

## Austria

### *National Affairs*

**I**N THE OCTOBER national election, the Social Democratic Party of Austria (SPÖ) narrowly defeated the ruling People's Party (ÖVP) by 35.34 percent (68 seats) to 34.33 percent (66 seats), and stood ready to assume power after more than six years in the opposition. Although it was clear that Social Democratic leader Alfred Gusenbauer would be the next chancellor, his options for forming a coalition were severely limited. The SPÖ had ruled out any cooperation with the two far-right parties, the Freedom Party (FPÖ), which received 11.04 percent of the vote (21 seats), and the Alliance for the Future of Austria (BZÖ), which garnered 4.11 percent (7 seats). A coalition with the Green Party, which came in third with 11.05 percent (21 seats), would not provide the Social Democrats with the necessary majority, and so the new government would likely take the form of a grand coalition between the Social Democrats and the People's Party.

Several aspects of the election surprised observers. Although the People's Party had been expected to lose ground, few had thought that it would be defeated. Also, far-right leader Jörg Haider maintained his foothold in national politics: his far-right BZÖ just managed to finish over the 4-percent threshold necessary for parliamentary representation, whereas preelection polls had predicted that it would fall short. The Freedom Party, which Haider had led for two decades before quitting it after a power struggle in 2005, did well enough to ensure that it would play a strong opposition role.

Immigration was a major campaign issue, as many Austrians feared that the proposed entry of Turkey into the European Union would flood the country with cheap labor. Haider had brought the issue of immigration into mainstream politics in the 1990s, pushing the ruling People's Party to toughen citizenship requirements for immigrants. The difference now was the prominence of the religious aspect. According to Peter Paul Hajek, a political analyst at the Austrian Marketing Institute, "it's more about the clash of between Islam and Christianity." In the 2006 election, both the FPÖ and the BZÖ ran blatantly anti-Muslim campaigns. The mainstream conservative People's Party sought anti-immigrant votes by

opposing a general amnesty for foreigners who were in the country illegally. Even the Social Democrats ran a campaign promising to crack down on crimes committed by foreigners. Only the Greens stood for a more open attitude towards immigrants.

In the realm of economic policy, the Freedom Party pledged to create 15,000 new research-and-development jobs, achieve full employment by 2010, and lower taxes. But the Social Democrats were apparently more in tune with public sentiment on the economy, making electoral gains on promises to lower the number of unemployed by 100,000 and to reduce salary differences between men and women.

Negotiations between the Social Democrats and the People's Party to form a broad-based coalition dragged on after the election and were not resolved by year's end. As a way out of the impasse, President Heinz Fischer, a former Social Democrat, committed both sides to accept a deadline of January 8, 2007, to reach agreement. Two major stumbling blocks kept the parties apart, both involving programs strongly supported by the Social Democrats and firmly opposed by the People's Party: abolition of university student fees and a reversal of the controversial purchase of 18 Eurofighter jet planes from EADS, the aerospace group. On social issues, the two parties had already agreed to a modest spending increase on social programs and education, and to a rise in individual contributions to the national health system. Both remained outspokenly critical of EU accession talks with Turkey.

A major cultural milestone for Austria during 2006 was the celebration of the 150th birthday of Sigmund Freud, the father of psychoanalysis. To mark the event, the Austrian embassy in Washington, D.C., hosted a symposium on September 15 entitled "A Day of Reflection on Freud's Place in Our Minds." The guests included members of four major American psychoanalytic organizations as well as prominent Freud experts from the academic and cultural worlds. Prof. Eli Zaretsky of the New School for Social Research, author of *Secrets of the Soul: A Social and Cultural History of Psychoanalysis*, delivered the keynote address.

### *Israel and the Middle East*

Diplomatic ties between Israel and Austria were strong, as evidenced by an exchange of official visits by the foreign ministers of the two countries. Israel's Tzipi Livni visited Vienna in March, where she met with Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel (who was also serving as rotating president of the EU), President Heinz Fischer, and Foreign Minister Ursula

Plassnik. The Austrian foreign minister returned the visit in December, attending a conference celebrating 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Plassnik met with Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres, and Minister of the Interior and Security Avi Dichter.

The Austrian media, with the exception of the far right, presented a balanced picture of Israel's ongoing conflict with Palestinian groups and the larger Arab world. In their coverage of the war between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon, most newspapers were willing to consider the Israeli side of contentious issues.

In February, when representatives of the European Jewish Congress convened in Vienna, Chancellor Schüssel addressed them and underlined Austria's friendly ties both to Israel and to the Austrian Jewish community. Similar friendly sentiments were expressed by Andreas Khol, president of the Austrian Federal Parliament. He assured the EJC delegates that "the Austrian Parliament is a friend of Israel." Alfred Gusenbauer, head of the Socialist Democratic Party, paid a private visit to Israel in June, before the Austrian election. Gusenbauer met with Olmert, Peres, and Minister of Defense Amir Peretz.

Benjamin Netanyahu, who headed the Likud opposition bloc in the Israeli Knesset, attended the international conference of the Hayek Institute in Vienna in June. The third International Management and Consulting Congress, meeting in Vienna earlier in the year, honored Shimon Peres with a lifetime achievement award for his service in the search for peace in the Middle East. In the cultural arena, there was a lively exchange between Israel and Austria of theatrical, musical, and dance groups.

### *Anti-Semitism*

Austria remained free of physical violence against Jews, and did not experience the kind of public anti-Israel and anti-Jewish manifestations that occurred in other European nations during the Israel's summer war against Hezbollah in Lebanon. The war did, however, trigger a surge of anti-Semitic telephone calls, letters, and e-mails to Jewish organizations. On the extreme left, and especially among intellectuals, the Israeli strike into Lebanon brought condemnation. On the extreme right, it was used in the election campaign to win votes.

In the view of Jewish leaders, the FPÖ and the BZÖ attacked Israel during the campaign in a way that verged on anti-Semitism. Haider called

Ariel Muzicant, president of the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde (IKG), the Austrian Jewish community, a "Zionist provocateur." When an Israeli attack in southern Lebanon resulted in the death of an Austrian UN peace-keeper, the two extremist parties launched vitriolic attacks against Muzicant and the Jewish community. The BZÖ leader in the province of Styria demanded that the Jewish communities of Vienna and Graz (capital of the southern region where the UN peace-keeper came from) issue a public condemnation of what he called a "cruel and cowardly murder." A Freedom Party local councilman from Neunkirchen wrote an open letter to the Palestinian community of Austria asserting that the dead man was a victim of "Israeli terrorism" and that "the mass murderers with the Jewish star shall always remain unpunished." In a second letter he attacked Muzicant for criticizing Austrian trade ties with Iran and urged instead a boycott of Israeli goods, saying, "these murderers will not get my money!"

### *Holocaust-Related Matters*

The National Fund (Nationalfund), established in 1995, was responsible for handling payments to Austrian survivors of the National Socialist era. In 2002 the fund was authorized to distribute \$150 million, to be paid out as a gesture of compensation for the loss of leased apartments, personal valuables, and household property, with a deadline for applications set for June 2004. Each claimant received \$7,000 plus an additional 1,000 euros. The money was distributed in order of the age of the claimant, the oldest first.

Another responsibility of the National Fund was handling payments from the General Settlement Fund (GSF), established by the Austrian government under terms of an agreement signed in Washington, D.C., in 2001. Through voluntary GSF payments, Austria acknowledged its moral responsibility for damages inflicted upon Jews and other victims of Nazism. The money would come from the government and Austrian companies: \$210 million was set aside. By the filing deadline, 20,000 claims had been submitted.

However, a condition of the agreement setting up the GSF was that all class-action suits against Austria and/or Austrian companies for Holocaust-related claims had to be dismissed before any payments could be made. Following a protracted and, at times, angry confrontation between the government and the IKG, an agreement was reached whereby the government would provide the IKG 18.2 million euros as final resti-

tution for damages and losses to Austrian communal property during the National Socialist era. In return, the IKG agreed to drop its amicus petition in support of the class-action suit of *Whiteman et al. v. Republic of Austria* and to withdraw from the legal proceedings. This step, in turn, paved the way for a U.S. District Court in New York to dismiss the suit and a second similar one, thereby allowing payments to Holocaust survivors from the GSF (see AJYB 2006, pp. 458–59). During 2006, the National Fund sent out letters to survivors and their heirs whose claims had already been approved, stating that checks would be going out. By the end of the year 9,000 claims had been approved and 5,000 paid.

In October, the National Fund made public its database of artworks held in museums and other collections managed by the Republic of Austria and the city of Vienna, and which, according to the most recent provenance research, may have been expropriated during the Nazi era. The purpose of this initiative was to clarify whether and to whom artworks should be restituted.

The National Fund was also responsible for supporting projects in the field of Holocaust education, providing psychological and medical assistance to survivors, and helping restore Jewish cemeteries and reconstruct synagogues. A synagogue that benefited during 2006 was the one in Baden, which now served both as a house of worship and as a cultural center. In November, the National Fund provided financial support for an exhibit on the *Kindertransport*, the prewar project that removed Jewish children from Germany and some German-occupied lands to Palestine or to neutral countries. Titled "*Für das Kind*" (For the Child), the exhibit was geared to schoolchildren, and included audio and video recordings of people who had been rescued through placement with the *Kindertransport*.

The Holocaust Victims' Information and Support Center (HVISC), or Anlaufstelle, established by the IKG in July 1999, continued its work of promoting and protecting the interests of Jewish Holocaust victims and their heirs in and from Austria. Although the deadline for submitting applications for the restitution of publicly owned real estate was to end on December 31, 2006, Ariel Muzicant, the IKG president, sought to have the federal deadline extended, and also urged the authorities of selected cities and municipalities to take action under terms of the law governing restitution of public property. Only a few heeded the call.

In seeking to identify and quantify real-estate assets owned by the Jewish community prior to 1938, the Anlaufstelle had a team of historians conducting research into properties currently owned by the Austrian gov-

ernment and the city of Vienna (see AJYB 2006, p. 460). The investigation turned up flaws in the initial restitution process. But a three-man arbitration panel charged with the task of deciding specific cases declined to reconstitute properties in two cases brought to it, leading the IKG to review the procedures used by the panel.

The Commission for Provenance Research, of which the Anlaufstelle was a member, succeeded in having universal standards of provenance research applied to the holdings of all federal museums and collections. By April 2007 all such repositories would be required to respond to a detailed questionnaire concerning their holdings, the number of artworks acquired since 1938 (when the Nazi government annexed Austria), their research about previous owners of these artworks, and their criteria for determining whether a particular work might be subject to restitution.

In November, the Anlaufstelle requested the Kinsky auction house in Vienna to withdraw a drawing by Egon Schiele from a pending sale since it had been identified by the son of the original owner as stolen property. After Kinsky turned down the request, the IKG obtained a court order prohibiting the drawing from being handed over to the buyer until the completion of a provenance investigation. This was considered a landmark decision since it put auction houses on notice that they would be held accountable. The IKG had more success with the Vienna-based Dorotheum auction house, convincing it to put off two separate auctions involving three artworks, pending the conclusion of an agreement between the consigner and the heirs of the original owners. Following negotiations between the Anlaufstelle and the city of Lienz in eastern Tyrol, the city agreed to reconstitute a major painting by Albin Egger, *Totendanz*, to the heirs of Melanie Schwartz, the original owner.

In other art news, a three-judge Austrian panel ruled that five of six paintings by Gustav Klimt that were held by the Austrian government should be returned to Mrs. Maria Altmann, who claimed that they were looted from her family by the Nazis. After a long and complicated legal process that went all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2004 (see AJYB 2005, p. 488), Mrs. Altmann agreed to binding arbitration by the Austrian panel, which ruled unanimously in her favor regarding five of the paintings in January 2006. The next month the Austrian government declined an option to buy the paintings from her. They were then removed from the walls of the Austrian Gallery in the Belvedere Palace and shipped to Los Angeles, where Mrs. Altmann lived, and put on display at the Los Angeles County Museum between April and June. The most famous of the paintings, a portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer, was purchased in June by Ronald S. Lauder for \$135 million, the highest price ever paid

for a painting, and placed on permanent display at the five-year-old Neue Galerie in Manhattan. The four other Klimt works were sold at auction in November at Christie's for an estimated \$125 million.

Searching for owners of artworks confiscated during the Nazi years, the city of Vienna turned its attention to Israel. In July, the Austrian embassy in Tel Aviv asked Israelis for information that might identify the former owners of 1,545 objects acquired by the Dorotheum, including 550 from art dealers, 12 from public donations, and 212 acquisitions and donations from Julius Fargel, who had been the restorer for the city's collections as well as chief appraiser in the Gestapo Office for the Disposal of the Property of Jewish Emigrants. Under an act passed by the Vienna City Council on April 29, 1999, these were to be restituted, and those whose owners could not be traced would be transferred to the National Fund, which would sell them and use the proceeds for the benefit of the victims of the Nazi regime.

The Anlaufstelle completed the microfilming of 1.5 million images from the Jerusalem holdings of the IKG archives and approximately 500,000 images of its Vienna holdings. The latter included data about births, deaths, and marriages of community members from the end of the eighteenth century until 1938. The microfilming of the Vienna holdings was done in cooperation with the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Genealogical Society of Utah.

The Austrian Reconciliation Fund, created to resolve issues arising out of the Nazi experience and to address contemporary human rights concerns, concluded its work at the end of 2005, having disbursed payments to 132,000 former slave laborers. Two other bodies that it created, however, continued to function. One was the Future Fund, which supported research on the Holocaust and on threats to peace posed by totalitarian systems, promoted international humanitarian cooperation and respect for human rights, and processed claims filed with the Austrian Reconciliation Fund that had not yet been settled. The other was the Scholarship Fund, which offered scholarships for study at Austrian universities to persons from countries whose citizens were recruited as forced laborers during the Nazi era and to descendants of forced laborers regardless of where they lived. Scholarship recipients were to serve as Austrian "diplomats of reconciliation" in their home countries.

The Austrian Jewish Religious Society joined with the Organization of Jewish Victims of the Nazi Regime to organize a solemn ceremony on May 7 at the site of the Mauthausen concentration camp. The occasion was the 61st anniversary of the liberation of the camp by U.S. troops. Among those addressing the 12,000 people assembled there were

Austrian president Fischer, Cardinal Christoph Schonborn, Ambassador Dan Ashbel of Israel, Chief Rabbi Paul Chaim Eisenberg, and Ariel Muzikant. Hannah Lessing, secretary general of the National Fund, delivered the keynote address, "Gender-Specific Persecution in the Holocaust—The Work of the National Fund."

An Austrian court imposed a three-year sentence in February on British historian David Irving, who pleaded guilty to denying the Holocaust and admitted that he had been wrong in claiming there were no Nazi gas chambers at Auschwitz. He had been arrested in November 2005 on charges stemming from two speeches he made in Austria in 1989 claiming that there was no Nazi policy of annihilating the Jews (see AJYB 2006, pp. 457–58). Irving was convicted under a 1992 Austrian law making Holocaust denial a crime. (A handful of other countries, including Germany, France, Belgium, and Poland, also criminalized denial). Irving's trial and conviction came at a time of intense debate in Europe over the limits of freedom of expression, after a Danish newspaper printed caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed that ignited deadly protests all over the world (see above, pp. 433–35).

In December, an appeals court freed Irving and ruled that he could serve the remainder of his term at home on probation. Noting that Irving had made his remarks about the Holocaust a long time ago, the court declared it unlikely that he would repeat the offense, and said it expected him to leave Austria soon.

Some observers applauded the verdict on free-speech grounds. Deborah Lipstadt, for example, the Emory University historian who won a libel suit that Irving filed against her in England in 1998, said in an interview, "I don't believe that history should be adjudicated in a courtroom," and suggested that Irving's imprisonment risked turning him into a martyr. But the prosecutor, Marie-Luise Nittel, countered that Irving remained a symbol to extremists and thus a danger to society. Hans Raucher, a columnist for the Vienna daily *Der Standard*, agreed, writing: "Denial of the Holocaust is not an opinion, it is a political act which tries to bring Nazi thought into the mainstream." The presiding judge of the appeals court, Ernst Maurer, was known to have close ties to the far-right Freedom Party, and had ruled in favor of party founder Jörg Haider on several occasions when Haider had been accused of trying to whitewash the Nazi record.

In July, the new Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies (see AJYB 2006, pp. 461–62) held its first conference. Entitled "The Legacy of Simon Wiesenthal for Holocaust Studies," it was attended by scholars from the U.S., Israel, Poland, Germany, and Austria. Papers were pre-

sented by David Bankier, Omer Bartov, Peter Black, Włodzimierz Borodziej, Christian Gerlach, Anita Grossman, Isabel Heinemann, Raul Hilberg, Bertrand Perz, Tom Segev, and Michael Wildt. The conference was organized in cooperation with the International Research Center for Cultural Studies (IFK) and the Institute for Contemporary History at the University of Vienna. The IKG assisted in funding the event. The institute also launched a Web site and created a board of scholars, with Raul Hilberg as honorary chairman.

A controversy broke out in Salzburg over a documentary film showing the history of the Salzburg festival, the annual summer program dedicated to the performance of great classical music, mainly of Austrian origin. The film, *The Salzburg Festival: A Short History*, raised the hackles of the festival directors, who felt that it overemphasized the event's relationship with the Nazis. The three-and-a-quarter-hour film devoted 30 minutes to the Nazi period and included scenes of Hitler and German soldiers sweeping into Salzburg in 1938 as cheering throngs waved flags emblazoned with swastikas. There were also clips showing German officers enjoying the musical performances. The festival was founded in 1920 in the hope that it might help Austria regain a sense of purpose through culture and music after the disaster of World War I. Ironically, two of its prime movers were Jews, the pioneering theater director Max Reinhardt and the poet and librettist Hugo von Hofmannsthal.

Austria held the rotating presidency of the EU during the first six months of 2006, and in that capacity Chancellor Schüssel condemned both the publication of a Holocaust cartoon on the Web site of a Muslim organization in Antwerp and the launch of a Holocaust cartoon "competition" by the Iranian newspaper *Hamshari*. In a statement issued in February, the chancellor declared: "Neither disparaging caricatures of Mohammed nor the denial of the Holocaust or shameful jokes about the Holocaust have any place in a world where cultures and religions should live side by side in a spirit of mutual respect."

Austria joined other Western countries in condemning the government-sponsored Holocaust-denial conference in Tehran. The two-day meeting held in early December, allegedly to air "both sides" of the debate over the historicity of the Holocaust, was attended by deniers and known anti-Semites, and books by David Irving and other revisionists were on conspicuous display. A delegation from "Jews United Against Zionism," organized by the anti-Zionist Neturei Karta, included Moshe Aryc Friedman, who claimed to be a rabbi from Austria. He explained: "I am not a denier of the Holocaust, but I think it is legitimate to cast doubt on some statistics."

The Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs, in cooperation with the Future Fund, published a volume in both German and English, *The Righteous of Austria: Heroes of the Holocaust*, which provided details on the lives of 86 non-Jewish Austrians who risked their lives to save Jews during the war. Publication took place in 2006 to mark 50 years of diplomatic relations between Austria and Israel, and the official release date was May 5, the anniversary of the liberation of the Mauthausen camp by Allied forces in 1945.

## JEWISH COMMUNITY

### *Demography*

The number of Jews registered with the IKG stood at 6,934, a net increase of 90 over the previous year. The increase was attributed to the IKG's outreach program directed at unaffiliated Jews and also to the relatively higher birthrate in Sephardi families than in Ashkenazi families. Knowledgeable observers placed the actual number of Jews in Austria at 12,000–15,000.

Apart from a tiny number of people permitted to enter the country to join their families, immigration from abroad was frozen. Ariel Muzicant, president of the IKG, had been engaged in ongoing discussions with the government to relax the strict immigration laws and allow more Jews into the country, but there was no indication that liberalization would come any time soon.

The overwhelming majority of the country's Jewish population continued to live in Vienna. Only some 300–400 made their homes elsewhere, primarily in the large provincial cities of Graz, Salzburg, Innsbruck, and Linz. An estimated 40 percent of the Vienna Jewish community was now Sephardi, and a majority of the community's population was under 25 years of age. The Sephardi Center, located in the city's second district, now housed two congregations, one of Bukharan Jews and the other of Jews from the former Soviet republic of Georgia. Chabad performed a variety of services for the Sephardi community, for which it received 176,000 euros from the IKG in 2006.

### *Communal Affairs*

Avshalom Hodik, the long-serving secretary general of the IKG, retired in March. The responsibilities of his office were then divided between two

successors. Raimund Fastenbauer was named secretary general, but the IKG's financial affairs would be handled by Frederick Herzog.

In April, Jewish Welcome Service (JWS) celebrated its 25th anniversary. Its role was to welcome Jews to Vienna and arrange exchange programs for Austrian, Israeli, and American youth. President Fischer addressed the commemorative event at a ceremony at Vienna's city hall, and thanked Leon Zelman, the head of JWS, for his tireless efforts. Zelman's dedication, Fischer said, had helped bring victims closer to a country that had treated them so badly. In response, Zelman, a survivor of several Nazi camps, said it was a "moral responsibility" that drove him to welcome Jews back to Vienna. Perhaps the best known JWS program was "Welcome to Austria," which had, over the years, brought some 4,000 Jews expelled from Austria during the National Socialist era back to visit Vienna.

It was announced in August that the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Graz, established in 2000, would be made a permanent university program beginning with the 2007 winter semester. Developed jointly with the Institute of Jewish Studies in Heidelberg, Germany, the program would be called Jewish Studies: History of Jewish Culture, and offer a master's degree.

The Vienna sports club Hakoach ("strength" in Hebrew), considered one of best such clubs before the Nazi takeover of the country, was due to have its own headquarters for the first time since 1938, and would thus no longer have to use the facilities of other gymnasiums and sports clubs. Designed by the architect Thomas Feiger, the new sports center would include three gyms, a fitness room, sauna and wellness areas, tennis courts, weight-lifting rooms, and a 25-meter swimming pool. Construction, scheduled to start in the summer, was to be completed within two years. As part of the plan, the Zvi Peretz Chayes School and an old-age home would be located in the complex. At the request of the IKG, the city council renamed the street on which the center would be built after Simon Wiesenthal. Total costs were estimated at 57 million euros (\$74 million); the Austrian government, the city of Vienna, and private sponsors had already pledged 7 million euros.

## Culture

Eric R. Kandel, the well-known neuroscientist, published a new book, *In Search of Memory: The Emergence of a New Science of Mind*, a richly detailed autobiography chronicling his life and his research into the human mind. Born in Vienna in 1929, the nine-year-old Kandel fled with his family to the U.S. to escape the Nazis. A professor at the Center for

Neurobiology and Behavior at Columbia University since 1974, he received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2000 for his work on the cellular basis of learning and memory. In a visit to Vienna in June to present his new book, Kandel was honored at a reception hosted by President Fischer. While expressing admiration for Vienna's cultural life, Kandel—recipient of the Austrian Medal for Science in 2005—remarked: “I still sense a degree of anti-Semitism in Austria that I don't sense in Germany.” He asked his Austrian hosts, “Why do the Viennese not invite more Jews to come in?” In his new book, Kandel wrote, “Vienna's culture was one of extraordinary power, and it had been created and nourished in good part by Jews.”

Among the exhibitions mounted by the Vienna Jewish Museum was “On the Analysis of Tyrannies,” marking the centenary of the birth of author Manès Sperber, who spent his youth in Vienna and then wandered from place to place until settling in Paris in the 1930s, where he wrote his major works in French: the three-part autobiography *All Our Yesterdays*, the trilogy *Like a Tear in the Ocean*, and *On the Analysis of Tyrannies*, which showed the resemblances between Nazism and Stalinism. In Paris Sperber met André Malraux and Arthur Koestler, and, after the war, joined them in combating totalitarianisms of the right and the left. The exhibition was based on documents as well as audiovisual material, primarily historic radio and TV broadcasts in which Sperber appeared.

Another exhibition at the museum, on view from March 22 to September 17, was “The City of Tolerance: The Aryanized Da Ponte and the Jewish Mozart,” a Jewish contribution to Mozart Year 2006. Lorenzo Da Ponte, born Emanuele Conegliano in Vittorio Veneto in 1749 and converted from Judaism to Catholicism when he was 14, received ordination as a priest ten years later. By the time he arrived in Vienna in 1782, he had abandoned the Church, and the next year was appointed librettist to the Imperial Opera, in which capacity he collaborated with Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart on such operatic gems as *The Marriage of Figaro*, *Don Giovanni*, and *Così fan Tutti*. The exhibition dealt with Da Ponte's Jewish background, explored the significance of Mozart for the people of Vienna and for Austrian Jews, and traced Nazi attempts to “Aryanize” the works of Da Ponte and Mozart.

The museum also mounted an exhibition of the works of three outstanding postwar Austrian artists. Titled “Fantastic—The Jewishness in the Early Masterpieces of Arik Brauer, Ernst Fuchs, and Friedensreich Hundertwasser,” it opened on October 11 and ran through January 14, 2007. All three men were born between 1928 and 1930 in Vienna, expe-

rienced the Nazi era, and were subsequently persecuted and ostracized because of their Jewish origins.

Another exhibition, "From Josephine Mutzenbacher to Bambi: Felix Salten, Writer—Journalist—Emigré," treated the life and times of Felix Salten (1869–1945), the author of *Bambi*. A theater, film, and art critic for the *Neue Freie Presse* as well as a screenwriter, cabaret owner, operetta librettist, travel writer, mentor of young writers, and president of the Austrian PEN Club, he was instrumental in shaping prewar Austrian culture. Salten was forced to flee to Switzerland in 1939, where he died. The exhibition opened on December 6 and was scheduled to run through March 18, 2007.

### Personalia

Austrian journalist Huberus Czernin died in Vienna in June 2006. Among his many achievements was helping expose the Nazi past of Kurt Waldheim, the former secretary general of the UN and president of Austria. His investigative reporting about stolen artworks played a major role in the passage of Austria's Art Restitution Law, which, by subjecting museums to provenance searches, immeasurably aided families seeking to locate art confiscated during the Nazi era. Czernin's research was critical in helping Maria Altmann recover the five Klimt paintings looted by the Nazis during World War II (see above, pp. 474–75), as he disproved the government's contention that the widow of Ferdinand Bloch-Bauer, the original owner, had stated that Austria should receive the paintings after her death. Despite illness, Czernin attended the opening of the exhibition when the paintings went on display at the Los Angeles County Museum in April.

Paul G. Fried, professor of European history at Hope College in Michigan, died in July. Fried was the architect of one of the oldest and most highly regarded summer study-abroad programs, the Vienna Summer School, which he inaugurated in 1965.

Jakob Allerhand, a well-known Jewish educator, died in Vienna in December. When World War II broke out, he fled his native Poland and found refuge in Central Asia. He came to Berlin after the war, and began university studies there. In the early 1970s he moved to Vienna, earned a Ph.D. in Jewish studies, and taught the few Viennese—nearly all of them non-Jews—who were interested in Yiddish and Jewish history. Allerhand became the director of the Zvi Peretz Chayes School, the first Jewish day school to open in Vienna since the Holocaust. An ardent Zionist,

he imbued the students with a love for Israel and the Hebrew language. His three-volume *History of the Jews* was widely used as a text book in this and other schools. Allerhand was the principal organizer of the Theodor Herzl Symposium that took place in Vienna in June 2004 (see AJYB 2005, p. 445), the fifth and last of a series that began in 1986 to mark the centenary of the publication of Herzl's landmark *Der Judenstaat* (The Jewish State). Allerhand was active in interfaith affairs, and when Cardinal Franz König decided to visit Israel, he had Allerhand accompany him. Allerhand was buried in Haifa.

MURRAY GORDON SILBERMAN