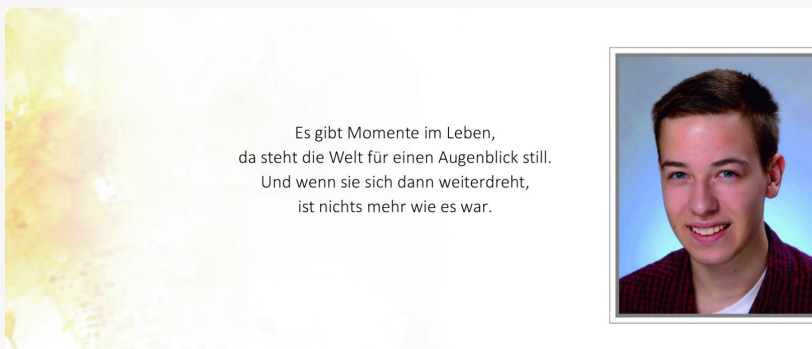


Newsletter January 2022

Dear partners and supporters, dear parents and enthusiasts, dear new applicants, candidates, volunteers and alumni,

we are very pleased to be able to send out a newsletter for the second time, in which we would like to inform you about the current events in our organization.

Eventful months lie behind us: the cohort of 2020 could be successfully completed (on October 31 the last 3 volunteers finished their service abroad) and since the 1st of August until now an incredible 104 new candidates of the cohort of 2021 have started their service! An absolute record in our association history! Although Corona and the accompanying uncertainties and border closures have not made it easy for us, we are very happy and proud of our brave and motivated volunteers!



Es gibt Momente im Leben,
da steht die Welt für einen Augenblick still.
Und wenn sie sich dann weiterdreht,
ist nichts mehr wie es war.

Unfortunately, a tragic accident occurred in October that took one of our own from life far too soon. We can still hardly believe it and are terribly sad about this immense loss. Antonio, we will never forget you! We will miss your passion and intelligence, your extraordinary commitment and your willingness to help. We wish your family and close friends all the best and express our sincere condolences once again.

Of the remaining 103 volunteers, two decided to terminate their service after only a few weeks for personal reasons, so that we are currently supporting 101 volunteers at 70 locations in 42 countries around the world (on 5 continents!). We would like to introduce you to some of them and especially to the three new host organizations where they are working.



Gedenkdiener Gabriel Lipscomb-Santos at Nightingale Hammerson pensioner's home in London, UK

For nearly 200 years, Nightingale House has been considered a prestigious retirement home for London's Jews. In addition to the living quarters, the large building includes, among other things, an extensive garden, a synagogue, a concert hall, a communal kitchen, and an activity room. Uniquely for a retirement home, there is also a kindergarten on the premises and intergenerational projects take place several times a week.

My tasks can basically be divided into three categories. One is helping with the implementation, as well as participating in the various activities. These include various art projects, religious festivities, gardening, concerts, joint physiotherapy exercises, discussion groups, intergenerational projects and a French group. Activities are generally adapted according to ability and personal needs. We try to give the residents as much independence as possible, because the feeling of personal validation is especially important in old age.

The second important part is talking to individual residents. The need for social contact does not diminish in old age and it is therefore all the more important to create the opportunity to exchange ideas. The residents, most of whom have led long and full lives, often have fascinating life stories and welcome the interest and opinions of a younger person. Since the residents are also comparatively international, different languages can be

used. German in particular comes into play in my work. The third major component is help with excursions. Here, too, there is a wide range of destinations, from shopping and museum visits to tours of botanical gardens. Working at Nightingale can be quite tiring, but it is thoroughly fulfilling. It didn't take long for the seniors to let me know what I meant to them. The perspective of a younger person is also deeply appreciated here. And I also learned a lot. Both about Judaism itself and about working with the elderly and about life itself. So, in my opinion, I find the position particularly recommendable.

Nightingale Hammerson



Social servants Clemens Mayr, Magdalena Götsch and Brendan-Lee Meraner at the Friendship circle for Pozuzo in Peru

Magdalena Götsch, Brendan-Lee Meraner and Clemens Mayr have been the first social servants at the Circle of Friends for Pozuzo in Peru since September 2021.

In 1857, 180 Tyroleans and 120 Rhinelanders emigrated to Peru to found what is now the only Austro-German colony in the world on the edge of the Amazon. Just over half of the emigrants arrived in 1859, after a dangerous and exhausting journey across the Andes.

In 1868 another wave of emigration from Tyrol and Bavaria followed. The Tyrolean language oasis Pozuzo remained difficult to reach until the middle of the 20th century, so culture and language could be preserved until the present.

The Pozucins are Peruvians, but the interest in their origin and the intensive relations are an essential part of their cultural identity.

The Friends of Pozuzo together with Pozuzo and the social servants work on projects for the benefit of friendship and community on site.

Official tasks of our social servants on site:

- Support of agricultural enterprises with field work
- Supporting the maintenance of tourist attractions
- Sustainable care of natural beauty, support in the construction of hiking trails
- Language exchange with the inhabitants
- Support at school in the form of e.g. team teaching
- Support in the preparation of lesson outlines and teaching materials
- Giving lessons, communication training (German) with the teachers.

For example, Magdalena is currently supporting the Pozucins with German lessons and helping in the museum. Brendan also holds German lessons and does sports with the children. Clemens Mayr has created a route for a hiking trail in San Salvador, being able to draw on his HTL knowledge in the work. Here you can get a little insight: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iePM1JZsfEY>.

The work is very varied, enriching and gives them all a lot of pleasure. We wish them much success in the rest of their social service adventure!

Friendship circle for Pozuzo



Peace servants Dennis Miskic and Aleksandar Petrovic at the Srebrenica-Potocari Memorial Center in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Srebrenica-Potocari Memorial Center was founded in 2000 to commemorate the victims of the 1995 genocide. In July 1995, 8372 people were murdered in the Srebrenica massacres. The victims, who were mostly Bosniaks between the ages of 13 and 78, were buried in mass graves. The genocide is considered one of the most serious war crimes in Europe since World War II.

The Srebrenica-Potocari Memorial Center is dedicated to remembering history. In addition, the Memorial Center makes an important contribution to combating ignorance and hatred in order to prevent the repetition of massacres and genocide.

Tasks of our peace servants on site:

- Supporting peace education in schools to raise awareness about the genocide in Srebrenica
- PR work, especially through social networks
- Technical and administrative support for peace and scientific research projects
- Organization of events and meetings
- Communication with external collaborators

- Reporting on project activities

Currently, Dennis Miskic and Aleksandar Petrovic are doing their peace service at the memorial. What makes them special is that Aleks is an ethnic Serb and Dennis is Bosnian. Countering extremism from both sides and setting a sign for coming to terms with the past is their goal.

Here is an interview with the two before the start of their service:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9geha5s-Ct0&t=6s>

Srebrenica-Potocari Memorial Center

We are also very proud of our organization's very own fantastic projects, which could finally take place in person again this summer. Thus, we strive to constantly develop, expand and professionalize the preparation and supervision of our volunteers.



Poland Gedenkdiener study trip

As a consolidation of the preparation of the Gedenkdiener for their service abroad, the Poland Gedenkdiener study trip was implemented this year as a pilot project with 24 participants. The well-filled program from July 24 - 31, 2021 was a complete success and we are already looking forward to being there next year with additional Taiwanese and South African students.

On the agenda of this 8-day trip were the cities of Krakow, Auschwitz, Warsaw, Lublin and Majdanek. In addition to dealing with the past of Jewish life in Poland, the trip also looked at the present and the future. Thus, on the one hand, museums, former concentration camps and ghettos were visited, but also Jewish cultural centers and institutes dedicated to the revival of Jewish culture.

In addition, existing partner projects of our organization in Poland were visited and at the same time the Gedenkdiener who were still on site were visited. Specifically, these are the

- Galicia Jewish Museum
- Auschwitz Jewish Center
- POLIN Museum of the History of Jewish People in Poland

In addition, the study trip was accompanied by a literature list and preparatory and follow-up workshops. City and museum tours, lectures and reflections were part of the program as well as the historian and stand-up educator Florian The Historian.

The intensive and multi-day engagement with the Holocaust was not only extremely instructive for all, but the time spent together was also perceived as positive without exception.



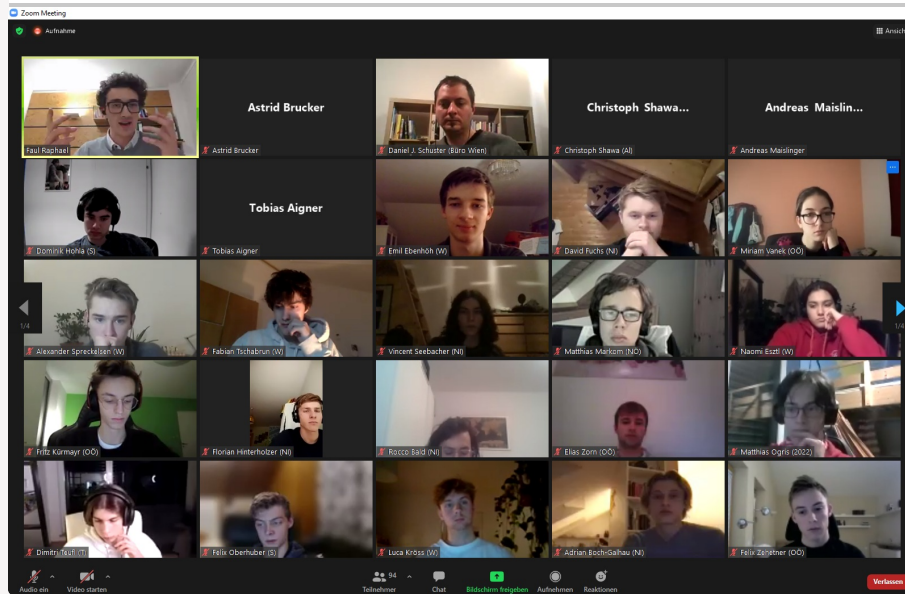
Understanding Israel Seminar

Among other things, the Austrian Service Abroad also runs the Understanding Israel program, which offers the opportunity to do a social service in Israel. For this purpose, a 5-day Understanding Israel seminar is held annually, as the preparation for a service in a country with such a complex past and present is enormously important.

A rabbi, the president of the Jewish Community Linz, Israelis, book authors as well as alumni were guests in discussion rounds and workshops to give the participants an understanding of the diversity of Israel. The personal experiences of the guests were very enriching for all. The volunteers were able to take away a profound knowledge of Israeli society and history. But the seminar was not only informative, it was also fun. For example, Israeli meals were cooked together and the Hora Medura was danced.

Even though the social service cannot take place this year for the second time in a row, so far 3 participants of the seminar have made it to Israel as Gedenkdiener and also for next

year we are in the process of expanding the offers on site and hope that by then the entry will be a little easier again.



First cohort meeting 2022

In addition, the first meeting of the next cohort of 2022 also took place from Dec. 10-12 (in the middle of the fourth lockdown online again, of course). From Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, around 100 volunteers participated in the educational workshops and talks. Top diplomat Ferdinand von Trauttmansdorf gave us all helpful tips on manners in a diplomatic context, Captain Simon Baaske provided an overview of personal safety, and our wonderful alumni provided concrete insights into their time abroad. In addition, 2 workshops could be selected and attended from seven offered on the topics of (intercultural) communication, mobility, racism and privilege; sexuality & colonialism; manners; Judaism, and peace and conflict work. After many intensive hours together in front of the computer, everyone said goodbye full of motivation and anticipation for next year.

Last but not least, we would like to introduce two of the many teams / interest groups that make our organization so unique.

Fundraising Team

The fundraising team has only been active for about a year and is therefore relatively new to our association. The goal of this team is to raise funds for the association, so that the fixed costs can be covered and thus more financial resources can be distributed directly to the foreign servants. Ideally, the team would like to reach an amount that would cover all administrative costs of the association. Administrative costs include, for example, the staff of the association, the office rent, but also expenses for the content-related preparation of the candidates.

Currently, the fundraising team focuses on raising money from three sources:

- private donors (e.g. alumni or parents)
- companies in the form of sponsorships (e.g. Oberbank)
- public funds

You can find more information about support possibilities on our website: <https://www.auslandsdienst.at/support-us/>.

If you would like to help the association to reach its fundraising goal or if you have contacts of people who could possibly support the association, we would be very pleased to receive an email to bueror@auslandsdienst.at!

Interested in our Language café?

Since 2020, our candidates have been organizing regular conferences on a voluntary basis to exchange information about and in the languages of the countries of assignment. In some cases with native speakers from the respective country, in order to promote individual further education. At the "tables" (= conferences) of the language café, people talk about vocabulary and linguistic structures, play games, debate or simply chat informally. Are you interested in using the language(s) used for your service abroad, in

communicating with native speakers and at the same time being in contact with future candidates as well as enriching the conferences with your already existing expertise? Then you can either check the Podio calendar (Plenum Workspace) for conference dates or contact the head of the Language Café, Umut Darilmaz (umut.darilmaz@auslandsdienst.at), who will put you in touch with your preferred "language table". Currently, the language café is available for the ten languages English, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Turkish, Polish, Russian, B/K/S and Swedish.

We hope you all started the new year healthy and were able to enjoy a few quiet vacations!
All the best from the Content Team & the Vienna Office.

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