

# Austro-American Association of Boston

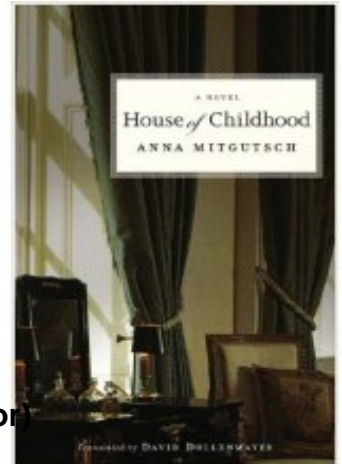
Invitation to an  
Evening of Reading and Discussion

with

**Anna Mitgutsch and  
David Dollenmayer**

**on Thursday, March 8, 2007,  
starting promptly at 7:30 pm**

**at WELLESLEY COLLEGE,  
CLAPP LIBRARY, Library Lecture Room (ground floor)**



**The Wellesley College Department of German is hosting this event for the Austro-American Association and we would like to thank them for their generosity. Anna Mitgutsch's travel is sponsored by the Austrian Cultural Forum, NY.**

After a brief introduction of the speakers and their work, Anna Mitgutsch will read from her novel *Haus der Kindheit* (Luchterhand, Muenchen, 2000) and David Dollenmayer will read from his recently released English translation of the book, published as *House of Childhood* (Other Press, New York, 2006).

A question-and-answer period will follow.

***Haus der Kindheit*** tells the story of Max Bermann, a successful restoration architect, whose family emigrated from a small town in Austria (the town of H.) to New York in the late 1920's. Max, whose mother has kept the memory of the old family home alive, grows up with an overwhelming desire to regain possession of the house, which was confiscated by the National Socialists.

After his mother's death, he returns to H. in pursuit of his goal. He lives in the town for long periods of time, where he researches the family's history and undertakes to chronicle the history of the Jews of H. During this process, he is drawn into the life of the Jewish community and even begins to develop a feeling of belonging, which becomes stronger when he meets Nadja, an aspiring young artist. Recognizing her exceptional talent, he arranges for her to attend college in the United States, where she also becomes his lover.

Anna Mitgutsch skillfully maneuvers between Max Bermann's two worlds, H., with its Jewish and Gentile communities, and New York, both of which she knows well from her own experience.

Her novel is "a powerful examination of the meaning of home - in a place, a community, a relationship - and the difficulty of finding one in our tumultuous world" writes the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, which also calls ***Haus der Kindheit*** "One of the most important novels of contemporary Austrian literature".

***A reception with wine and refreshments will follow the presentation***



Please send in this reservation slip to Traude Acker, 265 Otis Street, West Newton, MA 02465  
**by March 1st.**

Contributions of \$ 10.00 (checks made out to A-AA) to cover some expenses would be appreciated.

Name of Attendees: .....

.....

Tel No: .....



Austrian author **Anna Mitgutsch**, the recipient of the 1993 Anton Wildgans Preis and the 2001 Solothurner Literaturpreis for German-language literary achievement, has written numerous novels, among them *Die Züchtigung* (translated as *Three Daughters*) and *Abschied von Jerusalem (Lover, Traitor)*. She has spent substantial time in the US, especially Boston (her 2003 novel *Familienfest* tells the story of several generations of a Boston Jewish family), and is therefore well qualified to compare life in the two countries. Her newest novel *Zwei Leben und ein Tag* has just been published.

**David Dollenmayer** is a professor of German at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. He is the author of *The Berlin Novels of Alfred Döblin*. His translation of Anna Mitgutsch's *House of Childhood* was published in August 2006. His other translations include works by Berthold Brecht and Perikles Monioudes. He has just completed translations of *The King of Corsica* by Michael Kleeberg and *Childhood: An Autobiographical Fragment* by Moses Rosenkranz, due out in the fall.

### Directions to Wellesley College:

**Wellesley College** is located on a lovely campus between Routes **135 and 16** just to the west of the center of **Wellesley**. There are two entrances, one from Rte. 135, and one from Rte. 16. They are connected by College Road, which runs through the Campus in a NW to SE direction.

Coming from **Rte. 128, take Rte. 16 toward Wellesley.**

In the center of Wellesley, where Rte.135 crosses Rte.16, proceed on **Rte.135** (same direction, towards Natick) through the downtown shopping district.

At the end of the shopping district, **cross Weston Road** by a traffic light.

(Weston Road comes in from Rte.9 over the railroad tracks on a bridge that you can see on your right.)

**Continue on Rte. 135** to the next traffic light and **turn left** into the **Campus onto College Road.**

After a few hundred feet, **College Road** turns left and winds around a hill.

At the end of the hill, where the road takes a sharp left turn,

**Founders Parking Lot** is on your right. Park and follow signs to

**Clapp Library**, a short walk behind the parking lot.

You can also enter the **Campus from Rte.16**, in which case **Founders Parking Lot** is on your left before **College Road** makes a right turn around the hill. However, there is construction on Rte. 16.

For more directions and maps, please go to [www.wellesley.edu](http://www.wellesley.edu), click on "About", and then on "Campus Maps" or "Directions to Campus", or call 781-283-2736.

If you get lost, call our cell phone 617-309-0508, or the Campus Police 781-283-2121 for a person to help you.

