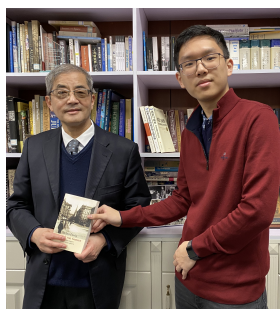


Newsletter July 2021

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

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

First of all, we would like to briefly introduce you to three of our many great volunteers and give you an insight into their work and their lives abroad.



Gedenkdienst Anton Lu

I am 21 years old, from Vienna, and have been doing my Austrian Holocaust Memorial service (= Gedenkdienst) at the Center of Jewish Studies Shanghai (CJSS), in China, since October 2020. Founded and directed by Prof. Pan Guang, the CJSS is the best and most influential institute in the field of Jewish Studies in China.

After the November pogroms in 1938, Shanghai became the last place of refuge for about 20,000 Jewish refugees from Europe. It was the only city where no entry visa was required. Many Shanghai residents or aid organizations like JDC provided vital assistance at that time. The Jewish ghetto in Shanghai was even nicknamed "Little Vienna". Today, the Shanghai Jewish Refugees Museum, the then Ohel Moshe Synagogue, is one of the most popular tourist attractions in Shanghai.

My work here consists of assisting with research, organizing and participating in various events, and translating foreign language documents. Since Chinese is my native tongue, my expertise in translation / research work is highly appreciated. On November 04, 2020, it was a special honor to welcome Austrian Ambassador Friedrich Stift at the CJSS. It was great not only to present the activity or research results regarding Austrian Jews in Shanghai, but also to promote the exchange between Austria and China, especially at this difficult time. Prof. Pan Guang and I were allowed to share a lot on this occasion. The conversation was very meaningful and inspiring.



Social servant Raffael Winkler

I'm 21 years old, from Vienna and I've always wanted to go abroad right after school to leave my comfort zone, gain new experiences and get to know foreign cultures. Since December I have been living and working at the "tropical station" La Gamba in Costa Rica, which mainly serves students and scientists as a base for scientific, ethnological and especially development aid work. This includes holding workshops on nature conservation and environmental protection, sustainable reforestation projects and also a work and vocational training center for the local population.

As a city kid not used to life in the jungle, everything was a big shock to me in the beginning, but with time I settled in and now after a good half year my Spanish has improved tremendously and I have gotten used to life here. The weather is typically hot and humid every day, people are generally much more relaxed and cheerful and stress is a foreign word for the most part.

My current tasks include processing spices such as: Chili, turmeric, etc., watering and growing trees, making short films about the station and helping to film a "Universum" feature, writing a cookbook, but also walking the borders with GPS devices to make maps and much more. Administrative work in the office is also part of the diverse activities.

Peace servant Amanda Eisenhut

My name is Amanda Eisenhut, I am 20 years old and I am from Vienna.



Since November 2020 I've been in Tbilisi, Georgia. Here I am doing my peace service with the NGO Act for Transformation. Originally, I was with the Understanding Israel program, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic, I had to find another volunteering site.

I had long wanted to go abroad after graduating from high school to learn about new cultures and to take on a challenge. Since I have Caucasian roots, going abroad to Georgia has been the perfect opportunity for me to get to know the culture of a part of my family that I previously only knew from stories.

Act for Transformation conducts projects on topics such as global learning, peacebuilding, justice and sustainability. My placement in Tbilisi gives me the opportunity to plan and implement projects independently, something I personally enjoy very much. Currently, I am working on a street survey regarding the topic of ecologically sustainable living in Georgia. Furthermore, Bertha von Suttner plays an important role in our organization, as she spent part of her life in Georgia and we want to inform about her literature and her pacifist work.

As many of you may already know, we are continuously working on expanding our network of partner organizations and making it even more attractive. Especially since corona can cause countries to drop out again and again, we are very happy to have 103 partners in 46 countries on all continents of the world by now. This broad and worldwide positioning enables us to manage crises effectively, as we can usually accommodate candidates elsewhere if they are unable to enter their planned country.

We would like to introduce you to three of the locations we have added in the last 12 months:



Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa

Established in 2008 and officially opened in 2019, the JHGC, along with its sister centers in Cape Town and Durban, forms part of the South African Holocaust & Genocide Foundation association.

As a place of remembrance and education, the JHGC explores the history of genocide in the 20th century, with a focus on the Jews murdered in the Holocaust and the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. The Centre's mission is to educate (especially) young people about the consequences of racism, discrimination and anti-Semitism in order to prevent the repetition of mass atrocities and genocide in all its forms. The dangers of indifference, apathy, and silence are also taught, and visitors are encouraged to actively speak out against instances of human rights violations in their own communities.

Tasks of our Memorial Servants on site:

- Supporting the education team in preparing and conducting workshops for school and adult groups
- Filming events, especially exhibitions and talks at schools, universities and public events
- Preparation of reports
- Carrying out administrative tasks
- Translation work, especially of survivors' manuscripts and documents
- Public relations, especially with social media and website maintenance, writing articles and publications.

JHGC



Nepal Water for Health in Kathmandu, Nepal

Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH) is a Nepali non-governmental organization working to improve the quality of life in Nepal by improving and facilitating access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services. Their stated goal is for every household to have both a well with fresh water and a toilet within a 5-minute walk. NEWAH contributes the financial resources and technical expertise to build these facilities. The population itself is trained in the construction of the facilities to ensure long-term maintenance and supply. NEWAH also engages in research and studies in these areas and advocates for practical reforms.

Tasks of our social servants on site:

- Researching WASH (Water Supply, Sanitation,

Hygiene) conditions of people in rural areas of Nepal.

- Observing, learning from and working in the different phases of WASH projects
- Support in data and website management
- Support in fundraising activities

NEWAH



Carnegie Foundation Peace Palace in Den Haag, Netherlands

The Carnegie Foundation in the Netherlands owns and manages the Peace Palace in The Hague, which houses the International Court of Justice, the Permanent Court of Arbitration, and the Academy of International Law, all supported by the renowned library. The Peace Palace itself was generously funded by Andrew Carnegie, a Scottish-American philanthropist and "self-made man," and was formally inaugurated in 1913. He also established the foundation of the same name (1903), which perpetuates the dream of world peace to this day. The Carnegie Foundation considers it its mission to promote the issues of war and peace, human rights, international law, and international cooperation from the Peace Palace. To this end, the Foundation facilitates dialogues and events, among other activities, and offers public education on "peace through law" and "peace through culture" at its Visitor Center.

Tasks of our peace servants on site:

- Public education
- Public relations & communication
- Development of (virtual) events
- Fundraising
- Art & archive work

Peace Palace

What makes our organization special, however, are of course our many great volunteers, some of whom have been working with us for years before their assignment overseas. They are the ones who keep everything running with their commitment and know-how and also bring amazing advances with their new impulses and ideas. Due to the size of our organization, all of them are organized in many smaller teams (transnational) and units (within one federal state) where their valuable work takes place. Many, many thanks to all of you, we are really proud of what we can achieve together thanks to you! The Wednesday Conference team, which we would like to briefly introduce to you, is particularly high profile.



Mittwochskonferenz

Österreichischer Auslandsdienst

Leitung: Prof. Dr. Andreas Maislinger

An important part of our organization is the Wednesday Conference, an online event that takes place regularly on Wednesday evenings, is chaired by Andreas Maislinger and in which the entire organization participates. For this, the Austrian Service Abroad reached second place in the Emperor Maximilian Award of the Province of Tyrol this year. On October 14, we will be received in Innsbruck for the award ceremony by Governor Günter Platter.

At most of these conferences, an external person is invited as a guest who has special expertise in a particular field relevant to the Holocaust memorial, social, or peace service. The guests are asked questions by new applicants, candidates, servants abroad, and alumnae*alumni from around the world.

The MK team is responsible for the organization and smooth running of the Wednesday conferences. This includes making sure that the technical equipment is working properly and that guests and other people presenting something are selected, invited and instructed. Furthermore, an infomail is created and sent out, which contains all relevant information about the upcoming guest. During the conference itself, the team members also contribute to an interesting outcome by asking questions, being active in the chat and animating other people.

One of the special features of the Wednesday Conference is that guests are usually personalities from fields such as politics, journalism, literature, history and many more. We

have already had the honor of welcoming Matthias Strolz (entrepreneur and former politician with the NEOS), Rudolf Anschöber (former Austrian Minister of Health), Andreas Peham (political scientist, deals with right-wing extremism and anti-Semitism, among other things), Nikolai Atefie (journalist and former memorial servant), Beatrice Heuser (historian and political scientist) and Wolfgang Sobotka (President of the National Council) among many, many others.

We are also very pleased to finally be able to offer some very interesting events for our volunteers this summer, despite Corona restrictions:

From July 16 - 18, 2021, the **2nd cohort meeting** will take place online, in which the entire year of 2021 will participate. It serves the purpose of preparing for the service abroad, to communicate important information and to answer open organizational and legal questions. In addition, the team spirit within the cohort is to be strengthened. The meeting is also intended to provide an opportunity to acquire or expand skills and knowledge.

In addition to discussions with successful alumnae*i, there will also be seven workshops held by experts on the topics of the Holocaust, Gusen concentration camp, the Srebrenica massacre, indigenous peoples of the United States of America, settler colonialism and apartheid, and communication.

From July 24 - 31, our **study trip to Poland** will take place, during which we will have the opportunity to visit three of our long-standing partner sites: the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow, the Auschwitz Jewish Center in Oswiecim, and POLIN - The Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. In addition, the intentions of this trip are to visit historically relevant sites and participate in Holocaust education workshops, reflection and discussion sessions to best prepare the participating candidates for their memorial service. The program is packed with top-class input and highly interesting guided tours and can hopefully already be completed next year in a larger format together with international guests. We are already looking forward to it!

After that, the **Understanding Israel Seminar** will take place in St. Gilgen am Wolfgangsee between August 08 - 12. All candidates for the Understanding Israel program of the class of 2021 will be required to attend the seminar, which is the most important part of the preparation for the volunteers.

This preparation includes interactive workshops and presentations, which are divided into thematic blocks, talks with important personalities of the cultural relations between Austria and Israel, first introductions to the Hebrew language and book presentations.

The seminar is packed with content preparation, but there is also enough time for a hike, sightseeing and having fun with the other prospective social servants. We will also be visited by two young Israelis, the president of the Jewish Community of Linz Charlotte Herman and Ben and Daniela Segenreich, to talk with us about Israel.

If you would like to support our organization, there are three very simple ways:

Sustaining membership

As a supporting member of the Austrian Service Abroad you can support our work by paying an annual (or monthly) financial contribution. In return, you will receive insights into our activities and an annual report. Once a year we invite you to a personal meeting in the context of an evening event, where you meet organization staff and many other people connected to the Auslandsdienst - our community. On this evening we present to you our achievements & visions and you are invited to talk to us about it. www.auslandsdienst.at/supporting-membership

Amazon Smile

When activating the Smile function and setting the Austrian Service Abroad as an organization to support, Amazon takes 0.5% of the purchase price for future purchases and forwards it to the Austrian Service Abroad. This happens without any additional cost for the buyer, which means that the purchase price does not change. If you already have an Amazon account, you can easily activate this feature via smile.amazon.at. Attention: search for Oesterreichischer Auslandsdienst.

Affiliate Links

In addition to Amazon Smile there is also a Link Library, which can be found in the plenum on Podio. Here you can find numerous affiliate links that are connected to the Auslandsdienst. Thus, when purchases are made through the existing links, our organization receives a certain commission of the sales price. The affiliate links range from books to clothing to travel.

We wish you all a nice, relaxing summer, thank our returnees for their valuable work and keep our fingers crossed for a good start for our candidates in 2021! All the best from the Content Team & the Vienna Office.

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