

News, August / September 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

High-ranking delegation of the American Jewish Committee New York in Vienna

The **Jewish Welcome Service** hosted a delegation of the **American Jewish Committee (AJC) from 22 to 29 June**. The Jewish Welcome Service organized a varied program together with AJC NY and the Austrian Consulate General. The aim of the visit was to give an impression of present-day Austria - from politics to business and culture to modern Jewish life.

The program included meetings and **discussions with Austrian politicians** in parliament, background talks with **representatives of the City of Vienna** and the **Foreign Ministry**, a guided tour of the **Jewish Museum Vienna**, a visit to the **IKG Campus Vienna with President Deutsch** as well as the **Jewish Community Salzburg**. The delegation also visited the **Mauthausen** and **Schloss Hartheim** memorial sites and met **Ari Rath**, former publisher of the Jerusalem Post. Particularly moving: One of the participants was born in a DP camp near Linz. The Jewish Welcome Service made it possible for him to visit his birthplace.



The **delegation of the AJC** at the end of June at a reception given by **WIENER STÄDTISCHE VERSICHERUNGSVEREIN**, main sponsor of the Jewish Welcome Service, in the **Ringturm**. Shown: **Michael Schmid**, Director AJCNY (3rd from left); **Susanne Trauneck** (middle), Head of JWS; **Alex Bronzo** (behind), Dep. Director AJCNY, **Peter Höfinger** (adjacent), CEO VIG; **Waltraud Dennhardt-Herzog** (2nd from right), Dep. Consul General in N.Y. Photo © Wiener Städtische



The delegation in Vienna City Hall, photo © JWS, Trauneck.

The American Jewish Committee is the **oldest Jewish organization in the USA** and was founded in 1906. The Jewish Welcome Service previously hosted delegations of AJC ACCESS (younger generation of AJC) in **2012 and 2013**.

Greta Elbogen talks about her life

In April, **Greta Elbogen** visited **Vienna** at the invitation of the **Jewish Welcome Service and the Theodor Kramer Society**. 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. **Raoul Wallenberg's** safe-conduct pass saved her life. In 1956, she came to Vienna, and later went to **New York**. Greta Elbogen worked as a **social worker** and is a **spiritual teacher, psychotherapist and poet**. In Vienna and Innsbruck, she presented the **poetry collection Gott spielt Verstecken / God Plays Hide And Seek** together with **Konstantin Kaiser and Evelyn Adunka** from the Theodor Kramer Society. [Information on the book](#) (in German).

“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 Information office at Albertinaplatz.

[Download “Jewish Vienna” brochure](#)

The Missing Image. Wien 1938.

In a temporary installation Ruth Beckermann

... re-contextualizes **Alfred Hrdlicka's** 1988 monument “**Memorial against War and Fascism**”. The installation **THE MISSING IMAGE** relates to the bronze figure of a bearded man lying down with a brush in his hand, depicting the **Jews cleaning the streets** during the pogrom after the “Anschluss” in **March 1938**. **Ruth Beckermann** completes the scene by **adding** the missing images, those of **laughing spectators**, recently found in film archives. The Jews had to wash the symbols and slogans of the austro-fascist regime from the sidewalk using brushes and sometimes even toothbrushes. This was the brain child of Viennese anti-Semites and imposed exclusively in Vienna and some other Austrian cities.

Albertinaplatz, until November 10, [Information](#)

Versicherungsverein.



Greta Elbogen (right) at the presentation in the **Literaturhaus Wien** in conversation with **Evelyn Adunka**, photo: © Literaturhaus Wien



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



Alfred Hrdlicka's “Memorial against war and fascism” on Albertinaplatz, Vienna, will be joined by an **installation by Ruth Beckermann** until November 2015.

Photo: © Agentur Milli Segal

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