**HC Newsletter July 2020 – Draft**

Dear Friends of Austria!

Summer is here! The beautiful nature and the dark blue sky surrounding us are in stark contrast to the crisis we are all facing. Hope you can get out in the mountains or to the water to recharge and enjoy. Our friends in Austria are almost back to “normal” life although also over there the virus is popping up again and caution is on display.

Images from here and over there: Could be here or there…. only in the Austrian Alps a cool *Almdudler is* served in one of the many huts (*Almhütte)* after a long hike!!

Blanka Lake near Stevens Pass Halserhütte (Steiermark)

 **New travel restrictions to Austria** as of July 27,2020:

Austrian and EU citizens living abroad need a negative Covid-19 test not older than 3 days upon entry. Otherwise a mandatory 10-day quarantine is required.

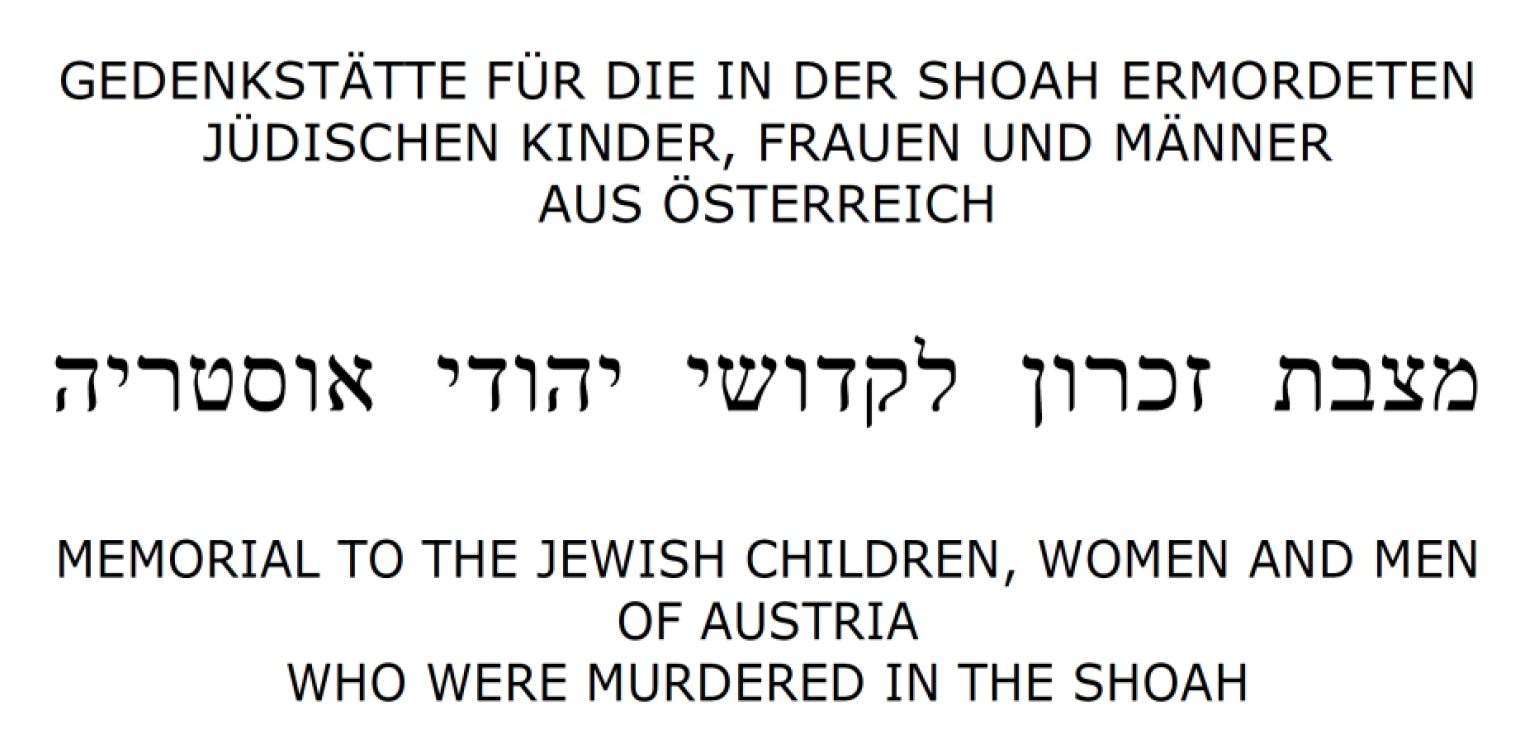
Non-EU citizens are not allowed to enter Austria unless they qualify for one of the few exemptions (e.g. spouse or close relative of an Austrian, family hardship). The same Covid-19 related requirements as for Austrian citizens apply. For detailed information please check regularly the website of the Austrian Consulate General in Los Angeles: <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/austrian-consulate-general-los-angeles/news/>

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

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 für BürgerInnen -> 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.

**NEWS FROM AND ABOUT AUSTRIA**

As construction starts on Vienna's Shoah Wall of Names Memorial, the Documentation Centre of the Austrian Resistance (DÖW, doew.at) is calling on the descendants and relatives of Austrian Holocaust victims to consult its **victims’ database**<https://www.doew.at/english> to **ensure that the names of their murdered relatives will be engraved on the Wall of Names Memorial.** If not listed, please send their information directly to DÖW at [office@doew.at](mailto:office@doew.at). Any additions submitted by **August 10, 2020,** will be considered for the Shoah Wall of Names Memorial. Victims registered after the deadline of will still be registered on another stele of the memorial.

Spread the word, as no name should be forgotten! [https://austria.org/the-latest/2020/6/22/ground-breaking-ceremony-for-shoah-wall-of-names-memorial-austria](https://t.co/MUjmHYc5H4?amp=1)

 In October 2019, the Austrian parliament unanimously adopted an amendment to the Austrian Citizenship Act (“Staatsbürgerschaftsgesetz”) in recognition of its historical responsibility and as a further gesture in its efforts to achieve **reconciliation with the victims of National Socialism and their descendants**. According to the new § 58c para. 1a of the Austrian Citizenship Act **descendants of victims of the National Socialist regime** can **acquire Austrian citizenship by means of a declaration**(“Anzeige”), without having to give up their current citizenship or nationality in return. This amendment to the Austrian Citizenship Act will go into effect from **September 1, 2020** and is expected to be of high demand. For further information see the website of the Austrian Consulate General in Los Angeles: <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/austrian-consulate-general-los-angeles/service-for-citizens/citizenship-for-descendants-of-victims-of-national-socialism/>

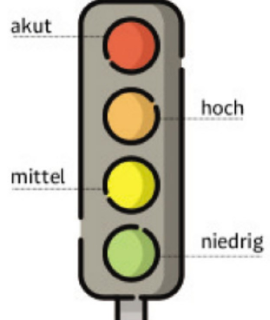
 **Austrian Patent Office**: 2019 was a record year for inventions by Austrians worldwide: 11.731 Patents got registered, many of them to combat climate change.

 Did you know that **Austria’s lakes and rivers** pass the bathing **water quality** test? A recent European survey confirmed that the water quality of 98.5% is “excellent”, many lakes are even as clean as drinking water (photo Wörthersee)

Austria strongly **opposes capital punishment** under all circumstances and calls for a global abolition of the death penalty. Against this background, Austria’s government strongly condemned the first federal execution in the US since 2003.

 J**uly 14**, **1929**: 91 years ago, Austrian novelist, librettist, poet, and dramatist **Hugo von Hofmannsthal** died. He not only adapted the morality play “Everyman” as “*Jedermann*”, but also co-founded in 1920 the Salzburg Festival which hosts performances of his play. The world famous **Salzburger Festspiele** celebrate their 100th year from **August 1 – 20, 2020**. The current Covid-19 crisis forced some modifications but there will still be over 110 performances including operas, concerts, and of course, the “Jedermann”. <https://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/en>

 **July 21**: after a marathon meeting of over 100 hours discussion, the EU member states, led by German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Manuel Macron, agreed upon a € 750 billion = $857 billion package that includes unprecedented steps to help less wealthy countries, including selling collective debt and giving much of the money as grants, not loans. This groundbreaking Stimulus to combat the Coronavirus recession is combined with investments to combat climate change. The negotiations came almost to a halt over the objections of the “Frugal 4” countries (included Austria) who opposed the size and terms of the stimulus paid to hard hit countries.

Beginning with mid-August, Austria will introduce the **"Corona-Ampel"** (Corona traffic light): Green, yellow, orange and red will be indicators about the numbers of infections within the past 7 days, capacities in local hospitals, capacity to control local clusters, and number of performed tests. These indicators should make it easier to inform individuals and organizations about the local situation regarding Covid-19.

 Mark your calendars – **ARIT2020** will meet virtually this year to focus on the outstanding achievements of Austrian researchers and innovators in North America. When? September 17, 2020. More info: [https://ostaustria.org/arit-2020](https://t.co/tu5opH2Fu8?amp=1)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Time to watch German Language movies!**

 **July 31 – August 14**: **Portland German Film Festival** - going virtual! Thanks to the tireless efforts of Yvonne Behrens from the Portland German Film Festival we can join the following movies (all in German with English subtitles):

*The Keeper* (Trautmann), *The Audition* (Das Vorspiel), Crescendo (Crescendo), and as rerun the favorites from last year: *The Tobacconist* (Der Trafikant) and How About Adolf (Der Vorname).

For more info:

<https://mailchi.mp/c267e29cd067/portland-german-film-festival-oct-6-10-2017-summer-3906734?e=424144d487>

For “Tickets”: <http://www.cinema21portland.com/german-film-festival/>

**More movies to watch** – these **Austrian Films** are recommended and sponsored by **the Austrian Consulate General in Los Angeles** and are available for watching:

**BORA, STORIES OF A WIND** (*Bora, Geschichten eines Windes*) by veteran cineaste Bernhard Pötscher, a visually magnificent parable about freedom paying a poignant tribute to the multi-ethnic intersection of Germanic, Slavic, and Italian cultures in the Northern Adriatic. The *festival jury awarded* two prizes to this wonderful film, *Best Documentary*, and *Best Cinematography in Documentary Film*. <https://athome.seefilmla.org/film/bora-stories-of-a-wind/>

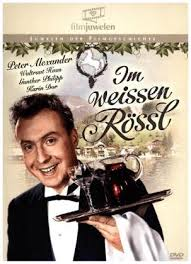
**THE BEST ORCHESTRA IN THE WORLD** (*Das beste Orchester der Welt*) by Henning Backhaus follows Ingbert Socke (the sock), as he applies for a position of double bass player at the Vienna State Orchestra. Combination of live action, with real-life musicians, and stop-motion animation creates a winsome, endearingly funny parable. <https://athome.seefilmla.org/film/the-best-orchestra-in-the-world/>

“Tickets” and information: <https://athome.seefilmla.org/>

 **Thursday, August 13, 2020; 8pm**: the monthly **virtual Stammtisch**!

For Zoom link and more information: see the Meet-up: <https://www.meetup.com/Austrian-Stammtisch-and-Events/> or contact Juergen Schatzer juergen.schatzer@gmail.com.

**.... and fianlly this classic movie....**

 **Thursday, August 27; 7-9pm:** movie "Im Weissen Rössl am Wolfgangsee" with Peter Alexander and Waltraud Haas

Zoom Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86522810564?pwd=TDMzUERmSHN1bWxCVzZrbnRZSXo0dz09

For more info please contact Jürgen Schatzer juergen.schatzer@gmail.com.

 **Friday, August 28, 9pm**, PBS TV Channel KCTS9: **Vienna Philharmonic Summer Night** **Concert**: Because of the worldwide Convid-19 pandemic the beloved annual Vienna Philharmonic Summer Night Concert will be modified this year. In its place the magical 2019 concert, led by Maestro Gustavo Dudamel in the beautiful gardens of Vienna’s Schönbrunn Palace will be rebroadcasted. The program features popular selections from both European and American composers and is dedicated to the musical connection between continents.

**LOOKING AHEAD:**

Unfortunately, we will not be able to celebrate this year’s **Austrian National Holiday** (October 26) and the **Austrian American Day** (September 25) with a social gathering as we used to. Nevertheless, we will celebrate these special occasions in a modified way and want to use this occasion to strengthen our personal connections.

**And we need your input to make it happen: AN INVITATION TO SHARE AND TO LISTEN**

To better understand and share how we remember Austria or our place where you grew up as it was when you left, we ask you to send us a short **1-page essay about your hometown (in Austria or where ever in Europe)** as you experienced it. This can include the history, the description of the atmosphere, special memories that you have from your life in that city, town, or village.

Volunteers will then edit, compile, and present your stories to all of us! We are still working on the how, what, and when, so your input is very welcomed! Also, if you want to help us in this effort, please let us know!

Stay cool and healthy - enjoy the summer!

Herzlichst,

Eva Kammel

Honorary Consul of Austria in Seattle

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