to address a root cause for trauma.

“I did it!”

We received a WhatsApp with a photo from one of our participants. The photo was of a test result—85%+ across the board on her B1 German exam, a level you need to be able to apply for most jobs! The same week another participant, whom one of our volunteers had tutored for the Exam, received news that she too had passed with flying colours. Both are young mothers with lots of potential, and both are striving to become educators. Spontaneously, we got ice cream bars and celebrated during coffee break!

Rezah in Stuttgart

Rezah, a refugee from Iran, came to Friedenshaus before our time. He moved to Stuttgart to continue his education and is now writing his graduating thesis. One of our volunteers is still in contact with him and helping with the editing of his work. He connected to a church in Stuttgart where he now attends.

You are invited!

An afternoon of Folksongs
with Klaus Peter Driedger
November 9, 2022 at 14:00

Candle Workshop
Learn how and make your own candles
December 3, starting at 13:00

Berlinerstraße 43, LU