

April 2019 HC Newsletter:

Dear Friends of Austria!

Europawahl:

Beginning of May, the absentee ballots for the Elections for the European Parliament will be sent out. Please return these immediately as they have to be at your respective election office in Austria no later than May 26. That is also the day when the elections are held in Austria.

Here is a short overview of the parties participating:

Austrian Party	Is Member of European Party (current # of seats in EU Parliament out of the 751)	Current # of seats in European Parliament	leading candidate
SPÖ (Sozialdemokratische Partei Österreichs)	S&D (186)	5	Andreas Schieder
ÖVP (Österreichische Volkspartei)	EPP (217)	5	Othmas Karras
FPÖ (Freiheitliche Partei Österreichs)	ENF (28)	4	Harald Vilimsky
GRÜNE (die Grünen)	EGP (52)	3	Werner Kogler
NEOS (Das Neue Europa)	ALDE (68)	1	Claudia Gamon
KPÖ	EL -	-	Katerina Anastasiou
EUROPA JETZT – Initiative Johannes Voggenhuber	?? -	-	Johannes Voggenhuber

S&D: (Party of European Socialists and Democrats) including 33 social democratic and socialist parties as well as labor parties from all EU member states.

EPP: (European People's Party) joining together Christian social democrats, liberal conservatives, national conservatives and right populist member parties. Currently (since 1999) EPP has the most members in the EU parliament.

ENF: (Europe for Nations and Freedom). Leading parties are French Rassemblement National (RN – previously Marie LePen's Front National), Austria's Freedom Party and the Italian Lega Nord (led by Matteo Salvini). ENF is skeptical towards the EU and any form of globalization, demanding the end of the EURO and a return to national currencies, national authority over immigration and finances, and a closer relationship of the EU with Russia.

EGP: (European Green Party): including 39 green parties from 34 European countries. EGP forms a coalition with the European Free Alliance.

ALDE: (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, joining centrist European Democratic Party): combining liberal member parties from all over Europe.

EUROPA Jetzt: Leading candidate Voggenhuber announced to join the Green Faction

EL: (European Left): 25 European member parties from the very left spectrum joined, demanding alternatives to capitalism and actions against growing militarism.

Reminder: If you are not yet registered in your respective "Wählerevidenz", you can do this ANYTIME; and by choosing the "10- Jahres Wahl-ABO" you will stay registered for the next 10 years - to be prepared for the next upcoming elections in Austria! It is too late for the Europawahl though. For information see:

<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/reise-aufenthalt/leben-im-ausland/wahlen/waehlerevidenz/>

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE SEATTLE AREA:



Saturday, May 4: 1-5 pm, Kenmore Community Hall, organized by the Austria Club (www.austriacubwa.org). Bring your whole family and join the fun with “Happy Hans” and the Enzian Schuhplattler! See attached invitation for more information. Tickets at: <https://maifest2019.brownpapertickets.com> or contact Rosie Mulholland mulho@comcast.net.



AUSTRIAN - Österreichischer – Stammtisch

Next meet-up: **Friday, May 17, 2019, 7pm**, Beach Café, 1170 Carillon Point, Kirkland.

<https://www.meetup.com/Austrian-Stammtisch-and-Events>. Check it out, join a fun group of Austrians, feel free to speak in your special dialect, just enjoy feeling (almost) at home. For more info contact Jürgen Schatzer, juergenschatzer@gmail.com. This meet-up is complementing the efforts and activities of the Austria Club.

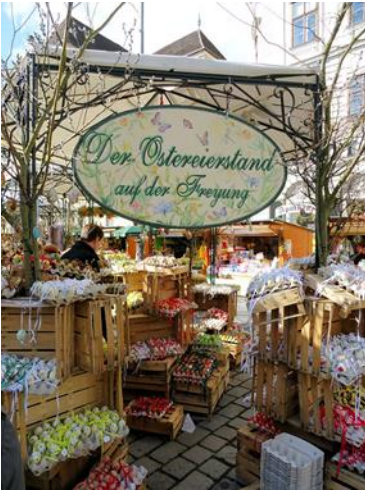


Saturday, May 18, 2019: ABC School Open House; www.ABCGermanSchool.com; for information on this German Language preschool/kindergarten on the East side, please contact principal Nadja Penry: nadja@abcgermanschool.com



May 16 – June 9, 2019: at this festival of international movies there will be several German Language movies screened, among them the Austrian movie: **The Ground Beneath My Feet (*Der Boden unter den Füßen*)**, directed by Marie Kreutzer. In this 2019 Austrian psychodrama, a workaholic business consultant, her life already complicated by caring for her paranoid-schizophrenic half-sister (and her affair with her boss), begins to feel her own mental state destabilizing. It was selected to compete for the Golden Bear at the 69th Berlin International Film Festival. The full schedule will be released on May 1. <https://www.siff.net/>

NEWS FROM AND ABOUT AUSTRIA:



Eastermarkets: 1639 was the opening of the first „Fastenmarkt“ (market for the fasting) established in Hernals in Vienna, with the Emperor in presence. Originally soups for the pilgrims were served, it soon developed into the first Eastermarket of the city. Today, the oldest Eastermarket in Vienna is the one at the Freyung.

April 3: NATO 70th anniversary of most important and successful alliance providing security, peace and prosperity for more than 1 billion people. Austria is not a member of NATO, as is bound to neutrality by the 1955 Austrian State Treaty and its constitution, which prohibits entry into military alliances and the establishment of foreign military bases on Austrian territory.



April 7: Over 42,000 jogger participated in the **Vienna City Marathon**.



April 18: Three celebrated Mountaineers, two Austrians from Tyrol together with a climber from Spokane, WA, died in an avalanche on their return from the climb of the very remote and exposed east face of Howse Peak, 10,810 feet tall, near Banff, Canada:

David Lama is the son of a Nepali mountain guide and an Austrian nurse. He began climbing at the age of 5 and was widely recognized for his skill since he was a teenager.

Hansjörg Auer born in 1984, was a mathematics and sports teacher at a secondary school until 2009 when he became a professional climber. In 2016, he received the Paul Preuss Prize, an award for outstanding mountaineers who climb without the help of ropes or other aids.

Jess Roskelley is the son of John Roskelley, a well-known mountaineer and author. In 2003, when the younger Roskelley was 20, father and son climbed Mount Everest. The son was believed to be the youngest American to have done so at that time.

We mourn together with the families, friends and loved ones of the mountaineers.



This year we will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the **Vienna International Centre**.

According to media reports, the **IMF International Monetary Fund** will move to Vienna in June, while the **World Bank Group** will double the staff and size of its Vienna office. Focus in Vienna will be on Central and Eastern Europe, and the Western Balkans.

Enjoy the beautiful colors nature is showing off!
Herzlichst,

Eva Kammel
Honorary Consulate of Austria

Attachment: Maifest