

NTZ

-english version

Umfangreiche Jahresausgabe für die Schweiz mit punktuellen Versand auch ins Ausland
nicht im Abo, nur verschenkt / NTZ jederzeit aktuell im Blog unter www.tikowi.ch
Redaktion & Verlag: Neue TiKoWi Zeitung, Gottfried Keller-Strasse 67, CH-8400 Winterthur
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Es gibt drei Arten von Rechtschreibung: die Alte, die Neue und Meine!

Dear NTZ-reader! Dear Family, dear friends and neighbours, dear other people and appreciated entries of our address book.

The year 2013 omg! soon it will be over already. The years seem to pass by very fast, our children become young adults and we? There's some grey on our heads already, the bones ache - especially in the early mornings - but we have nothing to moan, we are all healthy, in the pink and perfectly satisfied!

Household and Pets

A new member

We welcomed a new member to our family this year. To be sure that all our coloured pants and pullovers get favoured with some dog's hair we have fallen in love with a blonde Labrador last spring. Elio Ray (Eric wished to name him after Ray Charles) is his name. He's a half brother of Bob's and a little whirlwind.



He keeps us busy with his distinct retrieving drive and sometimes even leads us to the edge of madness... Cleaning rags, boots, car keys, letters, pullovers, secateurs, branches and moviles... every thing that isn't fixed will be retrieved. Nevertheless, he's a really charming whirlwind who shows his potential in many ways. Still he's in the puppy course and works on "basic obedience". Let's see how he turns out!

Cat Alarm

Well, we know about the seven lives of a cat. Still we are more than happy that we found our Nero who got pinched in the hopper window early enough. By accident been locked out he must have tried to jump back into the room... After a sorrowful night at the animal doctor he's not panting anymore

and walks, climbs and meows like he used to a part from a little buckle in his tail, reminding him of his failed stunt.

Reconstruction

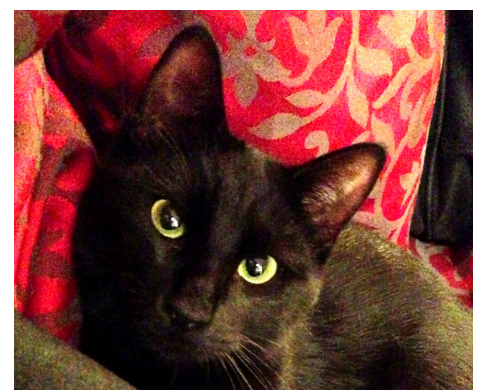
During springbreak we were reconstructing... We have newly shared out the sleeping rooms - loft beds are for babies - we painted, cleaned up and rearranged. The carpet fitter nevertheless destroyed all our plans on the first day. He ordered the carpet too late and couldn't deliver...



No comment, we changed plans and made the best out of it. Although Koni felt down the stairs with a box full of books breaking himself a rib, what wouldn't have been necessary, still we manage and everybody is happy in their newly made, cleaned up and organized rooms.

54 pound : 0.75 pound = ZEWA clean the dog!

The proportion of a 54 pound Labrador in comparison to 0.75 pound chocolate easter bunny may come down to a terrible diarrhea and a significant nausea. Overnight Bob had stolen all the chocolate easter bunnies including the golden paper and the bells and ate them all up. During the training the next day he did incredibly well (doping?). I don't know if Monika and Bruno who looked after



him for the rest of the day appreciated the outcome of his nightly action. For sure they have earned a friendship medal and a super pack of "ZEWA clean the dog"! After 24 hours the spectacle was over and right on time we were back from the Snowpenair!



The Snowpenair was wonderful until the last ski-run. We have initiated Nina and Charly into the rituals of "Berner Oberland" and were happy to have survived even the last ski-run without any accidents and arrived back home save and sound.

Politics, Economy, Inland & Abroad

Noise Protection Walls

Yesss... we won! On the 24th of February the Landbote (our local newspaper) announced: The fight against the noise protection walls



was worth the effort. Seven years we have engaged ourselves, we have been searching for compromises and discussed ideas, we worked with lawyers and consultants, got to know a lot of nice and interesting people in our neighbourhood and now, after the weather changed in the city's council, we finally won the battle. Good! We celebrated the federal court's decision (which got officially announced before summertime) with a spontaneous fest in the garden of Annemarie & Werner Hirshi. It was great!



Germany

On ascension day Anna, Eric, Alison and Tina went to a visit at Bob's breeder in Neuss in the Ahrtal. On one hand we didn't plan to fall in love with Elio there, on the other hand



we learned that in the north, in Neuss near Düsseldorf short of the Netherlands border there is a Bogner Hotel with a skiing hall. Outside were a lot of people bawling in the beer garden (Father's day and nice weather!) and inside you got 50% off on rent, clothes



and skiing equipment. One can watch the skiing people in the zoo and the woman at the reception just learnt to understand the horrified look of the children after I explained her that we are from Switzerland and that we do actually ski in real snow out in mother nature's real arena.

Portugal

Invited by Carlos, Koni and Tina spent some beautiful days in Lisbon at the beginning of



November. The evening event with about 500 guests in evening dresses, fireworks, wine and dancing groups and a lot of portugese language (of which we didn't understand much) at the "Quinta da Rol" wine yard showed us the differences in european culture. The host and his wife welcome us with hugs and their natural lust for life. Some of the guests from all over Europe are left a little confused after such untamed and joyful welcome as they are used to be a little more reserved. It is strange. The more north the origin the more formal the people interact, at least it seems so...



Tina had already realized this while she was in Germany to visit the dogs... Late discussions about the differences between German and Swiss culture showed connections to the tax conflict brought up some interesting discussions. They didn't really her observations... Well, Europe is more than one nation and Switzerland as a non EU-member something even more different...

Lisbon by the way a wonderful city while a little morbid I'd say – you can sense the glow of the old days – but full of life and joyful people. We enjoy a weekend, just the two of us and promise each other to take a bit of this joy with us. The first success showed itself after some days when the butcher said: "Aha, Ms. Joyful is coming!" Well on...

USA

As we promised last year, we met part of our american family at the Yellowstone national park. We had some interesting and wonderful days, learned a lot about geology – the old Faithful Geysir left a deep impression on us.



We learned on biology too and the first Bison left us breathless and with open mouths in front of the open windows of the car. Well, at least until that giant animal stood directly in front of us and everyone was screaming: "Richi, close the windows!"



Our next adventure was already expecting us: Horse-back-riding and we managed to survive our first riding lessons. Those



cowboys thought we manage well and took us on a 2.5 hours trip to the mountains and this was only one way. The toilet break behind the bushes was welcome but how would I stand up again after...? I admit the muscles got a little tired... Incredible landscapes, a group of astonishing elks passing by were more than worth this "pain". Well, sometimes we had to concentrate on our horses 'cause even if they were told to be "remote-controlled" and will always follow the front man, their trot was sort of challenging.



Every evening we enjoyed Susanne's dinner on the camping site while sharing our thoughts about God and the world and also celebrating the 1st of August together. By occasion there were some people from Berne on the camping site and we invited them for a glass of wine. Our mixed family group and our lively international family-internal chatting in English and German surprised them - they could hardly believe what they saw.



(Dakota, Alison, Brooklyn, Anna, Eric)
We enjoyed nature and amazing landscapes, shot hundreds of pictures and couldn't get enough of it. Every morning we got up early to watch the Bisons and the Elks again...



After a weeks time we had to say goodbye to the family and drove back over Cody (=the mekka of bikers and cowboys!) to the airport where we checked in our bags full of memories. All of us did wear new cowboy boots 'cause they would take too much space in the luggage. Well it's incredible how many handmade boots there are – how can a woman resist!?



Back in Los Angeles a visit of President Obama changed our flight schedule and we didn't fly to Burbank but to the international Airport of Los Angeles where we discussed hours at the car rental station to get an adequate and possibly available car. Meanwhile our reserved car was waiting for us in Burbank.... Finally we had Koni back on board. Our house which we rented over AirBnB (by the way a great platform) had far enough space for all of us and the glamorous site gave the right background for our wedding day and showed us that we were near Hollywood in Beverly Hills.



Here we also celebrated the traditional big-family reunion together with all the Los Angeles Meyers. And here's - of course -



the family picture, all of us from the left to the right: Lori, Rick, AnnA, Sonja, Alison, Pam, Kurt, May (Nurse of Kurt), Briana, Michelle, Eric, Tina, Randy, Koni, Richi



We had a great bike ride along Venice beach with Lori... Lots of sun and beautiful moments and meetings...



Los Angeles is really crowded but our house with a great garden gave us the necessary quiet space to recover...

Science & Development Thermomix

A new member of my kitchen crew... yes! It's the Thermomix kitchen aid from Vorwerk. This Machine can do anything! Amazing! And all the family members decided that it makes the best Risotto ever! A part from raw broccoli salad, lentil soup, carrot cake, green smoothies, bread and all the other delicious stuff!



Thermomix and the book "Peace Food" from Rüdiger Dahlke... yeah, I know he's sort of an extremist but the meat industry is really horrible! Well, it made us do more

amendments in the kitchen and reduce our meat consumption radically while we tried out wonderful new recipes.



In the picture our famous Vegi-Burger totally handmade... including the ketchup.

The book of Attila Hildmann "Vegan for fit" is not only creatively photographed but also really inspiring. Well, trying out is better than thinking too much and like always it's a question of "how much". So Tina was much surprised when Koni, being confronted with the "Red Tower" made of beetroot, avocado-cashew-crème and caramelized Tofu, commented: You can serve this dish again anytime! Well, nothing is better than a creative, inspiring, conspiring, mind-changing Aquarius in the house of a Capricorn.

Physics for beginners (4x4 still slides!)

Tina actually thought she had chosen a good and snow free time to go to Landi (grocery store) in Grindelwald. But that trip brought some extra costs.



On a steep little road the car began to slide and all of a sudden Tina had to decide between stairs, a bush or a lantern. She decided for the bush while she didn't expect or see an iron pile inside it. The breakdown service later decided to use a tractor to pull the car back on the street! Eric just commented on the topic: "Well, Daddy will be very happy!"

Old love never dies!

No, Lego isn't only something for kids! After constructing Nina's VW-Bus we got



very keen on Lego Projects. The weather during the ski holidays – especially while it was snowing the whole time - was perfect for that. So we sorted out the pieces in Tupperware and soup bowls until we had it all prepared and then we completed it. A real family project and it was great!



Nina is still living with us. By the way: she is now on her way to become a cosmetician and now takes care of all of us. So we have perfectly manicured nails, make-up and discover all those women secrets that Anna learns at first hand now.

Life is on the move...

And Siemens is on the move, too. Shortly before our beloved summer holidays we got to know that Koni might be joining us later. There was an important conference in Paris. So while we already cooled down our feet in Lori's pool some events in Munich came up... The top Siemens-boss Peter Löscher (since the year 2007 he was massively reconstructing the company) got disposed and replaced by Joe Kaeser. That he is going to change the course and the priorities of the big ship Siemens was clear and so we can only say: "When changes are about to come times will be interesting!"

Clearvoyants

We didn't need to be clearvoyants to know that grandpa dreamed of making a tour with



Koni in his cabriolet. We saw him walking round the car like a cat around its food and so we arranged to make his wish come true. It was a really nice trip to the Thur valley! And against all odds he managed to get out of that car again without assistance.

Technorama

The rainy days did not not really motivate us for a bike tour from Frauenfeld to the Thuraun at the beginning of July.



We decided to visit the Technorama and extract the colour from a Coke together with Prof. Florian (on the left) and "Gotti" (godmother) from the "Glamerland".

How full does a fridge need to be?

At the beginning of our summer holiday our family got even bigger. First Simon and Tobias (cousins from AnnA and Eric) came from Frauenfeld to have a visit of the



city (it didn't take long until they missed the animals from their farm!). Then Fabian and Felix came from Germany. You can't imagine what disappeared daily from the fridge and ended in their stomachs. the four of them ate them up in a minute the "Spätzli" portion for nine people with butter and cheese! What shall I do when Eric gets even more hungry one day!?

But we didn't only try the tasty swiss specialities. We also went with Alison to the



Zeppelin Museum in Friedrichshafen and last but not least we really enjoyed summer by the lake at Charly's place. Everybody was tired in the evening (even those with four legs) and of course HUNGRY!

How crazy is Las Vegas?

On our way to the Yellowstone National Park we made a stopover in Las Vegas. A crazy must see place, in deed! But once is enough... at least for Tina. While Anna and Eric do not at all agree with that of course...



In Vegas we celebrate Jessica's birthday (in the pic on the left with Anna) and are fascinated to see so many people, clothes stores and the really special architecture. Everything seems sort of crazy out here! And besides we are in the middle of the desert! A "Gondoliere" is singing as if we were in Venice (Well, here it doesn't smell of moldiness. That's replaced by a decent scent of chlorine. They are crazy the Romans!

Outback

We resigned from all technics... (Koni wasn't a part of this experiment because of Siemens) while we really managed to be one week without I-Phone, I-Pad, Blog, Internet,

TV and newspaper. And we survived! At Lake Lodge in the Yellowstone Nationalpark there where a lot of creatures and warnings of them...



And on each corner there was fuming and bubbling, the Mud Pots spread a nice scent of free sulfur but there was no internet, TV or anything alike. We didn't care. We were totally exhausted in the evenings by all these incredible impressions of an amazing nature. We discussed why Javad was in the wheelchair and why there is so much poverty in the world and we all were easily falling asleep without any technical entertainment. Until the next morning when we - very early - went up for the next adventure... Meanwhile we relaxed more and more and dove into a world of wonders...

Water

Bob overcame his hydrophobia (a restored natural pond in the neighbourhood was helpful) at the water-workshop in Bülach. Bob did his work extraordinary well. The sceptical observation of Tina wouldn't even have been necessary. He didn't really look



excited but he went into the water and did what a Retriever has to do... to retrieve! Bravo Bob!

He was very successful throughout the whole year. At the retrieving-test in S-Chanf he passed the test too with the support of his holiday mum Monika. I guess if some tasty bones wouldn't have been lying directly in the searching area, then Bob would have even been more successful.

Culture & Education
The beginning of an agronomist

Eric insisted on his wish to spend some days at the farm of his - hm... coucousins (?) - near Frauenfeld. He hardly said goodbye and didn't seem to be keen on coming back home. Constructing a "Silo", keep watch over cows, cooling down by jumping in the river, playing around in the hay, feed little kittens and bring out potatoes - phantastic! Besides that there are many kids of the same



age - merely boys - and of course they are having a whole lot of fun together! And now guess what Eric wants to become?

Passive Sport

Passive Sport

Of course like every year we didn't miss the ski race at Lauberhorn and yeeeeaaaahhhhhhhjiiiiii! That was the sportive part. Definitely less sportive was the limitless drinking of some visitors (No - not from our family!).



How can it be that everything was full of puke, that the ambulance men where mostly occupied to take care of drunken people and aggressivity makes you prefer to go out of their way and say nothing. Omg.! Although, we also love to drink a glass of wine at times but there are limits! A part from the rubbish left over everywhere which I don't even want to mention.

More sport - active

More sport - active

Biking, skiing and après-ski too, first steps



with a snowboard („Mum, do you know how exhausting that is?“ - yes, mummy knows, that's why she's skiing), playing tennis, moaning at the home training TRX-machine, swim and/or sometimes a little Yoga or the five Tibetans and moving, moving... some this some that but it's a fact that we all move. Without any motivation to win something but it makes us feel alive, moves the body and frees the mind!

Of course the work with our dogs could also be called a sport, that sport to where primarily the dogs move also frees the mind and relaxes our brains!

Bikes!

Finally on the 23rd of March Eric gets his last Christmas present – a new bike. It's raining cats and dogs but he drives happy



and smiling with the bike to meet the boy scouts and now drives most of the times to school. It's amazing how fast strength and coordination get built at his age!

New Horizons

The year 2013 will definitely be an important year of changes and decisions in our biographies. Still there is little concrete but one is for sure "it moves!" everywhere around and mostly in our minds.

In our skiing holidays we saw an interesting documentation about cell communication (we are searching for an internet version since that time but cannot find any) and coincidentally at the same time we had interesting discussions on renewable energy, good jobs, ethics in management and finally during easter holiday we even found time to read the book "peace Food". We realized that old friends were thinking about the same things and again coincidentally started to find a way to alternative agronomy and realized that our children are getting older and we get more time and energy to start other projects. Future will tell us more.

Which projects should become real and stay is still open but I can tell you one little secret already... Tina will be running as candidate for the Winterthur city parliament next spring.

Benjamin's confirmation

Tina's godchild is having he's confirmation celebration! He really went through the confirmation course and all those things, he actually thought about God and the world and even decided to be part of it. We are happy and wish to see more such active young people. The church needs young, active and thinking people. Even in Rome they seem to make some changes...

We don't think its about strictly living after the words of the bible but to really consciously think about the worth and aim of them. Christianity, religion itself



and how we deal with spirituality. We had whole evening discussions about it with our friends. We didn't ever agree on everything but we found these discussions quite interesting and enriching. Honestly... Such conversations can never be enough.

Music

The Joe Cocker concert in May was definitely warmer than last year's in the rain. Music was wonderful although acoustically a little poor... What a pity! Sting in Locarno was planned but drowned in the chaos of other appointments. Next year we will organize better...!

We were very happy to see Anna sitting at the piano some times and she even accompanied Eric playing his guitar. At the birthday party of Geri (where Koni's old



band in its original formation played once again) Koni suddenly felt a little dispensible when the "Hoochie-Coochie Man" was played by his kids.

Thinking of a guitar, those two men of course had to visit the Los Angeles Guitar



Center. What came out?



Well... a picture says more than a thousand words!

Schnurpf

Apart from Koni's Music, Tina and Anna showed their creative side and Anna sewed an Elephant all by herself!



and obviously, she is very proud about!

Weather

Snow

Not only during our skiing holidays in the alps but the whole year over -cactually from the 28th of October until the last time on the 20th of April- we had a lot of snow in Winterthur. It was beautiful but also a little bit tough!

Springtime sort of didn't really happen, 'cause the awakening spring just got covered by snow again. And then summer came sort of overnight followed by a short autumn that ended on the 10th of October with the beginning of next winter. Snowfall was

forecasted while it actually was just raining cats and dogs, and of course our children had to be in their boy scouts training and the car looked like a mess afterwards.



We already thought about what that guy in our garden was doing and why animals in pairs were standing in line there...

Oh yes, the boy scouts. Saturday afternoon is always for the boy scouts. Taijou (now proudly part of the bigger girls group) and Milou spend beautiful and instructive afternoons in the forest and the city. They



learn how to read maps, how to take care of each other, how to ride the bus, they were on a barefoot hiking trail (see pic), in the autumn camp and in the Excalibur- and Santa Clause weekend... They walk and they ride by bike, meet friends in special events... It doesn't matter where those kids come from, boy scouts have their own rules and laws and that's good, it develops self-confidence and connects to mother earth.

...risks and side effects...

Spring weather wasn't really nice but I think the ticks really loved it. There were a looooot of them and while we as dog owner know how to handle them, Tina didn't think twice when the mosquito bite on her ankle didn't stop itching. Migraine attacks and sweating nights for two weeks were thought to be responsibility of a flu. Until one afternoon when she wanted to buy a new summer pants she saw that very red, hot and swollen spot on her ankle. Convinced by her husband

she decided to call the doctor. "No, no you ain't an emergency it's enough when you are here in half an hour!" and a heavy treatment with antibiotics followed which really wore her down...

There was Anna's sprained ankle too and Eric did not always aim well with the hammer in the workshop, a cold here and



then but a part from that we are all healthy throughout the year! We thank God for that and take our time in silent moments to send some strength to friends and family members who ain't that lucky. Only when you're sick you know what health is worth!

Restrospect and Forecast

We are looking forward to all what may be coming in times where things seem to be a little unsure... Once again we do not really know where the wind (or maybe even a storm) might take our boat. But we know that as a family we are connected by the big net (and web) of family and friendship ties and that we will face and master the challenges to come with courage and hopefully the necessary luck so that we will have a lot of new stories to tell next year... The TiKoWi's in the WWW!



We are happy to receive your phone calls, letters, mails and have interesting talks with you while we are looking forward to other beautiful evenings at our garden, in our

kitchen or elsewhere and wish you always and only the best for your future.

And first of all Merry Christmas with the decoration of our house and a good start into the new year and lots of energy to make all your wishes, projects and ideas come true.



Good-bye!

*Anna, Eric, Koni, Tina
together with Bob, Elio &
Nero from Winterthur*

A real BIG thank you to Yasmin who made this wonderful translation! it was big work and took her hours and hours, I suppose, but I feel, as if she understood my language very well.