

News, December 2013



Dear Friends of the Jewish Welcome Service,

the Jewish Welcome Service has apart from its invitation programme for expelled Jewish citizens a lot of other tasks. This newsletter gives you an overview of our last projects and activities in 2013. We look forward to your comments and feedback !

We wish you all the best for the Holiday Season and a Healthy and Peaceful 2014 !

Exhibition recommendation:

Austrian Builder-Owner Award 2013 until 10 January 2014

Presented by the Central Association of Austrian Architects since 1967, the **Austrian Builder-Owner Award** has grown in significance over the years, serving as the model and inspiration for a number of regional and international architecture prizes. For the third time, **Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein's Architektur im Ringturm series** will showcase all of the nominees, with the seven prize winners taking pride of place. The exhibition gives an overview of Austria's contemporary architecture scene.

[read more](#)

VI Szczekociny Festival of Jewish Culture:

YAHAD – RAZEM 2013

In Szczekociny, the town of birth of **Leon Zelman** last July the VI Jewish Festival took place. This festival is an initiative from **Agnieszka Piskiewicz** and **Yossi Bornstein** whose father also came from Szczekociny and who lived after his survival in Israel. This year the translation of Zelman's autobiography „After Survival“ has been presented. **Armin Thurnher**, author of Zelman's biography „After Survival and Chief Cantor Shmuel Barzilai from Vienna were among the participants and guests.

[more about the festival & the programme](#)

First Leon Zelman Prize goes to "Verein GEDENKDIENTST"

Vienna's **City Councilor Michael Ludwig** awarded the first **Leon Zelman Prize** in mid-June on behalf of **City Councilor for Culture Mailath-Pokorny** – to **Verein GEDENKDIENTST** for its contribution to the fight against fascism, anti-Semitism, racism and other forms of discrimination. An "award and acknowledgement of an important commitment made entirely in the spirit of the great bridge-builder and publicist Zelman," is how Ludwig explained it. **Adalbert Wagner**, the Chairman of GEDENKDIENTST, received the prize together with EUR 5,000..

[Image gallery of the prize-giving on Facebook](#)

[More about the Leon Zelman Prize](#)

[Proposals for the Leon Zelman Prize 2014 \(until January 31, 2014\)](#)

Invitation Programme for Expelled Jewish Citizens: October 6-13, 2013

The **Jewish Welcome Service** invited a group of expelled Jewish citizens to a one-week visit to **Vienna**. There were a total of **70 people** from the **USA, Canada, Israel, Argentina,**



Until 10 January 2014: All nominees of the **Austrian Builder-Owner Award 2014** at the **Architektur im Ringturm series**



Author **Armin Thurnher** (l.) and Chief Cantor **Shmuel Barzilai** from Vienna with **Agnieszka Piskiewicz**, who initiated the „Festival of Jewish Culture: YAHAD – RAZEM 2013“
(Photo: © Ryszard Fatyga)



Peru, Australia, Great Britain, Italy, and Switzerland. The visit was supported by the **City of Vienna**, the **Federal Chancellery** and the **Vienna Insurance Group**.



Reception hosted by Federal President Fischer (Photo: © Peter Lechner/HBF)

[Image gallery of the Reception](#)

[Invitation Programme for Expelled Jewish Citizens](#)

DATES 2014	SPONSOR
March 30 - Apr. 6	Federal Chancellery
Sept. 7-14	City of Vienna, Federal Chancellery

May 21 - 29, 2013:

"Celebrate Jewish Life and Culture in Vienna"

in cooperation with Hillel Canada
 "Celebrate Jewish Life and Culture in Vienna" was the motto of a joint venture between the **Jewish Welcome Service** and **Hillel Canada** that was continued in 2013 due to its tremendous success. The Jewish Welcome Service invited **ten students to visit Vienna** for several days from **May 21-29, 2013**. The aim of the programme: Learning about/presenting Vienna as a modern, cosmopolitan European city as well as a highly involved Jewish community.

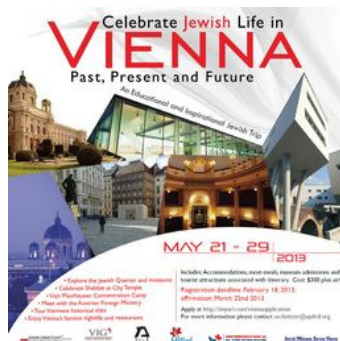


There was also **lots of fun** – during the visit to Vienna of the ten students, seen here in front of the Parliament building

from left: City Councilor **Michael Ludwig** presents the first Leon Zelman Prize to **Adalbert Wagner**, Chairman of Verein GEDENKDIENTST. Amongst the congratulators: **Susanne Trauneck**, Secretary General of the Jewish Welcome Service, and jury member **Ari Rath**, former publisher and editor in chief of the Jerusalem Post. (Photo: © PID/Walter Schaub-Walzer)



City Councilor **Christian Oxonitsch** (l.) at the reception at the Vienna City Hall with **Barbara Grötschnig**, Head of Sponsoring VIG (2nd from the left), **Mike Laor**, guest off the Jewish Welcome Service, and **Susanne Trauneck**, Secretary General Jewish Welcome Service (Foto: © Schaub-Walzer)



The **Jewish Welcome Service** and **Hillel Canada** invited ten students **to visit Vienna** from May 21-29.

(Photo:
© Hillel Canada)

**AJC ACCESS: Breaking Boundaries:
June 24 - July 1, 2013**

At the invitation of **City Councilor Mailath-Pokorny** a delegation from **AJC ACCESS New York** was again travelling to Vienna this year. Founded in the year 1906, the **American Jewish Committee** is the oldest Jewish organisation in the USA. **ACCESS** is aimed at the **younger generation of AJC** (young professionals aged between 25 and 30). ACCESS runs **offices** in the **USA** and **Israel**. Together with ACCESS and in cooperation with the **Press & Information Service of the Austrian Embassy in Washington**, the Jewish Welcome Service designed and organised a programme focusing on Vienna.

**Report of the visit
read more**



City Councilor for Culture **Andreas Mailath-Pokorny** (center) receives a delegation from **AJC ACCESS New York** in Vienna City Hall. The group is supervised by **Susanne Trauneck**, Secretary General of the Jewish Welcome Service (Photo: © PID/Walter Schaub-Walzer)

**Report in the OTS Press Service (in German)
Image gallery of the AJC ACCESS visit on Facebook**

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Now available:

Das Jüdische Echo,
November 2013

**Facebook page of the
magazin (in German)**



Peter Höfinger (Member of the Managing Board, VIG), **Alexis Frankel** (Director AJC ACCESS), **Susanne Trauneck** (Secretary General JWS), **Andreas Mailath-Pokorny** (City Councilor for Culture & Science), **Jason P. Harris** (AJC)

Photo: © PID/Walter Schaub-Walzer

