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News from the ZEGG

Group of Lesbos moves to the White House.

December 27, 2016



It's a good day to do an interview. Janus has just carried his last things into the house - and with that the last of the new residents has moved in. After extensive renovation, the White House (for ZEGG guests - next to the San Diego Café) has become home for a new social group in the ZEGG - the Lesbos group has found a home after 1 1/2 years. Janus, Charlotte and Ami tell me about their dreams and their reality (from left to right: Svenja, Charlotte, Artemis)

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It's an appropriate day to do an interview. Janus has just carried his last things into the house - and so the last of the new residents has moved in. After extensive renovation, the White House (for ZEGG guests - the one next to the San Diego Café) has become home to a new social group at ZEGG - the Lesbos group has found a home after 1 1/2 years. Janus, Charlotte and Ami tell me about their dreams and their reality (from left to right: Svenja, Charlotte, Artemis)

Janus: We now live here with seven people, four women sleep in two rooms and Jonathan, Marius and I sleep in one. Then there are two living rooms with other functions and three rooms are still being renovated. Actually there are eleven of us in the group. Two people are travelling for half a year, Lily lives outside ZEGG and Svenja has decided not to move in with us.

Barbara: But that you don't each have a room is planned?

Charlotte: For many of us it is clear. But we hadn't prescribed it. Ami for example wants her own room now. And that's exciting, because it raises important questions. That we want to relax at home is clear. The question is, do I need my own room? How can I relax with people, have a clear idea of when I want contact and when I don't? If we live functionally, i.e. if we have shared bedrooms and living rooms, then we create a necessity for ourselves to get that clear inside and grow. And here at ZEGG this also helps in other situations, in the restaurant for example.

Ami: I have already lived functionally in the Alte Sauna for 9 months and have already gone through certain processes with it. Right now it's simply my turn to have my own room.

Barbara And how do you do it now when someone wants a room?

Ami: I will have my own room for 2 months on a trial basis, during the time a roommate is away. After that we will look at the situation together again. Trusting that we have room for all needs and different strategies.

Barbara: How did you get together in the first place? And what connects you?

Janus: We already lived together in the main building, on the beginner's floor. The living room was called Capri. Ami: We made fun of the name a bit, it was so corny. It was in times of the Greek and refugee crisis and that's when the name Lesbos came to our minds. Again an island, but also an association with the refugees and an invitation to more sexual diversity at ZEGG. At that time, we were seasonals, beginners, FÖJs - and we built up a home group beyond the seasonals. We simply met every Wednesday evening.

Charlotte: I had a strong desire for a group that had a commitment to each other. At Easter 2015 (at the Trance Dance Event) I danced to find my tribe. So a group that is committed to living together, being creative together, raising children together. I have told some of the current Lesbos people about this. We called it Love Clan. But at first I didn't even associate the group that formed with it.

Barbara: But eventually...

Charlotte: Yes, later I realized: there he is, my Tribe.

Barbara: And what do you have in common?

Charlotte: We are all between 20 and 30 years old...

Janus: ...and we feel like going into trials together. Some of us have a background of GFK (Nonviolent Communication according to Marshall Rosenberg) or Possibility Management (by Clinton Callaghan) - that supports us. We have already learned a lot together how to think differently. And we can be together now, even if we have different opinions. In the past, there was always a dispute, for example when I talked about hierarchy, but now we are much more aware of where there is hierarchy.

Barbara: For this you also play a game again and again: the king card game.* How does that work?

Janus: I suggested it. We play it sometimes two, sometimes four days. In that time, we do what the king says. It combines absolute rule with total anarchy - there can be absolute leadership when people have an impulse and take responsibility for it - and the rule can change at any time. It's like a condensation where things become visible. The basic question is: how can you as a human being be responsible with what you want?

* The King Card Game was developed by people outside ZEGG and has been experimentally researched for years. Further information and texts here.

Barbara: Do you have certain commitments outside the game?

Ami: Not really. We meet on Wednesday evenings as a home group - but even that is not necessarily binding. It will be exciting now, when we live together completely, if we have a common intention. So far it's more like that we are mainly interested in the processes of the others. And support each other in finding our own intention...

Barbara: And how is your group related to ZEGG?

Janus For me, collaborative research at ZEGG is very important. And I want to have it more intensive, for that I need a smaller circle where more processes consciously happen, where it is denser.

Charlotte: For me the topic of free love is central - and that's where it's important to be at ZEGG. I see us as one generation in this whole. What unites us is that we are the same age as a group, which is like a shelter so that we don't trample on our dreams too early. Because often I don't have any words for my dreams - and within my generation I am understood faster.

Ami: I couldn't imagine the group without ZEGG either, without the field of ZEGG it would be harder to hold processes. I see how much we are fertilized and also how much we put into the field.

Barbara: And what do you want from ZEGG?

Janus: A central topic for young people is also the financing of the school: how can I educate myself, how can I start working here and earn money at the same time? We hope that young people can find unconventional ways to pay the rent and the starting money, because it is really hard to get everything done at the same time.

Barbara Thank you very much for your time - and your seriousness to stay on your topics.