**HC Seattle Newsletter February 2020**

Dear Friends of Austria!

After 80 days without significant sunshine we all soaked in the sunny days in February!

Do you still need a little bit of cheering up? Then come to the

**20th Viennese Ball in Seattle!!**

**When: THIS Saturday, February 29, 2020**

**This is the last chance to get tickets:** <https://vienneseball2020.brownpapertickets.com/>

For last minute information please contact Eva Donahoo at [ewdcpa@comcast.net](mailto:ewdcpa@comcast.net).

This annual social highlight held at the Nile Country Club in Mountlake Terrace and organized by the Austria Club of WA ([www.austriaclubwa.com](http://www.austriaclubwa.com/)), offers an elegant evening including delicious dinner, dance performances, polonaise, quadrille, and of course dancing to live music until midnight! Do you want to brush up on your dance steps? A **complimentary dance lesson** is included, led by the USA Dance Team, from 4-5 pm just before the event.

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 salute from the City of Vienna to a vibrant city of culture we entertain close friendly relations with. I wish the organizers of the ball every success and I hope the guests will enjoy an unforgettable evening dancing to the music of Viennese Waltz!"***

***Michael Ludwig, Mayor of Vienna***

**NEWS FROM AND ABOUT AUSTRIA**

 **In an effort to cut vehicle emissions and boost public transportation,** Austria’s capital will reward car-free travel with free access to museums and concerts. For each car-free kilometer the user travels, an app stores up credits. Once the user has stored up 20 kilograms of carbon savings—possible with about two weeks of car-free commuting—they get a token they can exchange for a ticket to various arts venues, including Vienna’s most respected concert halls, theaters, and contemporary art venues. <https://www.citylab.com/transportation/2020/01/vienna-museum-concert-public-transit-walk-bike-culture-token/605722/>

 Austria’s new Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg introduced himself to US General Secretary Antonio Guterrez and discussed the importance of multilateral cooperation, in particular regarding [disarmament](https://twitter.com/hashtag/disarmament?src=hashtag_click) and climate diplomacy. Both agree that the UN is a unique platform to solve major challenges together. He then continued on to DC for a meeting with US Foreign Minister Pompeo. BTW, Minister Schallenberg chose to travel by train from NY to DC!

 **Alma Zadic**, 35, Austria’s new Justice Minister arrived in Vienna from Bosnia at the age of 10 as a refugee. Clever, winning, young, idealistic and has a proudly hyphenated identity: Bosnian-Austrian. Now, she is the justice minister in a coalition of liberal Greens and Conservatives. An interesting article about her in the NYT on February 7: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/07/world/europe/austria-greens-alma-zadic.html?referringSource=articleShare>

**February 11: International Women in Science Day**: While globally 30% of researchers & 35% of students in STEM fields are women, in Austria over 46% of researchers in STEM fields are women. There is still much more work to do to remove barriers that hold women & girls back.

 **February 14, 2020**: On the eve of a meeting with the EU Commission about planned EU regulations of tech giants like Facebook, Google, Facebook’s **Mark Zuckerberg** met with Austria’s Chancellor Sebastian Kurz for a discussion on a broad range of topics – from combating hate speech online, to finding fair taxation mechanisms for large digital corporations, as well as latest trends & developments in the digital economy. Austria already introduced digital taxation.

On **February 22**, 1942, Austria’s world famous author **Stefan Zweig** died. *“On the day I lost my passport I discovered, at the age of 58, that losing one’s native land implies more than parting with a circumscribed area of soil.”*

**February 25**: How **Vienna’s successful Public Housing** approach, in place now for over 100 years, may serve as a model for combating the affordability crisis in US cities: A **NPR report**: <https://www.npr.org/local/305/2020/02/25/809315455/how-european-style-public-housing-could-help-solve-the-affordability-crisis>

 On February 2, **Dominik Thiem** lost in a gripping 5-set match against Novak Djokovic from Serbia in the final at the **Australian Open** Tennis Tournament in Melbourne. Thiem has become a clear threat to the Big Three (Nadal, Federer, Djokovic), beating each of them multiple times over the last three seasons.

**Looking ahead: US citizens** planning on traveling to Europe’s Schengen Area will need advanced **Travel authorization** ETIAS beginning Jan 1, 2021: <https://www.afar.com/magazine/us-citizens-will-need-a-visa-to-travel-to-europe-starting-in-2021?utm_medium>

**NEWS FROM THE SEATTLE REGION**:

 **February 12**: **OSTA visit to Seattle**: **Simone Poetscher**, Program Director of OSTA (Office of Research and Technology Austria, an organization supporting Austrian researchers in North America) and her team from the Embassy in Washington DC, presented at the “Destination Europe” event at the University of Washington and the AAAS Conference (American Association for the Advancement of Science) the plentiful research and grant opportunities Austria has to offer. She also hosted an evening with Austrians engaged in research, innovation and technology in the Seattle Region, and could visit with some of them individually at their research labs. This exchange was very helpful and inspiring. Simone was very impressed by the widespread talent of Austrians in the region and is suggesting holding the 2021 annual conference of OSTA in Seattle. We will keep you updated!

**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

 **February 19 – March 8, 2020**

**Northwest Film Forum**: <https://nwfilmforum.org/festivals/childrens-film-festival-seattle-2020/>

 **March 7, 2020: Open House ABC School**, a German immersion school for preschool - K at their new location in Bellevue! See their website for more information on their programs and courses for all ages: <https://abcgermanschool.com/>

 **March 23, 7pm**: STG: **Silent Movie Mondays: *The Ancient Law*/*Das Alte Gesetz*** (1923): tells the story of the son of an Orthodox rabbi from a poor village who breaks with family tradition and leaves to become an actor. The film contrasts the closed world of an Eastern European shtetl with the liberal mores of 1860s Vienna, painting a complex portrait of the tension between tradition and modernity. Tickets: [**stgpresents.org**](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001vUxssjrXk9sNOoEqXAg57w2OaXQ_dETA72dh_Bt1-ZK2CbNzWxglSgndpuXoPcfUBTwUgnYMrClnXJ6Wj5w142n0f8meOP_NxOy6CUDIKaxpItyU3ESUnUkLplCFMQaFH6OxVFO0I8uCDUqSTfY3epj-yQrCVlEw-4ze4Rot4yFBqTyR1FRo4Q==&c=24CHolct484RmaYY19PaxxozZ4Q9LIRuSlo9HHklIOVExAIuGWtUsA==&ch=EBIznhDxQf23-RebEn0sse70HRZiRKeUxG7eAob5-coh3KbdvcuYFA==) or <https://www.stgpresents.org/calendar/5014/silent-movie-mondays-the-ancient-law-das-alte-gesetz-1923>

 **April 4-5, 2020: International Children’s Festival** at the Seattle Center: <http://childrensfest.tacawa.org/> . We plan on participating now for the 5th year in a row in this very rewarding festival with a cultural exhibit and let our kids be ambassadors for Austria! If you are interested in volunteering (with your child/grandchild), or if you have an idea for a presentation (musical, theatrical etc.) you are very much appreciated: [office@austrianconsulateseattle.org](mailto:office@austrianconsulateseattle.org)

 Ready for a **Soccer event**? Team up with **SAGA School** – they are organizing a group outing for the Sounders game against Real Salt Lake on Sunday, May 31, 2020 at 3pm. For more information: [admin@sagaschool.org](mailto:admin@sagaschool.org)

 Happy „Fat Tuesday!” Nothing beats the typical sweet of the carnival season in Austria: “*Faschingskrapfen”*

Mit herzlichen Grüßen

Eva Kammel

Honorary Consul of Austria in Seattle

office@austrianconsulateseattle.org