



## **Annual report 2019**

At the beginning of the year, texts were written describing the association and translated. A graphic designer from Bern designed a flyer, as well as a new logo based on the Sethule logo and some stationery. The flyer is available, printed in German, English and French. We are quite proud of this achievement!

In March we informed all previous Swiss donors about our new association and the possibility of making donations with Swiss tax exemption. During the course of the year, board members and other supporters became active and asked friends and acquaintances to become members of the association or to donate. Within the existing Sethule website we built a webpage in German, French and English ([www.sethuletrust.org/swiss-friends-of-sethule](http://www.sethuletrust.org/swiss-friends-of-sethule)).

Towards the end of the year we sent out our first newsletter. The results obtained are rather modest, and we need to reflect about what we can improve.

For special projects we also wrote some financial support requests. We would like to thank the Däster-Schild Foundation, the Eugen & Elisabeth Schellenberg Foundation, the OeME of the Reformed Churches of Bern-Jura-Solothurn and the Parish of the Three Magi of Zurich for their generous contributions.

In the summer, Michael and Thabbeth Cotton spent as usual 5 weeks in Zimbabwe. The director Thabbeth worked intensively with the local Sethule team during this time. In her Progress Report of August 2019, she writes about successful programs and the planned new primary school. Unfortunately, she also highlights the catastrophic situation in Zimbabwe. In the project's area, as in many parts of the country, there was hardly any rain in 2018/2019. The drought is affecting 5.9 million people. Fortunately, the well in the Sethule allotment is still working. Electricity is practically only available from 22.00 - 5.00 at night. Many women have to get up at midnight to do household chores that require electricity. The economy also suffers. Companies try to continue working with generators. However, since petrol is also in short supply, many companies will have to close down. There is a lack of money, inflation is rising again. Basic foodstuffs are also becoming increasingly scarce.

Since there is a lack of liquid money, the banking system hardly functions any more. Money transfers to Zimbabwe have therefore had to be stopped. If



someone from Sethule Orphans' Trust travels to Zimbabwe then they take cash with them (which is allowed). Cash transfers via Western Union are quite expensive. Towards the end of the year, Sethule was able to register with the Western Union Business Solutions system, which significantly reduces these transfer costs. Our association supported the cost of providing this solution.

The committee met three times in 2019. Since the association was being set-up, there was a lot to discuss and organize. Christopher Blake records all addresses/donations in a database, which is an indispensable basis for our work. He submits our requests to the Sethule webmaster and takes care of the electronic mailings. Elisabeth Seeley takes care of all postal mailings, writes protocols and makes sure that the fundraising is progressing. Michael Cotton is the treasurer for our association, as well as Sethule Orphans' Trust, and has an overview of the entire financial system. I would like to thank these three, but also all other committee members for their support and help.

The first annual members' meeting took place as a small circle at Lis Seeley's home.

At the end of 2019 the association has grown to include 36 members and around 70 paying donors. Some loyal donors still transfer their contributions directly to the account of the Sethule Orphans' Trust. A total of almost 100'000 CHF has been donated to the association's account. After deduction of expenses, including transfer costs, of 5'850 CHF, we were left with about 94'000 CHF. A large part has already been transferred to Sethule Orphans' Trust or sent directly to Zimbabwe. This means that the financial situation of our modest initiative has already improved somewhat and we can plan for the future. We thank you all very, very much for your support!

Anne-Marie Saxer-Steinlin, President



Committee; Rosmarie Kunz and Michael Cotton are missing



## **Committee** (at the end of 2019)

Madeleine Bichsel, 3113 Rubigen

Esther Blake, 1854 Leysin

Christopher Blake, 1854 Leysin: Members List, Website

Michael Cotton, 1854 Leysin: Treasurer

Rosmarie Kunz, 3049 Säriswil

Anne-Marie Saxer-Steinlin, 3073 Gümligen: President

Lis Seeley, 1814 La Tour de Peilz : Secretary, Fundraising

Carol Seymour, 1854 Leysin

Melanie Whitlow, 1072 Forel

## **Director Sethule Orphans' Trust**

Thabbeth Cotton, 1854 Leysin

## **Auditor**

John MacAuslan, London

## **Information**

[www.sethuletrust.org/schweizer-freunde-von-sethule](http://www.sethuletrust.org/schweizer-freunde-von-sethule)

[www.sethuletrust.org/swiss-friends-of-sethule](http://www.sethuletrust.org/swiss-friends-of-sethule)

[www.sethuletrust.org/amis-suisses-de-sethule](http://www.sethuletrust.org/amis-suisses-de-sethule)

## **Contact (EN, FR)**

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## **Contact (DE)**

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## **Bank Details**

CH89 8044 7000 0421 5063 6

Banque Raiffeisen, 1860 Aigle,

In the name of: Amis Suisses de Sethule Orphans' Trust,



Route de Veyges 32, 1854 Leysin