



Press Release May 29, 2017

The 38th Prix schappo goes to “Centrepoint Basel”

For over 20 years volunteers from Centrepoint Basel make an important contribution to integration. Now they are awarded with a schappo. Centrepoint is an intercultural meeting place for the local and foreign community. The organization facilitates wide-ranging and versatile programs for about 900 members from over 50 nations. From conversation groups to Swiss culture and history, to concrete support for everyday Swiss life, newcomers in Canton Basel-Stadt find everything to feel comfortable in this town and neighborhood.

The schappo commission has chosen the Verein Centrepoint as the next prize winner. It was especially convinced that thanks to the personal engagement of the 130 volunteers, international English speaking persons regardless of age, nationality and income feel more at home in our region. Effective integration into the local community is paramount for Centrepoint. At its core is mutual support and exchange of valuable information helping everyone get acclimated successfully in the new environment. This also eases access to the working environment, enhances the quality of life in Basel and opens venues for joy and friendship in the new home country.

Each week Centrepoint offers 36 hours of language conversation in seven different languages. Newcomers can make their first contacts at the weekly coffee morning or monthly apéro, when they will be introduced to the club activities. Each year up to ten cultural events are organized in Basel and Switzerland. Furthermore it offers activities for more than 15 interest groups, for example photography, painting, reading and hiking. The monthly magazine “Horizon” informs about local happenings, politics and culture. *“Centrepoint fosters the networking of English-speaking people with each other and with local residents, thus supporting integration in Basel. For this we say thank you and schappo”,* says Rahel Heeg, member of the schappo commission.

“Centrepoint Basel” celebrates this recognition and invites the public for an Open House Im Lohnhof 8 on **June 2 or June 9 between 10:30 and 12:30.**

The public award ceremony and apéro with city president Elisabeth Ackermann will take place **Wednesday May 31, 2017 at 17:00** in Theater Fauteuil.

Two times a year canton Basel-Stadt awards the prize schappo to people who engage themselves in voluntary work to create an attractive environment for residents of the city. The prize is not endowed.

Complementary to the Prix schappo there exists the project “schappo is...”. The public is invited to write a narrative about a person to whom they would tip their hat. This person who engages in voluntary work receives a schappo pin as recognition and their story will be published online. These tributes can be written and gleaned online, www.schappo.ch.

Weitere Auskünfte

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