

Dear Friends of Austria!

We just passed summer solstice with 16 hours daylight, and the beginning of summer. The weather forecast calls for a heat wave not only in Central Europe but also above average temperatures and below normal precipitation in the Pacific North West.

NEWS FROM AUSTRIA:



June 3: Austria's President Van der Bellen swore in the new government: Chancellor Brigitte Bierlein chose 6 men and 6 women to lead the various departments based on their expertise in the respective fields. The Austrian Constitution turned out to be strong and prepared to withstand also such severe challenges as triggered by the collapse of the elected government. The way towards dialog and cooperation is now paved, at least until new elections can take place. This constellation of a non-political appointed government enables a colorful, refreshing variety of alliances in the parliament addressing and suggesting various proposals and laws.

The date for the new elections: Sunday, September 29, 2019.

If you are an Austrian Citizen and older than 16 years and have not done so yet, **please register to vote** ASAP. You can do this any time. It takes only a few minutes! Remember, if you check the "10-year Abo", you will be registered and the absentee ballots will be sent to you automatically for the next 10 years. For more information and links:

<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/gk-los-angeles/service-fuer-buergerinnen/wahlen/>



June 1989: The **demolition of border fences** between **Austria and Hungary** provided powerful photos signaling the end of the separation of Europe. 30 years ago, then Austria's Foreign Minister Alois Mock and his Hungarian counterpart Gyula Horn symbolically cut through the wire barbed fence separating Austria and Hungary. This opening of a "green" border started the end of travel restriction to the democratic West not only for Hungarians but also for citizens of other Soviet controlled Eastern European countries. In September that year the Hungarian border controls opened officially the border to Austria also for citizens of the DDR (Eastern Germany). It is said that this opening symbolized the first stone crumbling from the Berlin Wall, that finally came down later that year, on November 9, 1989.



Green Vienna: A study from Britain's comparethemarket.com has ranked Vienna as No. 1 among Europe's capitals on ten green factors: Air Pollution, Water Quality, CO2 Emissions, Public Transport, Congestion, Cycle Paths, Green Spaces, Quality of Life, Hours Spent in Traffic, and European Green Capital Awards. Vienna's green space has grown over the past decade to make up 53 % of its overall area. The report noted the number of people using public transport, the quality of its water and the high quality of life as important considerations in its decision.



The **Union for Private Employees** in Austria reported violations, inadequate working conditions, and undeserved firings at the Austrian **Amazon** distribution Center in Grossebersdorf, Lower Austria. These accusations are contested by Amazon. The Ministry of Social Affairs is now looking into these complaints.



June 8: After defeating #1 Novak Djokovic in a most thrilling match, Austria's tennis star **Dominic Thiem** reached for the second time the Grand Slam-Final in Paris. He had to confront again Rafael Nadal and lost in 4 sets. For Nadal it is the 12th triumph, for Thiem the second defeat in the final game against Nadal.



June 20: Christoph Strasser, 36, Austrian ultra-cyclist, is record holder and won for the 6th time the **Race Across America**. It took Strasser 8 days, 6h and 51 min to finish this most challenging bike race competition spanning over 3,000 miles from Oceanside, CA to Annapolis, MD.

Donnerstag



21° | 34°

Western and Central Europe are bracing for a **record hot summer**. Already by June temperatures above 32° C (= 90F) for several consecutive days are becoming the new normal. As only a few households are equipped with air conditioners this expected extreme heat wave will be especially hard on the elderly and sick population.



June 6: the EU Report on "**Bodies of Water Open for Recreation**" attests Austrians lakes very good grades and ranks them on 3rd place. The quality of 975 Swimming facilities are declared „excellent“. This is especially comforting in the light of the expected heat wave this summer!

UPCOMING EVENTS IN SEATTLE REGION:



Saturday, June 29, 3pm, at the Seward Park, Shelter +#5 (Austrian Flag!); 5900 Lake Washington Blvd S - Seattle

Es wird eine Grillerei!!! Wir freuen uns schon sehr auf das Zusammentreffen am Samstag!

Kosten: \$ 10/Person - Kinder frei

For more information: contact Jürgen Schatzer : juergenschatzer@gmail.com or visit the meet-up site:
<https://www.meetup.com/Austrian-Stammtisch-and-Events/events/260453870/>

Exhibition: Lest we Forget:

LEST WE FORGET is a remembrance project by the German-Italian photographer and filmmaker Luigi Toscano. For the project, Toscano visited almost 300 Holocaust survivors in the United States, Germany, Austria, Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Belarus, and the Netherlands to collect their stories and to take their portrait photographs. These portraits are at the center of the unique photographic installation, LEST WE FORGET, which urges its audience to confront the past in order to ensure that nothing like this ever happens again.

An installation in Seattle is currently being developed and forthcoming. Portraits of survivors from the Seattle area will be on public display during the summer months. Please stay tuned about the exact days and location.

The Honorary Consulate will be in session during July, so please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance. Let's soak in summer and get prepared for the hot days!

Herzlichst,