



# The American-Austrian Cultural Society

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## From the Editor:

*Dear Members and Friends:*

*Recently, we changed our name to "American-Austrian Cultural Society." However, this means much more than revising a name. We are entering a new era of renewal and are facing an abundance of cultural performances in the Washington Metropolitan Area. We hope that our new status will enable us to broaden and deepen our cooperation with important partners, such as the*

*Austrian Embassy and others, who share our goals of promoting the friendship and cultural ties between Austria and the United States, in order to bring you interesting and rewarding programs and activities.*

*It is our mission to foster a thriving Society in the years to come. Thank you for your continued support.*

*Gerda Merwald*

## Message from Austria's Cultural Attaché

Dear Members and Friends of the American-Austrian Cultural Society!



The Austrian Cultural Forum of the Austrian Embassy in Washington organizes and supports a variety of cultural events, including concerts, exhibitions, film screenings, lectures and discussions. Most of these events take place at the Embassy's atrium and are free and open to the public. While building on the great traditions of the past, the Austrian Cultural Forum particularly focuses on the presentation of contemporary and innovative artistic achievements. The American-Austrian Cultural Society is our natural partner for the promotion of Austrian culture and artists in Washington. We have successfully worked together on several occasions in the past and very much hope that the recent transformation and new

incorporation as American-Austrian Cultural Society will expand the basis as well as the possibilities for our future cooperation.

I would like to encourage all the members of the American-Austrian Cultural Society to join our mailing list and to take part in our cultural events. I also hope that the Austrian community in the D.C. area as well as all those with ties to Austria will take an active interest in the activities of the Society. Please do not hesitate to approach me with any ideas or recommendations for possible joint projects. Together the American-Austrian Cultural Society and the Embassy's Austrian Cultural Forum could have an important impact in strengthening the manifold cultural relations.

With my very best regards,

Margareta Ploder  
Cultural Attaché / Director of the  
Austrian Cultural Forum



## 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](http://www.austrianpumpkinoil.com)

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

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## Hungarian Embassy Sponsors a Book Presentation

### “One Day That Shook the Communist World - The 1956 Hungarian Uprising and its Legacy”

By Ulli Wiesner

On April 22, 2008, Professor Paul Lendvai, a leading European journalist and senior commentator on Austrian television, who is especially knowledgeable on Eastern European issues and has authored numerous books and articles, presented his newest book “One day that shook the Communist world - The 1956 Hungarian uprising and its Legacy” (published by Princeton University Press) to an extremely well-attended gathering here in Washington, DC. The event took place at the Embassy of Hungary under the joint patronage of the Austrian Ambassador, Dr. Eva Nowotny, and the Hungarian Ambassador, Dr. Ferenc Somogy, both of whom bade a warm welcome to their distinguished guest.

Professor Lendvai’s book takes a critical look at the events that shook



Author Professor Paul Lendvai

his native Hungary in October of 1956 and heralded the future liberation of Eastern Europe. An eyewitness to the events himself as a young journalist, he now, over fifty years later, attempts to set history straight and to shed light on the many falsehoods and legends perpetrated by various factions.

In his remarks, Professor Lendvai also paid a special and very personal

tribute to the role the fledgling, newly liberated neighbor country Austria had played both during and after the bloody events of the 1956 Hungarian uprising. Austria not only generously opened her arms to the many refugees who were spilling over the borders in search of freedom and a better life: the country also took a courageous stand at the United Nations in support of the Hungarian freedom fight, at the peril of angering its former Russian occupiers in particular who had left Austria barely a year prior.

A lively question-and-answer session with the audience followed Professor Lendvai's remarks, and those of us attending were subsequently able to enjoy the lovely hospitality of our friends at the Embassy of Hungary.

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## Auslandsösterreicher-Weltbund - AÖWB to hold Annual Meeting in September

Each year, the Weltbund organizes a very large international meeting in Austria for its members and friends. Traditionally, such Annual Meetings are held in different capitals of Austria’s nine federal states on a rotational basis.

Aside from working meetings, a cultural program is being offered, including official receptions. All members and friends of the Weltbund are encouraged to participate in such meetings. It is a rewarding experi-



ence to meet a “family” of Austrians and their friends from all over the world.

Last year’s convention partner was the westernmost federal state of Austria, Vorarlberg. The convention was held September 6–9, 2007.

About 450 Austrians living abroad enjoyed a variety of cultural programs, in and around Bregenz,

including the general assembly in the Festspielhaus Bregenz.

This year’s Weltbund Annual Meeting will be held in Salzburg, from September 4–7, 2008.

Please refer to their Web:

**[www.weltbund.at/  
aktuelles\\_termine.asp](http://www.weltbund.at/aktuelles_termine.asp)**

for more information, such as hotel reservations and other event information.



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## 70 years later (Lest we Forget!)

### Small Personal Memoir on Being in Vienna on March 12, 1938

By Ulli Wiesner

Austria wins its first-ever Oscar for best Foreign Language film for director Stefan Ruzowitzky "Die Fälscher" ("The Counterfeiters"). The movie starred Karl Markovich.

I had just learned the stupendous news as I was readying myself to spend the better part of March in my native city of Vienna in order to participate in some of the special



events that had been organized in commemoration of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Austria's "Anschluss" which occurred on March 12, 1938.

For someone of my generation of Austrians who grew up immediately after the war, a time when things "before the year '45" were hardly talked about, being in Vienna in March 2008 and witnessing the significant changes Austria has

undergone in terms of facing her past, was a poignant and, I might add, heartening experience.

The numerous events and exhibitions that had been organized at the Burgtheater and the Vienna State Opera, in addition to a mass rally at the historic Heldenplatz, commemorating the event, bore living testimony to the fact that Austria continues to honor the many people who fell victim to the ensuing years of the Nazi regime.

A few days after arriving in Vienna, I finally took courage and saw "Die Fälscher," a masterful work of art, and one that is not easy to watch.

I encourage you, dear friends of Austria, to see this important contribution by a team of Austrian artists.

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## American-Austrian Cultural Society Member, Margrit B. Krewson, Wins Award

By Ulli Wiesner

Our long-standing member and Society supporter, Margrit B. Krewson was awarded the very special honor of being named "The 2007 Distinguished German-American of the Year" by the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA. Among other goals, this Foundation is dedicated to preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of Americans of German-speaking heritage.

Margrit was honored at a festive gala banquet that was held on April 17, 2008 at the Embassy of Austria under the Patronage of H.E. The Ambassador, Dr. Eva Nowotny, inter

alia in special recognition of her unique support in securing the acquisition of the Waldseemüller 1507 world map, best known as The Birth Certificate of America from Germany for the U.S. Library of Congress. This is a document of extraordinary cultural importance for the history of the American continent, and its acquisition was an arduous process that was shepherded by her over many years with great professional knowledge, fine diplomatic skills and in the face of quite of bit of resistance. The map can now be admired by the public at the Library of Congress. H.S.H. Prince

Johannes Waldburg-Wolfegg, whose family owned the Martin Waldseemüller map for over 300 years, was a Special Guest of Honor at the Gala.



Margrit B. Krewson

We would herewith like to extend our congratulations to Margrit and her husband Charles, one of the former Presidents of our Society, on this joyous occasion.

**Attention Members!  
The Annual Meeting  
is May 14, 2008  
at 6:30 p.m.**

The meeting will be followed by a lecture:  
"Sugar Blues, Adding Years to Your Life and Life to Your Years"  
presented by Q Moayad, PhD, CHC, Holistic Health & Nutrition Counselor

**We hope to see you there!**

## Austria and Switzerland to Host 2008 European Football Championship Austrian Embassy to Show Final Match of Special European Embassy Teams Live

In June 2008 Austria welcomes Europe's best soccer players and Europe's most loyal fans to the UEFA EURO 2008™! Austria's "line of four" with the host cities of Vienna, Klagenfurt, Salzburg and Innsbruck is the perfect line-up for a cheerful soccer festival for fans, participants and athletes!



Austria and Switzerland will host the European Soccer Championships from June 7–29, 2008. 550 000 visitors are expected in the Stadiums, up to 2 million participants in Fan Miles and Public Viewing and 8 to 10 billion viewers on TV!

For three weeks the ball will be kicked between Austria and Switzerland before the final whistle signals the end of the European Soccer Championships on June

29 in Ernst-Happel Stadium. Three weeks of excitement, euphoria and tears. Austria's host cities and provinces provide the stages for great feelings, and welcome you to three thrilling and exhilarating weeks.

Austria will be playing in Group B against Poland, Croatia and Germany.

ESPN will broadcast the matches throughout the U.S.

Events planned in view of the European Soccer Championship 2008 hosted by Austria and Switzerland this year, which will take place from June 7–29, 2008:

**Transatlantic Soccer Cup:** This soccer match is planned for June 29 between four teams made up of members of European Embassies and the State Department

**Embassy Hosting Showing of Final Match:** On June 29, the final match will be broadcast live from Vienna and shown at the Austrian Embassy at 3 p.m. Washington soccer fans will be invited to attend the event, which will be accompanied by a buffet and drinks.

## 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.

### May 3, 2008, All Day Event

#### Open House

Embassies of the EU Member States and the delegation of the European Commission to the United States will open their doors to the public for a celebration of the diversity and unity of Europe. Representatives of the American-Austrian Cultural Society will be present throughout the day.

### May 14, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

#### Annual Meeting

followed by a lecture:

- “Sugar Blues, Adding Years to Your Life and Life to Your Years,” presented by Q Moayad, PhD, CHC,
- Holistic Health & Nutrition Counselor

### June 12, 2008, 8 p.m.

#### Humor in der Deutschen Sprache [in German]

Alfred Obernberger and Ulli Wiesner will read from works by Wilhelm Busch, Joachim Ringelnatz, Christian Morgenstern, Erich Kästner, Josef Weinheber, Friedrich Thorberg and more at: Restaurant Old Europe (“Rathskeller”) on Wisconsin Ave., Washington DC. Space is limited so please register early by calling 703-941-0227.



### June 29, 2008

**European Soccer Championship 2008** The final match will be broadcast live from Vienna and shown at the Austrian Embassy at 3 p.m. Washington soccer fans are invited to attend the event, which will be accompanied by a buffet and drinks.

### June 2008 (date to be announced)

Traditional **Kaffeehaus Jause** at Clark House.

Date and Venue to be Announced

Traditional **Heurigen**