

American Hungarian **Educator**

NEWSLETTER
of the
**American
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Association**

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*Please visit the AHEA Web page at: <http://hungaria.org/hal/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. Beginning in 2007, the *Educator* will be published annually. Email communications will serve for urgent and time-sensitive communications. An e-journal will publish juried scholarly articles of interest to the members.*

Conference

We gathered in New York City once again for the 2007 Conference, this time hosted by St. John's University's School of Professional Studies. The Manhattan campus is minutes from the World Trade Center site and provided a modern urban campus as a venue. According to custom, the conference opened with a wine and cheese reception and the showing of the film, "Journey Home, a Story from the Hungarian Revolution" by Réka Pigniczky. A documentary recounting the search of two sisters into the father's past which brings both surprises and a deeper understanding of the events of 1956.

On Friday, Nancy McGeeveran, Associate Dean of the College of Professional Studies and Gábor Horváth, Consul General of Hungary, opened the formal sessions. Dr. Horvath spoke on the way in which Hungarian foreign policy has changed but also remained constant to various ideals since the country's accession to EU and its response to the challenges of the 21st Century.

Art and Music were important in this celebration of the 100th anniversary of the birth of József Domján and the 125th anniversary of the birth, as well as the 40th of the death, of Zoltán Kodály. **Martha**

Pereszlényi-Pinter (John Carroll U.) spoke on the work of the typographer Paul Gábor. **Hélène Nadia Turewicz-Sanko** (John Carroll U.) gave a careful analysis of the Fountain of Hercules in the Visegrad lower castle which traced the influences and heritage of the sculptor Juraj Dalmatinac. **Kálmán Magyar** (American Hungarian Museum, Passaic, NJ) introduced the Domján Centennial Project which is designed to make the artist better known in Hungary and abroad. The adventurous life of the artist led to a successful career in woodcuts using Hungarian themes and folk motifs. A 1970 fire at his home and studio destroyed much of his work, but he donated the remainder of his work to Sárospatak. Color woodcuts were his invention and these form a valuable part of his legacy.

Kodály was saluted in two sessions: one devoted to music in general, with talks ranging from music divas from Hungary and Béla Bartók (**Barbara Lange**, U. of Houston; John Schuster-Craig, Grand Valley State U., Arizona) to **Gioncille's Shaw's** (Kodály Summer Institute) talk on improvisation in the methodology of Kodály and **Jerry Kerlin's** (Manhattanville College) comparison of song transmission among the Irish and the Kodály

method. Those active in the Kodály Method presented a Roundtable with **Naomi Cohen** (Chapin School, NY), **Susan Glass**, **Giocille Shaw**, and **Esther Liu Harris** (Kodály Summer Institute), **Panni Kovács** (Village School of Children), **Joan Litman** (Kodály Institute, Columbus, OH), **Walter Paul** (New York City PS).

The panel on politics in the 20th and 21st centuries ranged from the economic sabotage trials of 1945-1956 (**Edith Nagy**, U. of Florida) to shifts in power from 1989-2006 (**Andrew Felkay**, Kutztown U., Pennsylvania) to an analysis of the 2002-2006 elections by **Barnabás Rácz** (Eastern Michigan U.) In the session on “Minorities and Politics,” **José Pascal da Rocha** (U. of Halle-Wittenberg, Germany) gave an academic assessment of the situation of minorities in Hungary today, where according to statistics 13 minority groups make up about 3% of the population. An 8-10% rate is more realistic, but in any case the most significant minority population are the Roma and discrimination does exist on various levels in spite of efforts to remedy this. In the absence of Peter Huncik of the Forum Institute in Slovakia, **István Aranyosi** of the County Council in Brasso (Transylvania) Romania suggested that “interculturality” rather than “multiculturalism” should be the goal. In a talk based on what he had presented at an EU conference in Brussels, Aranyosi pointed out that the former tends to foster parallel lives among groups belonging to different religious, cultural, or ethnic groups while the latter interact with the groups which share their geographical locale and this leads to an exchange of values as well. While in the former negative values are enhanced since separation is encouraged, the latter assumes “active tolerance.” Finally, while the former tolerates minorities passively, it does not integrate the minorities and does not take

advantage of diversity while the latter considers the various groups equal and does not discriminate. His comments drew on the historic experience of Transylvania which for centuries was a model for intercultural contacts. The ideal can only be achieved through education, and it does come with historical baggage. It is important, therefore, that the history and culture of the minorities is acknowledged in schools. Aranyosi’s message was that people must learn to live together; the area of cohabitation is not circumscribed. In contrast to globalization, interculturality supports the preservation of roots while valuing the culture of others.

“Discourses of the Holocaust” featured papers by **Ruth G. Biro** (Duquesne U.), **Julia Bock** (Long Island U.) and **Kathy DeRose** (Duquesne U.) on Polish Jews who were refugees in Hungary, on Jewish health professionals, and the question of identity. National identity also formed the basis of the papers on commemorating national events: 1848 (**András Geró**, CEU); Trianon (**Brigit Farley** (Washington State U.) and **Mária Farkas** (U. of Strasbourg); and of course 1956 (**John Cash**, U. of Indiana, Bloomington) and **Károly Nagy** (Middlesex Community College, N.J.). Film, Culture and Literature were addressed in three panels, with **Catherine Portuges** (U. of Massachusetts) talking about Hungarian Jews on the screen—and introducing and showing the film, “Miss Universe—a Queen in Wien” later at the reception at the Hungarian Consulate. **Louise Vasvari** (SUNY Stony Brook) gave a lively account of the ballad tradition of the theme of sexual infidelity in Hungarian and other European literatures. **Eeva Haverinen** (U. of Jyväskylä, Finland) presented an interesting comparison of Sándor Márai and Sylvia Plath tracing similarities in their lives (emigration, diary writing, suicide) and focusing on the cultic

quality of Plath which has not yet emerged with Márai. A shared community of interests is hindered by Márai being accessible only in a limited way in English, though in terms of cultic discourse and special use of language he is poised to assume this role. As pointed out in the discussion, Márai is well known in Europe outside of the anglophone countries. **Paul Sohar** presented poems from György Faludi as an environmentalist, reading widely from his poetry in Sohar's own translation. Faludi saw the impending doom of humanity as early as 1958, having rejected the Socialist utopia. A personal response to bilingualism was presented by **Susanna Lippoczy Rich** (Kean U.) and **Amadeo Di Francesco** (U. of Naples) gave a close analysis of Jenő Dsida's "Előre való beszéd" pointing out his study of Eastern cultures as well as Biblical parallels. Dsida, who shows an awareness of minority problems, is insufficiently appreciated even in Hungary, the paper pointed out.

Several papers and panels directly addressed the image of Hungary. **Alice Freifeld** (U. of Florida) spoke about Queen and Empress Elisabeth who in Hungary was valued for her role in the Compromise of 1867 and her commitment to the nation, for example teaching her children Hungarian. She was recognized as a well-read informed person. Abroad, she was made a mythical figure somewhat in the vein of Princess Diana. **Ilana Abramovitch** and **August Molnar** spoke of the Hungarian heritage in the U.S., with the former focusing on immigrant pageantry in New York in 1921 while the latter gave a

detailed account of the history and work of the American Hungarian Foundation which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. Its Museum and Library are invaluable institutions to chronicle and preserve Hungarian heritage. Hungary's entry into the PGA Europe was hailed by **Emese Ivan** (Ball State U.) while **Kissné Éva Novak** (U. of Szeged) spoke on the philosopher Károly Böhm. **Andrew Fodor** gave a talk on the poetry of the noted physicist Andrew Teller—certainly a different perspective on a well-known Hungarian-American.

Tünde Szécsi (Florida Gulf Coast U.), **Judith H. Ward** (Rutgers U.) and **Sylvia D. Clark** (St. John's U.) and **Klára Papp** (Case Western U.) examined various ways in which education in Hungarian language and culture happens. The first paper was the most theoretical on teacher education examining the relevance of life experience and ethnocentricity. Ward and Clark showed the interaction of heritage learning and classroom instruction. Papp reported on a program to give Hungarians living in the neighboring countries an experience of Hungarian culture through a structured stay in the mother country. This project builds a sense of community through interaction with Hungarian peers and seems to be popular with the students. Somewhat echoing the comments of István Aranyosi, Klára Papp pointed out that interactive programs show more success than the exclusionary approach of the EU.



Business Meeting-Minutes

President Susan Glanz called the meeting to order on Saturday, April 21 at St. John's University. The Minutes of the 2006 meeting having been published in the newsletter, the reading of the minutes was dispensed with. Copies were available for perusal. There were no corrections or additions. The Treasurer's report was given by Enikő M. Basa in the absence of Anita Komlodi; it is as follows:

The balance of the AHEA Checking account on January 2006 was \$2,951.01; income was \$9,012.00 giving us a total of \$11,963.01 in funds. Against this, expenses totaled \$11,170.80 for a total balance on December 31, 2006 of \$792.21. The expenses fell into the following categories: Scholarship and Savings \$6,100.00; Conference \$3,179.57; Printing and postage \$1,455.20; Service charge \$10.00, and Picnic \$1455.00. (The last amount was transferred to a separate account and represents income from earlier picnics; the account is now separate and will not be reported on the AHEA financial statement.) The Savings account opened with a balance of \$119.32, deposits and interest totaled \$3,826.90 and Service charges \$9.00. A total of \$938.00 was transferred to the scholarship fund giving us a total of \$2,879.90 in Savings as of Dec. 31, 2006. The CD for the Transylvanian Scholarship opened with \$12,246.69 with interest of \$502.32 being added for a total of \$12,749.01. NOTE: the CD matured in February of 2007 and was rolled over at \$16,005.08 reflecting additional funds from donations and savings.

The Election results were announced; officers for 2007-2009 are:

President: Judith Nemethy, New York University

Vice-President: Louise Vasvari, SUNY and New York University

Secretary: Enikő M. Basa, Library of Congress (second term)

Treasurer: Anita Komlodi, University of Maryland Baltimore County (second term)

Advisory Board: Peter Pastor (Montclair University); Judith Olsen (AHFC); Katalin Vörös (Berkeley)

The **Executive Board** of the Association is made up of the Advisory Board, the Officers, the immediate Past President, and the Executive Director.

Enikő M. Basa, the Executive Director, reported that we have gone to electronic communications in many respects. While the American Hungarian Educator will continue to be published in print, email is being used to communicate timely information. All members are urged to let her know their emails, and to keep these up to date. Those who do not have email will continue to receive important communications via snail mail, but will not necessarily receive items forwarded from other organizations, including information on scholarships with tight deadlines.

Various questions continue to come in from individuals, organizations and governmental as well as diplomatic sources. The Executive Director tries to answer these, or refer them to members who might be knowledgeable.

The Association supports a semi-annual **picnic** for Washington DC area students and young professionals from Hungary or of Hungarian background. It is a self-sustaining event and AHEA merely provides a bank account for them. The event supports the Hungarian community and we draw some members from these meetings.

The **Homecoming Forum** sponsored by the Hungarian Embassy is not an AHEA event, but as one of the founders the Executive Director has continued to remain active. Its focus has shifted

from a response to the “brain drain” to addressing problems of students and young professionals in the US who wish to retain their ties to Hungary, whether they ultimately resettle or not. Again, we do draw some members from here. An example for our members at universities is the Calasanctius Training Program that was established by Peter Forgács in Buffalo: he recruited area universities to offer scholarships to Hungarian students who, on their return, established an alumnae association which supports the goals of the program in Hungary, recruits and selects students for the scholarship, raises funds, and shares the expertise of its graduates through training programs for high scholars in Hungary and among the Hungarian minorities in Romania and Slovakia. When in the US, students are active in the life of their colleges and give presentations on Hungary and Hungarians.

The AHEA will launch **E-journal of the AHEA** which will publish scholarly articles originally drawn from the papers presented at conferences edited for publication. The mechanism is in place and the first issue should appear in the spring. We have applied for and received an ISSN and have a domain name.

The site for the **2008 Conference** had been selected at the Indiana meeting, but some details were discussed. The conference will be held at **Duquesne University** in Pittsburgh, PA and hosted by Ruth Biro and Kathy De Rose, with help from Wayne Brinda. We do not have a date yet [the date is set for May 8-10, 2008]. Call for papers will go out in the fall. The theme is: “Hungarian Identity in an Intercultural World.” Cultural and social events are being planned with the help of Agnes and Steven Vardy.

The **2009 Conference** has been invited to Berkeley, California by Katarine Vörös. Since flight costs are no more to the West Coast than East Coast cities when special plans are taken advantage of, this would be a good opportunity to involve more West Coast members as well as reach out to more potential members. And, the San Francisco area should provide much of interest to all. For 2010 we hope to return to Hungary, or possibly to Transylvania—we have an invitation to Szováta where the Hungarian Teachers Association of Romania has a conference center.



Educational Opportunities

Programs and Courses:

Check out the Institute of International Education for: **Funding for U.S. Study; Intensive English Programs in the U.S.; Financial Resources for International Study; Atlas of Student Mobility; Directory of International Educators; Academic Year and Short-Term Study Abroad.** They also have a bookstore with titles related to international education. Web site: www.iiebooks.org.

The Magyar Helikon Társaság is offering an accredited Hungarian Language test in Toronto. This is being administered by the Idegennyelvi Továbbképző Központ, which is affiliated with the Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem. Certificates at various levels are offered. For information: www.HeliconSociety.com; email: Education@HeliconSociety.com. Telephone: 416 520-1956.

The Debrecen Summer School’s expanded offerings can be seen at: www.summerschool.hu. **The oldest of the Hungarian language programs, it has been offering courses in Hungarian language and culture since 1927. Intensive winter courses enable persons with limited time to take advantage of the offerings. The textbooks developed here have become useful in language**

courses taught around the word. Check it out

The AHEA has a redesigned web page! Check it out at <http://hungaria.org/hal/ahea/>. Please note the various features. Soon we hope to have a Members Only feature which will allow members to access membership lists, minutes, and other restricted information.



Books, etc.

Some news of publications which have been sent in to us. These are not necessarily scholarly publications but might be of interest nevertheless.

Publications on the Hungarian Revolution of 1956:

Nagy, Károly, with Béla K. Király and Lee Congdon, eds. 1956: The Hungarian Revolution and War for Independence. Budapest: Atlantic Research and Hungarian Academy of Science, 2006. 956 pages. A scholarly tome on a defining moment of Hungarian 20th century history.

-----, ed. Significant Documents in the Hungarian Revolution of 1956. Budapest: Atlantic Research, 2006.

Documents on a most controversial era of Hungarian history collected and given in English.

-----, "Éjjel-nappal minden hullámhosszon. Történelemhamisítás 1956-ról magyarországi tankönyvekben évtizedeken át" (Fraudulent Historiography of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution for Thirty-Three Years in Hungarian Textbooks) Hitel, 2006 October. (The author delivered a paper on this subject at the 2006 AHEA conference).

-----, "Tisztázzunk fogalmakat!" (Let Us Clarify Some Concepts), Kiss Anna beszélgetése Nagy Károssal. Hitel, 2006 December. An interview.

Creative works:

Bányai deMers, Ella. A Prince of Transylvania. (Curious City?: Paprikas Press, 2007. A self-published children's book about the aftermath of the Treaty of Trianon played out in the U.S. Emotional and tendencious, but a good read.

Fazekas, Anna. The Old Lady and the Fawn. Transl. by Paul M. Simon; illus. By Róna Emy. English translation of some Hungarian picture books and folk tales. This is a bilingual edition with the English and Hungarian texts on facing pages. Charming. Order at simpa.books@gmail.com or 302 764 2043. Paperback: 417.00; hardback: \$22.00.

Grünfeld, Benny and Magnus Herekson. A Teenager in Hitler's Death Camps. Dallas, TX: Ben Bella Books, 2007. \$16.00 (paper) An account of the author's experiences during the holocaust. Self published

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. 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:** _____

email: _____

Institutional affiliation: _____

Other address (optional) _____

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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.

American Hungarian Educator

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