Music Festival 2019 of the Lazarus Union

Report by Spectator

On September 14th 2019 a Music Festival of the Music Corps of the Lazarus Union took place for the first time at the ODEON-theatre in Vienna. Under the musical direction of Friedrich Lentner and Barbara Zisser the Music Corps showed five different musical styles during the evening.

The Brass Formation of the Music Corps formed the musical start with the overtures of the “Feuerwerksmusik” from Georg Friedrich Händel followed by a medley from George Gershwin and Ferdl’s Dixie from Johann Hausl.

In front of an impressive setting of the ODEON-theatre the event started exactly at 18:30 with the welcoming speech of the Chairman of the Music Corps and former General Plenipotentiary Senator Prof. h.c. Wolfgang Steinhardt.

The “Oberkrainer Formation” performed the “Slowenischen Bauerntanz” from A.V. Avsenik, then the “Alpenecho” from A.V. Avsenik and the “Gesundheitspolka” from Bernd Kreuzenberger. Both song titles were interpreted by Bernd Kreuzenberger. A special emphasis could be placed on the commitment of Edith Lentner who was perfectly able to show her skills to a wide audience - although she has only started to play harmonica one and a half year ago.
Afterwards the “Böhmische Blasmusik” played “Großvaters Uhr” from Henry Cly Work with an impressive tenorhorn-solo given by the Deputy Music Director Barbara Zisser. After the Bohemian Medley No. 2 there was a 20-minute break. In the reception area of the theatre canapés and drinks were offered free of charge.

The General Plenipotentiary gave a short address and announced awards and appointments. This part of the ceremony started with the signing and handing out of friendship decrees by and to the President of the “Association of Brass Music of Vienna” and Chairman of the partner band, the “Postmusik Wien”, Michael Foltinowsky. Furthermore he got a very special decoration from Wolfgang Steinhardt - the Great Honour Star in Silver of the Lazarus Union.

After the break the short the official ceremony of the event began. At the beginning the Brass Band performed the “Festmusik der Stadt Wien” from Richard Strauß. Wolfgang Steinhardt opened the official part and immediately he passed the word to the Deputy General Plenipotentiary Oliver Gruber-Lavin to give his ceremonial address (you will find the exact wording of his speech at the end of the report). In his speech he explained the career of the Lazarus Union within the United Nations and furthermore reported about a new project of the Lazarus Union in Uganda/Africa.
Afterwards the following persons were awarded: Edith Lentner got the Honour Medal Music Corps for her extraordinary skills playing the harmonica.

Wolfgang Steinhardt and Christina Gellert got the the Special Level of the Cross of Honour of the Generalplenipotentiary for their extraordinary, continuous outstanding merits and support of the General Plenipotentiary. This decoration is new drafted and was awarded for the time at this evening.

Then there were the following appointments:

Oliver Gruber-Lavin was appointed Special Ambassador CSLI with the East African Union EAC in order to coordinate preferably the activities in Africa.

Peter Domweber was appointed Navy Corps Commander. In the future he will lead the Navy Corps and will organize its activities.

Christian Volgger was appointed Deputy Group Commander and in the future he will care for our new group members.

Afterwards the Music Corps presented the “Lazarus March”. Wolfgang Steinhardt took the opportunity to replace Friedrich Lentner and to conduct himself.

The awards and appointments were followed by the song „Up where we belong“ from Joe Cocker and Jennifer Warnes and a medley of well-known songs of the operetta "Im Weißen Rössl", interpreted by Michael Wagner and Lizzy Koroschitz who both showed their varied skills.
Our General Plenipotentiary and his wife took the opportunity to dance a waltz.

At the end of the Music Festival the Big Band played “That’s Life” from K. Gordon, “Let Me Try Again” from Paul Anka and “My Way” from Reveau/Francois. Walter “Frankie” Werner interpreted the songs and showed his extraordinary skills. He can definitely be compared with Frank Sinatra.

For his lifetime achievements he was honoured with the Great Honour Cross of the Lazarus Union for science, research and arts by the Chairman of the Music Corps, the Musical Director Fritz Lentner and the General Plenipotentiary Dr. Lothar Gellert.

Then the Chair Man of the Austrian Veteran’s Association ÖKB Guntramsdorf Karl Fleischhacker awarded Edith and Fritz Lentner for their humanitarian and comradely activities for the benefit of the ÖKB Guntramsdorf.

There was still some time left and so the Big Band played some songs of Glenn Miller while the “old” and the “new” General Plenipotentiary and their wives dynamically floated over the floor.

Despite numerous “encores”, the concert could not be extended because the ODEON theater had to be vacated by 10 p.m.
A tribute to the audience the General Plenipotentiary Dr. Lothar Gellert, his predecessor Wolfgang Steinhardt (to the left) and the Music Director Friedrich Lentner (to the right) went to the edge of the stage bowing with joined hands.

PEACE-RIDE® 2019 – a mammoth task successfully (almost) ended

Three years „pregnant with an idea“, 12 months intensive preparation, in total almost 4000 kilometres route, a Harley unique with 300 gold-plated parts and 600 litres monastery beer. Those who think this does not match, are wrong. As this were the most important ingredients of the PEACE-RIDE®, that the CSLI-comrades Dr. Thomas Draxler and Markus Sell have long planned before and carried out with their JESUS BIKERS. An extraordinary peace ride to the Holy Father, that came to an end at the St. Peter’s Square in Rome on July 7th.

It was a strange feeling on this hot Sunday in Rome. The Jesus Bikers spent hours at St. Peter’s Square at 40 degrees heat waiting for the Angelus prayer of the Holy Father that will only take some minutes. Afterwards the Harley-sponsor Christoph “Chicken” Repp officially handed out the bike with documents and key to Father Karl Wallner, the Austrian MISSIO-National Director. After some embraces and farewells everything was suddenly over - the PEACE-RIDE.

For a long time everybody has worked towards this and was looking forward to
this event and very quickly the nine days on the streets of Bavaria, Austria and Italy are gone.

The journey in fast motion

The PEACE-RIDE started - like every trip of the JESUS BIKERS - with a prayer in the private chapel of Thomas Draxler on 29th June. But this time it was more extensive because also the Mayor Reinhold Hehmann came to adopt the group. There were also a lot of neighbours and citizens on the streets in order to give a warm farewell to the participants.

A refrigerated trailer filled with the monastery beer “Mönchsgeheimnis” developed by Father Alberto waited. After a farewell mess and blessing of the vehicles the journey officially started with media attention and participation of some neighbours of the monastery.

In Hettstadt near Würzburg the most valuable freight was loaded: The Harley-Davidson already signed by the Holy Father in May, the “white unique” as it is lovingly called.

Due to the months of media attention concerning this bike sponsor “Chicken” finally decided to add a “Pope-Style” for self-built Harley-bikes to his product range so that he can create a similar type of bikes for solvent clients. But never a bike like that one for the Holy Father!

After a short stop over the journey continued directly to the first stage - the Street Mag Show at the truck stop Strohofer at Geiselwind.

Again and again there were people at the streets towards Aschaffenburg who waved to the group and wished a good journey. The first stop was at the Franciscan Community of Bethany in Aschaffenburg. Here the transporter and
The owner and organizer Manuela Strohofer impatiently waited for the biker. It was a sunny day and she and the bikers took part in an "outdoor mass" at the "Mariengrotte" with the Harley of the Pope. Also some visitors of the festival of the legendary US-Oldtimer and Rockabilly-weekend were present. The musician program was carried out by the Jesus Biker Band JBB consisting of: priest Johannes Matthias Roth (vocal, guitar, piano), Stefan Stumpf (vocal, guitar), Markus Sell (vocal, keyboard), Jutta Draxler (vocal, percussion).

**Day 2: Altötting**
Approx. 300 kilometres to the South East of Upper Bavaria to one of the famous places of pilgrimage in Germany: Altötting. Here the idea for the PEACE-RIDE raised up three years ago when Thomas Draxler met Father Pavel Kruczek, member of the 200 “God’s Guards” - a Polish priest who founded his own motorcycle-club.

Today the circle has been closed and Thomas was finally able to present the idea of a “Pope Harley” developed at that time to the Director of Pilgrimage, Prelate Mandl in real life and to the present representatives of the local press. In remembrance of this meeting three years ago Thomas rided with the “white unique” around the chapel that is well-known for its famous “Black Madonna”. During the evening mass at Magdalenen Church the Harley could stay representatively in the church aisle. During the convenient get-together at the Franciscan House the Jesus Bikers passed the first two days in review and they worked on improvements concerning the division of the groups and their styles of driving. Because the 40 tons-vehicle of the HD-Würzburg Village could not pass the small villages, they decided to load the Harley into one of the transporter that was originally intended for transporting the luggage. Therefore a direct access should always be possible in order to show it quickly to the local visitors. At the same time it was a great challenge for the group concerning the transport of the luggage and the logistic details.

**Day 3: Stift Heiligenkreuz**
A special and important day for the CSLI-comrades Thomas and Markus: Not only
that the Jesus Bikers should help to shape a mass at the Theologian University of the Zisterzienser-Abbay Heiligenkreuz that would be seen live Europe-wide on TV. The organizers of the PEACE-RIDE were extremely happy about the announced visit of a CSLI-delegation. Wolfgang Steinhardt also took the opportunity to brave the heat in a Summer uniform and to visit the participants of the PEACE-RIDE with 5 further comrades and the director of the Music Corps Friedrich Lentner and four musicians. This was a special highlight.

After they admired the motorbike and talked with many Jesus Bikers and the Harley-Team Würzburg they took part in a Holy Mass emotionally and unforgettable celebrated by Father Johannes Paul Chavanne. His sermon contained great praise for the courage and the commitment of the Jesus Bikers to go modern and unconventional ways in order to bring peace and to do good like the Holy Father always wants and asked his National Directors to be courageous and different.

The music program of the mass which was shown live on channel EWTN was carried out by the Jesus Biker Band JBB and the wind quintet of the Music Corps of the Lazarus Union. Our particular thanks go to Friedrich Lentner and his four musicians for the solemn music program of the mass.

After the mass a sudden and heavy storm with heavy rain made however the welcome reception almost impossible but after the long heat this rain was a welcome refreshment. In the steamy air some CSLI-comrades enjoyed the monastery beer “Mönchsgeheimnis” - this and yellow PEACE-RIDE scarfs were the presents. Then everybody went to the restaurant of the monastery and the evening came to an end with a great meal and interesting talks.
Wolfgang Steinhardt suggested the group membership of the Jesus Bikers within the CSLI. Meanwhile this was officially confirmed with a decree from our General Plenipotentiary Prof. DDr. Lothar Gellert. A great honor for the Jesus Bikers!

Day 4: Klagenfurt

Today the decision was made to take country roads instead of motorways and so to enjoy Lower Austria, the “Steiermark” and “Kärnten”. The group arrived via Semmering and Mürzzuschlag in cooler conditions. The raining clothes were needed for the first time half an hour before reaching Klagenfurt. Meanwhile the accompanying press team tried to reach that this not only would be a rainy day to relax around the “Wörthersee”. So we had another press event and we could show the “Pope-bike” at the Harley-trader in Klagenfurt who is the number one in this industry. Until all Jesus Bikers arrived the priest Johannes who was in the first group killed the bad mood with some of his songs. The evening came to an end after some hours of storm in the hotel restaurant and everybody was looking forward to continue the journey to Italy.

Day 5: Padua

We passed the Julian Alps along the Slovenian border to “Bella Italia” and the weather became more and more better. On our way to Padua we stopped at Pordenone, the place of birth of our beer brewer and Franciscan Brother Alberto who could now embrace his beloved mother after a long time. A police escorte accompanied the group to the “Park of the 4th November” where the Mayor has already prepared a reception with representatives of the press and members of the located Franciscan Community.

Interested people admired the Harley and they had taken photos with the bike and the wishes for peace. They enjoyed the “Mönchsgeheimnis” as well as the Italian version drawn directly from the cask by the local Franciscan Brothers. Due to 40 degrees heat and 180 kilometres remained to be driven the cold beer was only intended to watch at.

After the friendly reception we continued our way to Padua where again we were surprised by a heavy storm. In the evening most of us visited the old town and took part in a mass at the Basilica of Saint Antonius. Generally everybody was happy about Pizza, Pasta and Dolce Vita. It was a warm sunny night and the evening came to a convenient end on the terrace of the Hotel.
Days 6 and 7: Assisi

This was the longest part of the tour of about 400 kilometres in brutal heat. For some bikers the route became much longer because they drove on country roads and the group decided to visit Rimini in order to see the sea at least once for a short time.

Thomas and Jutta had a guardian angel when their rear tyre bursted near the motorway services and not at full speed on the motorway. Therefore they had to continue the journey by car.

The stop over at sea compensated for the horror and some people jumped into the waves to cool down before they continued the journey towards Assisi. The magic of Assisi fascinated everybody. It has been a good idea to spend another day here on the trail of Saint Franciscan and to enjoy the beautiful old town on the mountain with its churches, lanes and magnificent views.

But the second day again started with a little glitch: In spite of having a date for a guided tour through the basilica all Jesus Bikers were precisely frisked because of their wild appearance and their leather clothes by the Military Police. This took approx. one hour. But the guided tour compensated for the waiting time. We were speechless and happy due to the location of the city among the Umbrian hills and the aura of the city.

Press officer and co-organizer Markus Sell later said in a newspaper interview: “In Assisi I arrived at the PEACE-RIDE. On this day all burdens concerning preparations that lasted for several months passed away and I started to look forward to the real journey.”

Brother Alberto and Brother Maurizio celebrated an emotional mass in the chapel of the basilica and afterwards we had enough time to explore Assisi on our own and to walk through the small lanes. In the evening the “White unique” was shown in front of the Basilica Santa Maria degli Angeli. Many numerous visitors had taken photos with the bike accompanied by the music of the Jesus Biker Band JBB and bought our tour scarf for a donation.
Days 8 and 9: Rome

After 180 kilometres we could finally say: “Benvenuti a Roma”!

Just before the town all participants met at the last motorway services and driving in convoy we entered the holy city. This was very impressive!

Approx. 40 bikes, a trike, three transport vehicles, one of them with a refrigerated trailer and the lorry of Harly Würzburg.

We were emotionally very upset so that we lost our way in the rush-hour and we zigzagged through the town but finally we reached our hotel located in a more noble residential area on the hills of Rome.

After a short break for a shower we continued our journey across the town to the other end of Rome where Father Karl Wallner waited for us at the Pope Basilica San Paolo Fuori le Mura. Here he celebrated a very emotional mass with Brother Alberto and Brother Maurizio.

At the end there was an investiture ceremony. Two new Jesus Biker got their habits and two further members were finally admitted and got the sacred rings of our community after having been novices for one year.

At the end of this ceremony the completely tired but overjoyed Jesus Bikers lined up for a group picture in front of the altar. With passion they sang the classic song “Country Roads”. Surely no visitor has ever dared this in the second main catholic church behind the St. Peter’s Basilica: Singing a worldly hymn at the grave of the apostle Paulus. But one could see the joy about the healthy arrival in Rome from the shining eyes. Although everybody was tired and got some wounds the joy and appreciation could be seen from the faces. At this moment we were full of joy.
For the most of us the evening came to an end at the “Ristorante La Vittoria” having good Italian food. Somebody still knew the restaurant located directly next to the Vatican while staying here in May.

We went quite early to bed to be prepared for the great final at St. Peter’s Square. It should be a long and hot day. Early in the morning a first group transported the Harley to St. Peter’s Square. As in the previous month we experienced the Italian bureaucracy in discussions lasting for hours with the police and the armed forces. Although we were known from the last audience we were not allowed to enter St. Peter’s Square. In front of the military barrier (but within the range of St. Peter’s Square) we had to set up a small altar where we could present the bike to the visitors of the Angelus prayer and could give information to the local press.

The other Jesus Bikers were also not allowed to enter St. Peter’s Square. This meant that everybody had to drive to the Pope’s Basilica, had to park their bikes and had to turn back to the Vatican by taxi.

Long hours of waiting at 40 degrees in the shade had its effects. Until the Angelus Prayer started we were all completely soaked in water. But we were happy when we saw the Holy Father at his window to welcome thousands of believers and to pray with them.

After the official part we were allowed to push the “white unique” to St. Peter’s Square. Christoph “Chicken” Repp symbolically handed out the keys and the documents to representatives of the Pontifical Mission Societies. We took a lot of pictures, then we embraced each other happily and said “Arrivederci”. The PEACE-RIDE has now officially ended.

Some of us directly went back home, a greater group divided the tour up into 2 or 3 sections via the Toscana and the Lake Garda. Our just married Jesus Bikers Maggie and Yilmaz (they had married a week before our tour began) started their honeymoon.

On the way back there was another shock moment. The tyre of a trailer exploded on the motorway during the rush hour. Parts of this tyre struck our brother Stefan at full speed. This would have gone almost bad but like a miracle he could control the bike lifted in the air and could bring it to a halt. The bike was totally damaged but he and his wife were not injured.
Conclusion: Nine days of driving, praying and celebrating - that forms a community. This makes people to learn, to cope with things, to feel with others, to share joy and suffering. We had to handle difficult situations and we had to go to our limits - sometimes even further. We emerged from this impressive journey stronger than before and hope to keep it in our hearts and minds and to let it live on!

How to go on
The bike is now back to Hettstadt at Harley-Davidson Würzburg Village. Freshly polished it will be kept safe until the auction in October. Currently the contracts with the third largest auctioneer in the world will be concluded: The Company Bonhams in London will be responsible for the marketing area and the acquisition of solvent clients in order to get the greatest possible profit at the auction where only luxury classic cars and bikes will be auctioned. For this purpose a delegation of the Jesus Biker will go to England to this auction. Our main task is now performed. We hope and pray that the profit will be generous so that we can meet the desired requirements of the project plan in Uganda. Here we want to make sure of the regular use of the money for the orphanage. There was a wonderful completion of the Peace Ride and a great honor together with the memorable 50th anniversary of the first landing on the moon.

On July 20th 2019 the Jesus Bikers received their official decree of group membership of the CSLI by the General Plenipotentiary DDr. Lothar Gellert. We are overjoyed about this honor and task we accept with joy and humility. Many thanks to our appreciated friend Wolfgang Steinhardt for his impulse to ask for the group membership and thanks to Lothar for the admission and the unbelievable confidence.

VIRIBUS UNITIS!

40th Austrian Brass Band Music Festival
1200 musicians conquered Vienna
A report by Lothar Gellert

On 5th and 6th July the Austrian Brass Band Music Festival took place in Vienna, this time for the 40th time. In total more than 1000 musicians found
their way to Vienna in order to play together with the bands located in Vienna and its surroundings.

Already on Friday, 5th July the Police Band Vienna presented brilliant music in cooperation with the Garde Music. The extraordinary performance of the Youth Brass Band from Upper Austria during a gala concert in the ballroom of the city hall of Vienna was the highlight. This included not only march music and showed the musical variety of the present bands and music corps.

Our Music Corps under the professional leadership of our music director Friedrich Lentner also took actively part in this event.

The plaza concerts took place on Saturday, 6th July. The organizer gave each band a special time for their concert and a special location at the centre of
Vienna. Our Music Corps was lucky to be able to show its skills directly in the city centre, on the so called “Stock-am-Eisen-Platz” to a convenient time in the morning (11.30 o’clock). Again the highlight of this performance was certainly the “Lazarus-Marsch”. Many listeners were impressed by the fact that our Lazarus Union has its own march. Of course the well-known Austrian marches had to be present. It was obvious that the audience enjoyed the plaza concert and many people were disappointed that the concert of the Music Corps already came to an end after one hour. As our Music Corps had to give way for the next band that also wanted to present its skills.

It was very impressive when our Music Corps musically conquered the city hall square together with the bands of “Post and Telekom” of Vienna (the partner band of the Lazarus Union). As each band was allowed to present an individual song after the marching-in the Music Corps of the Lazarus Union decided to play the march “Wien bleibt Wien”. After the garde music marched in and showed its skills during a march formation the the final concert took place approximately at 17:00 o’clock. It was an impressive moment for the listeners when more than 1200 musicians performed in full harmony just after a sign of the music director. This great final concert was certainly one of the highlights of the this year’s brass band festival.

Postmusic Vienna (Partnerband of the Music Corps of the Lazarus Union)
In the afternoon there was the great long-awaited music parade at the city hall square. The participating groups worked towards this event in order to delight as a march formation the audience that welcomed the marching groups with thunderous applause despite the scorching heat. The marching groups started at the “Maria-Theresien-Platz”, then went to the city hall via the “Ring”, the parliament and the “Burgtheater”.
Many spectators are already now very curious what will be heard and seen at the 41st Brass Band Musical Festival. We are already longing to this event.

**General Plenipotentiary visits the Lazarus Corps of Lithuania**

A report by Prof. DDr. Lothar Gellert
From 26.7. – 28.7. I made a short visit to the Lithuanian Lazarus-Corps on the occasion of the annual Harbour Festival in Klaipeda.

Already at the arrival I was welcomed by the Commander of the Lazarus-Corps of Lithuania, Giedrius Petruzis. The evening started with a common dinner with comrade Petruzis. Eugenijus Mantulovas (Long-Distance Captain, Director of Swedish Stevedoring Company, Head of Ecological Safety Division of CSLI) joined it as well.

After the dinner I could admire the beauties of the Old Town of Klaipeda (to many people known as Memel). Especially a tall ship from Colombia was the attraction at the harbour where many people enjoyed the Harbour Festival. A theatre group from France performed a spectacle with inflatable sea animals. These ballons were led by strings from below.

On Saturday there were official meetings. I had the honour to be welcomed by the Commander-in-Chief of the Lithuanian Navy. The Rear Admiral Arunas Mockus was very happy when I spontaneously took off my formation badge from my uniform and handed it out to him as a sign of remembrance.

As the Rear Admiral Mockus completed parts of his education in Germany he gladly accepted the offer being an honour member of the Naval Comradeship Vice Admiral Archduke Ferdinand Max – National Command Germany. As a gift in return I got a personal remembrance medal of the Rear Admiral.
After this visit we went to the harbour to embark for the honour of the deceased sailors. For this reason the Lazarus-Corps of Lithuania had a wreath made with two loops. One of the loops showed the name and the function of the General Plenipotentiary and the other one the name and the function of the Commander of the Lazarus-Corps of Lithuania. As the Commander and I were the only persons aboard the ship wearing uniforms we were interesting photographic subjects for young and old. The warmth of the foreign people aboard the ship offering us drinks and food was very impressive.

All the boats then stopped after having reached the “3 miles area”. One of the boat was a naval vessel with the Lithuanian President aboard. From this vessel wreaths and flowers were surrendered to the sea. After a short minute of silence the Commander of the Lithuanian Lazarus-Corps and I as uniformed officials surrendered our wreath to the sea. We paid a last tribute to the deceased sailors and then we gave way to the other passengers to throw their flowers brought from home into the sea.

Afterwards the admission of four new comrades took place at church. There was a blessing and a prayer of the acting Father Benedikt. The following comrades were admitted:
Adomas Skezgelas
Jonas Liutkus
Evaldas Petrauskas
Aurimas Sacauskas

Afterwards we went to the German Military Cemetery of Klaipeda/Memel where we put up a flower arrangement at the memorial cross. The names of all known soldiers who lost their lives in the
area of Memel were engraved on the marble slabs around the memorial cross.

A planned visit to the Clock Museum of Klaipeda was unfortunately impossible because the museum was closed because of the Harbour Festival. Directly in the afternoon we went for a lunch to Kretingale (in former times Crottingen, not to be confused with Kretinga (see below)). The Commander of the Lithuanian Lazarus-Corps, the new members as well as Sergejus Ivanovas who works at the International Institute of Political Sciences and who is very engaged in protecting the human rights joined the lunch. He is also a comrade of the Lazarus Union. During the lunch it was possible to clarify some questions concerning the Lazarus Union.

After the late lunch dragging on until the early evening hours we returned to the City Centre where I used the time to explore the city on my own.

The Sunday started with a short walk through the Old Town where Grand Chancellor Arvidas Alasavicius joined us. We could clarify some questions regarding the issues of decrees. Unfortunately he has to leave due to familiar reasons. First we drove to the summer resort Palanga where you can visit the Amber Museum located in the former manor of Count Feliks Tyszkiewicz. It is impressive to see what can be made from amber. At the manor you can gain a deep insight into the former domestic culture. Around the manor there is a beautiful park.

Also not far away there is the summer house of the former president of the USSR Leonid Breschnew. Now it is a hotel of high status.
Afterwards we went to Kretinga (in former times Krottingen) only a few kilometres away. Here the architect and comrade Adomas Skiezgelas built a stone-monument showing Count Paminklas J.K. Chodkevicii. Furthermore here you can also find a manor of Count Tyskiewicz with a wonderful winter garden and artefacts from his life.

After a common lunch with Sergejus Ivanovas I could hand out the membership badge and general questions concerning the tasks of the Lazarus Union and its meaning within the United Nations were discussed. I felt deeply honoured by the gifts to remind and I handed out the banner ribbon of the Lazarus Union to the Commander of the Lazarus-Corps of Lithuania for its banner.

The lunch was completed by a common coffee on the 20th floor of a skyscraper of Klaipeda. The Grand Chancellor again joined us and last open questions could be answered.

Afterwards I went directly to the harbour of Klaipeda to return to Germany. It was a very nice visit with interesting insights into the history and culture of Lithuania. Further meetings are already planned for the following year. A special thank to the Commander of the Lithuanian Lazarus-Corps, Giedrius Petruzis, and his team for having organised the trip and the extensive support.

\[\text{UNION CORPS SAINT LAZARUS INTERNATIONAL LAZARUS UNION MEXICO}\]

Report about a working lunch on 22nd of June 2019

On June 22, 2019, in Mexico City, at the facilities of the Naval Club of the Secretary of the Navy, Lazarus Union Mexico held a working lunch where three topics were analyzed and discussed by experts in the matter with the following order:

1. Presentation of the session
2. The legislative power: majorities and opposition
M.D.P. Manuel Gutiérrez González. C.S.M. L.U.
3. The importance of intelligence work in Q4
4. Joint Constitution: Legislative advances on gender
M.Cr. Ana Julia Hernández Pérez

The central themes of the three conferences were national security and the insertion of citizen guarantees in relation to the protection of minorities and gender equity. It should be noted that during the session there was an intense debate in which the comrades of Lazarus Union, elucidated the options that should be followed to achieve a more just and egalitarian society, within the framework of the work of the humanitarian activity of Lazarus Union. It was also discussed how the activities from the organized society can be, now more than ever, very important to support the government, but above all to combat the serious problem of extreme poverty that the country suffers, as well as continue preparing to help in case of natural disasters, which are frequent due to the geographical conditions of the country and in particular of Mexico City, concluding that the prediction before the unpredictable nature is a point of national security.

In general matters, it was agreed to strengthen relations with the Centers for Studies and Training in Human Development (CEFODEH), an organization that is especially dedicated to working with children with limited resources in the metropolitan area of Mexico City, in this sense it is proposed support in training actions for social workers who collaborate in children’s rooms, in the rehabilitation of spaces and in the delivery of toys. The executives will be invited from CEFODEH, to our next meeting so that they explain in detail how Lazarus Union Mexico can support.

Subsequently, Lazarus Union Mexico pins were handed out, as well as Ribbon for officers and NCOs, who at the December dinner in 2018 made their officers pledge. In this logic, it was agreed, to start using the uniform corresponding to Lazarus Union, according to the regulations that CSLI points out to us, with the exception that CSLI asks for a blue jacket in its uniform, but it will be requested, via the General for Latin America Roberto Ortiz, if it is possible that LU Mexico uses a black jacket (or other color), because blue (dark) is used by the Mexican Air Force.
and some police corporations in the country, and with this change could avoid a possible violation in the use of military-style uniforms, according to the regulations mexican.

Dr. Edgar Ortiz Arellano (Lt. Col. LU), spoke about the importance of increasing the number of members in Lazarus Mexico, as well as knowing the status and regulations of CSLI, in order to have better activities, inspired by charity and in global solidarity. He also noted the change of leadership in CSLI, which is now in charge of Dr. Dr. h.c. (AU) Lothar Gellert, General Plenipotentiary of Lazarus Union, to whom all Mexican comrades wish him success in his high responsibility and declare loyalty to his investiture.

The work session closed with the traditional photograph of L.U. México members; and agreeing that the next meeting will be held on August 3, 2019.

A report by Bernd Höhle

Just before our journey to the United Nations in Geneva we (Danny Koch and I) received an information that should shed another light on this upcoming journey. Thanks to the virtually inexhaustible work of our former General Plenipotentiary and current Special Ambassador Senator Prof. h.c. Wolfgang Steinhardt the Lazarus Union got the „General Consultative Status“. What good news! Was für eine Botschaft! Not only in the sense of having received that message of this so-called "upgrade", but rather to know which power and responsibility are behind it in equal parts.

The United Nations congratulate our Delegates to the highest NGO Status

Our UN Delegates in Geneva: Bernd Höhle (left) and Danny Koch (right)
After having received the „Special Consultative Status“ with the United Nations in 2014 and the nomination for the Peace Nobel Prize 2017 hardly anyone suspected a further upgrade. We all know that it was a long and often difficult way before this success could be realized. Indeed it is not only the work of a single person but the work of many people within the Lazarus Union who made their contribution. Nevertheless we are more than grateful for the work of the Special Ambassador Senator Prof. h.c. Wolfgang Steinhardt. Finally it is due to his person where we standing now and continue tirelessly continue in our endeavor for the benefit of many people. As already mentioned we took the plane from Berlin to Geneva with a different feeling.

Arrived at the United Nations it was a surprising moment for us being welcomed with congratulations for the “General Consultative Status” at the reception. We had planned a lot of things for that day. First of all we sit in the great hall among many nations which currently discussed the highest and sometimes most important item for all people in the world: human rights. Facing many questions and answers we again realized the importance of our work. We realized that we also play a small but nevertheless important part. As “Special Force” within the Lazarus Union we always try hard to achieve much good all over the world and to help those who are in need. During this meeting we learned that the worldwide support and input from the NGO’s is not without relevance. Besides the United Nations they play a very important role. Everybody can imagine that we were very proud to hear this.

It became more remarkable and explicit when we listened to Michael Möller during the next meeting. He resigned well-deserved from his office as „General Director“ in Geneva after 40 years of service. He invited to a special meeting and he answered all important questions. After this meeting we did not miss to thank and to congratulate him during a personal talk.
With many further impressions, meetings, talks and visits of different information points on the floors concerning “human rights” we went on our way back late in the evening.

This day showed us the importance of our humanitarian work and the importance of a solid network of people. Especially not only in the national but also in the international context.

After the integration of our international peace and aid organisation “The Sword of Freedom-Corps” into the Lazarus Union we never dreamed where the journey is heading.

All the more we appreciate the trust in our work. To be a delegate to the United Nations is not just the importance of being able to attach the corresponding passport to the chest. Rather it is the meaning of responsibility that we carry. Above all, with the approval of the "General Consultative Status", we are now even more aware that our work must not be allowed to rest and that we can continue to do so in our endeavour to be active for others.

We for others and nobody alone !!!

**LAZARUS UNION MEXICO**

**Officers Pledge Ceremony**

**October 05th 2019**

On October 5th 2019, Lazarus Union-Mexico, held its pledge ceremony for new officers. This event was also the stage to designate flag bearers the comrades with the flag of the country, as well as with the flag with the Lazarus Mexico badge.

It was also an opportunity for officers to wear the CSLI gala uniform for the first to almost a year after work began in Mexico. The ceremony was awarded for reading the message sent by President Plenipotentiary Dr. Lothar Gellert especially for this important occasion for the Mexican command. This letter recalled the nobility of the ideals of Lazarus Union and the importance that the comrades of Mexico always have in mind the motto Viribus Unities, which represents the fraternity and solidarity that should govern the activities of our organization. After reading the message, a Toast was held for the health and success of the work directed by Dr. Gellert.

Subsequently, the pledge was made to the new officers having witnesses to the new flags, as well as guests and relatives, which gave way to the speeches by the officers whose themes were, 1) commitments of Lazarus Union Mexico with their activities aimed at supporting infants in vulnerable conditions; 2) Principles and values of Lazarus Union and 3) Good wishes for
the Mexican command and its prosperous development.

Dr. Edgar Ortiz Arellano (Lt. Col. L.U.), Commander in Chief of Lazarus Union Mexico, closed the ceremony not before reminding the comrades that in addition to the motto the Lazarus Union, the principles that are Tolerantia, Misericordia, Carittas and Humilitas should be practiced. Subsequently a dinner was offered in which the camaraderie, fraternal union and harmony were appreciated.

Relevant ceremony data:

Total Attendees: 25

Flags presented: 02 (National Flag and Lazarus Union Mexico Flag)

Officers who took their promise: 04 (Alberto González (ensign), Victoria Hernández (ensign), Daniela Ramos (ensign), José Luis Tellez (ensign)).

Members who delivered the protocol speeches: Fabiola Landeros (ensign), Fernando Rodríguez (Sgt. Maj).

Staff Officer who presided over the ceremony: Jorge Tepale Riós, Maj. Deputy L.U. Mexico and Edgar Ortiz Arellano Lt. Col., Com., In Chief L.U. Mexico.

ITALY: The safety of hikers and the territory protection

Italy is currently home to 55 UNESCO World Heritage sites, the great majority of which are archaeological sites and historical landmarks. There is a small, but significant percentage of these sites that are located in remote areas, where the uneven terrain and natural landscape can pose a danger to visitors. Thousands of tourists and pilgrims visit these sites every year, often ignoring health and safety advice, unaware of the risk of serious injury or harm that can occur if you do not take the necessary precautions.

The “Gruppo Civitas Romae”, which translates to Italian Archaeological Supervisory Corps, is an association that has been involved in the safeguarding of historical and archaeological sites for more than ten years.

In February of this year, they joined the “Italian Corps of Saint Lazarus” (CSLI Italy), the Italian branch of the Lazarus Union NGO, to merge their experience in the preservation of historical sites with the NGO's experience in humanitarian aid and civil support.

The newly formed “CSLI – Gruppo Civitas Romae” will provide a service intended to notify visitors of local emergencies (severe weather warnings,
landsides, etc.) and to coordinate search & rescue efforts in case of emergencies.

The objective of this new approach is not only to preserve these areas of outstanding natural beauty but to also help promote and foster tourism to help pay for the ongoing maintenance efforts.

**ADVANTAGES**

The main advantage of the Radio Explorer system over conventional systems is the ability to identify the user immediately in case of an emergency.

To be able to use the system, a person must register by providing relevant information, including but not limited to pre-existing conditions, disabilities and emergency contact details. After the registration process is complete, they will be assigned a nickname and a password that they can use to access the network.

By gathering data beforehand, the response time in case of an emergency can be drastically reduced as they will already have some of the relevant information with them at the time of the call. This has proven to significantly speed up rescue operations as people in danger can often panic or not be able to express themselves.

**RADIO EXPLORER**

The new service, nicknamed project "Radio Explorer," will be the first of its kind to use radio, mobile and satellite technology together to provide assistance to tourists and pilgrims.

The first planned rollout of this service will occur on the "Via Francigena", an ancient road and pilgrim route that crosses most of Italy and welcomes thousands of pilgrims every year.

In collaboration with the "PCN Lazio", the Civil Protection service for the Lazio region, the group has established a command centre whose sole purpose is to oversee and support the deployment of the service.

**REGISTRATION**

The registration for the service must happen at least 48 hours before the trip and the organizer will need to submit a form containing the date, time, planned route, number of participants, and the number of people with reduced mobility (children, elders, disabled people, etc.).

Their details will then be passed on to the operational centre to provide any necessary assistance on the day of the trip, including weather notifications and real-time monitoring. When requested, GPS trackers will be assigned to groups so that their progress can be monitored as well.
BACKGROUND

In recent times, there has been a growth in the number of cases of "extreme tourism", where thrill-seekers have been found to undertake dangerous hikes without the help of a guide or a local expert.

Although this can help stimulate tourism in less trodden areas, it needs to be managed properly to reduce the risk of serious injury, especially for people who go 'off the beaten track' or those who are travelling alone.

THE RESEARCH

The law that governs the provision of services over radio waves is quite restrictive and it does not currently discern between hobbyists and emergency services (like in most other countries).

To address these tight restrictions, many people currently use smartphone apps that mimic radio communications using the VOIP protocol. The most common application is "Zello", although there are several alternatives including Citizen Band (CB) "Midland".

From the perspective of the user, it makes no difference that the application is not using radio waves as it mimics the radio protocol perfectly and it's free to use.

The radio network is still the media of choice for emergency services due to the innate ability to provide long-range communications. The mobile network, however, provides a stable platform that is not affected by heavy restrictions and can be, in many situations, just as reliable.

In the absence of a clear change of course in the law governing radio waves, the service will use the "Zello" platform as the main diffusion media as it can also allow interfacing into real radio systems in the future. The application is free to use and supports both Android and iOS.

An important advantage of the platform over similar ones is the ability of the platform to store and relay messages upon reconnection, which is not currently possible using traditional radio systems. If a user were to be out of range for a while, upon reconnection to the mobile network, they would be able to listen to all communications that happened while offline (this can be very important for emergency notifications e.g. for severe weather warnings).

REPORTING

MEDIA COVERAGE

The "Radio Explorer" service will be advertised on both traditional and social media, in conjunction with signs placed within the areas covered by the service that include a QR Code to directly connect the smartphone to the service.

REQUESTING ASSISTANCE

In order to access the service, a person will need to complete the request no later than 48 hours before the event and include all relevant information about the trip and participants.
Upon receiving a request, the operator will assess any potential risks and communicate directly with the user to ensure a safe environment and prime any emergency services nearby. This includes helping with the service setup, for both the VoIP and GPS service (if applicable).

COMMAND CENTRE

The VoIP system does not require the support personnel to be physically located anywhere near the intended site. Our network of highly trained volunteers will be able to operate from any of the command centres, with no impact on the quality of service provided.

Our command centres are fully equipped with weather monitoring systems, radio, phone, and internet connection. Our operators have full autonomy over the management of the system and will coordinate any communications coming through the channel. Backup channels can be deployed in order to effectively manage multiple emergencies effectively.

ON THE DAY

On the day of the event, the command centre will ensure that the service is fully operation (including GPS tracking when applicable) before giving the go-ahead to the group. The command centre will closely monitor progress and maintain contact with the group throughout the visit.

Our operators should also be able to provide aid immediately if they are close by; they will be able to assess the situation and coordinate emergency services if needed.

CONCLUSION

At the “CSLI – Gruppo Civitas Romae”, we aim to help the thousands of tourists, hikers, and pilgrims who visit our beautiful natural landscapes in search of wonder and ancient history, to do so in a safe and enjoyable environment.

We would like to thank the CSLI Italy and the Lazarus Union NGO, for their support on this initiative.

For more information, we can be found at www.cslionline.org

CSLI Italien: AN ACT THAT CAN REALLY SAVE A LIFE

According to the most recent statistics, the sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is one of the main causes of death. In Italy it affects over 60,000 persons/year, while
in Europe the victims of cardiac arrest are about 400,000.

This event is the most important cardiological emergency in fact, if the cardiac activity does not resume within 5 (maximum 6 minutes) is caused an irreversible damage to the brain, the most sensitive organ. Then, even if a recovery of circulatory activity takes place, the patient will remain in a vegetative state due to the absence of the most important brain functions.

A sudden cardiac arrest is caused by an abnormality of the cardiac electrical system that prevents the heart to contract properly. During a sudden cardiac arrest, the ventricles vibrate causing a phenomenon known as ventricular fibrillation, during which the ventricles do not contract in effective way. The heart fibrils and its rhythm is no longer at all regular. In consequence of that the blood flow to the brain is reduced to the point that the person loses consciousness and collapses. Without an immediate intervention the patient usually dies.

There are no warning signs related to sudden cardiac arrest. It often affects those patients who previously suffered some SCA episodes, as heart attacks or heart failure, but it can also affect those who have never suffered any heart problems in the past.

Almost all of the sudden deaths related to myocardial infarction are caused by this arrhythmic event. This terrible situation can be overcome by implementing cardiorespiratory support maneuvers (the Basic Life Support- BLS), but the experiences in the field have shown that these maneuvers can certainly delay the evolution of cerebral ischemic damage, however they hardly allow a complete recovery of cardiac activity if no more incisive action is taken by implementing external electrical defibrillation.

The cardiological intensive care has a very long history. Already, the second book of the Kings in the Bible, gives the first evidence of a successful resuscitation attempt by a “mouth-to-mouth” technique, performed around on 850 a. C. “Meanwhile, the child grew up and the day came when he went to his father, among the reapers. And he said to his father: "My head, my head." The father ordered the servant: "Take him to his mother." He obeyed and took him to his mother. He stayed on her legs until noon, then he died; [...] Elisha, meanwhile, entered in the house. The child laid death on his bed. He entered in his room, closed the door, and prayed to the Lord. Then he went up and lay down on the child breast, placed his mouth on child mouth, his eyes above child eyes, his hands on child hands, spreading over him. Then the body of the child started to be warmed. Then he retired and began to walk around the house here and there, then went up and lay back on him. Then the child sneezed seven times and opened his eyes ”(King II, chap. IV, 18-35).

The mouth-to-mouth method was used more and more frequently, until it became a safe medical first aid practice. Its validity as a reanimation technique was well known and widely accepted already in the second half of the XVIII century: the Venetian doctor F. Vicentini, in his “Memoria about the method to rescue the submerged”, published in
1768, described the method to perform this operation, to which he gave the name of “insufflation”.

The method was increasingly used in case of respiratory failure until when, in 1956, Safar and Elam in a study carried out for the US Army, established that the mouth-to-mouth method represents the most practical and effective means of respiratory resuscitation during a war period. That represented its official introduction among the techniques of modern resuscitation.

Concerning the action to be performed in consequence of a cardio-circulatory arrest, the external cardiac massage has been known for a long time. In 1796, A. V. Zarda, a professor at the University of Prague where he held regular courses in resuscitation and first aid, published a work describing, in addition to the mouth-to-mouth artificial respiration method, also external cardiac massage. However, the various published papers on intensive care set the official introduction of external cardiac massage in the reanimation practice. On 1958 Jude, Kouwenhoven and Knickerbocker published the methods of its execution. An historical significance is attributed to 1958 October 24th, when for the first time a cardiac external massage was successfully performed on a woman, after a cardiac arrest occurred in consequence of an heart defect surgery.

But as said, these BLS methods do not give a positive result except in a small percentage of cases. A totally different result is achieved by the external electrical defibrillation.

The Danish doctor and veterinarian Peter Christian Abildgaard can be considered the father of defibrillation. Towards the end of the 1700s he was able to stop the heart of a chicken and start it again with an electric shock. Abildgaard’s discovery built a momentum to a new revolutionary process that included the use of electricity as a therapy for ventricular fibrillation.

In 1900, several scientists replicated Abildgaard’s experiment. The work of Prevost and Battelli was ignored for a long period and only many years later a clinical use of the method was achieved. In 1936 prof. Carl J. Wiggers demonstrated to the American Physiological Society the effectiveness of the combined use of defibrillation with cardiac compressions. In the period between the 40s and 50s the first defibrillator with internal application plates was developed. Then a prototype with plates to be applied externally on the chest was made. The first use of the defibrillator outside the hospital dates back to 1966. In Belfast the first defibrillation unit was built for use on emergency vehicles. Obviously, these were devices where nothing could be compared in terms of dimensions, manageability and weight to actual modern ones.

Today the term AED or defibrillator are currently used. It is not uncommon to hear about it even outside the typical contexts of emergency and urgency environments. AED is the acronym that stand for Automatic External Defibrillator. Despite the diffusion of semi-automatic defibrillators instead of automatic ones, the same acronym has been used.

The defibrillator is born with the precise objective to restore a normal rhythm for those patients in whom serious cardiac
alterations (arrhythmia) are found. It can be equipped with a disposable battery or electric power. We can distinguish the following defibrillators categories: manual, semi-automatic, fully-automatic and ICD (implantable cardioverter-defibrillator). The use of the defibrillator associated with a cardiopulmonary resuscitation maneuvers can increase the chances of survival of people suffering from cardiac arrest. Different types are available.

The external manual defibrillator, or simply a manual defibrillator, is a defibrillator that works exclusively under the guidance of a medical operator, who is entrusted with the task of deciding whether the electric discharge is necessary or not and the amount of energy to be delivered. Proper use of the manual defibrillator requires specific skills.

The external semiautomatic defibrillator or AED is a defibrillator built with a technology that allows it to analyze an individual's heart rhythm and determine independently whether a shock and the amount of energy are needed. The cardiac rhythm analysis takes a few seconds and is detected by means of the same metal plates used for the transmission of the electric shock. The release of the electric discharge occurs thanks to the pressure applied on a special button by the operator. Today's semi-automatic defibrillators are practical, simple to use and require minimal preparation to be able to use them correctly. Once activated, in fact, the operator is guided vocally and with light signals through the various phases.

Today we increasingly see the latter type of defibrillators at workplaces, sports facilities, areas of great population aggregation such as shopping centers, and their increasingly widespread use has shown how this device can really save lives. The percentages in in such situations are indicative, in the case of early defibrillation there is a positive result in terms of survival of over 50%, values very far from the results obtainable only with resuscitation methods without the AED.

Therefore always hoping not to meet such a dramatic event, the presence of both an AED and trained personnel is an ACT THAT MAY REALLY SAVE A LIFE.

CSLD Lazarus-Union Germany supports the Kindergarten Marktzeuln
With great joy and bright eyes, the boys and girls of the kindergarten and the crèche Marktzeuln received Sven Dietel, the Commander of the Lazarus Union Germany.

On the one hand, Sven Dietel brought the annual contingent of apple juice for
the coming year. Already since 2012, the members of the Lazarus Corps Germany collect apples on orchards in Marktzeuln and Horb am Main in order to squeeze them into domestic and healthy apple juice. Although there were only very few fruits this year, it was possible to collect so many apples that the kindergarten could be provided with around 300 liters of apple juice for free. This is then processed in the institution as apple juice spritzer to an excellent thirst quencher for the little ones.

On the other hand, the chairman had 15 pieces of tiny bears, which were made especially for the German section of the Lazarus Union and are provided with appropriate clothing. The idea for this outstanding action had the men around the Deputy Commander Prof. Dr. med. Torsten Bendrat from Bad Füssing. In the Lower Bavarian environment, the bears are distributed to children's hospitals, hospices and kindergartens. The bears were a welcome gift, as they will be a bearded comforter for the youngest of the institution in dicey situations.

The kindergarten director Kathy Wendler thanked Sven Dietel for the visit and the support. A heartfelt thank you went above all to Prof. Dr. Bendrat for the comfort bears.

In the concluding conversation Dietel advised for the coming year further support for the kindergarten through the Lazarus Union Germany.

Picture impressions of the investiture of the Order of Saint John Knights of Malta (KMFAP) in Malta - 2. November 2019

The KMFAP is a friendly organization to the Lazarus Union since 2009.

(Pictures without comments)
IN MEMORIAM

People enter our lives and accompany us for a while. Some remain forever, for they leave their traces in our hearts.
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