

February 2019 Newsletter- Honorary Consulate of Austria

Dear Friends of Austria!



As Seattle turned into a Winter Resort the last couple of days, I was looking out for a warming hut to get a Glühwein after cross country skiing on the Burke Gilman Trail, like the Kathi Alm in Goldegg near Salzburg 😊



Every 5 years elections for the European Parliament (**Europawahl**) are held. As member of the European Union, Austria has the right to be represented by elected Representatives in the European Parliament. The representatives sent by each member nation will shape the policies introduced by the European Parliament and the future path of the European Union. Austria will hold 19 seats out of 705 total (assuming the Brexit will take place before the elections). The upcoming **Europawahl** will be held in Austria on **Sunday, May 26, 2019**.

You are eligible to participate in the **Europawahl** (active voting right) if you are

- At least 16 years old on the day of the election
- Are Austrian Citizen and eligible to vote, and
- Registered in the "Wählerevidenz" for the **Europawahl** latest on **March 12, 2019**

If you have already registered and applied for the 10- year Abo for both, the Austrian national elections AND the **Europawahl**, then no extra steps are necessary. The absentee ballots will be sent to you automatically. Please make sure that your current address is on file. Also, you will be informed automatically 3 months before the 10-year abo nears the end.

You can submit the application and supporting materials per mail, fax or email with scanned attachment directly to the "Gemeinde" with your established connection to Austria (please see "Fill-Out Help" attachment), most of the times the "Gemeinde" where you had your last "Hauptwohnsitz" (main residency).

You can register for the Wählerevidenz ANY time to be eligible for upcoming elections in Austria and the **Europawahl**. To participate in the **Europawahl** the cut off day is **March 12, 2019**.

For more information and forms to download:

https://www.bmi.gv.at/412/Informationen_fuer_Auslandsoesterreicher_innen.aspx

<https://www.bmi.gv.at/412/Europawahlen/>

<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/reise-aufenthalt/leben-im-ausland/wahlen/europawahl-2019/>

Upcoming events:

February 15-17:

German Language Movie from Germany: "THE INVISIBLES"

SIFF Film Center is bringing back a huge success from last year's KINOFEST Seattle. For more information: <https://www.siff.net/year-round-cinema/the-invisibles>



19th Viennese Ball: Saturday, March 2, 2019; 5:30pm - midnight

Only 2 more weeks to this very special event, bringing the 200 year old tradition from Vienna to Seattle. This annual social highlight organized by the Austria Club of WA and held at the Nile Country Club in Mountlake Terrace, offers an elegant evening including delicious dinner, dance and voice performances, polonaise, quadrille, and of course dancing to live music until midnight! Do you want to brush up on your dance steps? From 4-5 pm just before the event, a complimentary dance lesson is offered led by the USA Dance Team.

Again, this year, the City of Vienna is sponsoring the event and provides traditional "Damenspenden" (gift for the ladies):

"The Viennese Ball in Seattle is a special greeting from Vienna, the city on the Danube, to Seattle, the city of culture and joy of life. I wish the organizers every possible success and all guests an unforgettable evening. I hope you will have a good time waltzing the night away."



Michael Ludwig
Mayor and Governor of Vienna

Get your tickets now! Available at: <https://vienneseball2019.brownpapertickets.com/>. For more information see www.austriacubwa.com and attached flyer.



10th International Children's Friendship Festival: April 6-7, 2019

For the 5th year we will host an Austria table at this kid's friendly event promoting peace and friendship among children. It is a fun event for children all ages! <http://childrensfest.tacawa.org/> . We hope to attract many young visitors to our booth to share with them traditions and information about Austria.

Volunteers are needed! If you and your child/grandchild want to take a shift (from 11am- 5pm) at our table on Saturday, 4/6, please let me know! If we get enough volunteers we can also host on Sunday, but let's first secure the Saturday.

Mark your calendar for this very special event on Monday, April 15, 2019:

STG Presents at the Paramount Theater

Silent Movie Mondays: *THE CITY WITHOUT JEWS/DIE STADT OHNE JUDEN* (1924)

Special presentation with Music of Remembrance

<https://www.stgpresents.org/tickets/by-month/event/2606/->

THE CITY WITHOUT JEWS/DIE STADT OHNE JUDEN (1924), directed by H.K. Breslauer, is based on the dystopian novel of the same title by Jewish author Hugo Bettauer. Hans Moser is playing a main character. This Austrian Expressionist film predicted the rise of Nazism, with Jews attacked and forced to leave their homes. Shortly after the premier of the film in 1924, the author was murdered by a member of the Nazi Party. The film was believed to have been lost for decades. After being rediscovered in a Paris flea market in 2015, it has been restored and returned to the cinema screen. The Austrian Film Archive is now the custodian of this special film.

Commissioned score is by German composer Günter A. Buchwald, who will also conduct and perform with an ensemble from the Seattle based non-profit organization, Music of Remembrance.

Nikolaus Wostry, Deputy Director of Filmarchiv Austria, will be flying in especially for this event and introduce the film. A CineClub discussion on The Paramount stage, with representatives from local Jewish organizations, will immediately follow the film.

Please stay tuned for special announcements regarding this screening.

News From and About Austria:

January 31: The Austrian Film Price was awarded to the movie directed by Christina Froschs Murer: "Anatomie eines Prozesses" (Anatomy of a Trial"), dramatizing the shameful acquittal of the NS criminal Franz Murer in 1963. From Producer Mathias Forberg's Thanks you speech: "we are thankful for the Academy to award a movie that shows where a country threatens to drift towards if the law has to follow politics and not the politics the law". Ruth Beckerman's documentary movie "**Waldheim's Walzer**" (Waldheim's Waltz) was also honored.

February 1: Austria is regretting the US-decision to withdraw from **INF treaty** (Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty), which was a milestone towards the end of the Cold War. Foreign Minister Karin Kneissl: "Pacta Sunt Servanda" (agreements must be kept). Hope is that US and Russia will intensify dialogue to re-establish trust.

February 4: Austria acknowledges Juan Guaido as **President ad interim of Venezuela** - to bring the country to free, fair and democratic presidential elections, in accordance with its constitution.



February 16: 100 years of voting right for women in Austria! First election where women were eligible to vote: Feb 16, 1919

February 20: Chancellor Sebastian Kurz will visit President Trump at the White House. **Official WH statement:** On February 20, 2019, President Donald J. Trump will welcome Chancellor Sebastian Kurz of the Republic of Austria, Europe's youngest head of government, to the White House. The President and the Chancellor look forward to

revitalizing the bilateral relationship between the United States and Austria, and exploring new avenues for transatlantic cooperation. Together, the United States and Austria will look to address both global conflicts and those in the European neighborhood, promote economic prosperity, and strengthen energy security. The two leaders will meet for a private conversation, followed by an expanded bilateral meeting.



Austrian's President Alexander VanDerBellen takes the subway to work: "A developed country is not where the poor have cars, but the rich take public transportation" (Gustavo Petro).



Café Bräunerhof in Vienna is best known for being the preferred café of the famous Austrian writer **Thomas Bernhard**, whose birthday would be Feb 9 (1931) and who died Feb 12, 1984. It is still a great place to enjoy a **Melange**, read newspapers or listen to live music on Saturdays.

Did you know that **organic farming area** made up 7% of total EU agricultural land in 2017? Highest share recorded in Austria (23.4%), lowest in Malta (0.4%)

Austria is ranking 5th among the EU member states (behind Sweden, Finland, Latvia and Denmark) for its share of **energy from renewable sources** with 32 % of gross final energy consumption, just shy of the 2020 target of 35%.

Check out the offerings and event organized by the **GOETHE POP-UP** on Capitol Hill in Seattle: **info-seattle@goethe.de**

Wishing you all a



Herzlichst,
Eva Kammel
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