

Dear Friends of Austria!

Winter! Skiseason! Longing for "Wedeln" in deep powder snow?



Guess, where this Photo was taken? - See answer at the end of the Newsletter!

With the "Silvesterball" (New Years Eve Ball) the Ball Season started in Vienna and is in full swing by now. Here in Seattle we carry on this tradition with the annual Viennese Ball!



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

This cherished tradition to let music be a tool of diplomacy, to bring people together, and to forget the problems surrounding us for a couple of hours, dates back over 200 years. The 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 by the USA Dance Team.

Again, this year, the City of Vienna is sponsoring the event and provides traditional "Damenspenden" (gift for the ladies) with a special greeting from Vienna's Major Michael Ludwig:

"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 of Vienna

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



Membership Meeting Austria Club: February 24, 2019:

The Austria Club of WA is doing an amazing job for all "Friends of Austria" here in the Pacific Northwest, providing a platform where Friends of Austria can come together, organize attractive events carrying on traditions and also bringing information to the community. A heartfelt **DANKE** to the Club's president, Rosie Mulholland, the heart and soul of the club, and to all the board and committee members, and volunteers who keep the club going. It is in all our interest to support the Club and all the volunteers who make this Club happen. The upcoming membership meeting is the opportunity that every member can weigh in, help elect new faces for the vacant board positions, and most important to step forward and offer to volunteer yourself! The Club needs you, the Austrian Community needs you! Thank you! For information, please contact Rosie Mulholland: mulho@comcast.net

News From and about Austria:



On Jan 1, 2019, Romania took over the EU Council Presidency from Austria. Austrian Federal Chancellor Sebastian Kurz met with Romanian President Klaus Iohannis and Prime Minister Viorica Dancila for a symbolic EU Council handover. During Austria's Presidency of the EU Council major progress was made on securing the EU's external borders, reduction of illegal migration to Europe, internal security, the Banking Package, delivering on the Paris Agreement by adopting strong decarbonization measures, and keeping the EU-27 united.



Did you know that the "**Radetzky March**" is Austria's favorite clap-along song? The piece is always played to end the New Year's Day concert by the Vienna Philharmonic with the audience encouraged (!) to applaud the arrival of another year.



Jan. 10: **Record amount of snow** has fallen in Austria and southern Germany, cutting off some Alpine villages and ski resorts for several days. Once-in-a-generation heavy snowfall has paralyzed travel and tourism in parts of the Alps, with conditions that have left several people dead. Heavy snowfall and strong winds worsened the situation, bringing additional 20 inches, or 50 centimeters, of snow over 24 hours to parts of the Alps that have already seen as much as 10 feet (3m) over the past week. Avalanche danger was at the highest level.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/10/world/europe/alps-austria-germany-snow.html>

World Economic Forum Davos: Jan 22- 25: Chancellor Sebastian Kurz met with CEOs of Apple, Facebook and Uber to discuss the digital future, digital taxation, and the role of social media in politics. "We all have a responsibility to counter political polarization online and offline". The spotlight though was on a 16-year-old Swedish student, Greta Thunberg, who traveled 30h by train to raise awareness to the perils of climate change. Her statement, directed to the adult generation of VIPs: "I don't need your hope. I want you to panic, that you feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act as if the house is burning. Because it is.", caused silence among the audience.

ING Innovation Index: Austria among the most innovative countries in the Eurozone!

<https://investinaustria.at/en/news/2019/01/innovation-index.php> . Austria ranks high in European comparison when it comes to innovative strength, in particular thanks to investments in research and development and the individual strengths of the nine federal states which complement each other well. Austria is rated fifth in terms of its innovativeness. Ireland, Finland, Luxembourg and Netherlands are ranked as the top four. Germany placed eighth. The ING Innovation Index analyzes and assesses the current level of innovative strength of the 19 countries in the Eurozone on the basis of nine indicators. Austria's good ranking is mainly driven by its investments in research and development. In relation to its gross domestic product, Austria invests the most in R&D among the Eurozone countries. Austria also scores high with respect to patent applications and the potential of its youth.



This year, **UN Vienna** will mark 40 years of working to make a difference in the lives of people around the world!

Jan 27: **Holocaust Memorial Day**: hear from Austrian-born survivors & witnesses: <http://weitererzaehlen.at>, launched by Austria's Minister for education Heinz Fassmann. It holds digital records from Yale's library Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies & the Holocaust Museum. "It does not start with a concentration camp, it starts with hate".

Sports:



Austria Ski Team is performing great! Members of the women's and men's team are scoring victories at Alpine Ski World Cup races in many disciplines. Nicole Schmidhofer from Styria (in the photo on the right, together with Ramona Siebenhofer in Cortina), just won today (Jan 26) her first Super G world cup race in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, and Marcel Hirscher is leading the overall standing. Wishing the Austria Ski Team good luck for all races still to come!



Andreas Ivanschitz, whom we could cheer on also during his time with the Seattle Sounders, ends formally his professional soccer carrier. Wishing him all the best for the next adventure!

<https://derstandard.at/2000093398895/Ivanschitz-Der-Fussball-laesst-sich-nicht-mehr-ausquetschen>

Although there are a host of competing brands, Austria's **Fischer Ski** outfitted the most medal-winners overall at the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Games. "Fischer Ski Factory: NYT Article:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/28/sports/skiing/from-tree-to-ski-at-the-fischer-family-factory.html>;

News from the Community:



Jan 30: SAGA School, providing German immersion education, offering pre-school, elementary school, afterschool programs, Spring and Summer camps, holds its **Open House** (6pm -7:30pm): <http://www.sagaschool.org/>



Yodel School led by Manuela Horn, the Yodel Queen from Austria! <https://www.yodelschool.com/>. Learn how to "Juchizer", alp shouting and to yodel. Yodeling brings happiness! This beautiful singing art form will always bring a smile on your face and others.



Seattle Goethe Pop-up : <https://www.goethe.de/ins/us/en/sta/gps.html> This institute located in downtown Seattle on Capitol Hill is a tribute to the “Deutschlandjahr in USA”. It is a welcoming meeting place and helpful source for German Language, literature, authors readings, events, etc. Sign up for their newsletter to stay informed!

Correction Newsletter 12/2018: thank you for reading it carefully!

Mark Twain was born Nov 30, 1835; and he stayed in Vienna/ Kaltenleutgeben 1897-1899.

ORF TVThek: <https://tvthek.orf.at/>; only selected broadcasts can be viewed outside of Austria, among them the newscast “Zeit im Bild”.

Answer to Photo Quiz Question: Lech am Arlberg in the Austrian Alps

Herzlichst

Eva Kammel

Honorary Consul of Austria in Seattle

Attachment: Invitation Viennese Ball