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Editorial

Dear Peacewomen and friends and supporters of PeaceWomen Across the Globe

The first good news: Two Peacewomen, Monika Hauser from Germany and Asha Hagi Amin from Somalia were awarded with the alternative Nobel Peace Prize (the Livelihood Award). We congratulate Monika and Asha for this important prize and wish them further courage, energy and endurance, which they need for their demanding and unique work.

The second good news: Mutabar Tajibaeva, one of the Uzbek Peacewomen, has been released from prison after many long and difficult months. Many Peacewomen worldwide have participated in the letter campaign for the release of Mutabar, and she is convinced that these thousands of messages hastened her release. This should encourage us to launch solidarity campaigns as a mean to heighten political pressure. Warm welcome to freedom, Mutabar – a freedom that for sure is not infinite as it will be accompanied by further challenges.

The third good news: Maria Sumire, a Quechuan Peacewoman from Peru is one of two indigenous members of parliament, and took her oath in Quechua, although that is forbidden. This simple act of self-determination has resulted in threats and violence against her and her family. Maria however is continuing to fight relentlessly and courageously for her people to have a voice.

Somewhat bitter is the news of Luz Perly, one of the Peacewomen from Columbia, who has found asylum with her family in Switzerland. Because Luz criticised the president of Peru on a protest march in Switzerland, the Columbian President now wants the Swiss government to investigate whether this protest march has vilified the honour and dignity of the President. Switzerland obeyed, and has pressed charges against Luz. We believe that refugees should also be allowed to make political statements, and we accompany Luz through these difficult times.

Thousands of women are daily victims of violence, rape and attacks. To protest against these violations of women's rights there is a worldwide campaign in November and December against violence against women. In Bern we will participate in the campaign and show our exhibition "Faces of Peace" in the Cathedral of Berne and hold different events. You are all invited, and we hope to see some of you.

Like all organisations we are dependant on the financial support of our donors. Only then we can work out and accomplish our projects. For your support we thank you very much!

At this point we would like to say goodbye to Agota Hasenfrazt and thank her for her work as a project manager in the secretariat. Dear Agota, we wish you all the best! Her successor Katrin Rieder will take up her work as a project manager on December 1st. A warm welcome, dear Katrin.

Last but not least: We have moved into a bigger office and in „cohabitation“ with the Swiss Observatory for Asylum and Aliens Law. The offices are very nice and near to the train station of Berne. We look forward to your visits.

Many thanks for all your sympathy and appreciation

Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold
Co-President PWAG

Maren Haartje
Project manager PWAG

PeaceWoman Monika Hauser was awarded with the Alternative Nobel Prize, the Right Livelihood Award. We congratulate her!

Monika Hauser has received the Award "for her tireless commitment to working with women who have experienced the most horrific sexualised violence in some of the most dangerous countries in the world, and campaigning for them to receive social recognition and compensation."

Monika Hauser, an Italian citizen, born in 1959 in Switzerland, is a gynecologist and director of the women's aid association Medica Mondiale in Cologne, Germany. In 1992, in the middle of the Bosnian war, she opened a therapy center in the city of Zenica for women victims of rape and war trauma. Now more than 80 Bosnian women doctors, nurses, therapists, and other professionals work there. She also founded projects for victims of sexual violence in Kosovo, Albania, and Afghanistan. Medica Mondiale supports local women's organizations in other countries, including Indonesia, Iraq, and Congo.

PeaceWoman Asha Hagi was awarded with the Alternative Nobel Prize, the Right Livelihood Award. We congratulate her!

Asha Hagi has received the Award "... for continuing to lead at great personal risk the female participation in the peace and reconciliation process in her war-ravaged country."

Asha Hagi, Born 1962, has dedicated her life to gaining a better and more peaceful future for her war-torn country Somalia. At great personal risk she has fought for women to have a voice in the decisions that effect them. She has mobilized women in the cause of peace across clan and political divides and continues to play a vital role in mediating across warring clans in the on-going peace process. Women in Somalia are in a much stronger position today because of her courage, persistence and compassion.

No More Silence on Violence Against Women and Girls

By Kamla Bhasin, Co-President of PeaceWomen Across the Globe.

For much too long, even we women kept silent about all the violence done to us within the family and outside. Violence against women and girls used to be considered a normal part of our lives and our destinies. It was considered a private matter not to be discussed in public. Fortunately, the global women's movement broke this silence and brought this issue into the open. Our movements said, if violence against women and girls (VAWG) is all around us in every country, it cannot be a private matter.

We feminists believe that VAWG is UNIVERSAL. It is not an aberration. It is systemic or an integral part of the global system called patriarchy, which considers men to be superior to women and in which men have more control over resources, decision making and ideology. The extent and form of VAWG may be different in different countries, cultures and at different times in history, but it exists everywhere. Foot binding in China, anorexia amongst girls in the USA, female genital mutilation in Africa, witch hunting in Europe, pornography, rape, domestic violence, sexual abuse all over the world...It is endless and very destructive.

According to a German feminist, we women are the last colony. Men and societies exploit women's labour, body, and sexuality. Families and societies are built on women's free or minimally paid work, but our work is neither recognized nor valued. According to the UN Human Development Report of 1995, the money value of the household work done by women all over the world would be 11 trillion dollars annually. According to the International Labour Organisation women do 66% of the total work done in the world but receive only 10% of the income distributed and own only 1% of the property. These figures show how unjust patriarchy is. This exploitative and oppressive system is kept going through structural VAWG, just as the global greed based economic and political system is maintained through wars or threat of wars by the economically powerful (but morally disgraceful) countries.

This global campaign, 16 Days of Activism against VAWG, is to challenge the systems, the ideologies, the cultures, and the people who inflict violence and/or the threat of violence on women and girls. During and through this campaign we connect with our sisters in different parts of the world to renew our commitment to fight VAWG, to sharpen our analysis and to strengthen our networks at the local, national and global level.

According to us, VAWG is closely connected to general violence in society and to other exploitative systems like class, race, caste, imperialism etc. As feminists we are concerned about all kinds of injustice and the connections between them. In the words of Eve Ensler, the US playwright, performer and feminist activist best known for her play *Vagina Monologues*, "Feminism for me is part of one story - connected to saving the earth, ending racism, giving young girls options, opening our minds, deepening tolerance, and ending violence and war." Therefore, during this campaign we condemn all exploitative, oppressive and unjust systems and practices.

In the words of an Indian feminist poet Mallika Sengupta

We have come to speak for love
 We have come on behalf of land, water, and sky
 We have come on behalf of poems, music, and dance
 We have come on behalf of tears, smiles, and kisses
 We have come one behalf of men, women, and children
 We have come to speak for love, peace, and friendship

During this campaign, we invite men and boys to reflect on their masculinity, to recognize that patriarchy is dehumanizing them, that a rapist is more brutalized than the one who is raped. More men and boys need to join the men's movement against patriarchy and for gender equality.

I am delighted that Peace Women Across the Globe has organized this peace exhibition as part of the 16 Days of Activism in this beautiful city, Bern. A Cathedral is a very good place for talking about peace, global solidarity, gender equality, and justice. I bring you messages of love, peace, friendship, and solidarity from South Asia.

PeaceWomen Across the Globe in the Cathedral of Berne

By Ellen Bernhard, coordinator of PWAG in the Cathedral of Berne

Daily and everywhere women are experiencing violence: Partners are being violent at home; work migrants become victims of women trafficking. In war times women are Due to uneven power structures, women are being discriminated against worldwide.

Violence against women is not tolerable!

That is what the international campaign (www.16tage.ch) "16 Days against Violence against Women" has been calling attention to for 17 years. Charlotte Bunch, leader of the Centre for Women's Global Leadership and PeaceWoman from the USA initiated this campaign together with other likeminded women. The campaign's goal is to sensitise people to the diverse forms of violence against women and to make women's rights more recognized as human rights.

PeaceWomen Across the Globe is showing its support for this campaign for the first time this year with a 16 day program in the Cathedral of Berne. From November 25 until December 10 we will show the exhibition "Faces of Peace" and are inviting PeaceWomen from Switzerland, Albania, Germany and Austria to lead discussion rounds with people visiting the exhibition. An interesting film will round off the 16 days: PeaceWomen Across the Globe in the Cathedral of Berne. ◀

Translated from German from Agota Hasenfratz

A Constant Torture

By Galima Bukharbaeva, one of the leading journalists in Uzbekistan. In November 2005 she received the Press Freedom Award in New York. She is currently living in exile in Germany.

This article appeared in the 16th July 2008 edition of the Süddeutsche Zeitung.

The authorities in Uzbekistan have released human rights activist Mutabar Tadjibayeva from prison. She is dying.

“The prisoner of the torture island” is the title Mutabar Tadjibayeva wants to give to the book she is writing about her time in prison in Uzbekistan. The 45-year-old Uzbek survived two years and eight months of torture and humiliation alongside 1,200 others in the women’s prison in the capital, Tashkent. Now she is worried that she won’t have enough time left to write the book. The Central Asian regime only gave her her freedom once she was seriously – perhaps terminally – ill with cancer. When she was still in prison, in May 2008, she won the Swiss Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders.

For many years until her arrest in October 2005, Mutabar Tadjibayeva was a human rights activist in the Fergana Valley, a densely populated and fertile region of eastern Uzbekistan. The organization she ran almost single-handedly was called Fiery Heart.

Tadjibayeva became a contact point for people in the Fergana Valley seeking protection from state despotism in Uzbekistan. They told stories of their sons being arrested and of money-grabbing state officials. Tadjibayeva then dealt with the local authorities or police on their behalf. In Uzbekistan, a former Soviet republic bordering Afghanistan, the Islam Karimov regime tolerates no legal opposition or free press. Tadjibayeva and other human rights activists were among the few who dared to speak out. Tadjibayeva knew exactly what evils were being committed in this country on the former Silk Road, and she spoke about them freely with journalists – until the Andijan Massacre.

On 13th May 2005, Uzbek government troops put down a civil rebellion against state despotism in the Uzbek provincial town of Andijan. Cautious estimates put the number who died at up to 1,000 people, including women and children. Following the massacre, the Uzbek state indiscriminately persecuted even previously tolerated human rights activists, including Mutabar Tadjibayeva. In October 2005 a Uzbek special commando unit stormed her house. Around 30 men armed with machine guns and wearing black masks detained the diminutive woman. In spring 2006 she was sentenced to eight years in prison.

In prison she experienced a world in which people were beaten and punished for asking for justice, for trying to help one another and for refusing to inform on other inmates. Tadjibayeva experienced first-hand that it was political prisoners, imprisoned for their criticism of the despotic Karimov government, who were tortured the most. Imprisonment was hell, a constant torture aimed at destroying body and soul, Tadjibayeva, who was regarded as an “enemy of the people“, received a double portion of beatings and humiliations at the hands of her wardens. She was not allowed to receive visits or parcels from her family.

Above all it was her health that suffered. Tadjibayeva spent 112 days, 95 of them in winter, dressed in just a thin shirt, in a dark, damp concrete hole. “We are waiting for you to die of cold,” was her torturers’ mocking reply to her request for warmer clothing. Later her wardens placed a rope in her dungeon. “Maybe you’ll get tired of life and hang yourself,” they whispered through the locked door. If Tadjibayeva was allowed out, it was to receive a beating. For this her torturers used rods and plastic bottles filled with water. “The blows

to the head are particularly painful," she recalled. The alternating use of confinement in the concrete hole and beatings brought her close to breaking point.

In summer 2007 she managed to smuggle out a letter to her daughter Machlijö. The letter reads like her testament: "Soon it will be my birthday. I will be 45. Two years ago on 25th August, my only daughter married. A year later she gave me a wonderful granddaughter. And I believe she will carry on my work, my unfinished business. Sadly, I'm not convinced I will live to see that day. I do not want to be forgotten. I am not the only one suffering here in prison. Many others are also suffering from lack of rights. For me it is terrible not to be able to defend them. I hate being so helpless. Yet my enemies still fear that I could start a revolution here in prison. That is why they want to destroy me." This was followed by some verses in Uzbek: "When the swallow flies towards you, know that it is me. When in spring a flower blooms, that is also me."

Tadjibayeva survived. In early June of this year she returned home. Yet she had never pleaded guilty or begged for mercy from Islam Karimov. Prisoners in Uzbekistan are usually forced into these humiliating gestures before they are released. No one is released from the hell of an Uzbek jail just like that. Tadjibayeva received this "mercy" only when she became seriously ill. Neither prison doctors nor wardens would tell her how ill she really was. But the mere fact that the regime freed her and showed her clemency points to the worst possible conclusion: the authorities did not want her to die in prison.

Today Mutabar Tadjibayeva is free again. "I want to live," she says, and admits to friends that she is afraid. The fear that she knew in prison is still with her. She is only too aware that the Uzbek government knows no mercy

Her place in prison was not free for long. Just five days after her release, the Uzbek journalist and human rights activist Salidzhon Abdurakhmanov was arrested.

*Translated from Russian into German by Marcus Bensmann
Translated from German into English by Morven McLean*

Canadian PeaceWoman Muriel Duckworth will have her 100th Birthday on October 31. We wish her all the best for this wonderful and unique birthday!

Muriel Helena Duckworth is an extraordinary activist whose work for peace, social reform, and educational development has spanned almost 90 years. One of Canada's most distinguished feminists and pacifists, she was a founding member of the Voice of Women (Nova Scotia) and served as national president from 1967 to 1971. She has founded many Canada-wide and province-wide organizations, has worked at the United Nations and has gone on a number of international peace missions.



«Loud, Proud and Passionate»

By Susan Sygall, PeaceWoman from the USA and CEO and co-founder of Mobility International USA. Susan is the recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship in 2000, which are awarded to a small number of talented individuals each year who have shown extraordinary originality and dedication in their creative pursuits.

Since 1981, Susan Sygall, CEO and co-founder of Mobility International USA (MIUSA), has focused on the inclusion and empowerment of women as part of MIUSA's core mission to empower people with disabilities around the world to achieve their human rights through international exchange and development. The investment strategy Susan has implemented to advance women's empowerment and gender equality is to facilitate programs that bring women from all around the world together to build skills, exchange experiences and strategies, create new visions and strengthen international networks of support.

Through Susan Sygall's leadership, MIUSA's first International Women's Institute on Leadership and Development (WILD) program was undertaken in 1997. The WILD

program was one outcome of the first International Symposium on Issues Of Women With Disabilities, coordinated by MIUSA at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. It was here that women first articulated the need to unite women leaders with disabilities from every region of the world as part of a larger global women's movement.

Since then, MIUSA has organized four WILD programs. Through these programs, women forge solutions to ensure that the human rights and dreams of every disabled woman, in urban and rural communities throughout the world, are respected and supported. Each WILD program has brought together approximately 30 emerging women leaders with disabilities, chosen from over 150 applicants, who are committed to changing the lives of women with disabilities across the globe. Delegates collaborate with mayors, local businesses, congressmen, community-based organizations, and disability leaders, through a series of intensive workshops. Workshop themes focus on using the media, implementing policy and legislation, writing proposals, fundraising, networking with international allies, improving employment and educational opportunities, and advocating for accessible healthcare and parenting rights for women with disabilities.

An innovative component of the WILD program is the Gender, Disability and Development Institute (GDDI). WILD delegates meet with representatives of international development organizations leading the way toward disability inclusive programming, such as the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) and the Global Fund for Women. Delegates and agency representatives plan for future collaboration and exchange strategies for inclusion of women with disabilities in development projects.

Reflecting on their experiences at WILD, women describe themselves as feeling more confident and less isolated. They are more equipped to be disabled world leaders with skills, information, resources, and ideas to improve their status in employment, education and community participation.

MIUSA also produced *Loud, Proud, and Passionate*[®], a video documentary highlighting the WILD program, available in French, Russian, Spanish, Arabic and English with open-captions. This video is useful for educating other leadership and development organizations about training needs, strategies and issues of women with disabilities. Through interviews with participants, the video highlights the vision, determination, challenges and recommendations of women with disabilities who are grassroots leaders all over the world.

Through these many avenues the women of WILD educate and challenge both themselves and each other. They go on to present at international conferences, apply for scholarships to advance their education and liaison with international development organizations to plan inclusive projects. They leave the U.S. with motivation to increase knowledge in their own communities, encouraging women across the world to become active in the advancement of women's empowerment, gender equality, and disability rights.

The WILD women are part of MIUSA's network of 2000 alumni, which represents delegates from throughout the world. Women who have participated in the WILD program embrace the MIUSA motto 'Loud, Proud and Passionate'[®]. ◀

Campaigns against violence and for peace education started successfully in four regions

In January 2008 the four regional PeaceWomen Across the Globe projects “Campaign against the proliferation and use of small arms in West Africa” in Mali, “Promoting Women’s Participation and Leadership” in Indonesia, “Femicide and the Implementation of the UN Resolution 1325” in Argentina and “Women for Peace - Human Safety and Justice” in Brasil were successfully launched.

After six months, the four coordinators Fatoumata Maiga (Mali), Olin Monteiro (Indonesia), Nora Franco (Argentina) and Clara Charf (Brasil) have given us their first update. You can find the first report on our website www.1000peacewomen.org.

A being of Peace

By Moema Libera Viezzer, PeaceWoman from Brazil. Moema works for more balanced relations between women and men, between human beings and nature, between wealth and poverty. Today, she is an assessor of education for sustainability in Itaipu, one of the greatest hydroelectric power plants of the world.



My Name is Moema Libera Viezzer. I am of Brazilian nationality, mother, and grandmother of two granddaughters. I live in Toledo, near the 3-countries-frontiers of Brasil, Paraguay and Argentina. My contribution to peace consists mainly of Transformative Learning, which I studied and developed over some years. Initially with Paulo Freire, later with many feminist comrades, providing collective intelligence in search of ways for better living in the present, and in the best possible way with a sustainable future.

I have worked as consultant, more generally as well as environmentally, all on a corporate level, such as in programmes for socio-environmental responsibility. I contributed to the implementation of a socio-environmental education programme for sustainability. My biggest project was in the largest hydro-electrical enterprise of the world: *ITAIPU Binacional*.

With the support of ITAIPU and PWAG I had the opportunity to organise a gathering of PeaceWomen from the three adjoining countries of Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina, in the city of Foz do Iguazu. It was the first time that the issues concerning these three countries was raised. Even though it was very important to weigh the evidence of the problems we face in situations within geopolitical borders, it has not been sufficiently visible. Here we live in a kind of continuous war with drug trafficking, sexual exploitation of children and juveniles, a culture of piracy and its consequences of imprisonment, homicides and suicides on a large scale. This especially affects young people.

On the other hand, our region is particularly privileged and blessed with its natural treasures and its many people who work to integrate traditions of conservation, such as cultivation of clean water, collection of recycable materials, agro-ecology, cultivation of

medicinal herbs and plants, as well as the recuperation of Eastern rivers. Also significant is the coexistence of different ethnic groups in this new region, despite less than a century of coexistence. People of 73 different nationalities, occidental as well as oriental, live together in Foz do Iguazu, a city with 300,000 inhabitants.

We realised that networking among the PeaceWomen was the most important aspect of the event, as it was the starting point for cooperation which could last many years, mainly between Brasil and Paraguay. In Paraguay, where I met the same PeaceWomen one month later, we returned to discuss our favourite subject again: 'Women without Frontiers' for peace, particularly in this moment of change which Paraguay is presently going through, with direct elections after a dictatorship of more than 61 years.

'Peace can be learned' is one of my favourite slogans. Understanding peace not as an interval between two wars, but as a way of being in this world, searching for equilibrium in the relations between human beings and nature.

This means: peace at home, at work, in schools, peaceful traffic (which in Brasil has killed more people in the last 3 years than the war in Iraq!), peace between different religious groups, peace with our mother Earth, cities as well as countryside – all these themes are subjects for the apprentice of peace.

Each human being who is conscious that 'I am a being of peace', is invited to remember what Gandhi expressed so well: Be the peace you wish to have in this world. Like that I continue living, I feel good being part of this great movement, the PeaceWomen Across the Globe, using the opportunities I have to extend the network and give visibility to the work of the PeaceWomen in their particular continents, expressing in a very concrete way that 'another world is possible'. In this sense I will continue my way as a 'peace worker', because this is what I am! ◀

Translated from Spanish from Jeanine Wallace.

Goodbye!

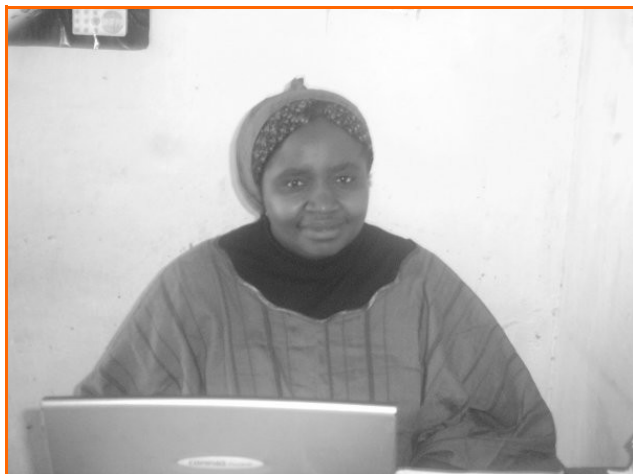
I started working as an assistant at the international secretariat in August 2006. Two years later as project manager of PeaceWomen across the Globe I say goodbye. In November I will start my new job as a social worker in a school.

I want to thank my colleagues, the international team and the PeaceWomen for all the wonderful, intensive, exciting and moving moments that we had together. I will stay in contact with the project and wish all the best to everyone especially my successor Katrin Rieder.

**Warmly,
Agota Hasenfratz**

Sexual violence in Northern Kivu

By Justine Masika Bihamba, PeaceWoman from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Justine organizes workshops within local communities and listening centers, grants rotating credits, and provides psychosocial, medical and legal support for victims of sexual violence.



The Congolese women, especially the women from the East of the country, suffered a lot during the years of war. Despite the international, regional, national and local peace efforts, the war against women is spreading more and more. We are afraid of the destruction of our society due to the sexual violence that not only affects the direct victims but also their children and communities as a whole. Everyone who is involved in the war, including the Congolese army, use sexual violence as a strategy of their warfare. Today, after many years of suffering and destruction, this

violence has unfortunately become part of our culture.

The number of deaths through sexual violence, of both women as well as men, is unbelievably high. During the month of April 2008 alone, the UN and local NGOs registered over 880 cases of sexual violence. The actual number of cases is estimated to be ten times higher. Women are at risk everywhere: on the streets and also at home. Even babies have been victims of sexualised violence. A mother nowadays considers twice whether she can give her baby away for babysitting to anyone.

The nuclear family, the basis of our society, doesn't exist anymore. Women have become objects, they are not protected and do not have rights. There's a crisis of authority and a culture of impunity.

Sexual violence is a war crime and a crime against humanity and thus a danger for peace and security in Africa and in the world. ◀

Translated from French by Agota Hasenfratz

PeaceWoman Marianne Grosspietsch's project Shanti Sewa Griha is in the final of the BBC World Challenge 2008 Competition!

The BBC World Challenge 2008 Competition is a global competition aimed at finding projects or small businesses from around the world that have shown enterprise and innovation at a grassroots level. Shanti Sewa Griha was elected from over 700 participants for the final. In October a TV-show will present the 12 projects on BBC World News Chanel. After that everyone has the chance to vote for their favourite programme. Support the project and vote online on: www.theworldchallenge.co.uk .

Upcoming events...

November 25 – December 10, 2008

Campaign 16 days against Violence on Women

Cathedral of Berne, Switzerland

From November 25 until December 10 we are showing the exhibition "Faces of Peace", and invite everyone to open discussions there with PeaceWomen from Switzerland, Albania, Germany and Austria. An interesting film will round off the 16 days. More information can be found on our website.

November 5 – 19, 2008

Exhibition "*Faces of Peace*" from *PeaceWomen Across the Globe*

Evangelische Stadtakademie Frankfurt, Germany

On November 5 the exhibition and a series of events will be opened in the Evangelische Stadtakademie, to be launched by Co-President Ruth-Gaby Vermot. The exhibition and the events are taking place in 3 places around the Frankfurter city centre.

For more information on these events, on past events and more future events, please visit our website. ◀

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

PeaceWomen Across the Globe

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**Publisher: PeaceWomen Across the Globe
Editing: Nicci Simmonds
Translations: Jeanine Wallace, Morven McLean, Agota Hasenfratz
Layout: Agota Hasenfratz
Publication: Twice a year in German and English
The newsletter is distributed electronically to 3000 recipients**