

## HC October 2019 Newsletter – final

Dear Friends of Austria!

On October 26, we celebrated the remarkable fact that since WWII the Republic of Austria is governed by a thriving parliamentary democracy, adheres to neutrality, and that its people can live in freedom and political stability since over 60 years, even in times of snap elections caused by major scandals. Very skilled politicians ushered in the 2nd Republic at times when the rest of Europe was still scrambling from the aftermath of WWII or were fighting against the influence of the expanding Soviet regime. This was such a historical unique chance that was given to Austria. And Austria took it. Especially today it becomes even clearer how important it is to support and foster democratic freedom that is built upon respect and acceptance of each other. We should not take it for granted.

Many thanks go out to all who contributed to a wonderful *Nationalfeiertag* celebration in Seattle.



**November 11-15: Vienna Business Agency** (<https://viennabusinessagency.at/>) is coming to Seattle to promote Vienna as an ideal business hub – See announcement at the end of the newsletter.

## NEWS FROM AND ABOUT AUSTRIA



The first round of discussions to form a new government between the ÖVP (party with the most votes at the last elections) and various probable coalition partners was completed and now the serious negotiations began. Of interest seems to be a coalition with the “Die Grüne”, the Green Party.



After four productive years as head of the Embassy of Austria to the USA in Washington, DC, **Ambassador Wolfgang Waldner** bids farewell. His successor will be Ambassador Martin Weiss.



**September 29: Paul Badura-Skoda** died at the age of 91. He helped to make Vienna into a hotbed of experimentation in historical instruments and practices. If the greatness of music is in its triple play of emotions, ideas, and sonic pleasure, the Austrian pianist Paul Badura-Skoda holds a justified place in the front ranks of modern performers.



**October 10: The Nobel Prize in Literature for 2019** got awarded to the Austrian author **Peter Handke** “for an influential work that with linguistic ingenuity has explored the periphery and the specificity of human

experience.” Among his many books are “Publikumsbeschimpfung”, “ Die Angst des Tormanns beim Elfmeter”, “Wunschloses Unglück“. Peter Handke is also known and strongly criticized for taking sides with the brutal Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic during the Balkan War in the Nineties.



**October 12: ORF Anchor Armin Wolf** received the “European Journalist of 2019” award from the European Culture Foundation, chosen from 25 European TV stations. He stands for dialog with the powerful and the public, does not get intimidated by threats and critics, and is straight forward and transparent, high-lightening the fundamental contrast between Populism and Journalism.



**October 12: Eliud Kipchoge** of Kenya ran 26.2 miles in a once-inconceivable time of 1h59min40 sec. The **Marathon race took place in Vienna**, mostly in the Prater Park at most favorable conditions, organized and surrounded by a highly professional team.



**October 19: Lotte Tobisch**, Grande Dame of the Vienna society, actor, author, organizer of the Viennese Opera Ball for 16 years, passed away 93 years old, in the Künstlerhaus, a residency for artists in Baden bei Wien that she founded and led until recently. Her extraordinary popularity was due to her authentic, never hurting quick-wittedness, her humor, her wisdom, and last not least her amazing presence and elegance.



According to Travel Magazine Lonely Planet, **Salzburg** ("heart-stealer of an Alpine city") is **#1 travel destination for 2020**. The Salzburg Festivals are turning 100, and the city is singing about it at the top of its voice. One of the world's greatest classical music shindigs, the festival is always a riotous feast of opera, classical music and drama – and never more so than it will be in 2020. Washington DC ("one of America's most dynamic cities") placed 2<sup>nd</sup>.

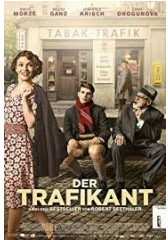


**October 27: Austrian's Tennis Star Dominic Thiem** won for the first time the “Stadthallen Turnier” in Vienna. The World's No. 5 becomes the first player to lift five tour-level trophies in 2019, breaking a five-way tie with fellow Top 5 stars Novak Djokovic, Rafael Nadal, Roger Federer and Daniil Medvedev.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:



**KINOFEST October 22 – November 5: at the NWFF (Northwest Film Forum):** 1515 12<sup>th</sup> Ave, Seattle. This annual festival of German language movies from Austria, Germany and Switzerland is brought to Seattle by the Portland German Film Festival. See the website of the NW Film Forum for the full schedule: [www.nwfilmforum.org](http://www.nwfilmforum.org). Especially of interest is the Austrian contribution:



**Tuesday, November 5, 8pm, “The Tobacconist” (der Trafikant) (2018):** Based on the international bestseller by Austrian author Robert Seethaler. A tender, heart-breaking story about a young man and his friendship with Sigmund Freud. This movie brings us back to the life in Vienna in the Thirties. Hope to see many of you there!

vienna  
business  
agency

**Visit of the Vienna Business Agency (<https://viennabusinessagency.at/>) to Seattle: November 11-15:**

During this visit Vienna will be promoted as ideal business hub with its advantages, opportunities, and offered support by the local and federal government. If you are interested in meeting with representatives of VBA, please join the **Austrian-American Mixer on Monday, November 11, 6-9pm** at the World Trade Center, (4<sup>th</sup> Floor), 2200 Alaskan Way, Seattle, 98121. RSVP to [losangeles@advantageaustria.org](mailto:losangeles@advantageaustria.org) by Nov 6. Questions? Please see attached invitation and/or contact [office@austrianconsulatseseattle.org](mailto:office@austrianconsulatseseattle.org).

GOETHE  
POP UP

## SEATTLE

**Goethe – Pop up Seattle:** Check out their events calendar. For November, Goethe-Pop Up is offering a varied program featuring a music performance, a theater play, a workshop for kids, and a series of events to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall:

[https://www.goethe.de/ins/us/en/sta/gps.html?wt\\_sc=seattle](https://www.goethe.de/ins/us/en/sta/gps.html?wt_sc=seattle)



**Sunday, December 1, 2-5pm** at the German House: **WEIHNACHTSFEST**, organized by the Austria Club of WA. See attached invitation



**20<sup>th</sup> Viennese Ball, Saturday, February 29,**

**2020!** It is not too early to mark your calendar for this annual social highlight!

Enjoy Fall and the left-over (Trick-or-)Treats!  
Mit herzlichen Grüßen

Eva Kammel  
Honorary Consul of Austria in Seattle

Attachment: Invitation VBA, Weihnachtsfest