

# ENGLISH CENTER BASEL WHAT'S HAPPENING?

MARCH - APRIL 2013

News and Views from the Students and Staff

FREE ~ ISSUE 26

PEOPLE | EVENTS | NEWS | REVIEWS | STORIES | COMMENT | LANGUAGE | OTHER STUFF



## CARNIVALS

*Fasnacht* is a major cultural event in Basel; but funnily enough, we do not have an article on it this year. Instead, we have one on another carnival in a land far from here. Regardless of where it takes place, a carnival gives people a chance to escape from their daily routine and have some fun.

I hope you took advantage of the holiday and enjoyed yourself, if not at a carnival at least doing something out of the ordinary.



## A BENEFIT EVENT by Noemi Preiswerk-Aymonod

Heini Meier, the internationally renowned dog whisperer, was at English Center Basel. TeleBasel reported on the event in their "Was läuft" program.

On February 1st, a special event for the benefit of *Hundehilfe Mittelitalien* took place at English Center Basel.

Karin Braun, president of the fundraising charity, was able to persuade Heini Meier, the internationally renowned dog whisperer, to come to Basel and give a lecture on how best to communicate with one's dog.

Heini Meier, demonstrating his training practices, has been shown on various television broadcasting channels such as SRF, RTL and Sat1. He is well known for his movies, "Der Hundeflüsterer" and "Der mit den Hunden spricht" and he has also written a very interesting book: "Menschenkunde für Hunde, Hundekunde für Menschen".

Heini Meier's educational practice is based on correct communication, without emotions. A dog owner has to "tell" the dog in the right way what is expected. This will result in the correct reaction from the dog.

Mr. Meier has trained thousands of difficult dogs and enabled the dog owners to have a relaxed co-existence with their four-legged friends. His training methods have saved many dog's lives because, when dog owners had not been able to handle their dogs any more, he showed them how to solve their problem.

At the event on Feb 1st, about 70 people followed with great interest Heini Meier's lecture about his training methods. For about an hour after the lecture, Mr. Meier answered many questions of the dog owners who were present and gave them advice on how to handle the problems with their dogs. After that, he signed his book for those who wanted to buy it.

With heartfelt gratitude, we have to mention that Heini Meier came to give this lecture for free.

The whole income of the evening was for the benefit of "Hundehilfe Mittelitalien" which is supporting Lia Campriani's exceptional dog

shelter near Perugia in Italy where about 100 to 140 dogs are cared for with love, fed and provided with medicine if necessary. This is a big exception in Italy, as most of the official dog shelters (called "canili") are hell for the poor -- often starving -- dogs which have to stay there, mostly for the rest of their lives, with a minimum of medical care.

After the lecture, many guests accepted the invitation of English Center Basel to join an Apéro on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. On this occasion, many conversations were held, mainly on the subject of dogs.

English Center Basel as well as "Hundehilfe Mittelitalien" received a lot of positive feedback on this event.

Heini Meier, thank you very much!

[www.heinimeier.com](http://www.heinimeier.com)  
[www.hundehilfemittelitalien.ch](http://www.hundehilfemittelitalien.ch)

### Who's that?

## SIBYLLE MÜLLER

(Former) Receptionist

Sibylle started working at English Center Basel in the middle of April 2011. However, like many of our receptionists, she split her time between working here and doing her university studies.

She recently completed her Bachelor's degree in Economics and secured an internship for herself, which is great for her but not so great for us because she resigned from the school in order to take up her new job.

Luckily, I was able to have a chat with her before she left in the middle of February 2013.

(See reverse.)

### Changes

## VIDEO NIGHT

Since starting the "Video Night" group activity, we've seen two-thirds of the pilot episode of *Due South*, a comedy-detective TV series featuring a Royal Canadian Mounted Policeman.

The feedback from students has been very helpful.

One point is that we are going to change the timing of the event. It will still be 1.5 hours long, but the repeat showing of the video will be two weeks after the first one.

Because of other commitments due to the start of exam classes, we have also had to change the video nights to Tuesdays.

To help you to prepare for the video night, we'll organise some vocabulary handouts which will be available before the video night so that you can learn the vocabulary in advance.

Please come along and participate in this evening event.

### Top tip for English

Spotlight and Business Spotlight magazines are excellent value for money, but did you know they also offer complementary websites for English learners? Check them out!

[www.spotlight-online.de](http://www.spotlight-online.de)  
[www.business-spotlight.de](http://www.business-spotlight.de)

### What's on at ECB

## GROUP ACTIVITIES

More students are attending group activities, which is fabulous news! Please come to them as often as you can as they are a real help in your learning process.

Check the calendar of events on our website to find out what's on offer. Ask Reception for details.

## GRADED READERS

Our lending service of graded readers is proving to be quite popular. If you haven't tried a graded reader yet, please come to reception and find out more.

What's a graded reader? It's a book written at your language level. Many graded readers also come with a CD so that you can listen to the words as well as read them. The graded reader books which you can borrow are at reception. Ask Reception for details.

## SPEAKING APÉRO

Henry Fresneda, who hosted the last Speaking Apéro, gave everyone a real treat: *Tortilla Espanola* or Spanish Omelet!

Please come along to the next Speaking Apéro and see what special treat it has to offer...

## SPECIAL EVENTS

Please sign up at Reception or telephone 061 269 41 41

### ENGLISH CERTIFICATE CELEBRATION

Come to congratulate your fellow students who have passed their exams

Wednesday, 14 March 18:30 to 19:30

### SPEAKING PRACTICE APÉRO

Speak English in a relaxed, sociable way

Thursday, 21 March 18:00 to 20:00

Wednesday, 17 April 18:00 to 20:00

### DUE SOUTH VIDEO NIGHT

Watch the last part of the pilot episode

Tuesday, 12 March from 18:30 to 20:00

Tuesday, 26 March from 18:30 to 20:00

Watch an episode in the first season

Tuesday, 9 April from 18:30 to 20:00

Tuesday, 23 April from 18:30 to 20:00

### NEWSPAPER MEETING

Offer new ideas for the next issue of *What's Happening?*

Thursday, 28 March 13:00 to 14:00

Thursday, 18 April 13:00 to 14:00

### Any answers?

What do you like most about learning English at English Center Basel?

If you were the director of this school, what would you change?

What do you like best about your own country?

Please send your answer to [june\\_winterflood@yahoo.com](mailto:june_winterflood@yahoo.com)

Your writing will be published in **WHAT'S HAPPENING?** No need to worry about mistakes: before publication, corrections of your writing will be sent to you for your approval.