



The American-Austrian Society

January 2008

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From the Executive Committee:

Dear Members and Friends:

As we begin another new year, the American-Austrian Society would like to offer heartfelt best wishes to you and your loved ones for a prosperous, happy, healthy and peaceful 2008.

We would like to thank you for your support and friendship throughout the year that went, and we look forward to welcoming you at our upcoming events.

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Message from Austria's Ambassador

Dear Members and Friends of the American-Austrian Society!



In the name of the Austrian Embassy I bid you a very warm welcome in the American-Austrian Society and am pleased that you have joined the Society, which brings together

Austrians living abroad and friends with a specific interest in our country. In its manifold and different activities and events the Society successfully aims at bringing Austrian way of life and Austrian social culture to Washington, and I hope that through the American-Austrian Society you will also occasionally come to the Austrian Embassy and take part in our cultural activities.

Should you have special ideas or wishes for events of the Society, I am certain that the Board of the Society will always be open to your suggestions!

With my very best regards,
Eva Nowotny, Ambassador

Liebe Mitglieder und Freunde der American-Austrian Society!

Im Namen der Österreichischen Botschaft heiße ich Sie in der American-Austrian Society herzlich willkommen, und freue mich, dass Sie sich dieser Vereinigung, die Auslandsösterreicher und Freunde unseres Landes zusammenführt, angeschlossen haben. In ihren unterschiedlichen Veranstaltungen und Aktivitäten ist die American-Austrian Society erfolgreich bemüht, österreichische Lebensart und österreichische gesellschaftliche Kultur in Washington zu präsentieren, und ich hoffe, dass Sie durch die Society auch gelegentlich in die Österreichische Botschaft und zu unseren Kulturveranstaltungen kommen werden.

Sollten Sie besondere Anregungen oder Wünsche für Veranstaltungen haben, werden Sie im Vorstand der Society immer ein offenes Ohr finden! Mit meinen besten Grüßen,
Dr. Eva Nowotny, Botschafterin

Corporate Sponsor: 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. **NEW!** Helmut Sachers Kaffee.

Visit their Web site at www.austrianpumpkinoil.com

John-Paul offers discounts for members of the American-Austrian Society.

Important Upcoming Special Membership Meeting

At its last meeting on October 27, 2007, the Executive Committee decided to call a special membership meeting for January 30, 2008, at 6:30 p.m. in the Austrian embassy. The officers also invited Dr. Evans to summarize in this Newsletter the present status of the new American–Austrian Cultural Society (A–ACS) and the anticipated next steps. The official meeting notice is attached to this Newsletter, including instructions for proxy voters as well as a copy of the new bylaws.

During the past two years, the Bylaws and Executive Committees have regularly reported on developments and the slow progress in their efforts to examine, and solidify, the legal standing of the Society. Its membership approved each step. It is important to reiterate here that the creation of the A–ACS does not represent a simple name change or tactical maneuver to ultimately achieve a more favorable IRS tax status.

Over the past 53 years, and especially the more recent past, the old American–Austrian Society has outgrown its original, largely social purpose. The Articles of Incorporation and specifically the Bylaws of the new A–ACS clearly outline the new cultural mission, the charitable commitment,

and the significantly expanded geographic horizons of this new entity.

At their most recent Board meeting, the original three directors of the new corporation, Messrs. Schott, Obernberger, and Evans, in the past also ably supported by Richard and Margo Franzen, have amended their bylaws to include a conflict of interest clause, required by the IRS, and have adopted a resolution appointing Ambassador Montgomery, Ms. Wiesner, Ms. Merwald, Mrs. Rhomberg, and Mr. Mussienko additional Directors in the new

Your presence at the January 30, 2008 meeting and your vote, either in person or by proxy mail-in, will be of crucial importance for our Society's future.

corporation on an interim basis.

In the Special Meeting, the membership of the old organization will need to vote on the transfer of all assets of The American–Austrian Society (A–AS) to the American–Austrian Cultural Society (A–ACS), followed by a vote to dissolve the former. After (presumably) favorable votes on those two motions, all members will be welcomed into the

new Society. They will also vote on or reaffirm their Executive Committee. The first regular voting, with staggered appointments under the new bylaws, will then occur at the regular annual meeting in April 2008.

The Special Meeting will immediately be followed by a Long–Range Planning session. This will offer everybody the opportunity to not only query the Board on intermediate strategies and ultimate goals of the newly constituted society but to also offer personal views and proposals on how to best proceed to achieve our goals and mission. This is the time for constructive critics to be heard. Hopefully the discussion will help to identify and rank areas of need and strength, and to agree on a list of priorities in strategic planning. In addition, we hope that the attendance rate will far exceed the usual small numbers and refuel the spirit of volunteerism. Dr. Evans will serve as facilitator of that session.

Once the organizational steps outlined above have been achieved, the Directors of American–Austrian Cultural Society will have a solid foundation for completing and submitting the presently developing application to the IRS for granting this new organization 501(c)(3) status under the IRS tax code, in order to effectively pursue its mission.

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As in previous years, on Sunday, December 2, 2007 we were again able to welcome St. Nikolaus and his fearsome companion Krampus in our midst! We had a record turnout of children and adults for this festive event benefiting the SOS Children's Villages, and we would like to thank Ambassador Dr. Nowotny for her kindness in again sponsoring this beloved holiday tradition.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!
EIN GLÜCKLICHES NEUES JAHR!**



*Best Regards,
Amb. Hugh Montgomery, Ulli Wiesner, Lynn Rhomberg, Boris
Mussienko, Gerda Merwald
Executive Committee*

Inside the Embassy of Austria: The Consular Section

By Ulli Wiesner, member of the Executive Committee

On October 26th, 2007, I met with our new Consul General Gernot Wiedner who succeeds Martin Krämer who left his position after six years to assume the post of Deputy Chief of Mission at the Austrian Embassy in Tirana, Albania.

Gernot Wiedner is no stranger to the Austrian Embassy in Washington where he served from 1988 until 1992 and was significantly involved in the construction of the new Embassy building on International Court. Additionally, he has held a number of exciting positions at overseas representations of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Berne, Switzerland, New Delhi, India, Islamabad, Pakistan, and prior to returning to Washington DC, as Consul at the Austrian Consulate General in Chicago. Gernot Wiedner is married and has two children.

The Consular Section of the Embassy in Washington covers a surprisingly large area of the United States, including 15 states South of Washington, D.C. with a total population of 115 million people. It is estimated that this number includes approximately 30,000 Austrians living there. There is a total of 10 Honorary Consulates in this area that mainly



Consul General Gernot Wiedner

serve a liaison function and receive support and guidance from the Consular Section in Washington, to help them in their mission to support Austria's interests. The Consul General visits the missions frequently in order to promote public diplomacy and various outreach programs.



The main business areas of the Consular Section include the following functions:

(i) Visas

There are four different types of visas that are issued by the Section

- visas for airport transit only (i.e. the international area of the airport)
- transit visas for travel through Austria to a Non-Schengen country for up to 5 days
- tourist visas valid to enter and remain in the Schengen area up to 90 consecutive days
- so-called national visas (i.e. limited to enter and remain in Austria only)

The Consular Section determines whether a citizen of a certain nationality does or does not require a visa for Austria and is guided by the overall provisions of the so-called "Schengen Treaty". The Schengen area comprises 15 member states and a few more to join on January 1st, 2008 (e.g. Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia...) Occasionally, consultation is necessary with the Schengen Information System in Brussels, in

order to determine if a visa may be issued.

The normal turn-around time for a visa request is approximately three working days, but certain cases (e.g. when consultations are needed) may require a waiting time of up to three weeks.

(ii) Passports

The Consular Section is also responsible for issuing and renewing passports. Due to the requirements for enhanced security measures, e.g. biometrically identifiable personal information, it will soon become necessary that Austrian citizens applying for new passports appear in person at the Austrian Embassy in order to record these data for future documentation.

(iii) Document procurement

The Consular Section also is responsible for helping to procure Austrian documents and/or duplicate documents, such as birth, marriage, divorce, name change and citizenship documents, with the exception of ecclesiastical documents (e.g. baptismal certificates and the like).

(iv) Social matters

Another important area of responsibility deals with issues of Old Age Pension and Social Security, in addition to the processing and administration of Restitution Applications for former victims of the Nazi regime and nursing allowances. There are a number of such cases, principally in nursing homes in Florida, and the Consular Section is responsible for e.g. organizing medical examinations by so-called physicians of confidence in order to determine the appropriate amount to be allocated for nursing allowances.

Moreover, the Section deals with

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the administration of the Special Fund for Austrians Living Abroad in Temporary Economic Distress (see our "Weltbund" article in the June Newsletter on this subject).

(v) Legal matters

The Embassy's Consular Section sometimes- upon request- acts as a notary public in order to legalize undersigned documents (e.g. power of attorneys, civil contracts etc.). It furthermore takes care of Austrian inmates incarcerated in US by visiting them frequently at various correctional facilities and preparing their - sometimes possible- extradition to Austria.

(vi) Security

Since 09/11 in particular, the Head of the Section has been called upon to provide critically important liaison and representation functions on behalf of

the Austrian Ministry of the Interior with U.S. counterparts, e.g. the Department of Homeland Security etc., on sensitive matters.

Despite its numerous responsibilities, the unit consists of the Consul General and three full-time staff members.

We wish Gernot Wiedner and his family a very successful and pleasant stay in Washington DC.

The Consular Section's Desk for walk-in requests is open as follows:

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays,



between 10.30 am and 1.00 pm.

Telephone inquiries should be directed to 202 895 6743,

Monday through Friday, from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm.

Inside the Embassy of Austria: The new Department for Agriculture and Environment

By Ulli Wiesner, member of the Executive Committee

Hans Kordik is the newest member of the Austrian Embassy since he took up the position as the Counselor for Agriculture and Environment at the beginning of September this year. In addition, Mr. Kordik has been accredited to the Permanent Representation to the United Nations in New York.

In comparison to most other diplomats, Mr. Kordik was sent to Washington directly by the Federal Ministry for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, where he was Head of Department for EU-Coordination. Besides representing his Minister at the EU Council for Agriculture in Brussels, Mr. Kordik was responsible for all export initiatives for his Ministry.

Mr. Kordik gained his first experience as a diplomat during his assignment as an Agricultural Attaché at the Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels in 1999. From 2000 - 2003 he served as a Member of the Cabinet of Vice-

Chancellor Wilhelm Molterer, former Minister of Agriculture and Environment, where he dealt with the international affairs for agriculture and environment.

I visited Hans Kordik to learn more



about the tasks of the new Counselor at the Austrian Embassy. "It's good to be back in Washington," was his first remark, stating that he had been born in Washington DC and had spent a total

of eleven years prior to his 18th birthday in the Washington area. He moved back to Vienna with his family in 1985 to study agricultural economics at the University of Agriculture, but is excited to be back in Washington after 22 years. Mr. Kordik is married and has six children.

The Department for Agriculture and Environment is a new service within the Austrian Embassy, but many other Embassies of the European Union like France, Germany, Netherlands or Denmark have posted agricultural experts in Washington. The United States has become an important trading partner for Austria especially in the field of agriculture. "The US is the third largest export market for Austrian food and wine, right after Germany and Italy, accounting for 10.1 percent of Austrian agricultural export," explains Hans Kordik who sees an enormous future potential for Austrian exports.

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Austria has a very significant share of organic farming, and in recent years there has been a strong trend towards consumption of organic foodstuffs in the USA as well. "Austrians are not the only ones to enjoy food from farms that are managed in an environmentally sustainable way. The positive development of our exports shows that the decision made in the 80s by the former Vice-Chancellor and Agricultural Minister Josef Riegler to promote extensive ways of agricultural production was the right one as there is a growing demand for quality foods originating from Austria."

In cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce, the Austrian agricultural promotion agency Agrarmarkt Austria, and the Wine Marketing agency, we are planning to organize the first Austrian food presentation on May 14 and 15, 2008 in New York City. In addition to other events there will be a food presentation at the "Food Emporium," which will be opened on the morning of May 15th by the Austrian Federal Minister for Agriculture Josef Pröll.

Another Austrian success story concerns environmental technology, an area where Austria can provide expertise and innovative know-how. There will be an event organized in California in the first half of May 2008 led by the Austrian Federal Minister for Environment Josef Pröll together with an economic delegation in order to present this innovative know-how of Austrian companies and to enable Americans to learn from technologies that can be developed and applied without negatively affecting air quality and public health.

Mr. Kordik sees many topics and policies within the field of agriculture and environment, where Austria and the United States can engage in a mutually beneficial exchange. "We can learn a lot from the American experience in the production of bio-ethanol, as Austria is a newcomer in this field, having just inaugurated its first ethanol production plant in Pischelsdorf (Lower Austria) this past October. On the other hand, Austria has a lot of know-how to offer, especially in the

promotion of the sustainable use of biomass."

There are also topics and policies where there are differences of understanding between the two countries. To mention just one example, Austrian consumers are particularly sensitive regarding biotechnology. The United States, on the other hand, has had a long-standing tradition of food production that uses genetically modified organisms and wishes to export these foodstuffs. It will be an interesting challenge to explain the worries of Austrian consumers and the reasons for the Austrian Government's restrictive approach in this regard to an American audience."

Mr. Kordik may be reached at the Austrian Embassy by phone at (202) 895- 6707, by fax at (202) 895-6750 or via e-mail under hans.kordik@bmeia.gv.at.

We wish Hans Kordik and his family a very successful and pleasant stay in Washington.

Food Corner — or "The Squeezin' Season"

By Gerda Merwald

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day most of us have gained 1, 2 or more pounds and, despite our best attempts, it is hard to drop the weight.

Following are some helpful tips to



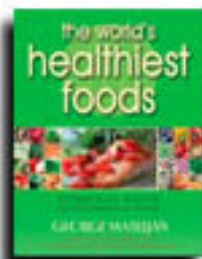
help us make it through our next holiday healthier and more fit.

- Eat before the feast, have a piece of fruit or a glass of skim milk, which helps to feel full more quickly.



- Choose a plate with less "real estate."
- Alternate alcoholic drinks with water.
- Take some more time before making another dash for the buffet table

- What I found in the great book by George Mateljan, "The World's Healthiest Food," or www.whfoods.org, text search nutrient-rich foods.



- Kiwi, with just 46 calories and 0 fat, is ideal for weight control and is a great source of vitamin C.



- Cayenne/Red Chili has anti-inflammatory and pain relief properties, and provide the heat that may help burn excess fat (always add at the end of cooking process).
- You get a more restful sleep if meals are eaten four hours before bedtime.

2008 Calendar of Events

Mark your calendar for the following exciting events, both by The American-Austrian Society and around our area. Please also watch for e-mail announcements.

Sunday, January 13 – 6:30 pm

Grammy Award-winning pianist Lambert Orkis anchors the Castle Trio in a program of three interrelated trios by Niels Gade, Robert Schumann and Felix Mendelssohn.

Concert is at the Smithsonian Castle Commons. The concert begins at 7:30 pm with a pre-concert talk beginning at 6:30 pm.

Call 202-633 3030, Smithsonian Associates, for tickets.

Sunday, January 20, 2008 – 2:00 pm

An all-Brahms program with Nurit Bar-Josef, violin; Daniel Foster, viola; David Hardy, cello; Lambert Orkis, piano (all principal players of the National Symphony Orchestra). Concert is at the Terrace Theater in the Kennedy Center.

Website: www.kennedy-center.org

Sunday, January 27, 2008 – 7:30 pm

Works by Mozart and Stravinsky. Performance with members of the National Symphony Orchestra including Lambert Orkis, piano; Nurit Bar-Josef, violin; Loren Kitt, clarinet. Terrace Theater, Kennedy Center.

Tickets for concerts on the 20th and 27th: Phone: 1-800-

444-1234; 202-467-4600. Web site: www.kennedy-center.org

Wednesday, January 30, 2008 – 6:30 pm

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING at the Embassy of Austria.

Your presence at this meeting and your vote, either in person or by proxy mail-in, will be of crucial importance for our Society's future.

March 14, 15 and 16 – 8 pm

The annual **Schubert, Schubert and Schubert** is in March 2008, at Georgetown's Gaston Hall. The Aurynd Quartet will perform with Polina Leschenko, Piano and Ferdinand Erbllich, Viola.

All Concerts begin at 8 pm. For more information call 301-69 0440 or visit the Web site at www.stompingground.com/schubert/.

Plans for your summer vacation for July/August 2008?

A perfect vacation getaway is Bad Ischl. This year at the Lehár Festival in Bad Ischl performances include "Der Zigeunerbaron" and "Der Zarewitsch." Visit the Web site at www.leharfestival.at.



An Expression of Sympathy

Franz M. Enzinger, M.D., 84, passed away on October 1, 2007, at his home in Bethesda, and was laid to rest at his hometown in Enns, Austria.

A native of Austria, Professor Dr. Enzinger immigrated to the United States in 1951, he was a leading authority on tumors of soft tissue, and the author of books and scientific publications.

For 25 years, Dr. Enzinger served as the head of the World Health Organization International Reference Center for Soft Tissue Tumors. For his contributions, Dr. Enzinger received several honorary medical degrees, and many other awards.

He was an active member of the American-Austrian Society for more than 20 years.

Dr. Enzinger is survived by his wife, Inge, and his son Peter.