

American Hungarian **Educator**

NEWSLETTER
of the
**American
Hungarian
Educators'
Association**

Volume XXVI No. 1-2

Summer 2003

Please visit the AHEA Web page at: <http://magyar.org> 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

In Memoriam Thomas Szendrey

On May 14, Thomas Szendrey, our friend and a founding member of the AHEA, passed away. It is with sadness that I inform you of this, but it was a release from a long illness and in that all can take comfort.

A professor of history at Gannon College for many years, Thomas was an excellent scholar. While he had not been active in the Association in recent years, he was a keen student of Hungarian culture and society, and actively promoted it through his professional and intellectual contacts. He will be missed by all of us.

Conference

The 2003 Conference in New York City was a great success. From the film showing on Thursday to the well-led walk through Greenwich Village on Sunday morning and brunch at Louse Vasvari's house, intellectual stimulation was not lacking, all in a very congenial atmosphere. The film on 1956 emigrants elicited a lively debate. On Friday morning the history panel examined Hungarian politics in the 19th and early 20th century. In the first Literature panel the work of Imre Kertész was debated. Due to the Iraq emergency Ambassador András Simonyi could not be present, but New York Consul Gábor Horváth delivered the keynote address at lunchtime. The afternoon sessions on Friday focused on Political Science, Education and Folklore. We also had a Science panel, always a welcome addition. The day was

brought to a festive close by a reception at the Consulate celebrating the Fulbright program. Many current and former Fulbright scholars, both from Hungary and from the US were represented.

Saturday's sessions began with the business meeting of the Association followed by the history panel on three on the newly-published English language histories of Hungary: László Konler's *A History of Hungary: Millennium in Central Europe*, Paul Lendvai's *The Hungarians: 1000 Years of Victory in Defeat*, and István György Tóth's, *History of Hungary for the Millennium*. Two more sessions on Education and Political Science, a session on Ethnicity, and one on Literature, Literary History and Film rounded out the day. The Gala dinner at the Hungarian House closed the

formal part of the conference on a

festive note with dancing and Hungarian music. Sunday's programs were pure fun The Hungarian Ministry of Education was represented. See below for initiatives and cooperative ventures.

Business Meeting

The annual business meeting of the AHEA was opened by President Marta Pereszlenyi. The following points were covered in announcements:

* Acknowledgment of the Hungarian Ministry of Education personnel in attendance;

* The minutes of the last general meeting were published in the October 2002 AHEA Newsletter;

* The new logo for the AHEA, selected by the Executive Board from designs submitted by Edith Velényi. was presented to the attendees;

* AHEA dues are based on the calendar year. The dues schedule and form are available on the AHEA website <http://www.magyar.org/ahea/> . Badges and membership cards were distributed at the registration desk to members in attendance;

* As of next year's conference presenters and session chairs will be required to be registered members of the AHEA;

* The location of next year's conference was discussed. Options include (1) Washington or Maryland ,or (2) Montclair or New Brunswick (Rutgers). Members were asked to send other possibilities to Executive Director Enikő M. Basa at eniko.basa@verizon.net or 4515 Willard Avenue #2210 Chevy Chase, MD 20815 by May 15th;

* In response to the discussion on holding the 2005 AHEA Conference in Hungary in Budapest, Pécs, or Szeged, it was moved that a representative of the Hungarian Ministry be made an ex-officio board member of the AHEA for a period of two years. With Ministry of Education official László Zilahi in attendance, the following MOTION was passed: (1) To have the Head of the Department of Hungarian Minorities serve as an ex-officio board member of the AHEA , and (2) Serve as liaison for the AHEA conference in Hungary in 2005;

* Discussing methods to obtain new members and using the AHEA web page for items of interest;

*Forming a steering committee to help recruit and facilitate Fulbright exchanges. Louise Vasvari volunteered to head this committee to publicize the Fulbright awards and to assist those completing the application process;

* The report of the election of officers for the 2003-2005 term was given by Ruth Biro, Nominating Committee Chair. The following officers were elected:

President: Susan Glanz
Vice-President: Judith Nemethy
Treasurer: Enikő Molnár Basa
Secretary: Ruth G. Biro
Advisory Board Members: George Bisztray, Mario Fenyo, and Katalin Nagy;

* The Treasurer's report included income, dues and donations, expenses, picnic

disbursements, and current as follows:

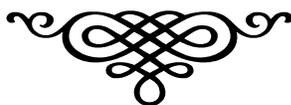
| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| 2001 Balance: | \$ 1,601.24 |
| Dues and Donations: | \$ 1,364.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 2,965.24 |
| Expenses: | \$-1,035.26 |
| Current Balance : | \$ 1,929.98 |

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Savings balance: | \$1,286.46 |
| CD for Scholarships | \$8,078.33 |

Thanks were extended to Marta Pereszlenyi for her role as AHEA President for two terms

and Kalman Magyar for his work in coordinating the 2003 conference. Special thanks were offered to Andras Marton of the Hungarian Cultural Center for his assistance with the Conference, and the contributions of the organizing committee to the conference were acknowledged. Members were Enikő M. Basa, Károly Nagy, Susan Glanz, Judit Nemethy-Kesseru, Judit Hajnal-Ward, Péter Pastor, András Kiséry, Marta Pereszlenyi, Kálmán Magyar, Péter Sárközy, András Márton, and Louise Vasvari.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth G. Biro
Secretary



Programs and Events

The *Magyar Öregdiák Szövetség-Bessenyei György Kör* organized three programs commemorating the centenary of Gyula Illyés' birth. Illyés was Hungary's unofficial "Poet Laureate" yet remained relatively free of party politics in his forty plus years of poetic dominance. On November 2 the Hungarian Alumni Association sponsored a lecture by Dr. Károly Nagy and poetry recitals by members. The Hungarian Consulate General hosted an English-language program arranged by the Hungarian Cultural Center with readings by Threshold Theater actors Nancy Nichols and Joel Leffert, and a lecture by Professor Nagy, "Gyula Illés—Human Rights Champion," on November 15. The American Hungarian Museum in Passaic hosted a program on December 1 in the surroundings of the Museum's exquisite folk art exhibit.

The *Alumni Association* also remembered Nobel Laureate Jenő wigner in a ceremony on November 12 which marked the 100th anniversary of his birth. In addition to a lecture series, the Association also laid a wreath at his tomb.

If you were at the conference, you could learn from the *Hungarian Academy of Science* brochures about a new initiative to open an "external member" category at the Academy. There are certain privileges associated with this title, as well as responsibilities: the Academy would like to establish closer contacts with Hungarian scholars and scientists living and working abroad. Members can be those who hold non-Hungarian or dual citizenship. Members may attend meetings of various bodies of the HAS and have the right of consultation; deliver inaugural addresses; participate in meetings of scientific committees. They are also eligible to participate in the *Domus Hungaricus* program which provides scholarships or living arrangements for research in Hungary. In return, they should remain closely linked to Hungarian science. If interested, please write Marianne

Tarnóczy, 1051 Budapest, Nádor u. 1.I/115 or email: tar@office.mta.hu. It is also my pleasure to announce that Károly Wojatsek, one of our members, has been accepted as an external member.

The *Balassi Bálint Intézet* in Budapest might be something for you check out. It has a multiple mission: 1) teaching non-Hungarian speakers living in Hungary Hungarian language and culture; 2) Hungarian language instruction for Hungarians living outside the borders of Hungary and training of teachers, 3) support Hungarian culture and language studies; 4) prepare examinations and administer language tests; 5) support exchange programs; 6) create contacts with institutes of higher education in Hungary and abroad; 7) research and textbook publishing; 8) award scholarships; 9) develop data bases; 10) disseminate information via its web page. For more information see www.bbi.hu/almenuk.php or write: 1519 Budapest, Pf 385, Hungary.

Scholarships

The *Fulbright Program* continues to offer opportunities for grants in Hungary. Please contact Judy Pehrson at 202.686.4014 or jpherson@cies.iie.org for more information. The web page is www.cies.org. Deadlines for applications are May 1 for Distinguished Chair Awards, Aug. 1 for lecturing and research grants. The Senior Specialists have a rolling deadline.

The *Hungarian Scouting Organization* announces scholarships for study in Hungary. These are for Hungarian Studies which give accreditation for scout masters and studies in higher education. The deadline is January 15. For further information contact dr. Judith Kersserü Némethy at 1 Washington Square Vlg. Apt 3L, New York, NY 10012. For the higher education grant contact Elizabeth Wurst, A-1230 Wien, Ketzergasse, Austria. The web address for forms and information is: www.om.hu or www.bbi.hu

And on the other side

The *AHEA* gave \$500.00 this year in scholarships to students in Transylvania. The funds were distributed among 26 university students. Awards are based on a point system with our stipulation that the recipients benefit in country (Transylvania) and use their skills “in country” taken into account. The funds help cover dormitory expenses for a quarter. Given that the Transylvanian partner uses funds well, I am encouraged that we can raise the amount as the principal grows. Contributions, of course, are always welcome—and tax deductible. The principal is invested in a 5-year CD for optimal returns.

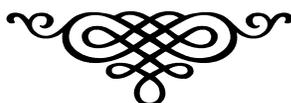
Assistance Requested

Books can be donated to the *Máramarossziget Hungarian Gimnazium* via Béla Lipták. Please contact him at liptakbela@aol.com or 06 20 481 9770 for more information.

Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania has been founded with campuses in Csíkszereda, Kolozsvár, Marosvásárhely, and Nagyvárad. You can help support this private university designed to train Hungarians in Transylvania particularly in fields not available at other universities in the country. You can donate cash or equipment, but more importantly you can help establish contacts

with your universities: scholarships and student and lecturer exchanges. For further information and a comprehensive brochure, contact the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation, P.O. Box J, Gracie Station, New York, NY 10028 or hamos@hhrf.org.

Two *sociologists*, Anna Légmán and Bori Fernezelyi, are looking for subjects for their *research*, which is the study of siblings who were separated by the 1956 Revolution, one remaining in Hungary, the other emigrating. They would be interested in contacting anyone who could help them in their research. Bori will be in Los Angeles beginning in September, and she would do the US interviews; Anna would do the interviews in Hungary. For further information contact them at hold06@freemail.hu.



Miscellaneous News

Summer School for Hungarian Scouts, July 5-10, 2003. (Keep in mind for 2004). Information at KMCSSZ, 2850 Rt. 23 North, Newfoundland, NJ 07435; (973) 208-0450 or gabona@aol.com or Dr. Kerekes Judith, (973) 591-1351 jdrkerekes@aol.com

If you are an alumnus(a) of the *Budapest Technical University* or wish to join its Supporters Circle, please check out www.bme.hu/hu/pr/index.html and the Office of International Affairs is www.tudig.bme.hu/nki/nki/html

The *Hungarian Association/Magyar Társaság* will hold its 43rd Hungarian Congress and 51st Anniversary in Cleveland on November 27-30. A full program is planned. For details contact magyartarsasag@nadas.org or see www.hungarianassociation.com

The *Hungarian Studies Program of Columbia University* welcomes contributions and inquirers. They have been our sponsors for two conferences in New York City. They are also one of the very few universities in the US that offer Hungarian Studies and even degree programs. For information jsm6@columbia.edu or www.columbia.edu/cu/sipa/REGIONAL/ECE/hunstudy.html or East Central European Center, Columbia University, 1227 International Affairs Bldg., 420 West 118th St., MC 3336, New York, NY 10027

One of the oldest and most comprehensive summer programs for Hungarian is offered at the *University of Debrecen*. Actually, it has extended to more than a summer program to include a January session. For information on the exciting programs see www.nyariegyetem.hu or write debrecen@nyariegyetem.hu. In addition to a program that combines classroom study and cultural enrichment they also have very good texts for the study of Hungarian.

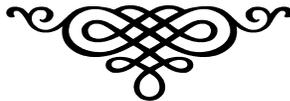
Want to work in Hungary or Slovakia—or other parts of the world? Check out *Learning Enterprises* for summer jobs teaching English in villages. See www.learningenterprises.org for more information, or write chirstina@learningenterprises.org Deadlines for 2003 programs was April 15,

but check it out for next year.

Initiative

As a result of a dinner at the home of Enikő M. Basa, the Ambassador of Hungary András Simonyi initiated a conference to discuss the issue of “brain drain” and ways in which Hungarians studying and working in the United States can best make the skills, knowledge and experience gained here transfer to Hungary. The core group of participants at the conference (Anita Komlódi, Tamás Komlódi, Sándor Végh and Edit Velényi in addition to E.M. Basa) includes AHEA members, though this is not an AHEA project. The conference has become a project whose goal is to facilitate the return of expertise to Hungary. It focuses on students and young professionals here from Hungary, though does not exclude others, for example second and third generation younger persons involved with both Hungarian and American professional issues. Also, participation by established Hungarian-Americans who can serve as consultants or offer tangible assistance is welcome. The program addresses return and resettlement, but it also seeks innovative means for those staying here for longer or shorter periods to be useful to Hungary. This is a “hot” topic in the EU and elsewhere, but we are proud to have gotten a head start on discussing, assessing and addressing the problem. A data base is being set up and discussions at various ministries in Hungary, as well as bi-lateral discussions in the US are in the works. Ambassador Simonyi has been in the forefront of this initiative; its extension to other countries with sizeable Hungarian students and professionals is his prerogative and will probably be undertaken at his initiative. There will be other conferences and information will be available on the web site. Please contact homecoming@hungarianamerica.com for more information.

Books and Cassettes



Contemporary Jewish Writing in Hungary; an Anthology. Edited by Susan Rubin Suleiman and Éva Forgács. University of Nebraska Press. \$24.95 paper; \$60.00 cloth. Order toll free at 1-800-755-1105; fax 1-800-526-2617 or pressmail@unl.edu.

Hungarian-English/English-Hungarian Dictionary and Phrasebook from Hippocrene Books. Very good little book by our own Judith Hajnal Ward. Contact hippocrene.books@verizon.net, see home page at www.hippocrenebooks.com, or 171 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016.

Colloquial Hungarian by Erika Solyom and Carol Rounds. Includes a paperback book and cassette or CD audios. See www.routledge-ny.com/colloquials/langs/hungarian.cfm for more details.

Haza a magasban is a text for teaching Hungarian studies (nemzetismeret) in two volumes. Authors are Jenő Alföldi, István Bakos, Péter Hámori, and Gy. Csaba Kiss. Illustrated, it aims primarily at Hungarians abroad and costs \$12-15. I do not have order information, but you could contact István Bakos at bakos.istvan@ntk.hu for more information.

Simon Publications is making available books of interest in Hungarian history and culture through on-demand publishing. You can get a catalog by contacting them at www.SimonPublications.com or Simon Publications Inc., P.O. Box 910455, San Diego, CA 92191-0455.

Focus on Budapest; Old Beauty through New Eyes, a photo album by Stephen Spindler with over 100 photos give a glimpse of turn of the century Budapest. Specially priced at \$45.00 it is available from Stephen Spindler Fineart Photography spindler@pronet.hu.

László Kontler, *History of Hungary; Millenium in Central Europe* (London and New York: Palgrave Macmillan can be purchased in bookstores or distributors. Conference participants received special discounts.

Traditions for Sale and America: the Story of Hungarian 56ers is available from filmmaker Sally Gati, 74 Allston Way, San Francisco, CA 94127. Each cassette is \$25.00. For information you can also write sgati@ccsf.cc.ca.us.

AHEA Membership Form/Dues Renewal

Dues are payable for the calendar year. All members are urged to send their 2003 dues if not yet paid, or the 2004 dues in January. It has not been feasible to send out separate notices for dues renewal, but you can make a copy of the address with the dues information and keep as a reminder to pay in January. *The date on your mailing label indicates the year we last received dues from you.*

Name:

Address: (give preferred mailing address here)

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

Make checks payable to: AHEA Treasurer and send to AHEA, 4515 Willard Ave. Apt. 2210 Chevy Chase, MD. Clip or copy and return with a check for the appropriate amount.

American Hungarian Educator

(ISSN 0163-0040) is published in Chevy Chase, MD by the AHEA, a non-profit educational organization.

SUBSCRIPTION (USA): Nonmembers may receive the newsletter for \$5.00 annual fee. FREE to members of AHEA and officers of the affiliates. Send subscription inquiries, address changes and all correspondence to Enikő Molnár Basa, 4514 Willard Ave., Apt. 2210 Chevy Chase, MD 20815