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Please visit the AHEA Home page at: <http://magyar.org/ahea> and send any suggestions you have to the Executive Director at eniko.basa@verizon.net or 4515 Willard Ave., Apt. 2210, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Minutes of the General Meeting, May 16, 2009

Judith Kesserű Nemethy opened the meeting and called for the election results. Susan Glanz, chair of the Nominating Committee yielded to Enikő M. Basa who read out the results. Elected for 2009-2011 are: **President: Judith Kesserű Némethy** (NYU); **Vice-President: Louise Vasvári** (SUNY Stony Brook and NYU); **Secretary: Katalin Vörös** (UC Berkeley); **Treasurer: Enikő M. Basa** (Library of Congress); New members of the **Advisory Board** are: **Julia Bock** (Long Island U.); **Emese Iván** (Ball State U.); **Agnes Várdy** (Duquesne U.) Congratulations to all!

In the absence of the past Secretary, Enikő Basa referred to the *minutes* of the 2008 meeting as printed in the 2008 newsletter. These were approved as printed. The *Treasurer's report* for calendar year 2008 is as follows: *Checking*: Beginning balance: \$1,861.32; Ending balance \$1,695.82. Income from dues and the conference was \$6,956.63. Expenses totaled \$7122.13 with the conference (\$2419.60) and the scholarship fund (\$3,973.88) accounting for the bulk. The website, (\$300.00), newsletter (\$386.65) and fees account for the remainder. The *Savings* account opened with \$2,707.93 and closed with a balance of \$5,690.81. Most of this account is periodically rolled over into the CD which at the end of December had a total of \$21,712.73.

This year the AHEA sent 13 Hungarian students grant in aid to Transylvania. I hope to be able to increase to capital so that enough interest is generated for about \$1,000.00 to be generated each year. In Transylvania, the program is administered by the Hungarian Pedagogical Association.

Upcoming conferences: in 2010 we will be meeting in Szeged, Hungary. The theme of the conference will be **Bridges between Hungarians – Magyar-Magyar Kapcsolatok**, with the dates set for June 3-6, Thursday through Sunday. Eva Novák Kissné reiterated that the U. of Szeged is prepared to host the conference and she will negotiate the new university library as the venue. There are various lodgings available and several university departments will cooperate to host the conference. For the post-conference excursion Ópusztaszer is an obvious choice. Temesvár, Arad and for those with a little

more time, trips in the further reaches of Transylvania are possibilities. As in the past, the presentations will be accepted and the schedule of papers will be arranged by the New York group in consultation with the local organizers. The local organizers will take care of the meeting rooms, breaks and accessible meals, lodging choices, and programs for Thursday evening, the closing banquet and local programs. Support by a university is important, and we hope to have participation from the students and faculty of both the host institution and other Hungarian universities. Call for Papers will be sent via email and also posted on the AHEA Home Page.

In 2011 the conference will be held at John Carroll U. in Cleveland, Ohio under the chairmanship of Martha Pereszlenyi-Pinter and Katharine Gatto. In 2012 we might go to Rutgers University (there is a tentative agreement with the head of the Hungarian Studies program), and Julia Bock has suggested Long Island University. Members were reminded to check the AHEA home page for current information and updates on the conference.

Please remember that we have launched an e-journal to publish papers presented at our conferences. These have to be rewritten in proper scholarly form (details available on the home page: <http://hungaria.org/ejournal/>). We welcome all submissions; however, as a juried publication the editors have final say in the selection of articles. If your paper is being published by another journal, the AHEA will publish the abstract and bibliography on our site to allow for wider diffusion of articles on Hungarian studies.

Summary of the Conference

Ambassador Balázs Bokor opened the 34th Annual Conference of the AHEA with “1989—the Year that Changed the Map of Europe and the World.” After some remarks on the range of his consulate which reaches from Texas to Montana and to the West Coast, Ambassador Bokor focused on Hungary’s often overlooked role in the fall of Communism: on May 2 the Iron Curtain was dismantled on the Hungarian-Austrian border; on June 16 the reburial of Imre Nagy attracted a large crowd to celebrate at Heroes Square; and on September 11, by opening the borders to East Germans, Hungary launched the dominoes which toppled Communism in all of the neighboring states. As many historians agree, this was the culmination of the Revolution of 1956 since liberalization in Hungary was forced by those events and the Party’s desire to gain legitimacy. As it happened, of course, events speeded up beyond what the Party envisioned, but once in motion, democratization could not be stopped.

The plenary address by **Professor Andrew C. János**, entitled “E Pluribus Unum? Triumphs and Failures of Nation-Building in Greater Hungary,” examined history through the eyes of a social scientist. In the 18th century language became a decisive factor in national identity and this led to problems in the multi-lingual Hungarian state. Emotional components in Central and Eastern Europe did not help in developing a national consciousness, while emergence of the great Western powers as monolingual societies was also detrimental to Hungarian goals. While benign assimilation in the 19th century was a reality, the multilingual community of Hungary continued into the 20th century. The population between 1700 and 1900 grew not only according to natural causes but was skewed by immigration of non-Hungarian speakers (Serbs, Romanians, Jews, Germans). As a result the population shifted to where the Hungarians held a plurality but not always a majority. Of the newly arrived settlers, the Jews were the quickest to assimilate while the Germans in the Zips and Bánát followed; the Romanians and Serbs were most reluctant

to assimilate. It is interesting to note that the Germans assimilated in spite of the drawing power of an ascendant Germany. After 1875 a Germanic orientation sealed the fate of the country. After 1920 Hungary was unable to visualize what it meant to be a small nation as it was totally unprepared for the loss of three quarters of its territory and over half of its population.

The sessions proper were opened by **Louie Vasvári's** (SUNY, Stony Brook and New York University) paper on Alaine Polcz's *Asszony a fronton*. Wartime rape was considered taboo until 1989 and Polcz's attempt to deal with this was a courageous act. Self identification among contemporary Jewish youth was the topic of **Kata Zsofia Vincze** (Eötvös Loránd University and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences) who noted that an emphasis on Jewish diversity and secularization while this generation wishes to retain its Jewish identity. **Wayne Kraft** (Eastern Washington U.) spoke on changes in the traditional Hungarian village and compared the attempts to attract outsiders for traditional programs with attempts by American Indians to preserve and publicize their culture. **Susan Glanz** (St. John's University, NY) examined changes in the position of Hungarian women in the labor market since 1990. Hungarian female employment rate is below that of the EU15; while the wage gap has decreased, gender discrimination in employment has not disappeared. Papers on music complemented the general cultural themes: **Lynn Hooker** (Indiana U.) spoke on Hungarian commemorations of the Liszt Centennial, **Zinna von Bozzay** (Mills College, Oakland) and **Anasztazia Herold** (Eszterlanc Hungarian Folk Ensemble) presented ways in which folk singing and folk dance traditions are practiced in the US, and **Ferenc Tobak** gave a filmed and live presentation of Csángó bagpipers. In a Hungarian language session **Judith Havas** (Eötvös Lóránd Tudományegyetem and Pet_fi Irodalmi Múzeum) spoke about Zoltán Jékely and the third generation of Nyugat writers, and **Éva Novák Kissné** (U. of Szeged) examined family-types in today's Hungary.

A session on Hungarian travelers and settlers was closely linked to the theme of the conference, "Hungarians in the New World." The paper on Sándor Bölonyi Farkas by **Enik_M. Basa** (Library of Congress) was complemented by **Zsuzsanna Varga's** (Glasgow U.) on Reform Age travelers to Western Europe. All of them sought to educate the home audience about democratic ideas and technical achievements of the West. Louis Kossuth's American tour, on the other hand wished to enlist support for the cause of Hungarian independence. **Philip Bognar** (Sanford-Brown Technical College, St. Louis) emphasized the ambivalence of the American public to the Hungarian hero: lots of verbal support but no real assistance. The lives of settlers was depicted in the illustrated lecture by **Royanne Kropog** on Árpádhon, the Hungarian settlement in Louisiana, where ethnic identity was preserved in spite of isolation from the larger Hungarian centers. A novelistic account of assimilation and cultural preservation was given by **Patricia Valdata** (U. of Maryland University College) author of The Other Sister. Reception from the Hungarian side was addressed by **Mark Keck-Szajbel** (UC Berkely) who argued that Hungary had an early role in opening Eastern Europe to the West. Hungary revamped its tourist infrastructure and generally acted as a beacon to other socialist countries.

Opening the afternoon sessions on Friday, **Endre Nagy** (Starr King Berkeley) gave an inspiring talk on the scholarship program for Unitarian ministers from Transylvania at Starr King School. Such opportunities can enrich the educational experience of those who remain at home upon the recipient's return and thus benefit whole communities. This is particularly important in Romania where government policy, selective in its treatment of church properties, hinders religious education in non-Orthodox schools. **Maurus Németh OSB** (Woodside Priory School, Portola Valley, CA) recounted the success story of the school which grew from seven Hungarian monks and 17 students in the early 1950's to a college prep school of 350 students. But, while close ties remain to the Hungarian community, there are now only four Hungarian monks.

Provisions for gifted students in Hungary and the US were compared by **Julianna Connelly** (Columbia U.): In the U.S. the trend is to put mathematically talented students through the standard mathematics sequence while in Hungary the focus is on enrichment over acceleration. Another panel on education addressed innovations in teaching Hungarian by **Katalin Kollár Tothné** (Albany School District, CA and Hungarian School, SF Bay area), in music education by **Anne Laskey** (Holy Names U., Oakland) and teaching with games by **András Margitay-Becht**, (St. Mary's College, Moraga, CA). **Erzsebet Molnár** (U. of Miskolc) spoke on Sámuel Brassai.

The role of Hungarians in the arts was addressed by several speakers. **László Munteán** (Pázmány Péter Catholic University/USF) gave a fascinating talk on camouflage as practiced by George Kepes (1906-2001) whose The Language of Vision (1944) became an important work in training for camouflage programs. **Catherine Portuges** (U. of Massachusetts, Amherst) sketched the contribution of Michael Curtiz and Jewish emigres in Hollywood while **Steven Kovács** (San Francisco State U.) spoke of the different waves of immigrants to the film capital. The work of Péter Forgács was discussed by **Julia Bader** (UC Berkeley). A section on language opened with **Peter Hargitai's** (Florida International U.) examination of Antal Szerb's homoerotic suggestions in "Utas és holdvilág." **Erika Solyom** (Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem) illustrated how language is changing among the young in a paper with the intriguing title "From Informal *Magázás* to Formal *Tegezés*." **Gergely Toth** (US Berkeley) noted that the contradictory trends of native language attrition vs. heritage language learning are realities in our society.

Papers on literature ranged from a presentation on Zrinyi's epic to contemporary works and translations. In "Philosophy and Theology in the Zrinyiad" **László Körössy** (Catholic University) used citations from his translation to demonstrate that the work is concerned with good and evil and the role of God and Fortune in men's lives. **Helga Lénárt-Cheng** (St. Mary's College) suggested that Sándor (or Alexander) Lénárd, the Latin translator of Winnie the Pooh, is unique in having rewritten himself three times: in German (Die Kuh auf dem Blast, 1963), English (Valley of the Latin Bear, 1965) and Hungarian (Völgy a világ végén, 1967). Also looking at a biographical work, though a fictionalized one, **Endre Szentkirályi** (Nordia City High Schools) called attention to Áron Gábor, an emigré whose Túlélés chronicles survival in the conditions of the Communist world. Survival, he concludes, in a universally applicable statement, is a matter of finding one's own compass in a disoriented world. **Peter Sherwood** (U. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill) examined the English translation of Sándor Márai's A Gyertyák csonkig égnek (*Embers*). While the translation was belittled in Hungary for not being a direct translation, it was well received in the English-speaking world. Maybe precisely because the English version was made via the German: many of the mannerisms, already eliminated in the intermediary, and are entirely gone in English. The work is accessible to a wider audience, although some associations are lost.

Two sessions dealt with historical subjects: Interwar Hungary and World War II and its aftermath. The first was opened by **Katalin Kadar Lynn's** study of the strange partnership between Lord Rothenmere and Stephania von Hohenlohe. The important British newspaper publisher was influenced by a mysterious lady who held Hungarian citizenship through her husband. She urged him to champion the cause of Hungary against the Trianon peace treaties and sought to influence interwar events through her connections to Horthy, Mussolini, Gömbös and Hitler. History through the lives of individuals was continued in **Katalin Juhász** (Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem/UCB) insight into the life of Andor Hertelendy, a naval officer and diplomat whose career spanned 1921-1953. Ferenc Fodor's Geography of Hungarian Being was the topic of the talk by **Steven Jobbitt** (California State University, Fullerton). The unpublished geography chronicles history from 1912 through 1957 and addresses questions about the existence of the Hungarian nation. Fodor

concludes that what will be remembered is the *idea* rather than objective reality. A video on Hungarian Scouting in Exile, shown by **George Csicsery** (Zala Films, Oakland CA) which chronicled both the suppression of Scouting in Hungary and its preservation in the West. This continuity enabled the 1990's revival of the movement in Hungary. It should be noted that the main emphasis of the Scouts "in exeteris" is on language maintenance. In the second session **Barnabás Rácz** (Eastern Michigan U.) analyzed "Anti-Fascist Resistance at Hungarian Universities" and noted that this is a new field of study as it was a taboo subject under Communists. **Julia Bock** (Long Island U.) attempted a collective biography of Hungarian Jewish doctors during the Holocaust. **Alice Freifeld** (U. of Florida, Gainesville) looked at emigration from Hungary between 1945 and 1949. **Jason Wittenberg** (UC Berkeley) illustrated the ways in which the Catholic Church was able to circumvent some of the Communist pressure on their flock which ultimately led to continuity between pre- and post-Communism.

It is always a pleasure to have a session devoted to Hungarians in science. This year papers were presented on Hungarians in the Silicon Valley (**George Lázár**) and in stem cell research (**Márta Bebök**, UC Berkeley). The Hungarian role in "Building Information Modeling" – a new tool for building design – was presented by **Ádám Rendek** (Anshen + Allen Architects). **Emese Ivan** (Ball State U.) placed sports in a wider context in her talk, "Sport, Environment, and the Politics of Hope."

While the Hungarian-American experience was addressed in several of the sessions a round table discussion on Beszédb I világ; Elemzések, adatok Amerikai Magyarokról attempted to summarize many of the threads. As was to be expected of a work that is perhaps too ambitious for the resources at the authors' disposal, it elicited lively debate. A major criticism was that the work surveyed a very narrow segment of the Hungarian American population and associations (case in point, the AHEA was not contacted) and that persons contacted were not always representatives of the associations or even knowledgeable about them. While accurate in the delineation of the major waves of emigrations the editor's assessment of the roles and interplay of these groups was hindered by preconceived notions.

Supporting programs enriched the conference in several ways. The Thursday evening film, "Blessed is the Match" chronicled the life of Hannah Senesh who worked to rescue Hungary's Jews. Friday evening Mrs. Elvira Örlly hosted a reception at her home where participants enjoyed Hungarian food and wines in a lovely setting. Climate change was the topic Dr. Evan Mills chose for his talk at the closing banquet. The festive atmosphere was not broken by words of doom; rather it offered a high-level tour through the scientific evidence for the human contribution to climate change and suggested solutions. For those able to stay on, the Sunday tour of Napa Valley was certainly a grand finale. Lunch at the home of Douglas and Katalin Kádár Lynn provided an interlude between tours of Merryvale and a private tour and tasting at the Kapcsándy Family Winery. Besides learning about wine-making in California and Hungary, the group was treated to the most gracious hospitality.

News

The **Home Page** of the AHEA is being redesigned, and the content will be expanded and the site will be redesigned. We hope it will be a truly elegant introduction to the Association and will prove useful to you and attractive to web surfers interested in Hungarian studies. Please watch for its debut and do make use of it for your own information and to steer others to it as a source of information on Hungarian scholarly programs. We will keep it updated so that the information will always be timely. I am already sending out items of a timely nature via email but some of these will be posted on the web and thus made even more accessible. Such news include information on fellowships and scholarship, educational opportunities in Hungary, courses and programs here or abroad which might be of interest, etc. The Educator will continue to report on the Conference, give news of a general nature and and items of general interest.

The **Catholic University of America Press** is in the process of publishing a translation of Miklós Zrinyi's Szigeti veszedelem by **László Körössy**, to be released in 2010. It is a scholarly volume with both historical and literary introductions that will make the work more accessible to the English reader. In order to reduce the cost of the book and thus make it more easily available to a wider audience, the Press is looking for donations to defray some of the expenses. If interested in contributing, please write David J. McGonagle, Director, Catholic University of America Press, 620 Michigan Ave./ 240 Leahy Hall, Washington, DC 20064.

The California Magyarság (2009 július 31) published a very nice article by Lázár György on our 34th Conference by . It will be posted on the Web.

Recently Published Books

Barnás, Ferenc. The Ninth. Northwestern U.P., 2009. Trans. Paul Olcshváry. Looks at life under Communism during the 1960's. A coming of age novel which transcends the genre by looking at moral education in an authoritarian state. "The Ninth is a masterpiece...It is an elegant book and a ruthless one." --Peter Esterhazy

Kropog, Royanne. The Story of Árpádhon; Hungarian Settlement, Louisiana, 1896-2006. Baton Rouge, LA: Moran Printing, 2006. An account of the origins and growth of this settlement of Hungarians who relocated from cities in the Northeast and Midwest to establish a community based on the strawberry industry. The work chronicles their lives and the way in which they kept their traditions alive.

Láposy, Susanna. Life behind the Iron Curtain. A family memoir in three volumes covering most of the 20th century. For orders: www.trafford.com.

Szentkirály, Endre, ed. Clevelandben még élnek magyarok?; Visszaemlékezések gyűjteménye. Clevelandi Magyar Cserkész Reg_ s Csoport gy_ jtése. Available through: Magyar Marketing: www.magyardmarketing.com

Valdata, Pat. The Other Sister. Austin: Plain View Press, 2008. Explores family relationships across three generations of Hungarian immigrants during the first half of the 20th century.

AHEA Membership Form/Dues Renewal

Dues are payable for the calendar year. All members are urged to send dues for the current year if not yet paid. Notices for dues renewal are sent out early in the year via email. The date on your mailing label indicates the year we last received dues from you; please consider this as a reminder. Please clip or copy this form and return with the appropriate amount to: Enik M. Basa, 4515 Willard Ave., #2210, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Check should be made out to AHEA.

Name:

Address: (give preferred mailing address)

Business phone: _____ **Home phone:** _____

Fax: _____ **email*:** _____

Institutional _____ **affiliation:** _____

Other _____ **address** _____ **(optional)**

Dues: Regular members: \$15.00 Couples/Joint members: \$20.00 Students/Retired: \$10.00

Since we have been able to keep office expenses to a minimum, dues have remained constant for several years. We need the active support of all of our members, however.

*This is important as we are using email as a primary form of communication. News of a timely nature, including Calls for Papers and information on the Conference, etc.

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American Hungarian Educators' Association
4515 Willard Ave. Apt. 2210
Chevy Chase, MD 20815