

## HC Newsletter June 2020 Final

Dear Friends of Austria!

We here in the Pacific Northwest are still struggling to keep the Corona virus in check but can enjoy now at least a few improvements in our daily lives. Very different is the situation in Europe as most of the EU Area including Austria, by now reopened with only a few restrictions in place.

### Travel outlook for the summer:

There is still a lot of uncertainty for many of us as we were planning on visiting or hosting visitors from Austria over the summer. Beginning of July new guidelines for International travel between US and EU countries will be announced. EU countries are trying to limit the entry to only citizen of those countries that show a promising, downward trend of Covid-19 cases. Therefore, an extension of the travel ban for US citizens, at least for short time visits, is expected. This would lead of course, to an only limited flight service between the 2 continents. Please stay tuned for the latest announcement coming out soon.

In addition to the existing travel ban for EU citizens to visit the USA, the US government decided on a stop of issuing any kind of visa including for EU citizens at least until the end of the year. This is a special hardship for Austrian researchers, high tech workers, au-pairs, and many more who already planned to work or engage in research here in the USA beginning this fall.

### The Honorary Consulate of Austria in Seattle is open again for appointments!



**NEW: Passport Service for adults (with fingerprints) at the Honorary Consulate of Austria in Seattle has started!**

For required documents, forms to download, etc., please check the website of the Consulate General in Los Angeles: [www.austria-la.org](http://www.austria-la.org) -> Service fuer BuergerInnen -> Dokumente -> Passport: <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/gk-los-angeles/service-fuer-buergerinnen/ausweise-dokumente/reisepass/>

For scheduling an appointment in Seattle and information: [office@austrianconsulateseattle.org](mailto:office@austrianconsulateseattle.org) or Tel: 425 395 4382.

The HC of Austria adheres to the WA State Covid-19 requirements and asks for cooperation to **follow these recommendations** for all appointments

- meetings by appointment only
- guest signs a release that he/she has no fever or other Covid-19 related symptoms.
- preparation as complete as possible before the meeting via email, filled out but not signed yet forms, necessary documents, etc. so that these can be checked and completed beforehand.
- meetings take place outside on the covered terrace in front of the Honorary Consulate. The working table has an easy to clean surface, a sneeze guard separates the guest and the HC.
- Guest and HC wear face masks (will be provided if necessary)
- hand sanitizer will be provided
- cleaning after each visit

**!! THANK YOU!! DANKE!!**

## NEWS FROM AND ABOUT AUSTRIA



**June 4:** The *Black Lives Matter* movement made its way to Vienna. More than 50.000 people demonstrated peacefully in the Vienna Inner City. Unfortunately, racism is an issue that transcends borders. It must concern us all!



**June 5:** As a stark sign of the comeback of the musical scene, the **Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra** performed for the first time after the Corona shut down at the Wiener Musikverein, after negative tests of all orchestra members: Mozart Piano concerto and Beethoven's 5<sup>th</sup> symphony brought joy to a live audience of only 100 people (full capacity: 2,000) and full broadcast on TV for everyone.

**fulbrightaustria**

Full  
of bright  
minds.

**June 6:** On June 6, 1950, Senator Fulbright observed the signing of an exchange agreement between Austria and the US. 70 years later, **Fulbright Austria** is still committed to facilitating educational and cultural exchanges between Austria and the US. Through this program over 6000 Austrian and US students, teaching assistants, researchers, specialists, and artists could participate in these intercultural opportunities. Every school year several hundred US Teaching Assistants help as native speakers to improve the English language program in Austrian secondary schools.



**June 8:** **Vienna State Opera** and other theaters and concert halls start staging performances at their houses! Still with limited productions and audiences, in preparation for full capacity for the fall season. Ticket sale for the fall season has already started.



**June 13: Regenbogentag:** The Vienna City Hall will be decorated in rainbow colors to show solidarity with the LGBTIQ community and citizens are invited to join in by decorating their windows and balconies also in rainbow colors: "Fensterparade"



**June 15:** End of closed borders within Europe. Travel within Europe (almost) without restrictions resumes.



**June 15:** The **Austrian Airlines** crews greeted the guests of the first flight with applause. Together with the Austrian government and the owner Lufthansa, business partners and employees, agreement on a package of rescue measures could be achieved to ensure the continued existence of Austrian Airlines and enabled AUA to fly again starting June 15.



**June 22:** Ground-breaking ceremony for the ***Shoah Wall of Names Memorial*** in Vienna's Ostarrichi Park, a central space located adjacent to the Campus of the University of Vienna and the Austrian National Bank: It will carry the names of all 64,259 Austrian Jews who fell victim to the NS regime, showing that they were not numbers, but human beings with individual identities, hopes and dreams. We shall not forget a single one of their names!

**June 23:** Efforts by the Austrian Government for **Restarting Nuclear Arms** talks, giving Russia and US a chance to hold nuclear arms talks, despite pandemic, and following a long history of Vienna as place where East meets West.

**June 23:** Austria joins 66 other countries to reconfirm its unwavering support to the **International Criminal Court** as an independent and impartial judicial institution, undeterred by any threats or measures against the ICC, its officials and those cooperating with it.



**Summer in Vienna:** the city plans over 800 events with over 2,000 artists and 25 locations throughout the city to revive the cultural scene. The number of permitted audiences ranges from 500 -100 depending on the size of the event location to conform with the covid-19 guidelines.



To better deal with the to be expected heat the city is also introducing car free “**coole Strassen**”, where additional seating, play areas, and cold spray air will be installed, to become something like a “outside living room” (Wohnzimmer im Freien)



Another record for the City of Vienna: **266 international companies** set up shop in the Austrian capital last year and that interest is reciprocated by the city. After all, the arrival of newcomers accounted for 731 million Euros in investment last year compared to 231 million Euros in 2018, a more than three-fold increase. With such benefits, Vienna is happy to help such companies establish themselves through the international experts of its Wirtschaftsagentur Wien (Vienna Business Agency).



### From Waste to Watts

Wastewater treatment plants normally belong to a municipality’s greatest users of energy – but that’s about to change in Vienna. More than 6,000 liters of wastewater flow into the city's main treatment plant per second, only to enter the Danube 20 hours later without influencing the river's water quality. The plant now uses about 60 GWh of electricity annually - nearly 1 percent of the city's total energy needs. But efficient use of the energy contained in sewage will result in enough production of sewage gas to make it self-sufficient in its power needs as of this year. The advantages go beyond savings in energy. The change is expected to result in a 40-ton drop of CO2 emissions in 2021, the project's first full year of operation. That's a significant improvement in the city's climate balance, underscoring not only its claim to the title of Smart City but one that sets the example in good climate policies.

**News from the Science world:**



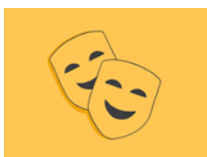
Strategic planning for the future of the **Large Hadron Collider (LHD) at CERN in Geneva, Switzerland**: Today's largest nuclear accelerator has a length of 27 km (17mi) and produces a collision energy of 14 Tera eV. Its successor, now planned for opening after 2040, if approved, will have a length of 100km (60 mi) and a collision energy of 14 Tera eV. It will be used to continue the study of the Higgs particles and produce and analyze collision particles of higher energy. Both approaches should open a window into the understanding beyond the so-called standard model of particle physics, questions surrounding dark matter or hints to super symmetry. Austria's participation in the European Nuclear Research Institute in the Geneva program administered by the EU is 2.16%.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:



**Monday, June 29, 7:30 pm: virtual „SPIELABEND“** : Zsamm kuma tuan ma - und gemeinsam spielen. Bring ein Spiel mit - das wir gemeinsam spielen können via zoom.

For more information check out the Meet-up <https://www.meetup.com/Austrian-Stammtisch-and-Events/events/270825433/> or contact Elana Sabajon: [youcan@askelana.com](mailto:youcan@askelana.com)



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**Friday, July 24, 7pm: Wiederholung – Kabarett Abend:**

Thanks to the Austrian American Society in Oregon we have the opportunity to enjoy Austrian cabaret and humor. We will dedicate the next Stammtisch to talk and laugh about these sketches and enjoy our “zoomy” company.

Link for playlist: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvk2lr11cyldmb9yiQOu6dDuokJ7qqGmV>

link for Meet-up: <https://www.meetup.com/Austrian-Stammtisch-and-Events/events/271249109/>

Further info: Elana Sabajon: [youcan@askelana.com](mailto:youcan@askelana.com)



**Austrian Films.Com (AFC)** launched a new B2C (business to consumer) platform: Red carpets rolled up, movie theatres in darkness! AFC has used these weeks of involuntary stasis to develop a new platform, aiming directly at the end user, the general public. <https://mailchi.mp/2f08ba925761/austrian-films-tiff-4034865?e=5a868d89d0>

**ALL YOU CAN WATCH** offers access to around 600 Austrian feature films and documentaries. Watch Austrian Films online! <https://watch.austrianfilms.com/page/all-you-can-watch>



**ABC German Language School in Bellevue:** <https://abcgermanschool.com/> offers summer programs for children age 3-10, and German language courses for children and adults, *see attachments*.

Wishing you a lot of summer sun and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Herzlichst,

Eva Kammel  
Honorary Consul of Austria in Seattle

Attachment:  
ABC school flyer