



NESW

NETWORK OF ENGLISH-SPEAKING WOMEN

Spring 2021

Happy Easter to all our Network Friends!

It means so much at Easter time to keep in touch with all of you, especially in these continuing times of stress and hardship for so many who are dealing with lock down, home office and home schooling. Light is now appearing at the end of the tunnel with many people now starting to get vaccinated. The Coordinating Team sends you our heartfelt best wishes for a happy Easter and a warm and joyful spring! Keep safe!



The Coordinating Team



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Treasure Hunt in Breisach!

If you're looking for something fun and educational to keep your family entertained this Easter, here's an idea from former CT member Annette Senn

For Advent 2020 the Breisach-Touristik team developed a treasure hunt for the first time as an alternative to visiting Christmas markets. The idea was very well received by town residents and the region alike, so much so that the team is working on a new treasure hunt for this spring. Information will be published before Easter, and from 31 March 2021 the game manual and schedule can be downloaded from Breisach-Touristik's website.



The starting point for the treasure hunt is the market square in front of Breisach-Touristik's office. Using your smartphone, you will be guided from station to station, and at each point along the way, there will be riddles to solve and questions to answer leading you to the treasure chest at the end. The treasure chest will be full of small rewards for young and old alike, with three main prizes to be won. The grand prize is a voucher for a themed boat trip for a family of four! And to keep you motivated, you can also pick up a treat at one of several ice cream parlours along the route, which are open for take away.

Check out Breisach-Touristik's website www.breisach-urlaub.de for all the details of this year's treasure hunt.

Welcome back Krissy!

When former Coordinating Team member Krissy Hüstebeck left Freiburg for Bavaria in summer 2018, I don't think any of us expected her to return so soon, if at all! But returning she is with her family at the end of May, and we are so excited!

In February 2017, Krissy gave an informative talk on the 'Rollercoaster Process of Self-Publishing' highlighting the benefits of self-publishing over traditional publishing as she was about to launch the first book in her 'Collide' series - a project she had thought about undertaking for years. By Christmas 2018, the third book in the series had already been published!

Not content to rest on her laurels with three books under her belt, Krissy was on a roll in Bavaria! Since then, she has published the 'Four Seasons' series, 'Into Thin Air'; and has contributed to the 'Dandelion Anthologies: Love Ever After'.



Writing as Kristina Beck, Krissy describes herself as a contemporary romance Indie author who loves to read, exercise, and write. Check out her website at: www.kristinabeck.com

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Krissy back to the area and the Network. Here's hoping it won't be too long before we can get together again and give her a proper welcome!

NEWS

Vancouver - The New Familiar

By Susanne Jeffs



When we decided to move back to Vancouver in the summer of 2019, having lived in Freiburg for 11 years, I told myself - no problem, Lufthansa flies every day at 4:00pm from Vancouver direct to Frankfurt, so if I ever need to go, catch up, see, hug, spend time with family or friends, I can be there within ten hours. Never did I imagine how far away Germany can really feel from Vancouver.

I think we all felt the same during the COVID-19 pandemic throughout this past year having all been apart from family and friends whether or not separated by large distances or an ocean.



When we returned to Canada, we found a lovely place in Vancouver's Kitsilano neighbourhood, two blocks from the kids' new high school, a ten-minute drive down town to David's office and a short walk to the beach.



Martin and Anna have adjusted very quickly to school here yet both have maintained strong ties to their close friends back in Freiburg. I never thought I would actually say this - but thanks to modern media, it is easy to stay in touch, despite the separation of distance and time zones. Regrettably, six months into their first school year here, the whole world was hit by the pandemic, which stalled whatever social contact Martin and Anna were starting to form here through sports and school activities with their new peers. Fortunately, both kids have inherited our positive attitude and, as a family, we are making the best of the current situation.

British Columbia, Canada's most westerly province where Vancouver is situated, has lumbered through the pandemic relatively well.



Tolerable restrictions were kept in place throughout the year. Limited travel was allowed outside the province, and the border to the US remained closed to non-essential trips. Elementary schools were kept open, whilst high schools moved to a half classroom instruction, and half to online teaching, with smaller class-sizes. Facemasks are required in shops, schools and public places and restaurants are open with limited seating allowing only one household per table. This has ensured some sense of normality although it is still a far stretch from the usual busy Vancouver lifestyle.



And so, we have seen every season come and go, and I can say that I feel like we have settled in, although our thoughts are still regularly in Freiburg. It is like we have two hometowns and our hearts just grew larger to accommodate all the dear friends we have on both sides of the ocean.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter!



Susanne