



AUSTRIAN CULTURAL SOCIETY AUSTRIAN CLUB MELBOURNE

NEWSLETTER

VOL.IV / No.4 - MAY2008

Rückblick

Last Month we celebrated the:



Swiss Festival



JW Swing Night



Austrian Choir
Dinner Dance



Robert Stolz
Society Concert



Vorfreude

Looking forward to Mothers Day

Sunday, 11th May 11:30am-5pm



DER LIEBEN MUTTI...

Nun ist der liebe Mai im Land
Mit Blumen gross und klein
Die schönsten Blümchen die ich fand
Die bring ich Dir lieb Mütterlein

Das Blümchen braucht den Sonnenschein
Sonst geht es schnell zu Grund
Und ich, ich brauch mein Mütterlein
Gott hatte Dich gesund

Und wie die Blume dankbar ist
Für jeden Sonnenstrahl
So dankt Dir für die Lieb dein Kind
Gott lob Dich tausendmal



The best gift you can give on Mothers Day is time.
Mum will be delighted to be the centre of attention and pampered for the day.
Come and celebrate with us...

AUSTRIAN CLUB MELBOURNE

This Newsletter is the official
publication of the
Austrian Cultural Society -
Austrian Club Melbourne Inc.

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May 2008

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A.C.M. Objectives

A very brief & selective summary:

- To make known and promote Austrian culture in Australia with particular emphasis on Austrian fine arts, music and literature.
- To arrange performances of Austrian music in Australia.
- To maintain and develop the Austrian Cultural Centre as a place for providing cultural, social, recreational and sporting facilities from the joint funds of the Club
- To help enable children to participate in social, cultural and artistic activities.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

English & German

Dear Members & Friends of the Austrian
Club Melbourne.

„Surprise“

Yes we really were caught unawares when, after lunch had been served on Thursday 10th April 2008, our Bistro Chef Günther Augenstein unexpectedly left the Club and his Position as our Chef!

Naturally we are exploring all avenues to find a great new Austrian Bistro Chef for our Club, but the task is not so easy. For we are seeking somebody, who not only has the capacity to run a professional kitchen but also enjoys cooking traditional fare. Whilst we have had two enquiries for the job, there has not been an affirmative result as yet. We're continuing to look...



Dann trugen Ihn die „Benglein“ fort...

In the meantime a personal friend Rena Wirth, of "ex Daylesford Inn" fame, is helping us out for a little while. Contributing our utmost, Beverly and I are doing what we can to ensure our Club members and visitors have something good to eat. That's why we're currently responsible for everything that is in any way connected to the Bistro and cooking-helping prepare the meals, as well as ordering all the ingredients and pantry staples that are needed in a kitchen. Our recognition and thanks to Frieda Reiterer and Resi Schiesser, for they have engaged themselves whole-heartedly and together we all make a good Team.

Although the Menu is somewhat limited, we're managing quite well at the moment and thanks to our efforts things are looking up for the Bistro. Even though there are only 6-8 main meals and a few smaller dishes from which to select, the food is apparently quite good. Notably the Bistro has been selling very well, in the order of 200-250 portions or more on each of the last three big occasions in the Club, namely the J.W. Swing Orchestra, the Austrian Choir Dinner Dance and the Konzert of the Robert Stolz Society.

Thanks to Fritz & Frieda Reiterer and Karl & Resi Schiesser, our weekly Rotary Club dinner meetings also went off without a hitch. A great big thank you to you all for ensuring the service delivery on these evenings continued so smoothly.

Nevertheless we hope to secure the employment of an Austrian Bistro Chef again in the very near future. Despite being

Liebe Klub Mitglieder und Freunde des
Österreichischen Klubs Melbourne.

„Ach du liebe Güte“

Ja, es war wahrhaftig eine Überraschung, als am Donnerstag dem 10. April 2008 unser Küchenchef Günther Augenstein nach dem Mittagessen den Klub und seinen Posten verließ!

Natürlich versuchen wir alles Mögliche um einen guten neuen Österreichischen Küchenchef für unseren Klub zu finden, aber das ist leider nicht einfach, denn wir suchen jemand der sowohl eine professionelle Küche leiten kann, aber auch gerne die heimatischen Speisen zubereitet. Bis jetzt haben wir zwei mögliche Anfragen für diesen Posten bekommen, aber kein Resultat. Wir suchen weiter...

In der Zwischenzeit haben wir unsere persönliche Freundin Rena Wirth "ex Daylesford Inn" engagiert, die uns gerne für eine Weile aushilft. Beverly und ich tragen unser Bestes dazu bei, damit unsere Klub Mitglieder und Besucher etwas Gutes zum Essen bekommen. Darum sind wir im Moment für alles verantwortlich was das Essen anbelangt wir kochen nicht nur fleißig mit, sondern machen auch alle Bestellungen der Zutaten, die in der Küche gebraucht werden. Anerkennung und Dankbarkeit vor allem an Frieda Reiterer und Resi Schiesser, die sehr engagiert mithelfen und somit unser Team vervollständigen.

Obwohl das Menu etwas reduziert ist, schaffen wir es im Moment ganz gut und das Bistro wird dank unserer Bemühungen sogar immer besser. Die Auswahl beschränkt sich zwar zur Zeit auf 6-8 Hauptmahlzeiten und kleineren Gerichten, aber das Essen schmeckt angeblich prima. Denn das Bistro verkaufte bei den letzten 3. großen Veranstaltungen, nämlich beim J.W. Swing Orchester Tanzabend, dem Dinner Dance des Österreichischen Chors und dem Konzert der Robert Stolz Society, stolze 200-250 und mehr Portionen.

Dank Fritz & Frieda Reiterer und Karl & Resi Schiesser konnten wir auch bei den wöchentlichen Rotary Klub Treffen einen vollen Erfolg verbuchen. Alles verlief reibungslos. Recht herzlichen Dank an Euch alle.

Trotzdem hoffen wir sehr bald wieder einen Österreichischen Küchenchef anstellen zu

President's report continued on page 3

work we carry out voluntarily and cheerfully, the added burden of kitchen duties and the constancy of its nature-seven days a week with no real break-is tiring for Beverly and me. Bistro Chef Rena is finding it taxing too, having long trips to and from the Club on top of the 3-4 days a week she puts in, in the kitchen. Needless to say Pam, our Bistro helper, is finding it more strenuous than usual as well. But we are holding it together well.

On a more positive note, April has had some shining successes. There were way more visitors at the Swiss Festival this year, than had been to any of the previous Swiss festivals. Moreover, the popularity of this festival seemed to rub off on the events held at the Club on following weekends, setting the trend for increasing numbers of visitors as the month went on. More than once this month, were we pleased to have a full house. It really is a satisfaction for our Club and all of our loyal voluntary helpers that the events this month have all gone off so smoothly and successfully and naturally we hope to see things continue like this.

PS: Gunther Augenstein has gone back to Austria. We wish him all the best for his future.

A sincere thank you to the Club Committee and all our voluntary helpers.

With friendly greetings,
Otto Griesmayr

können, denn ununterbrochene 7 Tage in der Woche freiwillige Arbeit ohne richtige Pause ist natürlich sehr anstrengend. Für Küchenchefin Rena ist es ebenso ermüdend, denn außer den 3-4 Tagen Arbeit hat sie zusätzlich noch jeweils eine sehr lange Anfahrt und Heimreise. Pam, unsere Helferin in der Küche, fällt es auch schwerer als sonst. Aber wir haben es im Griff.

Im April hat sich aber auch sehr viel Positives ereignet. Es waren weithin mehr Besucher bei diesem Schweizerfest als in vergangenen Jahren und die Beliebtheit des Festes schien auch tonangebend für die Besucherzahl in den folgenden Veranstaltungen zu sein, denn die Anzahl der Gäste stieg stetig an. Wir freuen uns des öfteren diesen Monat über ein volles Haus. Es ist wirklich eine große Genugtuung für unseren Klub und allen unseren treuen freiwilligen Helfern, daß alles so erfolgreich und reibungslos abgelaufen ist und wir hoffen natürlich sehr das es so weiter geht.

P.S. Günter Augenstein ist wieder nach Österreich zurückgekehrt. Wir wünschen Ihm das allerbeste in der Zukunft.

Ein herzliches Dankeschön an den Klub Vorstand, und unseren freiwilligen Helfern.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,
Otto Griesmayr

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

AUSTRIAN CLUB MELBOURNE IN HEIDELBERG



Standing in front of the imposing iron gates that bear the inscription "Welcome to the Austrian Club Visitors welcome", one immediately has the agreeable feeling that this is a place to feel at ease and in good spirits. The eye is irrevocably drawn to a charming building in the traditional mountain hut style, idyllically surrounded by bushes, trees and flowers, and whose focal point is the roundabout at the end of a long drive complete with an eye-catching Austrian Club shield above low-growing rose bushes in full bloom. Ostentatious antique Viennese styled lanterns complete the engaging vista. Casting one's gaze panoramically around the land, the playground comes into view reminding us that this cosy place is for families or indeed for everybody who has "ein Herz für Kinder". Further afield a grove of trees present themselves as a backdrop of spectacular woods, conjuring up unforgettable memories of strolls through summer or winter forests; of gathering mushrooms, blueberries and wild alpine strawberries of such taste-intensity that they simply burst with flavour. We recall deer and rabbit that cross one's path or appear in a distant clearing, that delightful little fir-tree for the Christmas celebrations or the pine cones which crackle and spark in the tiled "Kachelofen" stove. Oh - have we lost our way? Quite so, for we are in Austria in our thoughts and that's exactly where we want to be when we visit the Club. For in these commercialised times what we find here, in contrast to a restaurant, is a special place where we can undoubtedly feel good, be amongst friends and where one has the undisputed sense of being at home and simply belonging. A mirage? No, a vision. The vision that President Bruno Hirschauer and his wife Margaret had as soon as they were elected to their positions of leadership. And so it is that Bruno and Margaret could actually be considered Father and Mother of the Club at Heidelberg. For in 1984 the long-standing dream of so many Austrians finally came true as we acquired our own land on which we've built our very own Club premises.

Steht man vor dem imposanten eisernen Tor mit der Aufschrift "Welcome to the Austrian Club Visitors welcome", spürt man sofort ein angenehmes Gefühl, daß man sich da drin wohl fühlen kann. Der Blick fällt auf ein schmuckes Gebäude im Almhüttenstil, idyllisch umgeben von Büschen, Bäumen und Blumen, davor ein Rondell mit blühenden Rosen und dem Austrian Club Wappen, repräsentativ genau in der Mitte dessen. Prunkhafte Laternen im antiken Wienerstil vollenden diesen angenehmen Anblick. Der Spielplatz erinnert uns daß dies ein Platz für Familien ist, oder für jeden der ein Herz für Kinder hat. Der herrliche Wald im Hintergrund ruft unvergessliche Erinnerungen wach - ein Spaziergang durch Sommer oder Winterwald; Pilze, Blaubeeren und wilde Erdbeeren sammeln; Rehe oder Hasen die einem über den Weg laufen oder auf der Lichtung erscheinen; die schöne kleine Tanne fürs Weihnachtsfest, oder sprühende, knisternde Zapfen im Kachelofen. Oh - haben wir uns gerade verlaufen? Ja doch, denn wir sind in Gedanken in Österreich und genau da wollen wir auch sein wenn wir den Klub besuchen. In dieser kommerziellen Zeit haben wir hier, im Gegensatz zu einem Gasthaus, einen speziellen Platz wo wir uns zweifellos wohl fühlen können, unter Freunden sind, wo man so richtig daheim ist und wo man ganz einfach hingehört. President Bruno Hirschauer und Frau Margaret hatten diese Vision sobald sie zum Präsidentenpaar gewählt worden sind. So könnten wir Bruno und Margaret eigentlich als Vater und Mutter dieses Klubs hier in Heidelberg bezeichnen. Denn 1984 wurde ein lang-gehegter Traum so vieler Österreicher wahr, als wir unser eigenes Land und Klubgebäude erwarben.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Bruno & Margaret Hirschauer and John Becker

When Bruno left his home town "Feldkirch" in Vorarlberg in 1955, to emigrate to Australia, he was yet unaware of what dreams the future held. For Bruno simply wanted to start a new life here in Melbourne with his wife and daughter Helene. Their union gave birth to four daughters. Unfortunately fate had other plans for Bruno, who lost his wife and two children a few short years later. Fuelled by loneliness and feeling homesick, Bruno sought out the Austrian Club for companionship and in 1968 he joined the Committee.

It just so happened, that a young teacher from Melbourne was visiting the Club at this time. Bruno immediately recognised in her an extraordinary young lady, full of life and good cheer, who would stand by him in word and deed, and who would make a wonderful mum for his two girls, Helene and Christine. Margaret and Bruno married in 1969 and as anticipated, Margaret shared his enthusiasm, his love for his homeland and worked tirelessly at his side for the good of the Club. Margaret gave birth to two children, Jenny and Alex, both of whom felt as much at home in the Club as they did in their own house. The four children were involved with the Club, for Christine, Helene's daughter Janet and Jenny all danced in the "Edelweiss" dance group. Later, Jenny was a star of the "Alpenland" childrens' dance group, formed under the guidance of Bernhard Uden. Jenny was gorgeously cute in her Dirndls and Alex, agile, skilful and full of fun, was outstanding as a Schuhplattler in the same group. His training enabled him to lead the Adult "Schuhplattler" group in time to come. Both Alex and Jenny loved the life and times of the Club, the dance group performances, the connection to Austria, music, song and sporting activities.

During this time of their lives Margaret and Bruno engaged themselves with great intensity, gusto and zeal, calling many Club happenings and a great deal of Club life into existence. For instance, sporty Margaret was the initiator of the Table-tennis group in 1978. Bruno, on the other hand, had the idea of forming a Singing group in 1979, which then transformed itself into the Austrian Choir in 1981, under the auspices of Dieter and Julia's leadership. Around the same time Bruno took over the running of the Austrian tent at the Dandenong Showgrounds Oktoberfest and helped make it profitable. In 1983 Margaret was busy as the driving force behind the formation of the traditional Senior Dance Group, that was later known as the "Enzian" Dance Group. In the meantime Bruno was actively involved in joint-venture negotiations with three other clubs, to successfully establish the new Oktoberfest in the Melbourne Showgrounds. Shortly thereafter Bruno was elected as President of the Austrian Club. With all his energy, passion and enthusiasm and with Margaret's support, Bruno set about turning his dream and his vision of a "Stück Heimat in weiter Ferne" into reality.

It was Bruno who found the large property in Heidelberg and fostered the vision of the Club in its present form in his mind's eye. As the costs associated with obtaining an Austrian architect's building plan for a Clubhouse in the Almhüttenstil were prohibitive, Bruno decided on an adaptable Australian factory plan. Once the initial start-up problems were overcome, the venture was promoted, supported and realised. The blessing of the land by Father Leo Hornung and Pastor Achilles took place with a festive air and ensured that after this, nothing could

Als Bruno 1955 sein Heimatstädtchen "Feldkirch" in Vorarlberg verlies um nach Australien auszuwandern, hatte er von diesem Traum noch keine Ahnung. Denn Bruno wollte einfach mit Frau und Tochter Helene hier in Melbourne ein neues Leben aufbauen. In ihrer gemeinsamen Ehe hatten sie vier Mädchen. Leider meinte es das Schicksal aber nicht gut mit Bruno, denn wenige Jahre später verlor er seine Frau und zwei Kinder. Eine Mischung aus Einsamkeit und Heimweh brachte ihn in den Österreichischen Klub und 1968 trat Bruno dem Komitee bei.

In dieser Zeit besuchte eine junge Lehrerin aus Melbourne den Klub und Bruno sah sofort in ihr eine außergewöhnliche junge Frau, lebensfroh und guten Mutes, die ihn tatkräftig zur Seite stehen würde und eine gute Mutter für seine zwei Mädchen, Helene und Christine, sein würde. Margaret und Bruno heirateten in 1969 und wie vorausgesehen teilte Margaret seine Begeisterung und seine Liebe zu seinem Heimatland und arbeitete stetig an seiner Seite, zum Wohl des Klubs. Margaret schenkte zwei Kindern das Leben, Jenny und Alex, und beide fühlten sich im Klub genauso wohl wie Zuhause. Die vier Kinder waren alle irgendwie Klubverbunden. Helene durch ihre Tochter Janet, die bei der "Edelweiss" Tanzgruppe mitanzte, sowie Christine und Jenny. Später war Jenny ein Star in der Kindertanzgruppe "Alpenland" die von Bernhard Uden geleitet wurde. Sie war hinreißend süß in ihren Dirndl und Alex, flink, lustig und gewandt, war hervorragend als Schuhplattler in derselben Gruppe. Diese Erfahrung kam Alex in den folgenden Jahren zugute, da er die Leitung der Erwachsenen "Schuhplattlergruppe" übernahm. Beide liebten das Leben und die Geschehnisse im Klub, die Vorführungen der Tanzgruppe, die Verbindung zu Österreich, Musik, Tanz, Sang und Sport.



In dieser Zeit setzten sich Margaret und Bruno mit großer Intensivität, sowie Schwung und Eifer dafür ein, recht viel Klubleben und Ereignisse ins Leben zu rufen. Sportliche Margaret war 1978 der Initiator für eine Tischtennisgruppe, 1979 hatte Bruno dafür die Idee einen Singkreis zu gründen, der sich 1981 unter Dieter & Julia's

Einfluß zum Österreichischen Chor wandelte. Bruno übernahm ungefähr zu diesem Zeitpunkt die Leitung des Österreichischen Zelts beim Oktoberfest im Dandenong Showgrounds und half mit, es mehr profitabel zu machen. Margaret gab 1983 den Ansporn zur Gründung der traditionellen Erwachsenen Tanzgruppe, die später zur "Enzian" Tanzgruppe umgetauft wurde. Währenddessen arbeitete Bruno mit drei anderen Klubs zusammen, um das neue Oktoberfest im Melbournen Showgrounds erfolgreich einzuführen. Am Ende dieses Jahres wurde Bruno zum President des Österreichischen Klubs gewählt. Mit all seiner Kraft, mit Passion und Enthusiasmus, und mit Margaret's Unterstützung arbeitete Bruno daran seinen Traum und seine Vorstellung von einem "Stück Heimat in weiter Ferne" zu verwirklichen.

Bruno war derjenige, der das große Grundstück in Heidelberg fand und die Vision des Klubs in seiner heutigen Form vor dem inneren Auge hielt. Da die Kosten für den Österreichischen Bauplan eines Klubgebäudes im Almhüttenstil unerschwinglich waren, entschied sich Bruno für einen Australischen Plan einer Fabrik. Nach anfänglichen Schwierigkeiten wurde das Unternehmen gefördert, unterstützt und verwirklicht. Das Land wurde feierlich von Pfarrer Leo Hornung und Pastor Achilles eingeweiht und nun war alles im richtigen Gang zum vollen Gelingen. Im März 1984

IN THE SPOTLIGHT continued on page 5

go wrong anymore. In March 1984 the foundation stone was laid and a short 8 months later the buildings were ready for inauguration. With the advice and help of many Club members, Bruno had managed to transform what was to have been a simple structure into a building with distinctive Austrian style. The façade was enriched with the addition of a balcony courtesy of Max Grasberger whilst the many skillfully produced and homely wood-carvings bore testament to Eddie Hausegger's exceptional contributions. The official Opening of the Heidelberg Clubhouse took place on the 11th November 1984 by the Austrian Ambassador Dr Heinrich Blechner, with the united blessing of the Catholic church by Father Oitzinger and that of the Evangelical-Lutheran church by Pastor Achilles. Bruno's reverie had become reality.



Setting his sights higher, Bruno allowed his openness to ideas to be the catalyst for change. He took counsel and continually helped awaken new interests and bring new sub-groups of the Club into being. So it was that, as co-ordinator and President, Bruno took action to support the members when they approached him with their ideas and thus encouraged George Schindlauer to set up the Ice Stock Sport group in 1984 and Sepp Schauer to form the savings group, the "Happy Savers" in 1986. And in late 1986, towards the end of his Presidency, Bruno facilitated the beginnings of the Austrian Air Rifle group "Almrausch" together with Edgar Kunkel. Bruno was President of the Austrian Club from 1983 to 1986 and during this time the Club's membership peaked at a record high of around 800 members.

The end of his time in office by no means meant retirement from Club life for Bruno. He continued to be active and helped Bernhard Uden with the setting up and running of the Multicultural Dance Festival held at the Austrian Club in 1988 and 1989 respectively. In 1991 he also became a Founding Member of both Austrian radio programs, 3ZZZ on 92.3FM with Bruno Klepp and 3INR on 96.5FM with Herbert Wessley. To further Austrian culture and tradition, Bruno made certain that the radio programs maintained their own identity and were not swallowed up by the general German-speaking programs. Yet he also cultivated German language, by introducing and teaching beginners German classes at the Club. The early 90's also saw him take an interest in indigenous Austrian art and so Bruno enthused others to band together for folk-art lessons, where "little pieces of home" were created and then found their way, as keepsakes or gifts, into homes all around Melbourne. The Austrian Club was and stayed Bruno's life purpose and he remained in the Committee until his unexpected death in August 1996. Margaret, a passionate photographer, captured this wealth of history in pictorial form over the years.

wurde der Grundstein gelegt und kurze 8 Monate später war es dann soweit daß das Gebäude eingeweiht werden konnte. Mit dem Rat und der Hilfe vieler Klubmitglieder, gelang es Bruno dem einfachen Gebäude einen österreichischen Stil anzuverleihen, denn die Façade wurde mit dem hervorragenden Einsatz von Max Grasberger mit einem Balkon versehen und Eddie Hausegger's Schnitzereien heimisch geschmückt. Am 11. November 1984 wurde das Heidelberger Klubhaus nun vom Katholischen Pfarrer Oitzinger sowie dem Evangelisch-lutherischen Pastor Achilles eingeweiht und feierlich vom Österreichischen Botschafter Dr Heinrich Blechner eröffnet. Bruno hatte sein Zukunftsbild verwirklicht.

Aber das Wunschbild wurde jetzt vergrößert, denn Bruno war zu neuen Einfällen aufgeschlossen. Er lies sich beraten und half kontinuierlich neue Interessen ins Leben zu rufen und in die Tat umzusetzen. Als Koordinator und President trat er dann auch in Aktion als die Klubmitglieder mit ihren Ideen zu ihm kamen. So wurde 1984 unter Anregung von George Schindlauer eine Eisstockschiessergruppe und 1986 von Sepp Schauer ein Sparverein "Happy Savers" gegründet. Zum Ende seiner Presidentschaft verhalf Bruno Edgar Kunkel, die Austrian Air Rifle Gruppe "Almrausch" einzuleiten. Bruno war von 1983 bis 1986 President des Österreichischen Klubs und in dieser Zeit erreichte die Klubmitgliedschaft, mit 800 Mitgliedern, seinen absoluten Höchststand.

Das Ende seiner Presidentschaft bedeutete aber bei weitem nicht, daß Bruno nun in Ruhestand trat. Er war weiterhin aktiv und half Bernhard Uden mit der Gestaltung des Multikulturellen Tanzfestes das in 1988 und in 1989 im Klub statt fand. Als einer der Gründungsmitglieder des Austrian Radio Programms, begann Bruno Hirschauer in 1991, zusammen mit Bruno Klepp, das Radioprogramm 3ZZZ auf Sender 92.3FM und mit Herbert Wessley das Radio 3INR, auf Sender 96.5FM

92.3
FM

ZZZ

MULTICULTURAL RADIO MELBOURNE

Der Heimat näher kommen
durch Radio.....

Österreichische Stunde

Montag	15 - 16 Uhr
Donnerstag	12 - 13 Uhr
Freitag	19 - 20 Uhr

IN THE SPOTLIGHT continued from page 5



"Paparazzi No. 1"

After Bruno's death Margaret remained true to the Club, becoming a Committee member herself, and her knowledge, her willingness to help out and her skills were greatly valued. In 1998 Margaret found a comfortable, friendly and lovable partner in John. Born in Wiener Neustadt, John brought a generous share of Viennese charm to Australia with his easygoing nature. Club members similarly appreciate his jovial,

well-meaning character and his relaxed personality is an extremely beneficial tonic that does the soul good in today's hectic times. In matters of the club John and Margaret concur that they will both continue to be voluntary helpers, supporting and standing by the Club.

Margaret continues to be actively involved in the table tennis, the Ladies' group and also as an important part of the Committee.



Nach Bruno's Tod blieb Margaret dem Klub treu und wurde sogar selbst ein Komitee Mitglied, wo sie mit ihrem Wissen, ihrer Hilfsbereitschaft und ihrem Können geschätzt wurde. 1998 fand Margaret in John einen angenehmen, freundlichen und liebenswerten Partner. John, der in der Wiener Neustadt geboren wurde, brachte die Wiener Gemütlichkeit in seinem geruhsamen Wesen mit nach Australien. Auch im Klub schätzen wir sein joviales, wohlgesinntes



We are proud of her, for in being elected to the position of 1st Vice-President of the Austrian Club, Margaret made history with a double record as the first Australian and simultaneously as the first female to hold this office. This honour was further reflected by the recognition and thanks bestowed on her by the

3ZZZ Radio Group in 2007, who awarded the annual "Bruno Hirschauer Memorial Trophy" to Margaret on the 10th anniversary of Bruno's passing, for her meritorious contributions to the Austrian Community. Margaret really deserves such praise, for she is always there for the Club and is willing to jump in cheerfully and help out when the need arises as one of her recent quotes so beautifully illustrates: "It should be my day off. But I thought that they will be busy and that they may need me, so I came to help."

Gemüt und John's entspannte Natürlichkeit ist in der heutigen Hectic ein guter Ausgleich und äußerst wohltuend. Margaret und John sind sich einig, daß sie beide weiterhin als freiwillige Helfer den Klub unterstützen und beistehen.

Margaret ist weiterhin in der Tischtennisgruppe, in der Frauengruppe und ebenso im Komitee aktiv, wo sie ein wichtiger Bestandteil des Vorstands ist. Wir sind stolz auf sie, denn zum ersten Mal wurde der Rang des 1. Vize-Präsidenten einem Australischen Staatsbürger und zugleich einer Frau übergeben. Diese Ehre spiegelt sich wieder in dem sie Anerkennung und Dank für ihre Leistungen, in Bezug auf ihre Mitarbeit in der Österreichischen Gemeinschaft, erhielt. Am 10. Jahrestag ihres verstorbenen Mannes, wurde ihr die "Bruno Hirschauer Memorial Trophy" der 3ZZZ Radio Gruppe überreicht. Margaret hat es wirklich verdient, den sie steht dem Klub jederzeit hilfsbereit zur Seite und setzt sich willig und fröhlich ein, wenn Not am Mann ist, wie Ihre folgende Bemerkung kürzlich erweist: "It should be my day off. But I thought that they will be busy and that they may need me, so I came to help."

Many heartfelt thanks to Bruno, Margaret and John

Without Prejudice

Look forward to next month's SPOTLIGHT

Vielen herzlichen Dank Bruno, Margaret und John.

Without Prejudice

Freut Euch auf das SPOTLIGHT im nächsten Monat

Seeking Austrian-German Business Partners



Contact Christine
Phone: 9440-5911 or Email: christiners1@gmail.com

I am one of Victoria's leaders. This business is for anyone - we have top professionals, tradespeople, mums & dads at home, and entrepreneurs, all of whom have been successful. Anyone who is familiar with the power of networking in a new country with a superb, unique product will love this.

I am being very sincere when I say that being some of first people in the whole of Europe with a product like this, a company that can't be faulted and the most generous payment plan is a very rare opportunity.

If you know anyone who is looking for a vehicle to greatly increase their income, who live here and who have German and/or Austrian contacts back home that would like to know of an excellent opportunity like this, please contact Christine who will be happy to give them all the details.

NEWS & NOTICES

GEBURTSTAGSKINDER, JUBILÄUM UND BESTE GENESUNGSWÜNSCHE BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES AND GET WELL WISHES

Congratulations to Club Members celebrating Birthdays or Anniversaries. Arthur Loughridge, our Lawn Keeper, underwent an operation recently, and is still on leave. We wish Arthur all the very best and hope he returns to good health soon. Our best wishes also, to all persons who are recovering from operations and others who are struggling with health problems.

NACHRUF - VALE

It is with regret that we advise the death of Otto Zambelli Sopalú on Saturday 26th April, Theo Murgo on Wednesday 23rd April and Elfriede Von Nagy on Wednesday 9th April.



Otto Zambelli Sopalú was an Honorary Life Member of the Club, Theo Murgo was a Club member and dedicated voluntary helper at our Oktoberfests and Elfriede was one of our valued longstanding patrons.

They will be missed and our thoughts are with their families and friends.

Beverly Griesmayr
Club Secretary

30 YEARS OF TABLE TENNIS!



The Austrian Table Tennis Group is celebrating its 30th Year in existence and welcomes any new members to its Monday night games.

We began in the Brunswick Street Clubrooms with Hardy Saunas and family, Bruno Hirschauer and family and Rudi & Grace Stummer and family in 1978 and many players have come and gone in these years.

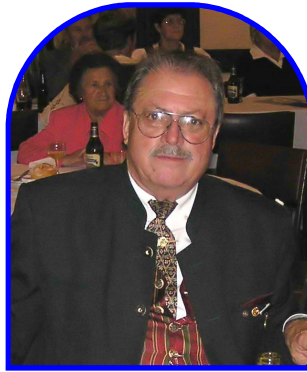
We still have a group of around ten regular players and we welcome you for friendly games from 7pm 9 pm every Monday. For more information ring Margaret on 9455 0771.

Margaret Hirschauer

PRICE INCREASE

Although the cost of Bar-associated goods has steadily been rising over time, the prices of the Austrian Club Bar items have not been increased since January 2006. We now find that it is necessary to increase the price of some lines. The new prices will come into effect during the month of May.

Management Committee



Otto Zambelli Sopalú

Most of us knew him as the immediate past Austrian Consul General for Victoria and Tasmania. Otto was a figurehead and frequent guest at our important functions and an Honorary Life Member of the Club.

Otto passed away very suddenly on 26th April 2008 and is survived by his wife Ida, son Marcus and daughter Carmen.

Theo Murgo

Theo was a long-standing Club member who, in years past, helped considerably at the Oktoberfests. Most weekends Theo visited the Club on Saturdays and Sundays, sometimes just with Irene and on other occasions with most of his family.

A real gentleman with lots of respect for people, he loved a chat and his quiet manner and cheeky humour will be remembered by all who knew him.



Elfriede Von Nagy

Born in Wien Austria, Elfriede immigrated to Australia in 1949. Well known by many over the years at the club since it began in Brunswick, Elfie often visited for a coffee, a cake and a good chat with friends.

Elfie passed away peacefully with her family on the 9th April 2008, age 93 years.



HOME IS THE HUNTER, HOME FROM THE HILL

The last Halali has sounded for Otto Zambelli. Saint Hubertus has called him from the Hill, to take his seat at the Valhalla, the home of the Hunters. Some years ago, and it seemed only yesterday, when Otto entered the circle of my campfire, we became firm friends. We shared the same passion for hunting, seeking forever the elusive trophies. We enjoyed the stillness of the woods, the wildlife within. The tall tales around the campfire.

He has left for another place, but the memories remain with me for as long as I shall live. Until such time Saint Hubertus decides to call me from the Hill, to take my seat alongside my friend Otto Zambelli, in the Home of the Hunters. Halali my old Friend.

Der alte Jaeger vom Silbertannental, er war einmal, er ist nicht mehr.
Waidmannsheil

Otto Ruf

KUNTERBUNTES

THANKING RENA

Rena where would we be without you!

Ever-helpful and so talented in the bistro, you are a real god-send from Garibaldi. And that's Garibaldi in the country, --- hours drive away, not Garibaldi the smallgoods manufacturer, so we are especially grateful that you were so willing to help us out in our time of need, when our Chef Günter suddenly went back to Austria. Compliments have been flowing in for your delicious dinners and real home cooking flavours potatoes with onion, juicy roasts and delicious chicken or spinach and ricotta parcels. Simply divine.

Our most sincere thanks for all you have done and continue to do for us...



THANKING BEVERLY AND OTTO

When the going gets tough, the Griesmayrs get going. Here we see them as confident and smiling bistro helpers, just doing what needs to be done to keep the Club running smoothly.

Taking the liberty to extend a heartfelt thank you to Beverly and Otto, on behalf of all Club members, we'd just like to let them both know we all do sincerely appreciate their outstanding dedication and exemplary work ethic. As well as the wise decisions they make, in unity with the Committee, concerning the well-being of our Club's financial matters.



With thanks, the members.

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Mum's Recipe Rescue

Oops! Trying to make another sacrificial offering out of a recipe? Before it all turns to charcoal and you're left hungry, try this neat little trick:

Tamarind Paste

- 1 teaspoon tamarind paste mixed with hot water

As soon as you notice a meat dish such as Goulash is starting to burn or catch on the bottom of a pan, remove it from the pan and scrape off the blackened bits. Place meat into a new pot with tamarind paste that has been softened in a little hot water and remainder of stock or sauce. Simmer gently until done. Somehow, if the meal is not too badly charcoaled yet, the tamarind takes the burned taste away...

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REZEPT

MUTTERTAGSTORTE

Von Greti Köberl
Pension Köberl, Bad Mitterndorf

Zutaten:

5 Eier
150g Kristallzucker
Mark aus einer Vanilleschote
Saft und Schale einer Zitrone
160g glattes Mehl
50g zerlassene Butter

Außerdem noch:

etwas Rum
600ml Obers (Sahne)
Erdbeeren, Himbeeren,
Blaubeeren oder anderes Obst
glasklare Gelee
gehobelte, geröstete Mandeln

Eier, Kristallzucker, Vanillemark und Zitrone sehr schaumig rühren bis sie nicht mehr an Volumen gewinnt. Dann das Mehl und zum Schluss die Butter unterrühren. Die Masse in eine Torten oder Herzform geben und bei 160° Heißluft backen.

Torte einmal durchschneiden, mit Rum bespritzen und mit ungefähr 2/3 des steifgeschlagenem Obers füllen. Den 2. Teil draufgeben und oben dünn mit Obers bestreichen. Diese mit dem Tortenreifen umstellen die Früchte dekorativ drauflegen und das glasklare Gelee darüber geben. Die Torte einige Zeit kalt stellen. Den Tortenreifen erst abnehmen wann das Gelee fest geworden ist.

Torte mit geschlagenem Obers nur beim Biskuit einstreichen und mit gehobelten und gerösteten Mandeln bestreuen.

Ich wünsche Euch ein gutes Gelingen!

Sudoku

6	7	4			2	3		
1		3	6		4	2	7	
5		2		1	3		8	6
		6	1	7		9		8
2		8	4		6		5	3
		9		3		6	4	1
8	4	5		6		1	9	2
	6		8		1		3	4
3	2	1	5		9	8		7

PENSION KÖBERL

Bad Mitterndorf...

... im Steirischen Salzkammergut, am Fuße des Grimings und der Tauplitzalm gelegen. Es ist als "Schneeloch" und ausgesprochen familienfreundlich bekannt.



Unsere Pension Köberl bietet 18 Zimmer (2 Einzelzimmer und 8 Doppelzimmer) und die reinste Urlaubserholung die möglich ist. Suchen sie den Ausstieg vom Alltag und einen Ort zum Verweilen und Auftanken? Sind sie ein VIP aus dem Österreichischen Klub Melbourne, der das schöne Österreichische Heimatland besuchen will? Oder mochten sie vielleicht einmal so richtig Schnee und Winter in Bad Mitterndorf erleben? Dann sind Sie bei uns genau richtig.

Ruhe und Erholung bietet unsere moderne Familienpension mit persönlicher Betreuung.

Das im Landhausstil gebaute Haus verfügt über einen Aufenthaltsraum, sowie eine Sonnenterrasse, eine Liegewiese und Sonnenschirme. Die gemütlichen Zimmer sind komfortabel eingerichtet und mit Du/WC oder Bad/ WC ausgestattet. Überwiegend sind ein Balkon, Telefon, Radio, Kabel-TV, Kühlschrank, Minibar und Fön in den Zimmern vorhanden. Die Küche verwöhnt Sie mit einem Frühstücksbuffet und auf Wunsch mit einem 3-Gang Abendmenü.

Aus der Haustür raus und rein in die Loipe. Der Loipeneinstieg ist direkt am Haus. Den Wintersportlern wird noch mehr geboten: 3 Sessellifte, 12 Schlepplifte, bestens präparierte, mit dem Gütesiegel ausgezeichnete Abfahrten aller Schwierigkeitsgrade. Ideale Voraussetzungen für Snowboard-Freaks. Pisten aller Schwierigkeitsgrade, Tiefschneeabfahrten und Half-Pipes. Ein Paradies für Langläufer. Im Tal gibt 110 km doppelt gespurte Langlaufloipen, sowie

eine 80 km parallel geführte Skatingspur. Eine 15 km lange Höhenloipe auf der Tauplitzalm - hier trainieren die Weltmeister. Sie können aber auch Wanderungen auf den geräumten Wegen unternehmen. Tourenskilauf

und Schneeschuhwanderungen oder Pferdeschlittenfahrten und Eisstockschießen steht Ihnen auch zur Verfügung. Und wenn das Wetter einmal nicht so mit spielt, wie Sie es wollen, können Sie auch die Thermalhallen und das Thermalfreischwimmbad (mit Kurmöglichkeit) besuchen. Oder Sie besichtigen das Salzbergwerk in Alt Aussee oder Sie unternehmen einen Ausflug in die nähere und weitere Umgebung. Auf kulinarische Genüsse müssen Sie in Bad Mitterndorf keineswegs verzichten. In gemütlichen Restaurants und Cafés lassen Sie sich von den Gastwirten mit regionalen und internationalen Spezialitäten verwöhnen. Und wenn sie unser Muttertagstortenrezept probiert haben und es nicht ganz klappt, so werde ich euch bei einem Besuch vielleicht mit einer selbstgebackenen überraschen...

Auf Ihren baldigen Besuch freut sich, Ihre Familie Köberl.

Mr. Wolfgang Köberl
Nr. 314
8983 Bad Mitterndorf, Austria

Tel.: +43(03623)2313
Fax: +43(03623)23134
E-Mail: pensionkoeberl@gmx.at



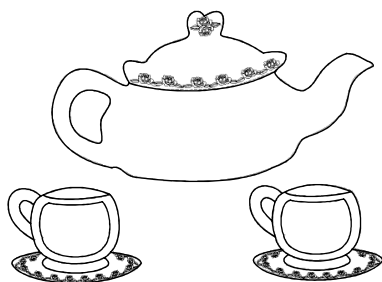
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KUNTERBUNTES

LITTLE TEAPOT CRAFT



This is a great craft idea for a mum or grandma who enjoys a cup of tea! When things go wrong, as they sometimes do, this Little Teapot, a cup of tea and a few moments of peace can spell pure revival...

Although Little Teapot was originally meant to be a fridge magnet, you can also use the craft for a card, make a collage/picture from it or just as individual pictures to hang up. I'm sure mum will love it no matter how you present it!

Enlarge the Teapot and Cups (or draw your own) then trace twice - once onto stiff, pretty coloured decorative card for the top layer and once onto stiff plain card for the back layer. Cut out and glue the two layers of the teapot on top of each other. Cut out the teacups and the peep-hole in the top layer of the teacups. Leaving the rim of the cups free of glue (this is to leave an opening where you can slide your picture in so you can see it through the peep-hole) glue the top and bottom layer of each cup together around the other edges only. Then glue a little magnet onto the back of each piece, if you're making it as a fridge magnet craft. When the glue has dried, slip in your picture, attach a single bag of tea to each cup and write this poem on the Little Teapot:

Here's a gift for Mother's Day.

I'll do my best in every way.

*But when you get upset with me,
relax and have a cup of tea.*

With love, (child's name).

There are TWO teacups in the template so if you're a family of 2 children, each of you can be a cup and mom can be the teapot. More brothers and sisters in the family? Simply add more cups! Know you've been really naughty lately, maybe mum or grandma needs more than one bag of tea!

To really spoil mum, you could also accompany your Little Teapot Craft with some more purchased tea bags, or a real tea pot or tea cup, a big hug and some quiet time. Think you can do that?...

MOTHER'S DAY WITH THE LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group will have a Raffle and Handcrafts Stall on Sunday 4th May, "Maypole Day", and hope you will look at their new range of gifts before Mother's Day. The Group have made more than \$3,000 Dollars for the Club this financial year and hope to match last years effort in Fundraising.

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FOR MOTHERS DAY - MAKING A MUM

When God was creating mothers, He was into his seventh day of overtime. Then the Angel appeared and said, 'You're doing a lot of fiddling on this one.'

God said, 'Have you read the specs on this order? She has to be completely washable, but not plastic, have 180 moveable parts all replaceable, run on black coffee and leftovers, have a lap that disappears when she stands up, a kiss that can cure anything from a broken leg to a disappointment in love and six pairs of hands.'

The Angel shook his head and slowly said, 'Six pairs of hands? Impossible!'

'It's not the hands that are causing me problems,' said God, 'it's the three pairs of eyes that mothers have to have.'

'That's the standard model?' asked the Angel.

God nodded. 'One pair that sees things through closed doors when she asks, "What are you kids

doing in there?" when she already knows. Another pair in the back of her head that sees what she shouldn't but what she has to know. And of course the ones here in front that can look at a child when he or she stuffs up and say "I understand, I love you" without so much as uttering a word.'

The Angel touched God's sleeve gently and said, 'Go to bed.'

'I can't,' said God, 'I'm so close to creating something so close to myself. Already I have one that heals herself when she is sick, can feed a family of six on a kilo of mince and get a nine year old to stand under a shower.'

The Angel circled the model of a mother very slowly. 'It's too soft,' he sighed.

'But tough,' said God excitedly.

'Can it think?' asked the Angel.

'Not only think, but it can reason and compromise,' God explained.

Finally the Angel bent over and ran his fingers across the cheek. 'There's a leak!' he pronounced. 'I told you, you were trying to put too much into this model.'

'It's not a leak,' said God, 'it's a tear.'

'What's it for?' asked the Angel.

'It's for joy, disappointment, pain, loneliness and pride.'

'You're a genius!' said the Angel.

God looked sombre, 'But I didn't put it there...'

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DIE KLEINE KRÄUTERKUNDE

Tamarinden - Tamarind - Tamarindus indica

Die ursprüngliche Heimat des Tamarindenbaumes liegt in Ostafrika, aber bereits in prähistorischer Zeit gelangte er als Nutzpflanze in alle trockenen Gebiete der Tropen und Subtropen. Er ist immergrün, kann über 200 Jahre alt werden und gehört zu der Familie der Hülsenfrüchtler. Tamarindenbäume sind ungefähr sechs bis 20 Meter hohe Bäume, dessen unbehaarte Blätter gleichmäßig gefiedert sind. Traubenförmig werden die nahezu zylindrischen, fleischigen, braunen Hülsenfrüchte getragen. Die Tamarindenschoten sind etwa 15 cm lang, fingerdick, graubraun bis zimtfarben und ein wenig gekrümmt. Unter der brechbaren Schale, im Schoteninneren, befindet sich eine klebrige, bräunlich bis schwarzrötliche Masse von sehr saurem Fruchtmark, das zugleich sehr reich an Weinsäure ist und in dem dunkle, glatte, 10mm große Kerne eingebettet sind. Am besten befreien sie die ganze Schote von der Schale, das Fruchtfleisch haftet desweiteren an einem elastischen Ästchen, der an einem Ende vollständig manuell abgezogen werden kann. Nun dürfen Sie das süß bis säuerliche Fruchtmark ablutschen und genießen.



Die essbaren Früchte Tamarinden gelten gleichzeitig als die sauersten und süßesten Früchte und können roh gegessen oder als Würzmittel für verschiedenste Speisen verwendet werden. Das Fruchtfleisch ist wichtiger Bestandteil von Produkten wie Worcester- und Barbecue-Soßen. Als Sirup wird es gern als Grundlage für erfrischende Getränke und Sorbets, für süß-saure Soßen, Konfitüren,

Eiskremstabilisatoren und Bonbons verwendet, ja selbst als Würze im Kautabak. Das Fruchtmus wird, zum Beispiel auch als Limonadengenränk verarbeitet, kann Zitronensaft ersetzen, wird kandiert und mit Chili gewürzt als ziemlich scharf schmeckendes Konfekt gegessen, aber findet ihre Hauptverwendung zum Säuern von Fleisch und Fischgerichten und um das Fleisch weich und zart zu machen. Auch Indische Dattel oder Sauerdattel genannt, findet die Tamarinde hauptsächlich in der indischen, thailändischen, indonesischen oder afrikanischen Küche Verwendung.

Das Fruchtfleisch der Tamarinde hat einen sehr hohen Nährwert.

Das reife Fruchtfleisch zeichnet sich durch ein erfrischend süß-saures bis herb-säuerliches Aroma aus, denn von dem 20%igen Fruchtsäureanteil sind 97% Weinsäure, daneben Apfel-, Bernstein-, Zitronen- und Oxalsäure enthalten. Zugleich hat die Tamarinde hohe Mineralstoffwerte an Eisen, Kalium, Calcium und Phosphor, einen geringen Wassergehalt und einen hohen Anteil an Proteinen und Kohlenhydraten. In der Volksmedizin spielt die Tamarinde deswegen eine

wichtige Rolle. Dem Säuregehalt wird eine verdauungsfördernde Wirkung zugeschrieben, deswegen wird sie als ausgezeichnetes Abführmittel, gegen Hämorrhoiden oder für Blähungen angewendet. Dank des hohen Vitamin-C-Gehaltes ist die Tamarinde aber auch als Wundheilungsmittel, bei fiebrigen Erkrankungen, und als Antiskorbutmittel zu empfehlen.

Die kleine Kräuterkunde ist nur Anregung. Es wird Jedem empfohlen sich persönlich beim Arzt oder beim Naturheilpraktiker zu erkundigen, weitere Informationen zu sammeln und die Wirksamkeit des Heilmittels für die Einzelbehandlung zu bestätigen.

Mum's Handy Home Hints Eucalyptus Cleaner

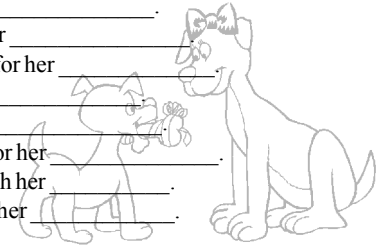
- 1 cup white vinegar
- A half cup water
- 20 drops eucalyptus
- Mix well. Use to clean tables, plastic, timber, stainless steel ...



MOTHER ANIMALS AND THEIR BABIES

Here is a Mother and Baby ANIMAL GAME to get you thinking. Every mother knows her baby, but do you? Take the quiz! 😊

- A mother horse gallops with her _____.
- The mother cow gives milk for her _____.
- The mother hen looks for worms for her _____.
- The mother dog plays with her _____.
- The mother duck swims with her _____.
- The mother cat catches a mouse for her _____.
- The mother goat nibbles grass with her _____.
- The mother pig is busy caring for her _____.
- The mother sheep calls her _____.
- The mother fox hunts for her _____.



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MOTHER OF 3,000 SONS

"Who gives to me teaches me to give"

--Ancient proverb Thirty years ago, when I was a journalist in Philadelphia, I founded a small magazine called Umoja (Swahili for unity), which dealt with the issues confronting African Americans.

Because of the many letters the magazine received about the gang problem in our city, I asked my husband, Dave, to do some research. He began walking the streets, asking questions, talking to people and observing the problem firsthand.

My interest in the subject was purely professional--until the day Dave returned from a fact-finding mission and reported that our second son, Robin, was a member of a gang. Even worse, Robin was the gang's favorite, called the "heart of the corner." The heart is the favorite target if gang wars occur. I was shocked and frightened. How could this be happening in my home, in my family? But it was true. My son was a walking bulls-eye.

We had six sons, ranging in age from 11 to 18. I looked carefully at 16-year-old Robin that evening when he came home. I hadn't noticed it before, but Robin was different. He wore his clothing differently, and his manner was tougher. I confronted him, and he didn't lie. Yes, he was a gang member--and nothing I said or did was going to change that.

It was as if the bottom dropped out of my world. I stopped eating; I couldn't sleep. In an effort to save my son, I talked to social service agencies and the police, but no one seemed to have an answer. No one seemed able to do anything.

But everyone agreed that the breakdown of the family was the main source of the gang problem. I thought our family was strong, but for Robin, obviously, something was missing.

Then an idea came to me. If family was the problem, could family also be the solution? Why not invite Robin's gang to live in our home? We could show them how real families work.

"Are you out of your mind?" Dave said when I told him my idea.

But I was on fire with my idea and wouldn't give up. Eventually he agreed to give it a try. Our other sons were more or less open--they knew Robin's life was on the line. Robin was thrilled with the idea--his boys and his family all under one roof.

Robin's gang leader, in serious trouble on the street, needed a place to hide out. He jumped at the chance to live with us, and the rest of the gang followed his lead. I called every parent I could reach to inform them of our plan, and they all agreed to let their sons come to us.

Our house was a small one, hardly large enough for our original family. When 15 more boys moved in, it felt as crowded as a sardine can. But we made it work. All the boys slept in sleeping bags on the living room floor, and at mealtime the sleeping bags were rolled and stowed and folding tables and chairs were set up.

The first few weeks were difficult. Many times I wondered if Dave had been right about me being out of my mind. The boys chafed at doing chores, wouldn't participate in our family meetings, and didn't want to get the part-time jobs I insisted on. But I was determined. I looked at the situation as if it were a puzzle and knew we'd have to find the right pieces if we were going to save the lives of these kids.

Finally we asked the boys to devise rules we could all live by. We were a little nervous about this because if we didn't like their rules, it would be difficult to enforce our own. But I breathed a sigh of relief when they read out their four rules: 1) No fighting in the house, 2) No drugs or drinking, 3) No girls in their rooms, and 4) No gang warring.

Maybe, just maybe, this will work, I thought. We found that since the boys had made up the rules, they were very good about keeping them.

The biggest and most pressing challenge was getting enough food. Our small savings were soon exhausted, but I had the idea to sell back issues of the magazine, Umoja, that were stored in our basement. The boys took stacks and peddled them all over Philadelphia, bringing home money to buy food.

We also approached a local church and told them we needed food. They were very supportive and sent notices to affluent parishes asking for food donations. The response was overwhelming. Soon we were inundated. Trucks loaded with food began coming down our block, headed for "The House of Umoja."

Now we had more food than we could use. We decided to give some away to people in the area who could use it. The boys were excited about distributing food. For most of them, it was the first time they had ever found themselves in the position of benefactors--giving something to help others.

After that, things began to fall into place. The boys got jobs and began contributing money to cover our household expenses. This new "gang" organized yard sales, sold candy door-to-door, and escorted elderly people to the bank.

We faced our largest hurdle the day George, one of the old gang's bitterest rivals, showed up asking to join our family. He realized he needed to take this drastic step, or he would end up in jail or dead. The boys were silent, wrestling with their hatred for their former enemy. But something new had entered their hearts--commitment to family, compassion, kindness--squeezing out their old "turf mentality." The tension broke as the boys accepted George into our new family.

As the weeks went by, I found myself falling in love with the boys; they became like my own children. Some of them even started calling me Mom. When the gang had first arrived, they'd all had street names like Killer, Snake Eyes, Bird, Crow and Peewee. I began to give them African names with special meanings. These were names that acknowledged their bravery or discipline or strength. Although it was never stated, the boys knew they had to earn those names.

Stories about our family spread all over the city. More and more boys came wanting to live with us. Finally, the state of Pennsylvania offered us a contract to officially care for these boys under the banner of foster care. We became "House of Umoja-Boystown," and with our new funds, we were able to expand, buying more houses on our street and



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Please contact Katherine Muehlhaeuser for more details on 9333-3953 or 0411 27 81 27

3000 SONS continued on page 13

hiring staff. The flow of boys kept coming...and we just kept opening our arms to gather them in.

It wasn't always easy living with these street kids. Most people had given up on them, and for good reason. Everyone else told these boys what to do, but I decided to listen to them instead. I tried always to see them through a mother's eyes, focusing on the good in them. It didn't always work, but enough of the time, it did.

It didn't work with one boy named Spike. From the first moment he arrived he was a troublemaker--picking fights, refusing to work, disrupting meetings. When he left, I shook my head in despair. I had tried so hard to show him what it felt like to be a member of a loving family. I hated to lose any of the boys.

Some years later, a man came bursting into my office with a baby in his arms. It was Spike! "Mom," he said, placing his tiny daughter in my arms, "I want you to give her a name."

I was speechless with surprise, but as I looked at the beautiful child in my arms, her name came to me: "Fatima," I said softly. "It means 'Shining One.'"

Spike took Fatima from me and said, "I want to raise her like you showed me. I want her to be part of our family." Spike had heard me after all.

There have been other boys, too, who have surprised me by the depth of their dedication and commitment to our family. Two years after we started our experiment, we decided to have a gang conference. We asked the kids

who lived with us, as well as the young men who had gone on to careers and their own homes, to go back to their old gangs and ask the new leaders to come to the conference to discuss ending gang deaths citywide.

When one boy approached his old gang, they beat him up so badly he ended up in the hospital for a few days. But the minute he was released, that boy went straight back and again asked the gang leader if he would come to our house for the conference. Out of respect for his bravery, the gang leader attended.

Those were the first boys. In the 30 years since, over 3,000 have followed. They are all my sons. Though some are now middle-age men, they still come back to the house for advice or just to visit, play basketball and talk to the current group of young men who make up the family at the House of Umoja. They often bring their wives and children to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries.

I began with only the intention to save my son's life, but that simple act of motherly love grew, blossoming into a full-time service that has saved thousands of lives. While no one person can do everything, anyone can start something.

Unity, love, family--these are the things that saved my sons and will save many more sons to come. There is no limit to this love. My own name, Falaka, means "new day." Every day for me is another opportunity to be a mother to these boys who, more than anything, simply need love.

By Falaka Fattah
Reprinted courtesy of "Chicken's Soup for the Mother's Soul 2."

THE IMAGES OF MOTHER

- 4 YEARS OF AGE My Mommy can do anything!
- 8 YEARS OF AGE My Mom knows a lot! A whole lot!
- 12 YEARS OF AGE My Mother doesn't really know quite everything.
- 14 YEARS OF AGE Naturally, Mother doesn't know that, either!
- 16 YEARS OF AGE Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned.
- 18 YEARS OF AGE That old woman? She's way out of date!
- 25 YEARS OF AGE Well, she might know a little bit about it.
- 35 YEARS OF AGE Before we decide, let's get Mom's opinion.
- 45 YEARS OF AGE Wonder what Mom would have thought about it?
- 65 YEARS OF AGE Wish I could talk it over with Mom...

Mom,
You're Grrreat!



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VENUS OF WILLENDORF

The "Venus" figurine of Willendorf, circa. 25,000 years old. Could she be the very first pre-historic doll, or a Paleolithic Ur-Eve tribute to mother? Whichever the case, historians have been fascinated by this small stone statuette since it was first found on August 7th, 1908 during a systematic excavation in a terrace about 30 meters above the Danube river near the town of Willendorf in Austria. Its location in the ninth and highest layer of Site II in Willendorf date this small full-length find by archaeologist Josef Szombathy as being approximately 25,000 years old.

The statuette, which measures about 11.1cm in length, is now in Vienna's Naturhistorisches Museum. Carved from a fine porous oolitic limestone, this entirely preserved human figurine is uniquely crafted to fit perfectly into the palm of one's hand and shows a corpulent woman with stout hips, a voluminous belly and heavy breasts. Originally the figurine



was painted thickly with red colour and is described as having a comparatively big head upon weak shoulders. Venus' thighs and shanks are formed naturally, but shortened and her arms are just outlined. Both wrists are decorated with ragged arm-rings, whilst the feet and the face are completely missing. However a complicated hairstyle made of parallel curls extending to the neck decorates the inclined head in an intricate design.

Presumably done with flint tools, Venus is considered a single remarkable specimen, in part due to the fine craftsmanship whose specific three dimensional proportions see Venus perfectly cradled in the palm of one's hand like a child's doll, but more importantly because of her great age and pronounced female forms. For Venus of Willendorf is the most famous early image of a human and, being obviously both female and nude, is also the earliest known representation of a woman, thereby becoming the "first woman." Thus by focusing suitably on the fascinating reality of the female body, Venus not only quickly established herself as an icon of prehistoric art revering the woman but also acquired a sort of nurturing mother identity that can be seen to parallel the comfort of childhood and dolls. Pre-historic doll, or a Paleolithic Ur-Eve tribute to mother? Or both...

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Never Lets You Down or Leaves You Hanging

And Is Always Close To Your Heart!!!



TELLUS ARAPACIS

The goddess of Mother Earth (Rome)

In Roman Mythology, the goddess of the Earth was Tellus Mater - the fertile soil, whilst the Greek goddess Gaia was Terra Mater - Mother Earth. Mothers in mythology? Absolutely. For mothers have always held a special place in the hearts, thoughts and lore of humankind. And it is little wonder. For mothers have always had that magical knack of blending inner strength, prosperity, nurturing and a generous dose of soothing that creates peace out of turmoil.



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BEING A MOTHER

After 21 years of marriage, my wife wanted me to take another woman out to dinner and a movie. She said, 'I love you, but I know this other woman loves you and would love to spend some time with you.'

The other woman that my wife wanted me to visit was my MOTHER, who has been a widow for 19 years. The demands of my work and my two children had made it possible to visit her only occasionally.

That night I called to invite her to go out for dinner and a movie.

'What's wrong, are you well?' she asked.

My mother is the type of woman who suspects that a



'SOMEBODY' SAID... 'Somebody' said it takes about six weeks to get back to normal after you've had a baby.



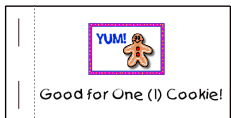
'Somebody' doesn't know that once you're a mother, 'normal' is history.

'Somebody' said you know how to be a mother by instinct.

'Somebody' never took a three-year old shopping.

'Somebody' said a mother could find all the answers to her child-rearing questions in the books.

'Somebody' never had a child stuff beans in his nose.



'Somebody' said the hardest part of being a mother is labour and delivery.

'Somebody' never watched her "baby" get on the bus for the first day of kindergarden or on a plane headed for military 'boot camp.'

'Somebody' said that "good" mothers never raise their voices or yell at their kids.

'Somebody's' child never sent a ball through a neighbour's bay window.



'Somebody' said a mother can do her job with her eyes closed and one hand tied behind her back.

'Somebody' never organised seven giggling Brownies into a biscuit-selling brigade.

'Somebody' said you don't need an education to be a mother.

'Somebody' never helped a fourth grader with his math.



'Somebody' said being a mother is boring. 'Somebody' never rode in a car driven by a teenager with a driver's permit.

'Somebody' said if you're a 'good' mother, your child will 'turn out good'.

'Somebody' thinks a child comes with directions and a guarantee.

'Somebody' said you can't love the second child as much as you love the first.

'Somebody' doesn't have two children.



'Somebody' said a mother can stop worrying after her child gets married.

'Somebody' doesn't know that marriage adds a new son or daughter-in-law to a mother's heartstrings.

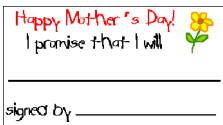


'Somebody' said a mother's job is done when her last child leaves home.

'Somebody' never had grandchildren.

'Somebody' said your mother knows you love her, so you do not have to tell her.

'Somebody' is not a mother.



late night call or a surprise invitation is a sign of bad news.

'I thought that it would be pleasant to spend some time with you,' I responded. 'Just the two of us.'

She thought about it for a moment, and then said, 'I would like that very much.'

That Friday after work, as I drove over to pick her up I was a bit nervous. When I arrived at her house, I noticed that she, too, seemed to be nervous about our date.

She waited in the door with her coat on. She had curled her hair and was wearing the dress that she had worn to celebrate her last wedding anniversary.

She smiled from a face that was as radiant as an angel's. 'I told my friends that I was going to go out with my son, and they were impressed,' she said, as she got into the car. 'They can't wait to hear about our meeting.'

We went to a restaurant that, although not elegant, was very nice and cozy. My mother took my arm as if she were the First Lady.

After we sat down, I had to read the menu. Her eyes could only read large print. Half way through the entries, I lifted my eyes and saw Mom sitting there staring at me. A nostalgic smile was on her lips. 'It was I who used to have to read the menu when you were small,' she said.

'Then it's time that you relax and let me return the favour,' I responded.

During the dinner, we had an agreeable conversation, nothing extraordinary but catching up on recent events of each other's life. We talked so much that we missed the movie.

As we arrived at her house later, she said, 'I'll go out with you again, but only if you let me invite you.' I agreed.

'How was your dinner date?' asked my wife when I got home.

'Very nice. Much more so than I could have imagined,' I answered.

A few days later, my mother died of a massive heart attack. It happened so suddenly that I

didn't have a chance to do anything for her.

Some time later, I received an envelope with a copy of a restaurant receipt from the same place mother and I had dined.

An attached note said: 'I paid this bill in advance. I wasn't sure that I could be there; but nevertheless, I paid for two plates - one for you and the other for your wife. You will never know what that night meant for me. I love you, son.'

At that moment, I understood the importance of saying in time: 'I LOVE YOU' and to give our loved ones the time that they deserve. Nothing in life is more important than your family. Give them the time they deserve, because these things cannot be put off till 'some other time'.



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May 2008

Saturday 3rd	Julia & Dieter	***Free Admission*** Music & Dance
Sunday 4th	Maypole Dance with Silver Echoes	***Free Admission*** Music & Dance
Saturday 10th	Dutch Duo	***Free Admission*** Music & Dance
Sunday 11th	Mother's Day Celebrations with Rene	***Free Admission*** Music & Dance
	Entertainment and a competition for children	
Saturday 17th	Silver Echoes	***Free Admission*** Music & Dance
Sunday 18th	Heinz	***Free Admission*** Music & Dance
Saturday 24th	Marianne & Mimmo	***Free Admission*** Music & Dance
Sunday 25th	Julia & Dieter	***Free Admission*** Music & Dance
Saturday 31st	Tyrolean Evening with Alpine Cocktail	Music & Dance
	Dance Group "Weiße Alpen" TBC	
	Admission Cost:	Members \$10 Guests \$15
	Please book early!	

June 2008

Sunday 1st	Heinz	***Free Admission*** Music & Dance
Saturday 7th	Dutch Duo	***Free Admission*** Music & Dance
Sunday 8th	Rene	***Free Admission*** Music & Dance
Saturday 14th	John Wanner Swing Orchestra	Music & Dance
	Fabulous and powerful 18 piece orchestra and vocalists. Big Band Swing Orchestra	
	Admission Cost:	Members \$12 Guests \$17
	Bookings are strongly encouraged	
Sunday 15th	Silver Echoes	***Free Admission*** Music & Dance
Saturday 21st	Julia & Dieter	***Free Admission*** Music & Dance
Sunday 22nd	Concert of the Accordion Society of Australia	Artists
	Performances by a range of top soloists and the Victorian Accordion Orchestra	
	Lunch & drinks available from 11.30 am	
	Concerts starts at 2 pm	
	Admission Cost:	Members \$10 Guests \$15
Saturday 28th	Dutch Duo	***Free Admission*** Music & Dance
Sunday 29th	Marianne & Mimmo	***Free Admission*** Music & Dance

Mai 2008

Samstag 3.	Julia & Dieter	***Eintritt frei*** Musik & Tanz
Sonntag 4.	Maibaum Tanz mit Silver Echoes	***Eintritt frei*** Musik & Tanz
Samstag 10.	Dutch Duo	***Eintritt frei*** Musik & Tanz
Sonntag 11.	Muttertags Feier mit Rene	***Eintritt frei*** Musik & Tanz
	Unterhaltung für Kinder - Wettbewerb für Kinder	
Samstag 17.	Silver Echoes	***Eintritt frei*** Musik & Tanz
Sonntag 18.	Heinz	***Eintritt frei*** Musik & Tanz
Samstag 24.	Marianne & Mimmo	***Eintritt frei*** Musik & Tanz
Sonntag 25.	Julia & Dieter	***Eintritt frei*** Musik & Tanz
Samstag 31.	Tiroler Abend mit Alpine Cocktail	Music & Tanz
	"Weiße Alpen" Tanzgruppe TBC	
	Eintritt Kosten:	Mitglieder \$10 Gäste \$15
	Bitte früh anmelden!	

Juni 2008

Sonntag 1.	Heinz	***Eintritt frei*** Musik & Tanz
Samstag 7.	Dutch Duo	***Eintritt frei*** Musik & Tanz
Sonntag 8.	Rene	***Eintritt frei*** Musik & Tanz
Samstag 14.	John Wanner Swing Orchestra	Music & Tanz
	Das schwingende fabelhafte und leistungsfähige Orchester mit 18 Musikanten und Sängern.	
	Eintritt Kosten:	Mitglieder \$12 Gäste \$17
	Anmeldungen sind sehr empfehlenswert	
Sonntag 15.	Silver Echoes	***Eintritt frei*** Musik & Tanz
Samstag 21.	Julia & Dieter	***Eintritt frei*** Musik & Tanz
Sonntag 22.	Konzert von Accordion Society of Australia	Artisten
	Musikalische Vorstellung der Victorian Accordion Orchestra und spitzen Soloisten	
	Essen & trinken von 11.30 morgens	
	Konzert beginnt ab 2 P.M.	
	Eintritt Kosten:	Mitglieder \$10 Gäste \$15
Samstag 28.	Dutch Duo	***Eintritt frei*** Musik & Tanz
Sonntag 29.	Marianne & Mimmo	***Eintritt frei*** Musik & Tanz