**November 2020 HC Newsletter – Draft**

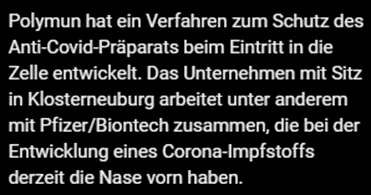
Dear Friends of Austria!

 “Advent , Advent, ein Lichtlein brennt…..” hard to believe, the Holiday Season is here! Hope you had a relaxing Thanksgiving, although probably missing your family around you. Let’s continue to adhere to the health guidelines and cross our fingers that the situation will approve somewhat for the upcoming Holiday Season!

**NEWS FROM AND ABOUT AUSTRIA**

 **November 2:** The horrific terror attack in the inner city of Vienna that left 4 + suspect dead and 23 insured shocked people in and outside of peaceful Austria. The suspect was a young, radicalized Austrian/North Mazedonian citizen already known by the Austrian police. The reaction of the government and the people was solidarity in condemning hate filled actions that sows division along political and religious lines. Austria’s Chancellor Sebastian Kurz: “This is no fight between Christians and Muslims, or between Austrians and migrants,” he said. “This is a fight between civilization and barbarism.” Representatives of the government and all 5 major religions came together at the St. Stephen’s Cathedral for a mourning in solidarity. Worldwide expressions of sympathy and solidarity with Austria in the wake of this terrible terrorist attack poured in and FM Schallenberg responded: „We are truly grateful for the solidarity of our European and international partners in these difficult hours. Austria will not be intimidated by cowardly acts of terror. Together we will defend our open & democratic society.

 **November 3: USA Elections**: Austria’s President Alexander VanDerBellen: “My warmest congratulations to Joe Biden and Kamala Harris on their historic victory in the US Elections 2020. Only together, as an international community of states, we can master the great challenges of our time such as combating the climate crisis or the Covid-19 pandemic. The US and Europe also carry global responsibility. We look forward to strong transatlantic cooperation over the coming years – and to welcoming the US once again to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change! Europe stands ready.”

 **November 10:** Good news about a possible **vaccine against Covid 19!**A key ingredient in what could be the first U.S.-approved Covid-19 vaccine developed by Pfitzer (USA)/BioNtech (Germany) comes from the family-owned company Polymun Scientific [https://www.polymun.com](https://www.polymun.com/) with 90 employees in the Austrian countryside in Klosterneuburg, underscoring the fragility of the potential treatment’s supply chain. <https://www.wsj.com/articles/if-one-leading-coronavirus-vaccine-works-thank-this-tiny-firm-in-rural-austria-11604664001>

The German pharmaceutical company BioNtech located in Mainz was founded in 2008 by the Turkish/German couple Özlem Türeci and Ugur Sahin, together with the Austrian physician and researcher Christoph Huber. Recently, Chancellor Sebastian Kurz awarded him the "Austrian Award for Science and Art". "Professor Huber has done impressive work during his career as physician and researcher and many people owe their health to his work and engagement."

 **November 17**: Austria goes into **a full lock-down** for at least 3 weeks with as strict restrictions as in March after a more half measured lock-down for the past 2 weeks did not break the infection rate. The exponential increase could be stopped and reversed to a light decrease, from 7,000+ /day at the peak to about 4,000. Schools are closed, but schools and Kindergarten will remain open for students who need a place to learn and to be supervised. In December there is a nationwide testing in planning that should help curb the spread of the virus and allow for a cautious reduction of the tough restrictions.

 **November 22:** At the last major tennis tournament for 2020, Austrians Tennis star **Dominic Thiem** lost narrowly the final after a thrilling match to Daniil Medwedew. Nevertheless, 2020 was a fantastic year for Dominik Thiem, also voted as “Athlete of the year 2020” in Austria. He is now ranked 3rd world best tennis player after Novac Djokovic and Rafael Nadal.

 **November 26**: Europe wide discussion about a proposed Europe wide **closure of ski resorts** until end of January. Germany, Italy, and France already decided to keep the resorts closed wary of repeating the waves of infections fueled by negligence in the early days and relaxed restrictions over summer. This is a very hard decision for Austria. Winter tourism generated [€14.9 billion](https://www.austriatourism.com/tourismusforschung/tourismus-in-zahlen/) for Austria last year, many thousand jobs are on the line. So far Austria and Switzerland are vowing to reopen their resorts with stringent precautions and emergency plans in place.

** A Message from the Austria Club of Washington:**

We are working hard to keep the engagement and enthusiasm for the Club going, so that the Club can continue to be a source of fun and friendship among the Friends of Austria here in Washington. The COVID-19 crisis poses a huge

challenge especially for a social club that generates its energy mostly from much enjoyed get-togethers.

At the upcoming board elections in February 2021, several board positions will become vacant. This poses a special opportunity to also attract people who have not yet stepped forward to serve the Austrian community, especially from the younger generation. Please contact the Club's President, Rosie Mulholland (mulho@comcast.net) with any questions and see her attached letter. Your engagement and your ideas are very welcomed and much appreciated!

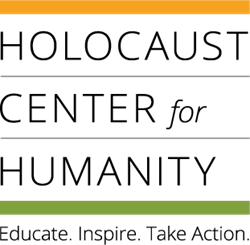
**UPCOMING EVENTS**

 **DAS SCHAUFENSTER 11.14 – 12. 12.2020:** 6019 14th Ave, Seattle 98107. L**ocal and national artists** submitted original artworks that represent their true and lived experiences of 2020 and created an artistrun exhibition space in Seattle Ballard neighborhood, born in response to the closures and postponements of opportunities due to Covid19. For more info: Goethe Pop-up Seattle: <https://www.goethe.de/ins/us/en/sta/gps/ver.cfm?fuseaction=events.detail&event_id=22033949>

 **Sunday,** **December 6: Virtual Christmas Party** organized by the Austria Club of Washington: 4:30pm. With appearance of St. Nikolaus, visit to Vienna’s Christkindlmarkets, participation in a Tyrol Perchtenlauf, and much more! For more information please contact the Club’s president Rosie Mulholland ([mulho@comcast.net](mailto:mulho@comcast.net)) or Juergen Schatzer ([juergen.schatzer@gmail.com](mailto:juergen.schatzer@gmail.com), especially with technical questions.

Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86767904708?pwd=RkIvcjFneVhlTWdvMFJqV29hZzkzdz09](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86767904708?pwd%3DRkIvcjFneVhlTWdvMFJqV29hZzkzdz09&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw2Pth8e1GI_F7h_BgbHwJEO)

**Tuesday, December 8, 12-1pm:**

 <https://holocaustcenterseattle.org/> . The weekly Lunch-and-Learn series of **the Holocaust Center for Humanity in Seattle** features children and grandchildren of Holocaust survivors, notable speakers on timely issues, and historical experts**.**These programs aim to present perspectives and voices that challenge and inspire people to confront bigotry, racism, and indifference, and to consider how their actions make a difference.

**Tuesday, December 8, 12-1pm**: **“Hidden in Hungary: The Survival Story of Agi Day”**. Agi Day, who survived the Holocaust in Hungary by hiding in a convent before going to a Displaced Persons Camp in Bad Gastein, Austria. Agi immigrated to Toronto, Canada in 1951 and later to the Seattle area.

To register: <https://holocaustcenterseattle.org/programs-events/virtual-lunch-and-learn-series> . After you register you will be provided with the zoom link.

 **Saturday, December 19, 5pm**: “**Weihnachtssingen”**: casual Sing along in the Park, organized by the Meet-up Austrian Group: <https://www.meetup.com/Austrian-Stammtisch-and-Events>. Please bring your own candle, music, and instrument (if you want to!). Location: Licton Springs Park, Ashworth Ave N and N 95th Str, Seattle, at the West side of the park, just South of the playground.

All COVID-19 guidelines issued by WA State applicable at that time will be strongly adhered to, social distancing rules and wearing masks obeyed. For more information please contact Elana Sabajon at: [youcan@askelana.com](mailto:youcan@askelana.com), subject line: “Weihnachtssingen” .

And finally, an idea for your holiday shopping:

 Do you know **MiaMax Jewelry?** Started by one of our Austrian families here in Seattle, a true family business with everyone helping, eg. 9-year-old Mia is the junior designer. They offer simple, chic, and meaningful jewelryfor active lifestyles! Their bracelets are a symbol of family, friendship, love and life and a boost of confidence to help you feel inspired and lifted too. All Friends of Austria will receive a 20% discount using the code **FRIENDS20.** For more information**:** [www.miamaxjewelry.com](http://www.miamaxjewelry.com/)

We almost made it to the end of this so complicated year 2020. Let’s hang in there, let’s stay connected, there is already light at the tunnel. Soon we can start planning to catch-up on what we miss the most. Being together with our friends is high on this list.

Wishing you a healthy, peaceful and joyful Holiday Season and **Frohe Weihnachten!**



Herzlichst,

Eva Kammel

Honorary Consul of Austria in Seattle