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Please visit the AHEA Web 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

Conference

We returned to Indiana University for a conference dedicated to the commemoration of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. Our host, **Lynn Hooker** ensured that we had a very pleasant conference enriched with cultural programs and social events. The Organizing Committee (Enikő M. Basa, Lynn, Susan Glanz, Kálmán Magyar, Judit Kesserű Némethy, Judith Olson, Peter Pastor, Martha Pereszlényi-Pintér, István Sohar, Louise O. Vasvári) ensured a series of interesting papers. It was particularly gratifying to have a number of IU students participate actively, as well as such long-time supporters of the AHEA as emeritus professors **Denis Sinor** and **Linda Degh**.

Events got under way Thursday with a visit to the Archives of Traditional Music at the university followed by a film, *Divan* on the search for ethnic identity. Film maker **Pearl Gluck** was on hand for a discussion.

At the opening session, **Denis Sinor** spoke about the Association, the Hungarian program at IU and Hungarian Studies as he has been involved in this for some forty years. Three plenary papers then examined large issues of the Revolution: **Nandor Dreisziger** spoke on the reception of '56 refugees in Canada, **Judit Kesserű Némethy** on the impact of the

Revolution in Argentina, and **Katalin Kadar Lynn** on aid given by the United States to the refugees.

A look at writings on the Revolution and its echoes in literature, both in Hungary and abroad, were discussed in the Literature section. **László B. Sári** argued that the memory of 1956 was very much alive in the prose fiction of the 1980's, and suggested that the ideological supervision of literature had evolved over time. Almost illustrating this point, **Enikő M. Basa** cited the hidden memorials in poetry and early references to it in the writings of Erzsébet Galgóczy. Looking abroad, **Thomas Cooper** examined the way in which allusions to this historical event became iconic representations in French and German poetry. **Ágnes Huszár Várdy** cited the numerous poems which appeared, particularly in the years following the defeat of the Revolution, both from non-Hungarian poets such as ee cummings and John Ciardi and émigré writers.

Other aspects of 1956 were treated in a number of papers and various sessions. **László Nedeczky** gave a detailed and moving account of the response to the Hungarian events in Transylvania, particularly Brassó, including excerpts from an interview with one of the

participants and the secretary of the EMISZ (Erdelyi Magyar Ifjak Szövetsége). For expressing solidarity with the goals of the Hungarian youth, the Transylvanian students, Hungarians and Romanians alike, were imprisoned or executed; nor have they been fully rehabilitated to this day. **Mihály Fülöp** spoke about diplomatic exchanges between the two countries. **Peter Pastor** addressed myths and realities in his presentation on the major 20th century revolutions: 1918, 1919 and 1956. **Julius Nyikos** examined the Free Europe interviews on 1956 while **Tibor Glant** and **Julia Bock** looked at the treatment of this event in the US press and American academic libraries and respectively. Julia cited important electronic records and collections which can make materials more widely available while Tibor showed how global politics (and time) influenced the preoccupation with the Hungarian Revolution, but also which topics garnered the most interest. Oral histories serve an important function in supplementing the official record, as **Endre Szentkirályi** pointed out in his comments on the *Freedomfighter56 Project* which has enabled persons from all walks of life to contribute to this database. While available on the web, a “coffee table” hard copy edition is also planned. *Hazatérés: egy 56-os története*, a film as a tribute to a ‘56 freedom-fighter by his daughter **Réka Pigniczky** was briefly introduced through a trailer available at 56films.com.

“The 1956 Melbourne Olympics and the Hungarian Revolution” by **Emese Ivan** and **Susan Glanz**’s paper, “The Economic Platforms of the 1956 Political Parties” attests to the wide range of topics which 1956 engendered. Music and folklore were also affected by these events, as **Danielle Fossler-Lussier** demonstrated in “Bartók’s Music and the Revolution of 1956: the Evolution of a Symbol,” while **Zsolt Strajber**

focused on folk music and **Judith Olson** pointed out that the transformation of Hungarian folk dance in the US is due in large part to the ‘56 refugees. **Peter Laki** argued that Sándor Weörös’ poems resonated with the whole country and his popularity with composers responded to his capturing the essence of the spirit of the people as manifested in the Revolution.

The teaching of any event often determines its long-range impact, and so papers dealing with the way in which 1956 is presented in curricula is vital. **Károly Nagy** demonstrated how, in spite of unequivocal statements by the international community that 1956 was a true revolution, and not a “counterrevolution” by reactionary forces, the Kádár government attempted to sell its version of the story abroad as well as at home. As late as 1986 Hungarian texts were still pushing the distorted picture.

An exhibit of photographs taken by **Z. Stephen Silagy** during the Revolution and its aftermath added to the visual history of these events. The photographs, a personal diary, showed many moving scenes both unique and those echoing the photos of the international press which are almost impossible to display due to copyright restrictions. These images added a special dimension to the conference.

Papers also addressed issues of contemporary Hungary, earlier struggles against dictatorships and aspects of Communism as well as topics on education, music, art and folklore. **Zsuzsa Aykler-Papp** and **Klára Papp** reported on a program which allows Hungarian students from the neighboring countries to visit Hungary, meet with their peers, and learn of the history of Hungary through visits to geographical sites. Programs such as these can give young people a graphical demonstration of Hungarian history.

The Friday night reception, in the Lilly (Rare Book) Library of Indiana University gave the participants a chance to view some of the university's valuable collection of Hungarica, of which selected items were on display for the conferees. This was followed by an evening of Hungarian Chamber Music in the Great Hall of Trinity Episcopal Church. The closing

banquet included a tribute to Professor Denis Sinor on his 90th birthday with a poem and special gift being presented to him by Susan in the name of the Association.

For picturers and abstracts of most of the papers, please go to the web site. The material should be available shortly.



Business Meeting

The annual meeting of the Association was held on Saturday from 8:30 to 9:15, with Susan Glanz presiding. In the absence of the Secretary, Anita Komlódi, Enikő M. Basa noted that the minutes of the 2005 meeting had been published in the Summer-Fall 2005 the *American Hungarian Educator*; the minutes were approved as published Enikő then gave the Treasurer's report, summarized below (figures reflect January 1 to December 31, 2005):

<i>Checking Account</i>	<i>Savings Account</i>	
Beginning balance	Beginning balance	\$2,498.34
Income	Interest	<u>2,005.00</u>
Expenses:	Expenditures to CD/Scholarship	
Newsletter	Ending balance	<u>336.46</u>
Bank charges		<u>54.00</u>
Scholarship funds sent	<i>Certificate of Deposit</i>	<u>900.00</u>
Certificate of Deposit	Principal and Interest	<u>1,000.00</u>
Ending balance	To Checking (Scholarship)	<u>\$2,212.88</u>
	Deposits from Savings and	
	Checking, Interest	
	Ending balance	

A new Certificate of Deposit was opened with \$12,121.92. Because interest rates were low but set to rise, an 18-month CD seemed to offer the best value.

The proposed amendment to the Constitution was approved by a near-unanimous vote. It clarifies the division of duties between the Executive Director and the Treasurer to ensure continuity in the financial dealings of the Association, particularly the ability to keep accounts at the same bank.

The Association has decided to launch an e-journal which will be called **E-journal of the American Hungarian Educators Association**. We will get an ISSN for it and collect manuscripts. The journal will be juried, and papers presented at conferences will be considered. For the first issue,

Bard College has sponsored several events on Hungarian musicians. On June 3 it held a Béla Bartók conference, “From the Wellspring to the Ocean: Béla Bartók’s Musicological Legacy in Today’s World,” to mark the 125th anniversary of his birth. In August, the 17th Annual Bard Music Festival will feature Ferenc Liszt with concerts and presentations on three weekends: August 11-13; 18-20, and October 27-28. For further information: gpetry@21cmediagroup.com.

An exhibit, “The Hungarian Legacy in America,” was held at the Museum of the **American Hungarian Foundation** from February 26 through March 26. It focused on the 50-year history of the Foundation. For more information on the Foundation and future programs: www.ahfoundation.org.

Students Without Boundaries brings together students from East-Central Europe and North America. Geared to ages 13-17 the program brings Hungarian minority students from the neighboring countries to visit historical sites in Hungary and meet with their peers from Hungary. Over 1,600 students have participated to date, and the program continues to be very popular. For information: www.studentswithoutboundaries.org.

The **National Association of Independent Schools** has a commendable program to bring together high school students from public and private schools around the world in a leadership program focused on advocacy, problem-solving, and entrepreneurship. The Challenge 20/20 might have participation from the technical high school in Brassov as a result of the visit Mr. Nedeczky, who attended our conference in Bloomington, made to the Romanian Embassy and NAIS. One of the diplomats we met immediately set up an appointment with the Director of Global Initiatives there and the contacts were followed up in Brassov. This is a good example of the kind of things all of us can do at a grass roots level, whether fostering university studies or programs in secondary schools. With the internet, geographical boundaries are broken down, but the reward of a successful program is a trip to the US or exchanges from school to school which are real as well as virtual.



Commemorations of 1956

The year was launched by a commemoration at the **Department of State** which the **Hungarian Embassy** facilitated on February 13, 2006. The AHEA was invited and represented by Enikő M. Basa. Speakers included Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Ambassador András Simonyi, Congressman Tom Lantos and religious leaders and the Archivist of the United States. Paul Maléter Jr., the son of the soldier who led the resistance also attended.

Indiana University hosted a conference: “The 1956 Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence: 50th Anniversary Conference” March 4-5, 2006 which featured distinguished speakers from a variety of disciplines. The background, international context, and consequences were addressed, with Béla Király serving as the keynote speaker.

May 27-28 saw the Conference of the **Hungarian Studies Association of Canada** also devoted to 1956. Held in the context of the Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities in Canada this



Books, etc.

Refugee Child (New York: Crabtree Publishing Co, 2006) is a memoir by Bobbie Kalman of her family’s escape from Hungary in the aftermath of the Revolution of 1956. It is part memoir and part history. For more information: Andrea Carter at andrea_c@crabtreebooks.com or Melissa Waters at melissa_w@crabtreebooks.com or www.crabtreebooks.com.

Imagining Postcommunism: Visual Narratives of Hungary’s 1956 Revolution by Beverly A. James (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2005) “demonstrates how 1956 became a foundational myth according to which the bloody events of that fall led to the ceremonial reburial of ... Imre Nagy, free elections ... and the withdrawal of ... Soviet soldiers.”

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 20815. Clip or copy and return with a check for the appropriate amount.

Dues have remained constant for several years. Please send your email address as we are using this to communicate news of a timely nature or those with a deadline. Also, we can notify you about developments pertaining to the e-journal, updates on the conference (paper call for papers will continue to be sent to members), and other dated news.

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