

Dear members, dear friends of the association Mahadevi e.V.,

What's new from the association Mahadevi? In keeping with the holiday season, we would like to use this newsletter to inform you about current topics and developments.

Membership development, finances, cooperation

We currently have 79 members, more than ever before, and we can count on a number of donors. This enables us to continue our work for "our" women in Nepal at the various locations in the Kathmandu Valley and in the Midhills towards the Langtang region northwest of Kathmandu. We now employ 10 female teachers with fixed salaries in our projects, and our representatives for the mountain villages also receive an expense allowance.

We are very grateful for the partnerships that have existed for years with the Georg Kraus Foundation from Hagen in Westphalia, with the Rotarians of Esslingen-Neckarland and the association Eine Welt Plochingen, which support us financially and ideologically. We also receive regular support from the Kunsttage Aichwald, the city of Esslingen and the municipality of Baltmannsweiler. **We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to all our loyal members and supporters for their cooperation and their great willingness to donate!**

The work of the board is well divided between the board and the advisory board, so that we can also manage our work well here (finances, members, events, press, newsletters, enquiries, contacts with Nepal, contacts with our sponsors, etc.). Overall, the cooperation is going very well.

However, we are currently looking for a suitable successor for our first chairperson. We are currently in discussions and there is reason to hope that we will have found a good solution by the time of the general meeting.

What has been happening in the Mahadevi project over the last 6 months?

Our Mahadevi school really continues to run very well. The commitment and closeness of Anupendra and Beena to the school and to the life needs of the adult students is what makes it a long-term success. Anyone who has ever witnessed the



empathy with which the two of them take care of the students entrusted to them knows how important this is. Beena and Anupendra often put it this way: "This is our family." Especially since their own children live in Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

The Friday activities are important for the women's community, as are the excursions. External stimuli are just as important, such as addressing medical, women-specific or social issues, since the women would otherwise have no opportunity to deal with



these issues in their everyday lives.

Anupendra wrote to us on 30/04/2026: *"Approximately 1200 women enrolled and studied in basic*

Nepali and about 800 women visited and enrolled in sewing class until now, from the start in 2008."
A great success!

What else is on the agenda here? Recently, we were offered a not inconsiderable sum from a will through the Georg Kraus Foundation (GKS), to be used specifically for women's education in Nepal. Since we already offer several sewing projects through which a number of women can either have a job or, often, at least earn extra income, we are currently looking for projects in coordination with our partners in Nepal to prepare more women for the labour market. Perhaps there are opportunities for nursing training? In Nepal, too, there are more and more elderly people – and nursing homes. In the field of tourism?

However, what seems most promising to us at the moment is that Anupendra's long-cherished wish could become a reality – vocational training for professions in the beauty industry (haircutting, cosmetics, massage). Why? Tourism in Nepal has picked up again immensely after the coronavirus. Many female tourists, especially from other Asian countries such as China, India or South Korea (and also Nepalese women themselves!), attach great importance to the beauty sector – secure jobs are currently on offer here after proper training. In cities such as Kathmandu, Patan or Pokhara, beauty salons line the streets. Let's see.

What has been happening in our mountain schools over the last 6 months?

The Saraswati literacy school moved from Valche Gaun to Kaule at the beginning of the year: after fewer and fewer women attended the Saraswati school in Valche Gaun in the end, we had to close the school with a heavy heart on 31 December 2025. We reported on this in the last newsletter.

Now, in one of the neighbouring mountain villages, **KAULE**, the opportunity has arisen to move the Saraswati School there. Robin Chamlin and Buddha Ghale found a very motivated teacher, Mrs Anjana Waiba, quite quickly. The school furniture and all other equipment have been moved with it.

Currently, 14 female students come to class. So it goes on!



Teaching in Kaule

NUPCHET

Laxmi School

The teacher, Mrs Remika Tamang, reports that the students are very motivated. There are usually 10–15 students in class. Sometimes up to 20 women come to class.

Here, too, the number fluctuates occasionally, but at a higher level than at the other two mountain schools.

Saraswati Sewing School

The sewing school was opened in Nupchet after the move on 1 March 2025. There are 2 courses with a total of about 14 students. The clothes made are given to the women for a small fee. This income is used to buy sewing accessories. Some women have already started their own businesses at home with their own sewing machines. For example, 6 former students are already running a small sewing shop!

Salme: Parvati School

The school was closed at the end of March 2026. In the end, it was only attended by a few women. This was partly due to the very long distances the women had to travel.

Our contacts, Robin Chamlin and Buddha Ghale, are currently looking for an alternative here. The village of Nebot Pokhari, where we provided reconstruction aid after the 2015 earthquake, is a possibility.

What happened in the first half of 2026?

- On 21/03/2026, as part of the Esslingen Women's Weeks, we organised a wonderful, very well-attended **chanson evening with Jeschi Paul and Heidrun Speck in the Begegnungskirche.**
- Activities of our association with the association **Eine Welt Plochingen:**
On 21 May, Ecki Morlock presented the work of our association to Year 8 students at Plochingen Grammar School as part of a lesson on the subject of "Fair Trade"
On 28 June 2026, Jörg Eberle presented our association on the occasion of a visitors' day at the open-air museum in Beuren. Unfortunately, there were only a few visitors due to the intense heat at the time.

Outlook for the second half of 2026:

- Our association hike will take place on Saturday, 26 September 2026.
This time, the organisation is in the hands of Dagmar Leippert and Roland Schwarz.
- On Saturday, 14 November 2026, in the Evangelical parish hall in Baltmannsweiler, the band "Us and Them" will again – as last year – give a benefit concert for Mahadevi
- On Thursday, 19 November 2026, the general meeting with elections for the executive board will take place in the Hohengehren community centre

Outlook for 2027:

- **The association Mahadevi e.V. will be 20 years old next year!**
This will of course be celebrated both in Germany and in Nepal. For this reason, Detlef and Florian Gründel are organising a cultural and hiking trip to Nepal, as they did in 2025. Participants on the trip: 8–12 participants Date: 13/ March – 3 April 2027. Further details can be found in the attachment or on the association's homepage at the link
https://www.verein-mahadevi.de/images/mahadevi/2027_nepal_trip_program_01.pdf

We have a calendar we produced ourselves with photos from our trips to Nepal for sale – perhaps as a gift, for example, for a birthday? The special thing about it: it is a perpetual calendar. It can be purchased for €10.

You can conveniently place your order via info@verein-mahadevi.de.

Finally, on behalf of the Executive Board and the Advisory Board, I would like to wish you a summer full of wonderful moments.

Reinhold Keller

"The education of women is the most effective lever for development. "

(Kofi Annan, 1938–2018; former Secretary-General of the United Nations; 2001 Nobel Peace Prize laureate)

If you no longer wish to receive the "Mahadevi aktuell" newsletter – which we would regret – you can unsubscribe by sending an email here: info@verein-mahadevi.de