**Special Newsletter – March 2020**

Dear Friends of Austria!

As we are all trying to cope with the challenging changes disrupting our lives I wish you and your family to find ways to make the best out of it, and most important that you stay healthy.

As it seems that "social distancing" is at the moment the only and best effective mean to stem the outbreak, we all have to adhere to the recommendations for the good of the individual but even more for the community as a whole.

If you know of Austrian Tourists traveling in the US, please advise them that they should **return to Austria immediately** as long as it is still possible to get a direct flight back. Please check the website of the Consulate General for the most recent updates: <https://www.bmeia.gv.at/en/austrian-consulate-general-los-angeles/>

Today the Consulate General of Austria in Los Angeles sent out the notice that all**appointments in person at the Consulate General in Los Angeles and at all Honorary Consulates will be suspended.** Of course, the service at the Consulate General will continue via email and phone as much as possible

So, unfortunately I will have now to pause any appointments where we would meet in person. But I want to emphasize that I continue to be available via email or phone whenever I can be of assistance.

Our friends and families in Austria and most of Europe are going through the same severe times. In Austria there are almost the same number of people infected by the Covid-19 virus as in WA state, similar draconic measures, lockdowns, travel restrictions, school closures etc. in an effort to reduce the spread of the virus.

Wishing you to find little joys throughout the day, like today, the beautiful views of the snow covered Cascade mountains basking in sunshine, the signs of spring in your yard, or maybe you take advantage of the offer of the Vienna State Opera for a free live streaming of a performance everyday:

<https://www.staatsoperlive.com/>

Or on a lighter side, listen to Arnold Schwarzenegger's advice:

<https://twitter.com/Schwarzenegger/status/1239383795205169152>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

With my best wishes for you and your family to stay healthy and in a good mood in spite of everything.

Herzlichst

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(meetings by appointment only)

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