



January 2005

From Didi Harrington:
Dear Members and Friends!

Traude asked me to fill you in on a few details while she is recuperating from the flu. She wishes you all a happy New Year and hopes to be with us again soon.

NEXT EVENTS:

Stammtische:

**Friday, February 4, 6:30 pm, and
Friday, March 4, 6:30 pm**

Please call Renate closer to the time to reserve your place and to find out what you can bring. Renate's phone number is: 617-527-4927.

Strauss Ball:

Saturday, March 19, at the Boylston Schul-Verein

Keep the date! The A-AA will attend this popular annual event as a group again this year. A flyer with the registration slip and all the details will be mailed to you in the next newsletter.

PAST EVENTS:

On December 18, the A-AA celebrated **Christmas and the Holiday Season** at the Ackers' home. We had a most enjoyable time with Christmas songs, good food, and great company in their beautifully decorated house. We are very grateful to Traude and David for hosting this very special event again this year!

Our **New Year's celebration** started on **Sunday, January 2**, in the early afternoon, when over 70 A-AA members and friends attended the annual "Salute to Vienna" concert at Symphony Hall. The celebration continued with a "Jause" (coffee and cake) at the Westin Hotel, hosted by our friend, the Westin's Austrian pastry chef Andreas. After an excellent and very enjoyable concert, delicious pastries, and a very nice time socializing with friends and members of the "Salute to Vienna" cast, we all felt ready to tackle 2005!

(Continued overleaf)

SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES AND THE TSUNAMI

For those of you who would like to support the tsunami relief effort of a very unique organization that originated in Austria, an envelope is enclosed. SOS Children's Villages has established 16 family refugee camps for tsunami victims in Southeast Asia and is asking for funds to maintain these camps for as long as necessary.

Traude and some of us had been in contact with representatives of SOS Children's Villages USA even before the tsunami, and we were wondering how we as a group could help this worthwhile organization. Our member Brigitte Paine has been very involved with SOS Children's Villages for many years. Here is what she writes:

"In November, Traude Acker hosted a meeting for representatives from SOS Children's Villages USA, who came from Washington D.C. Didi Harrington and Brigitte Paine attended the meeting, discussing ways that we as an organization might be able to support their efforts in the USA.

Most Austrians are familiar with SOS Kinderdoerfer which were founded by Hermann Gmeiner in 1948 in Austria. For those members who are not familiar with SOS Kinderdoerfer, a brief description:

Gmeiner, a medical student, returned home from WWII and saw a desperate need to help the many war orphans. He did not like the concept of large orphanages, but based his idea on a concept of a Mother, Brothers and Sisters, a House, and a Village. This concept has proven to be a great success. Today, SOS Kinderdorf International operates 442 children's villages in 135 countries of the world, including 2 villages in the US, one in Florida and one in Chicago. It is an independent, private, not for profit organization. In addition it has developed vocational centers, social centers, medical centers, schools, and emergency relief programs.

We have just been notified by SOS Children's Villages USA, that SOS Kinderdorf International has created 16 family refugee camps in Southeast Asia in response to the tsunami disaster. They would appreciate any financial support we can give.

If any of our members would like to contribute to this cause, we would suggest to support SOS Children's Villages in their effort to help these families. We have been informed that none of the SOS Children's Villages in this region have suffered any loss or damage."

For more information go to www.sos-usa.org