

March 2019 Newsletter:

Dear Friends of Austria!

Spring is here in full force – nature is busy – and so are we 😊. Let's start with

Upcoming events:

The upcoming **Europawahl** will be held in Austria on **Sunday, May 26, 2019**.



Every 5 years elections for the European Parliament (**Europawahl**) are held. As member of the European Union, Austria has the right to be represented by elected Representatives in the European Parliament. The representatives sent by each member nation will shape the policies introduced by the European Parliament and the future path of the European Union. Austria will hold 19 seats out of 705 total (assuming that Brexit will take place before the elections).

You are eligible to participate in the **Europawahl** (active voting right) if you are

- At least 16 years old on the day of the election
- Are Austrian Citizen and eligible to vote, and
- Registered in the "Wählerevidenz" for the **Europawahl** latest on **April 11, 2019**

If you have already registered and applied for the 10- year Abo for **both**, the **Austrian National Elections AND the Europawahl**, then no extra steps are necessary. The absentee ballots will be sent to you automatically. Please make sure that your current address is on file. Also, you will be informed automatically 3 months before the 10-year abo nears the end.

If you are **not yet registered** for the "**Europawahl**" in your *respective Waehlergemeinde*, **you still have time to do this!** You can submit the application and supporting materials per mail, fax or email with scanned attachment directly to the "Gemeinde" with your established connection to Austria, most of the times the "Gemeinde" where you had your last "Hauptwohnsitz" (main residency).

You can register for the Wählerevidenz ANY time to be eligible for upcoming elections in Austria and the **Europawahl**.

For more information and forms to download see attachments and:

https://www.bmi.gv.at/412/Informationen_fuer_Auslandsoesterreicher_innen.aspx

<https://www.bmi.gv.at/412/Europawahlen/>

<https://www.bmeia.gv.at/reise-aufenthalt/leben-im-ausland/wahlen/europawahl-2019/>



10th International Children's Friendship Festival: April 6-7, 2019, Seattle Center, Fisher Pavilion, 11- 6pm;
<http://childrensfest.tacawa.org/>

For the 5th year we will host an **Austria table** at this kid's friendly, free event promoting peace and friendship among children. It is a fun event for children all ages! We hope to attract many young visitors to our booth to share with them traditions and information about Austria.

Volunteers are still needed! Come by with your child/grandchild and participate at our table and/or just stroll through the exhibits from over 50 countries!

Monday, April 15, 2019, 7pm: STG Presents at the Paramount Theater, Seattle,



Special presentation with

Reception (6-6:45pm) at the VIP Lounge at the Paramount Theater (please RSVP to office@austrianconsulateseattle.org if you can join!)

Introduction of the movie by Director of Austrian Film Archive Nikolaus Wostry

Music of Remembrance: World Premiere of score composed by Guenther Buchwald

Panel discussion right after the movie with Hilary Bernstein, Education Director of Anti-Defamation League/Pacific NW; Dee Simon, Executive Director of Holocaust Center for Humanity; Rabbi Yohanna Kinberg of Kol Ami Congregation; Nikolaus Wostry from Austrian FilmArchiv; German composer Guenther Buchwald

Tickets: Special discount: www.bit.ly/friendsofaustria-stg or use the promotion code: "FRIENDSOFAUSTRIA".

The STG (Seattle Theater Group) presents the **Austrian Silent Movie "Stadt ohne Juden"**, (City without Jews), produced by H.K. Breslauer in 1924, after the novel by Hugo Bettauer with Hans Moser as one of the main actors. The book and the movie became Expressionist film predicted the rise of leave their homes. Shortly after the member of the Nazi Party. The movie is of the near future, although the book satirical response to the rising antisemitism of the 1920s. The film was believed to have been lost for decades. After being rediscovered at a Paris flea market in 2015, it has been acquired and restored by the Austrian Filmarchive and returned to the cinema screen.



an immediate success. This Austrian Nazism, with Jews attacked and forced to premier the author was murdered by a creating a relatively accurate allegorical vision was intended as entertainment and as a

Saturday, May 4: MAIFEST, Community Center Kenmore – Organized by the Austria Club of WA,
www.austriacubwa.com – a fest for the whole family!

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NEW!!! Stammtisch mit Österreichern! Look for announcements coming from or contact Jürgen Schatzer!
juergenschatzer@gmail.com .

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Check out the events organized by the Goethe Po-Up Institute on Capitol Hill in Seattle:
<https://www.goethe.de/ins/us/en/sta/gps.html>

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News From and About Austria:



Feb 15: Chancellor Sebastian Kurz meets with **Japan's Prime Minister Abe Shinzo**, celebrating 150 years of diplomatic relations. Japan is already Austria's second largest trading partner in Asia with over 3.5 billion €.



Feb 20: Chancellor Kurz visits US President Trump at the White House. Austria is looking for improved trade and economic growth in its dealings with the US. The discussions were also about the trade conflict between US and the EU, and about Austria's participation in the Russian-European gas pipeline project Nord Stream 2. President Trump made remarks about the youth of Chancellor Kurz. The request by Trump, Austria should contribute more to the NATO military budget, got rejected by Chancellor Kurz because of Austria's neutrality.



Feb 20: Chancellor Kurz discussed with **Christine Lagarde, director of IMF**, the state of the global economy, economic outlook of Austria and the European economy. They agreed on the importance of effective international cooperation in support of free and fair trade and Austria's support for the IMF Capacity Development, efforts to assist countries in critical economic issues.



Feb 22: every year the **"Kaffeesiederball"** transforms the Hofburg Vienna into the biggest and most beautiful coffeehouse of the world - a place for exchange, communication and interaction!



Feb 28: Celebrating 150 years of the Vienna State Opera, Austria's President Alexander VanDerBellen led the opening of the **63th Operaball**. Guest of the President was the halfsister of former US President Barak Obama, Auma Obama.



March 2, international guests celebrated the 25th **Refugee Ball** in the Vienna City Hall. The Refugee Ball serves as a statement against hate towards "others", for the defense of the right to asylum and a solidary society.

March 5: 25 years ago: Austria voted overwhelmingly with 69% to join the EU



March 15: From Sydney to Seoul, London to Berlin, thousands of children skipped school on Friday to demand action on climate change. It was a stark display of the alarm of a generation. It was also a glimpse of the anger directed at older people who have not, in the protesters' view, taken global warming seriously enough. Thousands of children participated in the Walk-out against Climate Change also in Austria.

March 21: Chancellor Kurz 's speech at AJC Global in Brussels: "I look forward to continuing our cooperation, to build strong EU-Israel relations and to protect Jewish Life in Europe. We must not allow hateful ideologies to separate us ever again. We owe this to all people of Europe and especially to our Jewish communities."



Central University's new home in Vienna: Quellenstrasse 51 in Favoriten, at the heart of Vienna's multicultural 10th District, one of the city's most diverse locales, will serve as an interim location until a permanent site (probably Steinhofgruede) is ready. The move from Budapest to Vienna was the result of a new law in Hungary that forbids CEU to accept new students.



Since summer 2018 all trains in Austria are operated by 100% green traction power. ÖBB follows the objective to achieve CO2-neutrality in the field of mobility by 2030 and company-wide CO2-neutrality by 2050.



The **business location Austria** had a great year 2018: 355 established companies, 3.000 new created jobs and 734 million investment.



Meet the **newest lawnmowers of the City of Vienna!** Under the LIFE program of the EU (funding for environmental and climate action projects across Europe), the City of Vienna has decided to utilize 50 sheep in lieu of conventional lawnmowers, in order to better preserve the Danube Island nature reserve.



Hallstatt: Every year about 1 million visitors from all over the world, 200,000 cars and 20,000 busses are coming to this village with 770 residents, on some days up to 10,000 guests strolling through the narrow streets. The city council decided on restrictions, time slots and fees to preserve the quality of life.



Environmentally minded coffee drinkers are one step closer towards a zero-waste (or lower-waste) lifestyle thanks to this pilot recycling program by the City of Vienna encouraging the recycling of every part of the coffee cup.



Austria's Ski-Star Marcel Hirscher won for the 8th time in a row the Overall Men's World Cup. With 20 World Cup championships all together he ties the record with US ski star Lindsey Vonn.



Vienna ranks highest for quality of living for the 10th year in a row, among large cities, according to the Mercer Studies. *"Wien ist leiwand"*.

Thanks for reading!

Herzlichst,

Eva Kammel

Attachments: Information Europawahlen, Waehlerevidenz, Flyer Stadt ohne Juden