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Please visit the AHEA Web page at: <http://ahea.net> 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

37th Annual Conference: Hungarian Borders, [Im]migrations, Diasporas

The 2012 Conference was held at Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus with the support of various departments of the University and the Hungarian Cultural Center, the American Hungarian Folklore Centrum and the American Hungarian Museum. A reception at the Consulate added to the evening festivities. Following established practice, the Conference opened Thursday evening with a film, "The Maiden Danced to Death" by Endre Hules, followed by a discussion and wine and cheese reception.

The formal sessions were opened by **Judith Némethy** and greetings by Cecelia Traugh, Dean of the School of Education. Greetings from Pál Hatos, Director of the Balassi Institute in Budapest conveyed the Institute's recognition of the AHEA's role in fostering Hungarian culture abroad.

Catherine Portuges' s keynote talk, "Hollywood on the Danube," gave a lively overview of Hungarians in the film industry. Michael Curtiz, William Fox, George Cukor, Alexander Corda and Peter Lorre were among the notables who influenced the development of the film industry, although the list could be extended substantially.

The theme of borders was addressed in the next two sessions: "Inside and Outside Hungarian Borders" and "Libraries without

Borders." The first session examined several problems stemming from the dismemberment of Hungary following World War I. **Leslie Waters** spoke on the problems which accompanied the re-annexation of parts of the Felvidék in 1938. Even though there was widespread support for reuniting the area to Hungary, difficulties persisted. **Elizabeth Molnár Rajec** looked at the deportations of Hungarians from the newly created Czechoslovak state. **Agnes Fülemile** presented the results of research on the plight of Hungarians living in diaspora situations in Romania in "Roads towards Extinction." **Kumiko Haba's** "Hungarian Borders and Hungarian Minorities after the Collapse of the Cold War and Joining the European Union" examined the stance of various Hungarian governments toward Hungarian minorities beyond their borders and posed the question of whether co-existence and collaboration is possible.

Different kinds of borders were addressed in the next session: the opening up of library resources as a result of the digital revolution. Not only are catalogs now widely accessible, but many collections have become available in digitized form. **Julia Bock** sketched ways in which large repositories (OCLC, EBSCO, Gale, ACM Digital Library) as

well as access to national libraries (OszK) have changed research possibilities. **James Niessen** gave a report on the digitization of materials on Hungarian refugees in 1956 in the collections of Rutgers University. Legal and technical questions remain, but materials are available through various portals. The wealth of Hungarica at the Library of Congress is also being made available as demonstrated by **Kenneth Nyirady** in a richly illustrated presentation. In addition to print materials, there are finds in films, sheet music, postcards, diplomatic interviews, and archival materials in the Manuscript Division. Finding aids are available for most of these collections even if the material itself is not yet in digital form. A good example of the opening up of walls was given by **Christina Peters** on building a digital archive that includes not only materials from different institutions but also an extensive photo archive from the Frick Museum in New York.

The transmission of Hungarian heritage and the preservation of the language was addressed by **Orsolya Maróti, Janka Szilágyi and Tünde Szécsi**, and **Eszter Tarsoly** in three interesting papers. **Will Saunders** reported on Project Harvest Hope which seeks to promote the framework of a civil society for sustainable community life in Transylvania. In the session, “Hungarian Language Maintenance in Transylvania” **Krisztina-Mária Sárosi-Márdirosz** of Sapientia University, **Borbála Zsemlyei** of Babes Bolyai University, **Noémi Gál** of the U. of Marosvásárhely gave first hand reports on this vital problem. A presentation on the Csángos by **Angela Kun-Gazda** completed the section. “Teaching and Learning Hungarian as a Foreign Language” presented another aspect of language studies. **Peter Sherwood** spoke about forty years of experience teaching Hungarian and **Erika Sólyom** emphasized that cultural competence, “knowing how to act” is as important a part of language transmission as vocabulary and grammar.

Historical and political topics were presented in the sessions, “1956 Aftermath,” and “20th Century and the Cold War.” **Gusztáv Kecskés** pointed out that many factors contributed to the unprecedented reception of the some 200,000 Hungarian refugees in the West. **Christopher Medalis** examined aid to 56-er Hungarian students in the U.S., while a presentation by **Sylvia Csűrös Clark, Judith Hajnal Ward** and **Molly Stewart** sought to ascertain the later careers of the students in Rutgers University’s Language Immersion program for the 1956 refugees. **Alice Freifeld** broadened the picture in her paper on crowd politics from Kossuth to Orban. Reflecting the widely diverse fate of Hungary and Hungarians in the 20th century **Virág Rab** argued that the many political transitions in Hungary during the 20th century prevented necessary economic and social changes. Unfortunately even more than 20 years after the fall of communism, such necessary changes have not been realized. **Kinga Széchenyi** talked about the internal deportations of the Rákosi era that were designed to destroy those considered to be class enemies. The refugees who settled in Argentina created a community in the new world, as presented by **Judith Kesserű Némethy**. The “unknown side” of the politician and statesman, Tibor Eckhardt was discussed by **Katalin Kádár Lynn**.

Cultural issues were discussed in sections devoted to “Hungarian Culture Today and Cultural Diplomacy” and “Hungarian Artists Abroad.” The first set of papers examined cultural festivals as expressions of national ideals by **Dorottya Igricz**, the role of sports [a particularly timely topic in view of the Olympics] in forming values by **Emese Iván**, and an examination of the image of Hungary as presented through tourism by **Krisztina Oláh**. The last was particularly interesting for the assessment of the factors which form images and public opinion. **Kálmán Magyar** argued that “Hungarian Cultural Diplomacy” should be informed by both popular and native culture

and that governments should espouse the high road and native traditions rather than imports from abroad which may have validity but are not expressions of native culture. The work of émigré artists like Eva Zeisel were examined by **Joyce Berczik Corbett**. The Hungarian artists who left Hungary in 1956 and who made names for themselves in the United States was the topic of papers by **Lilla Szabó** and **Susanne Szabolcsi-Borsos** in the second session.

The session on “Hungarian Literary Exiles” opened up a line of inquiry into the works of Anna Lesznai and Emma Ritoók as presented by **Judith Szapor**. The friendship of Anna Lesznai and Edit Gyömrői in exile was the topic of **Anna Borgos’** paper. Internal exile was the focus of **Ivan Sanders’s** talk on Péter Nádas’s Parallel Stories.

János Mazsu was the lead speaker on “Topics in Hungarian Studies” with his examination of Jewish settlements in the 18th and 19th centuries. **András Prekopa** talked about the mathematician János Bolyai. **Andrew Fodor** and **Mario Fenyő** spoke respectively of explorations by László Tisza and Hungarian explorers in Africa.

Cultural Studies can be approached from different angles. One is gender, and a session of the conference did just this. **Kathleen Kish** examined the woodcuts of Domjan for feminine heroes and villains drawn from folklore. **Martha Pereszlényi Pinter** asked whether Erzsébet Báthory might have been railroaded in a political trial with little evidence of actual wrongdoing. Modern times were addressed in **Ruth Biró’s** examination of Hungarian women who made lives for themselves following the Holocaust, while **Martha Fuchs** gave an eloquent testimonial to “... Her Father’s Christian Rescuer.”

The session on “Educational Initiative in Hungary” was testimony of the various programs which expand opportunities for Hungarian students. **Jackie Green** and **Elia**

Vasquez-Montilla spoke about cross-cultural teaching experiences in Hungary. **Tamás Gémes** reported on the Calasanctius Youth Business Program which educates Hungarian youth in the Carpathian Basin in business practices and encourages entrepreneurship. Also addressing the needs of Hungarians from neighboring countries is Students Without Borders, a two-week program that provides first-hand experience of Hungary to teens and fosters friendships. This “softens Hungary’s borders” in the assessment of **Susan Papp-Aykler** and **Klara K. Papp**. “Value Systems and Role Models Among Hungarian High School Students” by **Maté Révay** also focused on the formation of Hungarian youth.

In the section, “Hungary in the 19th to the 20th Centuries, **Stephen Beszedits** traced the lives of Kossuth’s sisters and their families in the United States. U.S. surveillance of citizens from Hungary in 1902-1903 was the topic of **Kristina Poznan’s** paper. **László Kürti** discussed the notions of death and burial in the American-Hungarian diaspora, based on his research in the 1970s. **Barnabás Rác** examined the 2012 Electoral Laws and the impact of Dual Citizenship in this context.

“The Hungarian Soul,” the only Hungarian-language section at the conference, was an eclectic examination of several topics. **Mária Kovács** and **Judit Kecskés** spoke about classes for immigrants in Hungary. The other side of the coin was addressed by **Éva Nagy** who spoke of the need for children in Romania to both hear and see Hungarian texts in order to truly acquire the language. **Judith Havas** played on the connections of St. George, the dragon, and Zoltán Jékelyi in her talk entitled “Az utolsó szó keresése.”

“Sanghaj magyar építésze,” a documentary film by **Réka Pigniczky** on László Hudec, (Hugyec (1893-1958)) presented the career of the architect who was responsible for much of modern Shanghai, at least until the current boom. This plenary

program concluded the sessions on Friday. In the evening conferees were guests of the Hungarian Consulate where **Frank Schubert** gave an illustrated presentation on border changes and connections in the Carpathian region from the Habsburg Empire to current times. This was followed by a musical interlude by the **David Nagy** of talented young musicians who regaled the audience with selections from Nagy's own compositions and from classical works. The evening concluded with a buffet supper served by the Consulate. Saturday evening the conference was brought to a festive close with a banquet at the Hungarian House. A

recitation by **Judith Havas** paired with musical pieces by the **Életfa Hungarian Folk Ensemble** provided the entertainment. A highlight of the dinner was the presentation of the Peter Basa Award to **Ruth Biro** for her dedicated work on behalf of the AHEA. She had served in various capacities as an officer, organizer of conferences, and always a strong supporter of the Association. As a founding member, she has been a guiding presence from the Association's inception. The program and abstracts of the presentations are available at: <http://ahea.net/conferences>. Click on 2012-- and check out information for 2013 also. Photos can be seen at ahea.net/photo-album



Business Meeting Minutes

I am pleased to report that we had a very successful conference, with over 100 people attending. A lively discussion ensued about Hungarian borders, immigration, and diasporas, some of which will appear as full-length papers in the 2012 issue of the [AHEA E-Journal](#).

Dr. Ruth Biro was the recipient of The **Péter Basa Award** of the American Hungarian Educators Association, for her early, sustained, and long lasting commitment to the goals of the Association.

Results of the election for the 2012-2014 term:

President: Julia Bock, Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, NY
Vice-President: Judith Olson, American Hungarian Folklore Center, NJ
Secretary: Katalin Vörös, University of California at Berkeley
Treasurer: Enikő M. Basa, Library of Congress

Advisory Board:

Endre Szentkirályi, Nardonia Hills City Schools, OH
Ágnes Várdy, Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, PA
Judy Young, Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation, Toronto

We will hold our next conference at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Call for papers for 2013 will appear this Fall, posted on our website and by email.

Lots of kudos and thanks for this year's conference organizers!
Hope to see many of you at Rutgers next Year!

Sincerely

Katalin
K. Voros
AHEA Secretary

Treasurer's Report

AHEA Checking Account		
Beginning Balance		\$2,772.44
Income (Dues and Conference fees)		<u>+7805.00</u>
Total		\$10,032.44
Expenses		<u>-6,427.16</u>
Ending Balance	\$3,605.28	

Expenses breakdown

A. Kovacs for Server	<u>\$300.00</u>
Web maintenance and Development	<u>280.00</u>
Conference (Banquet)	<u>2,000.00</u>
J. Gabos	<u>200.00</u>
Newsletter printing	<u>29.68</u>
USPS Newsletter mailing	<u>12.48</u>
To Scholarship Fund	<u>2,500.00</u>
Scholarship payout	<u>1,000.00</u>
Bank transfer fees	<u>22.00</u>
Bank fees (returned checks, foreign fees, etc.)	<u>83.00</u>
Total	\$6,427.16

Scholarship Funds/Savings		
Beginning Balance		\$26,293.63
Interest and deposits		<u>+2,857.47*</u>
Ending Balance		\$29,151.00

*Amount from general funds (\$2,500.00) and interest (357.47)

We still sent \$1,000.00 to the Sapientia University in Marosvásárhely for scholarships. Interest rates are so low that they no longer cover the cost, but by transferring funds as possible from conference income and the absorptions of many expenses by the officers, we are able to keep funding scholarships.

We received a letter of thanks from Dr. Gyula Székely, Dean of the Faculty of Technical and Human Sciences, in Marosvásárhely. Six students benefitted from the grant, three from the Technical and Humanities Department and three from the Translator and Interpreter Department.



News

Arthur Bartfay received the Árpád Szövetség Medal from the Hungarian Association at their meeting in Cleveland on November 26, 2011. The medal is awarded to those who serve their Hungarian community and are actively engaged in keeping Hungarian achievements in the forefront. The Association was impressed by Arthur's lectures on Hungarian Americans, and on Kossuth. Regulars at the AHEA conferences remember his many presentations on Hungarian matters over the years.

A Hungarian Agency, the **Nemzeti Regiszter és a Diaszpóra Tanács** contacted us about cooperating with their goal of creating contacts and fostering cooperation among Hungarians scattered throughout the world. They have set up a home page which allows all interested persons learn of events in Hungary: www.onkormanyzati.tv. As the URL indicates, this is basically a local governmental portal. It would allow anyone with an interest in a particular community to follow the problems and life of that community. Because they obviously want to reach out to Hungarians in the West, they will be making the webpage available in English as well. The site is free. For more information contact: Csonka László: csonka.laszlo@globomax.hu or check out www.globomax.hu or www.onkormanyzati.tv.

News from Hungary and around the world are available from the Magyar Távirati Iroda (Hungarian News Service): <http://www.mtva.hu/hu/hirleveleink/595>. If interested you can receive an email with the newsletter as it is published by writing to info.archiv@mtva.hu.

The Somogyi Library in Szeged is a repository of Hungarian-American materials. For information, see: http://sk-szeged.hu/statikus_html/vasvary/newsletter/12jun/tartalom.html.

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences has a home page for Hungarian Scholars abroad: http://mta.hu/magyar_tudomanyossag_kulfoldon/kulfoldi-magyar-hagyatekok-gyujtemenyek-lepes-kenyszer-kozos-felelosseg-130256/



Educational Opportunities

The **Kluge Center** at the **Library of Congress** offers several fellowships for research in Washington, D.C. Distinguished Chairs are by appointment only, but quite a few Fellowships in various disciplines are available by application. Research opportunities are unparalleled. Kluge Fellows, younger scholars within seven years of completion of their terminal degrees, are also encouraged to apply. They have the same support from LC staff and access to the resources of the Library of Congress and other institutions in Washington, DC. See <http://www.loc.gov/loc/kluge/fellowships/> for more details.

The **International Society for Language Studies, Inc.** will send calls for papers, publications, and conference announcements, and an occasional gratis copy of their newsletter if you opt in at: www.isls.co/list. The Association offers the following perks: A biennial refereed international conference; an electronic newsletter with calls for papers, conference announcements, jobs and language news from around the globe; an international book series distributed globally; a professional network of scholars dedicated to research, policy and action focused on language studies



Books, etc.

Vasvári, Louise, Steven Totosty & Carlo Salzani. "Bibliography for Work in Hungarian Studies as Comparative Central European Studies." *CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture (Library)* 2001 <http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweblibrary/hungarianstudiesbibliography>

Kulturális változások sodrában. Magyarország 1711 és 1848 között (Balassi Kiado, 2011). The book is available at **10 Thousand Steps Hungarian Bookstore** 545 East 12 (between A and B Avenues) in New York. Phone: Timea Zsédely (646) 484-5525.



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. Check your membership entry for the date we last received dues from you. I generally send out a request for dues in January but responses are slight. Please remember that the Association can only function with your support, and this includes the dues you pay. We need to cover the web page, publishing the E-Journal, sending out information, providing scholarships, etc. and a very limited number of the printed version of the *American Hungarian Educator* for exchanges and archives.

Please fill in as appropriate. Remember, if you are already a member, you can change your profile on our home page.

Name:

Address: (give preferred mailing address here)

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

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 for the appropriate amount, and send with the above form or a copy from the AHEA home page to: Enikő M. Basa, 4515 Willard Ave. #2210, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

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, calls for papers, and other news.