

News, July 2015



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 a first overview of our projects and activities in 2015. We look forward to your comments and feedback!

Wrapping of the Ringturm 2015: "Summer Pleasures" by Tanja Deman

On its 60th birthday, the Ringturm is attracting the attention of the international art scene. For the eighth time, **Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein**, main shareholder of **Vienna Insurance Group**, wraps the Ringturm – this year with the work "Sommerfreuden" ("Summer Pleasures") by Croatian artist **Tanja Deman**. This summer, Deman's work is shown on the Ringturm's facade and makes its mark on the cityscape with a supersized art installation.

[More about the Wrapping of the Ringturm](#)



"Summer Pleasures" is the title of the Wrapping of the Ringturm 2015, with which the Croatian artist **Tanja Deman** is making a mark on behalf of the **Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein**. Photo: © Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein / Tanja Deman

Marjorie Agosin visits Vienna

From **March 15 to 23**, the Chilean-American writer **Marjorie Agosin** visited Vienna upon the invitation of the **Jewish Welcome Service**. Amongst other things, the Wellesley College (Massachusetts, USA) professor and active **human rights activist** held a lecture at the **Institute for Science and Art - IWK** ("A Writer's Journey through Memory and Exile") as well as at **Gymnasium G19**, where she spoke about her family history and Austria's role in the Nazi period. The G19 school community was awarded the **Leon Zelman Prize** for their commemorative and remembrance initiatives in 2014.

[Invitation](#)



The author and human rights activist **Marjorie Agosin** on her visit to Gymnasium G19. Photo: © JWS

Celebrate Jewish life and culture in Vienna



© Jonathan Falk / Hillel Baltimore

From **March 15 to 22**, the Jewish Welcome Service hosted a group of students from **Hopkins Hillel, Baltimore**. A diverse program with the theme "Celebrate Jewish Culture in Vienna. Past - Present - Future" comprised of **walks around the city** through the Jewish quarter of Vienna, visits to the **campus of**

the Jewish Community and the **Jewish Museum Vienna**, **discussions** with opinion leaders as well as a **visit to the Parliament**.

Contemporary witness Harry Bibring in Vienna

In April, **Harry Bibring** visited Vienna upon the invitation of the **Jewish Welcome Service** in cooperation with the **Holocaust Memorial Service**. As a 14 year-old, Bibring fled to England with his sister as a part of "Kindertransport" (Refugee Children Movement). His parents were deported from **Vienna Aspeng station** and did not survive. As a contemporary witness, he took part in a **memorial event** for Jom haSchoa at the former Vienna Aspeng station, where trains left for the Nazi extermination camps with thousands of Viennese Jews.

Contemporary witness Greta Elbogen tells her life story

In May, the 77 year-old social worker and psychotherapist **Greta Elbogen** visited Vienna upon the invitation of the **Jewish Welcome Service** and the Theodor Kramer Society, Vienna - and told the pupils of **Rainergasse High School** (Vienna-Margareten) her moving, often depressing life story. When she was a baby, Elbogen and her family fled to Budapest, her father was murdered in Dachau, her mother and brother were temporarily arrested. Roaul Wallenberg's safe-conduct pass saved her life. In 1956 she came to Vienna, and later went to New York. Her message, which deeply affected the children, was: "send love".

Invitation

Holocaust Education Centre Toronto study group visit



© PID / Schaub-Walzer

City Councillor for Culture **Andreas Mailath-Pokorny** received a study group of young professionals (between 25 and 35) from the **Holocaust Education Centre Toronto** in Vienna's City Hall. The group got to know Vienna from **April 27 to May 6** upon the invitation of the **Jewish Welcome Service**. Activities included meetings with representatives of the Jewish community and opinion leaders as well as visiting memorials.

Image Gallery

"Jewish Vienna" brochure redeveloped

The "Jewish Vienna - Legacy and Mission" brochure has been completely redeveloped by the **Jewish Museum Vienna** and the **Jewish Welcome Service**, supported by the **Vienna Tourist Board** and the **Press and Information Service of the city of Vienna** (PID), and is now available for **free** in the Jewish Museum at Judenplatz, at the JWS and in the Tourist



Contemporary witness **Harry Bibring** at a memorial event at the former Aspeng station, President of the IKG **Oskar Deutsch**, City Councillor for Culture **Andreas Mailath-Pokorny** and head of the Austrian railway network (ÖBB) **Christian Kern** remember the deportations to Nazi extermination camps.



Contemporary witness **Greta Elbogen** (77), social worker and psychotherapist, tells students at Rainergasse High School her moving life story. Photo: © Heinz Wagner/ Kinder-KURIER, [to KURIER article](#)



The **Wiener Städtische Versicherungsverein / Vienna Insurance Group** invited a study group from the **Holocaust Education Centre Toronto** to lunch during their stay in Vienna. Board director **Peter Höfinger** (1.v.l.) appreciates the stimulating discussion with the

Information office at Albertinaplatz.

[Download "Jewish Vienna" brochure](#)

[Leon Zelman Prize 2015 presented:](#)



© PID / Schaub-Walzer

Robert Streibel, Director of the Vienna Adult Education Center, was awarded the **Leon Zelman Prize** at the beginning of June for his long-standing service to the historical education of children and adults and his initiatives for the memory of the Shoah. "Robert Streibel is the best type of educator; he invests a lot of energy into his work illuminating the dark chapter of our history for generations to come. His work is an indispensable part of successful future work," said City Councillor of Culture **Andreas Mailath-Pokorny** at the award ceremony. The laudatory speech was given by **Gerhard Baumgartner** from the Documentation Center of Austrian Resistance.

[Download the laudatory speech](#)

[by Gerhard Baumgartner](#) (German)

[Download speech by Robert Streibel](#) (German)

young professionals. Photo: ©
Photo by Michael Rajzman for
the Neuberger Holocaust
Education Centre.



"Jewish Vienna - Legacy and Mission" brochure has been completely redeveloped. You can download the PDF version [here](#)

Herausgeber:

Jewish Welcome Service

Mag.^a Susanne Trauneck

Judenplatz 8 / 3. Stock / Top 8, A-1010 Wien

Tel. +43(1)535 04 31-500

E-Mail: office@jewish-welcome.at

Instagram: http://instagram.com/JWS_Vienna1#

www.jewish-welcome.at



Do you no longer wish to receive our newsletter? Simply send us an [email](#)