



# The American-Austrian Society

May-June 2004

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Washington DC 20007

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## HONARARY PATRONS:

H.E. The Ambassador of Austria  
Dr. Eva Nowotny & Prof. Thomas Nowotny

## PATRONS:

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Harry & Annagret Davies  
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Henry M. Shine, Jr.  
Stephen & Monika Schott  
Johannes & Andrea Willenpart  
Gertraud Zangl

## CONTRIBUTORS:

Franz & Ilona Aberl  
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Helmut & Gabrielle Sieg  
Philip & Rose Smith  
Drs. Lino Tessarollo & Esta Sterneck  
Drs. Herbert & Carol Traxler  
Joe L. Zaring

## From the Editor:

Dear Friends and Members:

In case you had missed it in the last newsletter, we are celebrating our **50th Anniversary**. That's right. The American-Austrian Society was founded 50 years ago. We have every reason to celebrate, since our membership is increasing, our events are sell-out successes, and this year promises a continuing vibrant A-AS. On May 22nd, a new Executive Board was elected at the Annual Meeting at Old Europe Restaurant (see below). If you were there, we want to thank you for being an active member. We urge everyone to take part in the discussions regarding the direction of the Society. Perhaps you will be a volunteer, or even better, become an Event Manager for an event that particularly interests you. Perhaps there is an event we've never had, that you would like to see on the roster. We are a society of people sharing an interest in, and love for Austria. A great place to make friends, and to bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you.

Warmly,

Martie Goebel

## Annual Meeting of the American-Austrian Society

The Annual Meeting was held at Old Europe Restaurant on Saturday, May 22. Johannes Willenpart, President, reviewed the Society's activities and decisions of the past year. Eight well attended events were held: the annual Heurigen, St. Nikolaus/Krampus afternoon for the children, Advent Reading with actress Johanna Matz, viewing of two of her films, a reception held prior to the Vienna Boys' Choir Concert, the Elisabeth von Trapp concert, the Viennese Kaffeehaus Jause, and in closing, the splendid English-Austrian Picnic hosted by our President at his estate in Easton, MD. An important accomplishment this year was the publication of the first full Membership Directory in 10 years, thanks to the efforts of VP Ika Joiner. The minutes of the 2003 Annual Meeting, presented by Secretary Gerda Merwald, were approved, Martie Goebel presented the Treasurer's report, and Carol Traxler reported on our website. Johannes pointed out that the website is becoming more and more important to the health and growth of the organization. The new slate of officers as proposed by the Nominating Committee (A. Oberberger, Chair, M. Goebel, G. Merwald) was unanimously adopted by the voting members present as well as by proxies. Special thanks were expressed to the members of the Executive Board and the Board of Direc-

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### Austria's Finest Naturally

Christa and John-Paul Cook of Helco, Ltd. Offer an array of all natural Austrian grown imports including pure Pumpkinseed oil, and a breathtaking variety of fruit and balsamic wine vinegars, juices, jellies and honey. You will find them on the web at [www.austrianpumpkinoil.com](http://www.austrianpumpkinoil.com)

### The Austrian Atelier

Meet our newest corporate sponsor in an article on page 2

tors for their support and good work this past year. See the new slate below. Pictures of the outgoing and new Boards can be found on our website.

**A-AS Officers for 2004-2005:**

**Stephen Schott**, President 202-337-5257

**Marilyn Nejetski**, 1st Vice President 301-320-0713

**Prof. Dr. Peter Evans**, 2nd V. President 703-573-6452

**Pamela Leonowich**, Treasurer 703-922-6866

**Sandra Nail**, Secretary 703-492-7871

**Franz Aberl** replacing Richard Franzen for a three year period on the Board of Directors 301-933-9366

**English-Austrian Picnic - May 18, 2004**

It sprinkled just a little in the morning but then the weather became spectacular by the time most of the guests arrived. The vintage Rolls and Bentleys were parked in a long row on the lawn along the edge of the water (and guests got to go out for a spin at the end - what fun to drive in an open car from 1913 that says "aaahOOOgah, aaahOOOgah".) Some guests came by water and tied up at the boathouse. The lovely house itself was on display. Built in the 1740's, Johannes and Andrea have added an extension and completely renovated in and outside. There is a lovely pool (which the children went splashing in after the magician had entertained them) surrounded by a small English garden. The adults ate and tasted from the selection of Austrian (Klaus Wittauer of Select Wines) wines at tables in the tent or on the enormous lawn under the lovely old trees and watched the Tred-Avon glide past. There were 3 sources of music, first a blues/zydeco band, then a jazz combo, and in between an accordion player (we got plenty of Austrian folk tunes and waltzes.) Many thanks to Andrea and Johannes for their generosity in providing this marvelous treat. What a way to end his year of the presidency! Hip, hip, hoorah! Go to our web site for pictures of the event.

**People in the News**

**Jerome Barry awarded the Verdienstkreuz**

On the occasion of the Embassy Series' all Schubert concerts at the end of January at the Austrian Embassy, baritone Jerome Barry received the Austrian Goldene Verdienstkreuz (Gold Medal of Distinguished Service) from Ambassador Eva Nowotny. She praised his unstinting efforts on behalf of music in the Washington Metro area. In addition to his own busy performance schedule,



Jerome gives master classes and, as the Artistic Director of the Embassy Series, has produced hundreds of concerts at Washington embassies. Now in its 19th year, its mission is "to promote international understanding through music, inviting artists of high quality from the Washington, DC area as well as from abroad, who have gained international recognition and whose quality merits public support." Jerome and his lovely wife Lisette have been members of the A-AS for years. We are proud to count them among us.

**Obituary: Marika Roekk**

Beloved operetta star Marika Roekk died May 16 in Baden near Vienna. She was born to Hungarian parents in Cairo, and grew up in Budapest, but she was Austria's darling for her famous appearances in Kalman's operettas, especially *Graefin Maritza* and *Czardas Fuerstin*. She performed on the musical stage and in films throughout Europe and the United States. She was 90 years old.

**The Austrian Atelier**

Klaus Haagen, originally from Styria, recently started an Internet-based company, selling Gmundner ceramics and contemporary candles from Austria, as well as Hungarian embroidery. He takes great pride in bringing beautiful Old World wares in New World ways. Austria's long candle-making tradition continues in new and unusual shapes such as obelisks and pyramids in rich, saturated tones. (Editor: Do visit the web site to see the glorious colors we can't show you here!)

Gmundner Keramik has manufactured earthenware crockery since 1903. Each piece is unique because they are all made and painted by hand. There are 21 designs from the Austrian favorite "Rippled Green", to the more contemporary "Waterfall" and "Rainbow" designs. The company's linen collection of handmade tablecloths, runners and accents compliments the tableware. The 'Blaudruck' (blue print) items come from Bad Leonfelden in Upper Austria using a technique similar to batik.



Each item is hand made, so most items can be personalized with monograms, pictures, company logos, or text if desired. Visit: [www.theaustrianatelier.com](http://www.theaustrianatelier.com) or call toll free 877 925 9999. Discount of 5% for A-AS members.

## 50th Anniversary Celebration

October 16, 2004

Preparations are well underway for the elegant white-tie **Grand Ball Celebration**. We are pleased to tell you that we have engaged the wonderful 14-piece *Con Brio Orchestra*, who will sweep you off your feet with the music of Strauss, Waldteufel and Lehar. We don't want to spoil the surprises, but there will be a lovely floor show and splendid door prizes. An extensive dessert buffet in the true Austrian tradition will await you, accompanied by all Austrian wines and champagnes. The doors of the Austrian Embassy will open at 8:00 PM and we will dance until 1:00 AM. Valet parking will be organized. Members will receive invitations in the first week of September. Remember, capacity will be limited. You won't want to miss this event. Don't wait to renew your membership.

A **meeting of the Ball volunteers** will be held at Martie Goebel's house in Annandale, Virginia on Saturday, June 12th at 10:00 AM. If you are ready to help coordinate and manage decorations, invitations, design-

ing programs, getting sponsors, arranging favors, flowers, valet parking, etc. etc., etc. please come. Call 703-354-2044. We need you!

### Longtime Members!

Do you "keep everything?" If you do, maybe you still have somewhere memorabilia related to the American-Austrian Society's early years, such as: your first membership application, a program from an event, a pin, a brochure, a newsletter, etc. Ruth Tobin Hofmaster sent me a letter she received in 1964 from Mrs. Emil Spitzer, with an application for membership. She also included the brochure from that year. That inspired us to see if we could collect items from the early years of the society and exhibit them at the Ball. If you find such wonderful stuff, please call me.

Also, we would like to add to our display a "Where are they now?" category. So, if you know members who have received awards, recognitions, or have done other interesting deeds, please let me hear about it.

Martie Goebel

**It's time to renew your membership for 2004/05. If you did not join or renew after March 1, 2004, your membership is up for renewal. No special mailing will be sent. Please use the membership form below. The treasurer's address is on the back.**

### American-Austrian Society Membership Renewal 2004-2005

**Note: The membership year extends from July 1 to June 30**

We welcome you to join the American-Austrian Society. A-AS members receive the quarterly Newsletter, invitations to events open only to members and their friends, early notification of and invitations to all sponsored and cosponsored A-AS events, and discounted admissions to these events. Sponsors, Patrons, and Contributors receive a special A-AS pin and are recognized throughout the year.

Last name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ First name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: Street/P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Country if other than U.S. \_\_\_\_\_ Tel.: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to have invitations, notices, and newsletters by  regular mail  E-mail

Include my address, home telephone number and E-mail address in the printed Membership Directory (distributed to members only - not distributed for commercial use.)

Single membership \$20

Family membership \$25

Contributor \$50 to \$99

Patron \$100 to \$499

Benefactor/Corporate Sponsor \$500 or more

I understand that while the A-AS is a non-profit organization my dues and contributions are not tax-deductible.

*Weltbund* membership \$13

*Weltbund der Oesterreicher im Ausland*

Advantage Card, valid through March 2005

and the Rot-Weiss-Rot magazine, in German,

4 times a year. Indicate one name for the card.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Second *Weltbund* Advantage Card \$13 for:  
\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to Volunteer for Events Communications Committees (please circle your interests.)

Signature(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a check payable to American-Austrian Society in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## EVENTS OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS

### Exhibit at the Austrian Embassy

June 15 through September 10, 2004 the Embassy of Austria presents an exhibition of Designs and Watercolors by Hortensia Fussy. The artist was born in Graz and studied in Vienna with sculptor Fritz Wotruba. He as well as the artists Klimt, Schiele and Boeckl greatly influenced her work. The exhibit focuses on her drawings and watercolors, key techniques for her artistic process of shaping figures. Admission is free.

### Jochen Rindt Celebration on Sept. 11, 2004

In Watkins Glen, NY, Nina Rindt, Jochen's widow, Lotus and Brabham team members, friends and experts will join in a parade and dinner celebrating the career of the first Austrian Formula 1 World Champion (1970.) The Lotus 49 driven to victory at the U.S. Grand Prix in 1969 and Monaco G.P. 1970 as well as his Trophy and Helmet will be on display at the "International Motor Racing Research Center." Persons interested in



attending and/or contributing personal memories may contact Johannes Willenpart at avondale@intercom.net or 443 362 6422

### Soccer at RFK!

A reminder that Saturday July 19th, 2004, 7:30 PM you get another chance to see Austrian International midfielder **Andreas Herzog**, who represented Austria in the 1990 and 1998 FIFA World Cups, playing with the L.A. Galaxy vs. D.C. United here in Washington at RFK Stadium. A-AS members receive a \$5.00 discount on Premium (sideline) seating, so that you will pay only \$17.00 per person. For tickets (mention this A-AS newsletter announcement) call (703) 397-5476.

### Weltbund Members

A new benefit of Weltbund membership is free cell-phone use while in Austria. Our webmistress, Carol Traxler says it is easy. Go to the Weltbund headquarters in Vienna, pick up a cell phone, and load it using the cards which can be purchased at kiosks all over town.

### Membership Directory

The 2003-04 Membership Directory was mailed out to current members two weeks ago. If you have *not* received your copy call 703-354-2044 and we'll correct the problem immediately. Please report errors as well.

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### American-Austrian Society

c/o P. Leonowich, Treasurer  
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