

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 78 (2012)
Heft: [4]

Vorwort: Editorial
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Well, this is our third-last Helvetia. During our five years' tenure I have collected bits and pieces; whenever I thought something would make a good story for the Helvetia, in it went, into a folder - not always terribly systematic, but at least I hoped it would be somewhere in this mysterious box, my computer. Now it is high time to look through my treasure box. Some stories have become obsolete. Who wants to read about a demonstration (two years ago...) to keep the Freiberge horse breed? 'Delete' is the easy option to make space for post-Helvetia times. For other stories it is high time to make room in our last Helvetias. Here is one of these stories, instead of a proper editorial:

Golf ball philosophy

When the class began, the professor picked up a very large, empty jar and filled it with golf balls. He asked the students whether the jar was full. Yes, it was full.

The professor then picked up a box of gravel and poured it into the jar. He shook the jar lightly, and the gravel rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. Was the jar full? Yes.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course the sand filled up everything else. Was the jar full? Yes.

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the coffee into the jar. The coffee disappeared into the sand and gravel.

"Now," said the professor, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life.

The golf balls are the important things - family, children, health, friends, - things that if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full.

The gravel is the other things that matter, such as your job, your home.

The sand is everything else -

the small stuff. If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the gravel or the golf balls.

The same goes for life: If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are important.

So pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness: Play with your children, take time to get medical check-ups, spend time with your partner. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the gate. Take care of the golf balls first. Set your priorities. The rest is just gravel and sand."

The students listened to the lesson. Then one of them asked: "And what does the coffee stand for?" The professor replied: "I'm glad you asked. No matter how full your life may seem, there is always room for a cup of coffee with a friend."

Isn't this a nice story? The Helvetia has probably been a golf ball in my life over the past five years; there was always time for a cup of coffee with friends, but from July onwards, there will be room for even more cups of coffee!

Trudi

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