

American Hungarian Educator

NEWSLETTER
of the
American
Hungarian
Educators
Association

XXXVII, nos. 1-2

Fall/Winter 2014

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

We met at the University of Florida, Gainesville for a delightful weekend of presentations and programs May 8-10. Campus accommodations meant that all attendees were within walking distance of the venues.

The Thursday evening film, "Kolorado Kid," gave an unusual interpretation of the events of 1956: it emphasized that this was an uprising initially fueled by the "Pesti sracok," that is the kids of Pest. It was an interesting but controversial take that explored some important issues.

Dr. Eva Balogh gave the keynote talk on Friday morning entitled "Hungarian Spectrum: Reflections on Politics, Economics and Culture." Basing her comments on her blog on Hungarian contemporary events, she reviewed the record of the Orbán government and the current political situation. Overall, her assessment was negative, though some of her comments were on target, namely on the negative image of Hungary in the US.

A delightful piano recital was given by Helga Scheibert on Friday evening in the

Auditorium of the Music Rooms. A gracious setting, it provided an appropriate venue not only for Ms. Scheibert's virtuoso performance of selections from Bartok, Kodály, Dohnányi and Liszt, but was also a perfect backdrop for the reception hosted by Dr. István Gergácz, Honorary Consul of Hungary for West and North Florida.

The conference wrapped up as usual with a banquet where the Hon. László Pordány, Hungary's Ambassador to Canada, spoke on the "Road to Democracy, Hungary 1987-90: The Role of Intellectuals." In a lively and informative account he gave a time line of events that led to the downfall of Communism not only in Hungary but in the Eastern Bloc as a whole. He also emphasized the role of the intellectuals from the Lakitelek meetings, which at the time was an extremely risky proposition, to the final triumph of the Revolution in the three sided talks and the fall of the Communist government.

The presentation of the AHEA Péter Basa Award to Kálmán Magyar followed. The citation recognized Kálmán's service not only to the AHEA but to the Hungarian

Folklore Centrum, and the American Hungarian Museum, New Jersey, and Hungarian culture on many fronts.

A folk dance performance by Otilia Varga and Robert Velkey of Sarasota was followed by a Táncház which lasted into late night hours on the patio.

Conferees could also take advantage of Europe Day at the University, “New Perspectives on the Meaning of Europe—

20 Years After,” on Saturday, and a Photo and Video Exhibition of Europeans who live in the Gainesville area.

As a departure from earlier practice, summaries of the presentations will not be given in the Newsletter as the abstracts of the presentations are available on the AHEA home page, <http://ahea.net/conferences/2014/papers/submitted-papers>.

Business Meeting

Minutes

The American Hungarian Educators Association’s 39th Annual Conference was held at the University of Florida in Gainesville. The program was multi-disciplinary and ranged in topics from the arts, history, cultural studies, and the social sciences. The meeting, as judged by any criterion, was a great success. We express our thanks and gratitude and acknowledge the members of the local organizing committee under the leadership of Prof. Alice Freifeld. Kálmán Magyar arranged for the social programs.

SAVE THE DATE: AHEA’s 40th annual conference will be held in Kolozsvár (Cluj Napoca) July 9 - 11, 2015. More information will be forthcoming on the AHEA website.

Elections

We are pleased to announce the newly-elected officers for the 2014-2016 term:

Officers:

President: **James P. Niessen**, World History Librarian at the Alexander Library - Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ.

Vice President: **Judith E. Olson**, historical musicologist working in the area of traditional Hungarian music and dance in Romania, Hungary, and among Hungarians in the United States and Canada.

Secretary: **Klára Papp**, professor and Associate Dean of Assessment and Evaluation at Penn State College of Medicine.

Treasurer: **Emese Iván**, Assistant Professor of Sport Management at St John’s University.

Advisory Committee:

Kenneth Nyirády, Reference Specialist for Hungary, Library of Congress.

Endre Szentkirályi, Nordonia Hills City Schools, OH.

Judy Young, Modern Languages, Canada-Hungary Educational Foundation, Ottawa and Hungarian Studies Association of Canada

E-Journal

Dr. Louise Vasvári, Editor-in-Chief of the AHEA online journal, *Hungarian Cultural Studies*, described the latest developments in expanding our reach and disseminating content more widely through well-known and established databases, such as the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography, EBSCO, JStor, ProQuest, and the Thompson Reuters Journal Citation Report. For this activity we joined the University of Pittsburgh's University Library System (ULS) which has been involved for more than a decade in hosting and mounting open access content. Volume 7 (2014) will appear at the end of this year, in the new form, at ahea.pitt.edu. Members will receive information on accessing the journal here. Earlier issues are in the process of being converted and uploaded to the same site in the same format. All of these updates have been made possible by a generous grant from the Hungarian Initiative Foundation.

The Péter Basa Award of the American Hungarian Educators Association was presented by the Executive Board of the AHEA to Kálmán Magyar in 2014 in recognition of his longstanding, constant, and dedicated commitment to the goals of the Association.

Klara Papp, Secretary

Treasurer's Report for 2013

AHEA Checking Account	
Beginning Balance	\$ 797.26
Income	
Dues and some conference income	3042.14
Conference income	7060.22
Balance	<u>\$10,899.62</u>
Itemized expenses	
Web maintenance and developmnet	\$ 508.00
Web hosting	300.00
CELJ membership for E-Journal	45.00
To Scholarship Fund	5,000.00
To Sapientia University for Scholarships	1,000.00
Bank fees	52.00
Total	<u>\$7,405.10</u>
Income from above	\$10,899.62
Less expenses	<u>-7,405.10</u>
Ending balance	\$3,494.52
AHEA Scholarship Fund	
Beginning balance	\$33,279.90
Interest	108.38
Deposit from Conference	<u>5,000.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$38,382.28

Enikő M. Basa, Treasurer, 2012-2014



News

The Nemzeti Register noted our Gainesville conference and gave a fairly comprehensive review of the founding of the Association and a good summary of the Gainesville conference, submitted by István Hegedűs, who also assisted at the conference with logistics, refreshments, etc.

The journal of the Hungarian Librarians' Association, Könyv, Könyvtár, Könyvtáros, reported on the New Brunswick (2013) conference in the January 2014 (V. 23, No. 1) issue. Deák Nóra reviewed the first forty years of the AHEA in an insightful and comprehensive article. Besides listing current officers and Board members, she also listed past presidents and conferences, publications, activities and most importantly, the honor conferred on the AHEA by the American Hungarian Foundation through the Abraham Lincoln Award conferred at the 2013 meeting.

The Amerikai Magyar Iskolák Találkozója was held on July 14, 2014 at the Hungarian Consulate in New York. Organized by Dr. Judit Kerekes, Katalin Petreczky and Attila Lukács, the day-long event featured presentations on both theoretical and practical aspects of Hungarian instruction. Parallel sections made it possible for an imposing 28 panels. For more information on this or future events, contact Dr. Judith Kerekes at kerekes@mail.csi.cuny.edu



Educational Opportunities

Fulbright at Cleveland State University

Cleveland State has signed a cooperative agreement for a Fulbright Visiting Professorship in Hungarian Language and Culture. This revitalizes its long-time commitment to Hungarian Studies: The university first offered courses in Hungarian language and literature in the 1980's, and also published Susan Papp's exhaustive history in 1981, Hungarian Americans and their Communities of Cleveland. To honor this support of Hungarian culture, the university was awarded the Abraham Lincoln Award by the American Hungarian Foundation in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

It is appropriate to reestablish Hungarian Studies in Cleveland, because the Cleveland area is home to one of the largest Hungarian communities outside of Hungary. Indeed, Cuyahoga County, in which Cleveland resides, boasts around 44,000 people of Hungarian ancestry. Moreover, according to the latest census figures, around 3,500 of them speak Hungarian in their households. When adjoining counties are added, about 105,000 people of Hungarian ancestry and about 6,000 who speak the language in their households. Cleveland's Hungarians have a rich local history and a vibrant current community, with many churches and social organizations, each with strong pride in their cultural heritage.

For more information see

http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2013/12/cleveland_state_university_to_3.html

Or contact:

Károly Jókay, Executive Director, Hungarian-American Fulbright Commission, Budapest
jokay@fulbright.hu

Endre Szentkirályi, Vice President, Cleveland United Hungarian Societies,
emevicepresident@gmail.com



Books, etc.

Szegedy-Maszak, Marianne. **I Kiss Your Hands Many Times; Hearts, Souls, and Wars in Hungary.** An insightful account of events in Hungary from 1940 to 1947 through the lives of Aladar Szegedy-Maszak and Hanna Kornfeld, with judicious inclusion of political and international events that influenced events in those years. New York: Spiegel and Grau, an imprint of Random House, 2013.

Watson, Sandy. **One Perfect Day.** The story of a refugee in 1956 from her childhood to settlement in Australia. Publication information not available.

The **University of Debrecen** has released the second volume of its popular Hungarolingua text books. For information and to order: debrecen@nyariegyetem.hu.

Kányádi, Sándor. **In Contemporary Tense.** Trans. by Paul Sohar. A masterful translation of the famed Transylvanian poet by our own member. Kányádi's commentary on the 20th century world is both insightful and sensitive. The translation does justice to this major modern poet. Arad, Romania: Irodalmi Jelenek Könyvek, 2013.

Ozsváth, Zsuzsanna and Frederick Turner, eds. and trans. **Light within the Shade: Eight Hundred Years of Hungarian Poetry.** One of the best translations of Hungarian poetry available in English, the selections range from anonymous folk songs from Balassi and the Renaissance through Enlightenment to contemporary times. Two fascinating and insightful essays, one on the power of poetry in Hungarian literary tradition, the other on the "thou" of Hungarian poetry add useful background. New York: Syracuse University Press, 2014.

Kiš, Danilo. **Night and Fog: The Collected Dramas and Screenplays of Danilo Kiš.** Trans. with an introd. by John K. Cox. From among the works of the Yugoslavian writer and critic of Hungarian origin, this publication collects his dramatic writings from the 1960's and 1970's. Helena History Press, <http://helenahistorypress.com>.

The Memory Book, One Woman's Self-Discovery in the Mist of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy tells the story of a contemporary writer finding a century old memory book in a dusty Hungarian antique shop. Purportedly written by a young girl at the beginning of WWI, who found herself in a decade long journey into the heart of Old Europe's art, history, and wars. Self-published work of fiction on an interesting subject.

Paul Olchvary, Publisher of New Europe Books is seeking to donate copies of two works being distributed by Random House, for use in classes or for general distribution. The books would be shipped by the carton --24 books each-- at no cost for the books and only \$15.00 for shipping and handling. The books are:

Sandor Szathmari: Voyage to Kazohinia, a rediscovered classic that is a singular blend of Gulliver's Travels and Brave New World (<http://neweuropebooks.com/Kazohinia.html>);

Gyorgy Moldova: Ballpoint: A Tale of Genius and Grit, Perilous Times, and the Invention that Changed the Way We Write (<http://neweuropebooks.com/Ballpoint.html>)

For more details and request information: <http://www.NewEuropeBooks.com>.



Conferences and Other Matters

ICCEES: The International Council for Central and East European Studies

The World Congress invites all students of Central and East European Studies to participate in the Makuharu conference in Japan from Monday August 3 through Saturday, August 8th, 2015.

For more information: <http://src-h.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/iccees2015>. Questions should be sent to: iccees2015@slav.hokudai.ac.jp.

The AHEA was again represented at the **Diaszpora Tanacs** in Budapest on November 19. President Jim Niessen gave a summary to the Executive Committee, reporting that it was a generally fruitful meeting which allowed for an exchange of information with other organizations in the Hungarian diaspora. Official sessions seemed to have been rather formal, but the many opportunities for informal discussion and interaction were fruitful. Some useful initiatives were discussed and evaluated: the Korosi Csoma Sandor Program was generally judged a success and a recommendation was made to extend it. Some tweaks were suggested, however. Laszlo Hamos proposed that the US delegation hold monthly teleconferences to keep in touch and address issues of mutual concern. Kalman Magyar will represent the AHEA at these teleconferences.

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 it as a reminder to pay in January.

Check out your entry under Members at ahea.net.members, for the year we received dues from you the last time, changes you wish to make, additional information, etc.

Name:

Address: give the preferred mailing address

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

email: _____

Institutional affiliation: _____

Other address (optional) _____

Dues: Regular members: \$30.00, Couples/Joint members: \$50.00, Students/Retired: \$10.00

Make checks payable to: AHEA Treasurer and send to AHEA, 4515 Willard Ave. Apt. 2210 Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

We are using email to communicate news in a timely manner, or information with a deadline.

Also, we will send you updates on the conference, and other dated news. Emails are sent out via the web site and do show email addresses of recipients, so one's privacy is protected.

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

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