



The American-Austrian Society

November - December 2004

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From the Editor:

Dear Friends and Members:

As we are winding down from the excitement of the A-AS 50th Anniversary Ball on October 16th, it's time to reconnect with all our friends and members. If you were there, you will enjoy seeing the ball pictures on our web site. If you weren't there - you missed a splendid event (report below.)

The cold weather is setting in here in Washington, reminding us that there are cozy fireplaces and family celebrations in our coming days. The A-AS too, is gearing up for the winter season, and we have events to tell you about - our own as well as many sponsored by other organizations - that will interest you. Thanks to all who have let me know about events for this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Warmly,

Martie Goebel

50th Anniversary Ball

Tall pedestals bearing white snapdragons, lilies and spider mums flanked the glass doors opened wide to the atrium of the Austrian Embassy, where a gleaming 2000 square foot dance floor covered the entire center. The soft glow of candles and the fragrance of flowers greeted attendees as they took their places at tables on either side of the dance floor. Ladies in elegant ball gowns tried out their golden fan favors and perused their programs as gentlemen in white and black tie attached their crossed-flag lapel pins. New members, long-time members, diplomats, and international students from Georgetown mingled and toasted each other with Steininger Sekt, flown in from Austria especially for this occasion. Soon the 14 piece **Con Brio!** salon orchestra took their seats on the expanded stage, and the strains of Strauss's "Rosen aus dem Sueden" began.

Dancers **Jean Pompa and Stevens Douglas** performed an American ballroom version of the Viennese waltz and then it was "Alles Walzer" as the floor filled with dancers. And so it went for the next four hours. *cont. Pg.4*

CORPORATE SPONSORS:

The Austrian Atelier

Klaus Haagen's Internet-based company, selling traditional and modern Gmundner ceramics, elegant contemporary candles from Austria, as well as Hungarian embroidery. On the web at www.theaustrianatelier.com or call toll free 877 925 9999.

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. On the web at www.austrianpumpkinoil.com

Vintage Security

A leader in the home security and networking industry, providing enhanced home wiring for Audio, Data, Video, Telephone or Home Theater. Vintage is one of the largest full-scale integrator in the Washington/Baltimore area. Find them on the web at www.vintagesecurity.com.

Sunday, December 5, 2004 at 3:00 PM

You are cordially invited to A-AS's annual **Children's Afternoon with St. Nikolaus and Krampus**. As always, we will be at the Austrian Embassy. Saint Nikolaus himself will be on hand to tell his story and distribute sweets to the children - and to restrain that evil old Krampus. There will be opportunity to sing German and English carols as well. If you are a new member with young children and have never attended this event, you won't want to miss it. Your little ones will love this taste of Christmas in Austria. For reservations, call Marilyn Nejelski at 301-320-0713. This event is a benefit for SOS-Children's Villages, so a portion of your admission is a tax-deductible contribution.



EVENTS OF INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS

November 12, 2004 at 8:00 PM **Washington Saengerbund Fall Concert** at the Austrian Embassy. choral program with guest soloist Austrian soprano Magdalena Klamminger, music of Strauss and Lehar. Reception follows. Tickets \$15 (in advance) \$20 at the door. Call 703-913-4833.

November 13, 2004 Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra, George Mason University Center for the Arts (Braddock Rd & Rt 123, Fairfax, Va) 703-218-6500

November 14, 2004 3:00 **Mozart Requiem**, Master Chorale of Washington, Kennedy Center, 202-337-7468

The Austrian Cultural Forum, under the capable direction of Mag. Margareta Ploder, has an explosion of exciting events in the next two months. These events are admission free and held at the Embassy at 3524 International Court NW, but must be RSVP'd by calling 202-895-6776 or rsvp@austria.org.

If you attended the A-AS 50th Anniversary Ball you could not help but notice the wonderful exhibit of drawings and paintings which lined the walls of the atrium: **From Vienna with Grace - Expressionist Dance in Vienna**. You can still catch it until Nov. 12th.

November 19, 2004 at 7:00 pm: The new exhibition at the Embassy, **Architectural Photographs by Gerald Zugmann**, a specialist in architectural and object photography. Opens with a panel discussion (Austrian Architects - Coop Himmelb(l)au, Günter Domenig, Hans Hollein, Christoph Kapeller): **Austrian Architecture - Historic and Contemporary Perspectives**. The

exhibit will run through January 7, 2005.

Monday, November 22, 2004 at 7:30 pm **Duo Nota Bene** — Eva Steinschaden, piano and Alexander Vavtar, violin. Program: Franz Schubert: Sonata in A major, D. 574, Anton Webern: Four pieces for violin and piano, op 7, György Kurtag: Tre pezzi for violin and piano, op 14e, Johannes Brahms: Sonata No. 1 in G major, op 78

November 29, 2004 at 8:00 pm **Der Überfall** (Hold-Up) A film by Florian Flicker, Austria 2000 (in German with English subtitles, 84 min). Looking around for a suitable place for a hold-up, Andreas stumbles into a tailor's shop. What was supposed to last only a few minutes ends up being a bizarre afternoon. Cash bar with Austrian wine at 6:30 pm in coop. with Euronet.

November 30, 2004 at 7:30 A lecture by Peter Berger, Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Theology and Director of the Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs at Boston University "**The Role of Religion in Europe and the USA**"

December 3, 2004 at 7:30 Baritone **Rupert Bergmann** - Lieder by Schubert, Zabelka, Wolfram Wagner, Wellesz, Ullmann

December 9, 2004 at 7:30 **Eugeniy Chevkenov, violin, Maria Prinz, piano**: Mozart, Schubert, Bischoff, Beethoven, Kreisler

Other Upcoming Events

Saturday, November 20, 2004 at 8:00 PM & Sunday, Nov. 21 at 4:00 PM **The Chocolate Soldier** (1908) by Oscar Straus. The Academy of Vocal Arts, 1920 Spruce Street, Philadelphia. Tickets \$20.00 / \$15.00 for students and seniors. Call 215-389-0648

December 12, 2004 at 7:00 **Indien** (India) A film by Paul Harather, Austria 1993, (in German with English subtitles) At George Washington University/Gelman Library 2130 H Street, Wash DC 20037. Adm. free.

December 6, 10, 17, 18, 2004 5:00 to 8:00 pm **Christmas Candellight Celebrations** at the Brewmaster's Castle (Heurich House Foundation) 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Wash. DC 20036 \$5.00 donation.

December 12, 4-6:30 pm **Alpine Dancers** hold free, open practice at the New Carrollton Municipal Center. New dancers welcome. Couple and trio figure dances from Austria, Germ. and Switzerland. Call 301.577.3503

The Embassy Series will bring you the following concerts - and remember, make your reservations by phoning (202) 625-2361 to receive the **A-AS discount!**

November 19, 2004 at 8:00 PM Winner of the 2002 Internat. Violin Competition of Indianapolis, spectacular

young violin virtuoso, **Barnabás Kelemen** at the Embassy of Hungary, 3900 Spring of Freedom St. NW. Hungarian buffet to follow concert. reg. price \$45

November 30, 2004 at 8:00 PM Pianist **Christopher Ungarer** will make his Washington DC recital debut in a program to include works by Beethoven, Brahms, and Schumann. At the German Embassy

January 27, 28, 29, 2005 8:00 PM **Mini-Mozart Festival in Honor of Mozart's 249th Birthday**

At the Embassy of Austria, featuring Elizabeth Ann Larson, Michael Adcock, Jerome Barry, Susan Wheeler, the Mendelssohn Piano Trio, in 3 different programs of vocal and instrumental music.

Sunday, December 12, 2004 Dancers! It's time again for the T.H.I.S. annual Christmas Ball **An Evening in Vienna**. At Meridian House, 1630 Crescent Place, NW, Washington. \$75.00 call 202-939-5874

Sunday, January 2, 2004 6:30 PM Each year, the National Gallery Orchestra recreates the Vienna Philharmonic's **Gala New Year's Concert** in the beauti-

ful West Garden Court of the National Gallery. There is no admission charge, but seating is on a first-come basis and as you can imagine, these concerts are always full. A limited number of reserved seats will be available to American-Austrian Society members if you CALL NOW. Please call Martie Goebel at 703-354-2044.

People in the News

Jelinek awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature

In October, Elfriede Jelinek, born in 1946 in the town of Mürzzuschlag in the Austrian province of Styria, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. One of her novels, *The Piano Teacher*, was made into a film starring Isabelle Huppert. The film won three top prizes at Cannes in 2001.

A-AS Officers for 2004-2005:

Stephen Schott, President 202-337-5257

Marilyn Nejeliski, 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

Renewal time is running out! If you not yet a member or have not renewed your membership since March 2004, this will be your last newsletter. Please use the membership form below. The treasurer's address is on the back. Remember, only members will receive early-bird invitations and discounts on event prices.

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 \$ _____

Ball....continued from page 1

An enthusiastic crowd kept the floor filled as the orchestra played Lehar, Strauss, Waldteufel, and some Cole Porter for good measure.

But the evening was not only for dancing. When attendees entered the reception room they found 22 feet of tables lit by silver candelabra and decorated with flowers, piled high with real Viennese pastries, cheeses and fruits. Um....did we mention the cognac-soaked fresh figs? There was coffee from Julius Meinl of Vienna, plenty of whipped cream, and superb Austrian wines and sparkling sekt.

President Steven Schott introduced many former and present officers of the Society, and H.E. Ambassador Eva Nowotny graced us with her kind words regarding the past accomplishments and the future of the Society. Many attendees went home with door prizes: Our sponsors, The **Austrian Atelier** provided an exquisite contemporary candle arrangement of blue crescent moons and tall square tapers in brushed steel holders. **Austria's Finest Naturally** donated five gifts of Austrian pumpkin oil, vinegars, and jellies. Yum. There were magnums of Sekt and red wine provided by **Klaus Wittauer (Select Wines, Inc.)** The funniest moment of the evening came when the Sacher coffee service for

four (a donation of patrons **Mr. and Mrs. Henry Shine**) was won by none other than the Ambassador herself! She graciously redonated the service and drew the tombola ticket for her "successor."

An enormous treat was the musical interlude performed by baritone **Jerome Barry** and soprano **Susan Wheeler**, accompanied by pianist **George Peachy**. Ms. Wheeler's crystalline voice and Mr. Barry's warm, dramatic sound soared in the wonderful acoustics of the atrium and drew long rounds of applause with soli and duets from Mozart, Lehar and Strauss. In conclusion, the two led the entire audience in a nostalgic "Wien, Wien, nur Du Allein."

At midnight **Herb and Carol Traxler** got everyone out on the floor to participate in the Fledermaus Quadrille. Great giggling ensued as ConBrio! played the partie at faster and faster tempi, ending in the expected great 'thump' on the final chord.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work of a small army of volunteers who contributed to this event. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

For pictures - go to our website. If you would like to have a souvenir program, call 703-354-2044.

American-Austrian Society

c/o P. Leonowich, Treasurer
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