

American Hungarian Educator

NEWSLETTER
of the
American
Hungarian
Educators
Association

XXXVIII, nos. 1-2

Spring/Summer 2016

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

The 41st Annual American Hungarian Educators Association Conference on 28-30 April 2016 occurred at the University of Maryland — College Park Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. The meeting was both informative and inspiring on many levels.

The Conference opened Thursday evening with a film presentation titled, *Burdosház Amerikából*, by Balogh Balázs ethnographer (with English subtitles). The film portrays the life of immigrants in the early part of the 20th Century who lived in Vintondale, Pennsylvania, a coal mining town in the Western part of the state. The film portrays the artifacts that shed light on the lifestyle from the remains of a boarding house that rented beds in 8-hour shifts to the coal miners. Safety concerns and labor laws were nonexistent in those days and unfortunately, coal mining accidents were frequent. The pay was meagre even by the standards of the day. Most immigrants came with the intention of returning to Hungary. However World War I intervened and many stayed and built a life in the United States. Of note, the house and all its contents was purchased by the Hungarian government and is being reconstructed in an

open air Museum in Szentendre, outside of Budapest.

On Friday Professor Peter Pastor of Montclair State University gave the keynote address titled, "The Arrival of Hungarian Refugees to the United States in 1956-1957." The talk was both personal and professional. Dr. Pastor experienced the Hungarian Revolution and studied it as a historian.

Parallel sessions were held both [Friday and Saturday in the morning and afternoon](#). It was often difficult to pick between the concurrent [sessions](#). Friday evening, a reception was hosted at the Hungarian Embassy jointly with the Fulbright Commission at 3910 Shoemaker St NW, Washington, DC.

The closing banquet on Saturday at the conference center included the presentation of the [Peter Basa Award](#) of the AHEA to Katalin Vörös.

Photos from the conference are posted on the AHEA website, <http://ahea.net/photo-album>.

Business Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2016 9:00 am

President's Report:

James P. Niessen provided a brief update on the session of the Diaspora Tanács meeting that he attended in Budapest in November 2015. Of greatest interest to us are two programs serving the diaspora communities, the Körösi Csoma Program (KCSP) and Mikes Kelemen Program (MKP).

- The KCSP provides interns from Hungary who support the activities of organizations in a community. In our case, local KCSP interns have helped out at some of our conferences.
- The MKP is intended, led by researchers from Hungary based at various collecting points, to identify and ship back to Hungary, those collections of publications and manuscripts belonging to diaspora individuals that might otherwise be lost due to lack of interest or language skills among family members. Jim's concern is that a library or archive in North America may be a more appropriate repository for Hungarian American manuscripts than an institution in Hungary because these manuscripts are part of this country's heritage as well as the heritage of Hungarians worldwide. The American delegation to the Diaspora Council agreed to create a Hungarian American Heritage Working Group to address this concern, with Jim as its chair. However, Jim found there is very limited relevant expertise or engagement among the Diaspora Council members on these issues, so he proposed to communicate directly with the relevant officers in Budapest.

Enikő M. Basa made the motion (seconded by Katalin Vörös) that the AHEA encourage Jim to take this step and to foster a dialogue between AHEA and the MKP about the most appropriate way to preserve Hungarian American heritage manuscripts. All in favor; none opposed.

Secretary's Report:

1) **Membership:** Klára Papp reported that the AHEA email roster consists of 600 members; 136 of whom are dues paying members in 2015/16. Tibor Ország is the 600th listed AHEA member, who was present at the meeting and was warmly applauded by those present.

2) **Election Results:**

Officers 2016 - 2018:

President: James P. Niessen, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Vice-President: Kenneth Nyirady, Library of Congress, Washington, DC.

Secretary: Klára Papp, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

Treasurer: Kálmán Magyar, American Hungarian Folklore Center, Passaic, New Jersey.

Advisory Board 2016-2018:

Katalin Kádár Lynn, Helena History Press, St. Helena, California.

Helga Lenart-Chang, St. Mary's College of California, Moraga, California.

Jeffrey Pennington, University of California, Berkeley, California.

Immediate Past President: Julia Bock, Long Island University, Brooklyn Campus, Brooklyn, NY

Ex Officio: Kálmán Magyar, Director, AHEA Affiliate American Hungarian Folklore Centrum, NJ

Ex Officio: Louise O. Vasvári, Editor-in-Chief, *Hungarian Cultural Studies*, e-Journal of the AHEA, Stony Brook University & New York University.

Ex Officio: Katalin Vörös, AHEA Webmaster, University of California, Berkeley.

The Executive Board is made up of the Officers, the Advisory Board, and the Executive Director, Enikő M. Basa.

3) **Invitation to submit to *Hungarian Cultural Studies*** <http://ahea.pitt.edu/>

Klara Papp asked all members to refer to guidelines for authors and submit their manuscripts to the eJournal: *Hungarian Cultural Studies*, the official journal of AHEA. The journal is peer reviewed and freely accessible on the Internet, thereby increasing access to author's work.

The **Péter Basa Award** of the American Hungarian Educators Association for 2016 was presented by the Executive Board of the AHEA to Katalin Vörös in 2016. Her outstanding contributions for the past two decades have left an indelible mark on the organization. She created and maintains the Association's website through her inexhaustible energy and attention to detail. She has made possible the creation of our eJournal, *Hungarian Cultural Studies*, with her high standards of excellence and technical expertise. Her very important contributions have shaped our Association to be global - worldwide and very accessible to scholars as well as others interested in Hungarian culture. Her contributions are large and sustained and demonstrate an unwavering commitment to the goals of the Association.

Treasurer's Report:

**AMERICAN HUNGARIAN EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
Financial Statement 2015**

Checking Account

Beginning balance	\$ 5,163.52
Deposit on 12/29 not reflected in 2014 statement	<u>2,292.98</u>
Total beginning balance	<u>8,093.50</u>
Income	<u>15,587.93</u>
Balance	\$23,681.43
Expenses	<u>-19,000.42</u>
Ending Balance	\$4,681.01

Income Summary

Dues	\$ 900.93
Conference Registration and Tour	<u>14,687.00</u>
Total	\$15,587.93

Total of Beginning balance and deposits in 2015

\$23,681.43

Expenses Summary

General office, web, etc.	\$ 406.42
Scholarship to savings and disbursement	7,040.00
AHFC Conference organization, etc.	1,000.00
E-Journal Hunor Networking and Jobbitt indexing (cashed in 2015)	2,830.00
Conference	<u>7,724.00</u>
Total	<u>\$19,000.00</u>

Scholarship Funds

Beginning balance	\$40,156.56
Deposit from conference and checking	6,000.00
Interest	<u>43.37</u>
Total	46,199.93

Withdrawal to Ameriprise Investment Fund	\$45,010.00
Service charges	<u>15.00</u>
Total withdrawals	<u>45,025.00</u>

Ending balance in savings 1174.93

Annual Meetings:

2017:

Judy Young described the possibility of hosting a joint meeting with the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC). Their meeting will be held May 27-29, 2017. The HSAC conference is part of a larger group sponsored by the Canadian Federation for Humanities and Social Sciences. In 2017 their conference will be hosted at Ryerson University in Toronto, Ontario.

Peter Pastor voiced concerns over the plan on 3 counts: expense, getting lost in the larger group, the date may be too late in the year and over Memorial Day Weekend. AHEA typically has its conference earlier. The group appointed a Committee to review the issues and propose details to the Executive Board and Program Committee. Members are: Eniko Basa, Kalman Magyar, Jim Niessen, Klara Papp, and Katalin Vörös.

2018:

Possibly at Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio

2019:

We should contact the István Deák Chair Professor at Columbia University, Attila Pók, about the possibility of holding the AHEA conference at Columbia University in NYC.

New Business

Hungarian Fulbright Anniversary: 2017 will be the 25th anniversary of the Hungarian Fulbright Commission. AHEA supports and applauds the Fulbright Commission for its outstanding work and looks forward to participating in its celebrations. All in favor; none opposed.

Proposal: Judith Olson, Outgoing VP, made several remarks pertaining to a strategic initiative to increase participation: Compile a list of relevant societies and announce our meetings on list serves, Tweet, Facebook, Meet-Up and consider activating social media in the interest of spreading the word about AHEA conferences and e-Journal issues. Send out flyers to learned societies to inform them of our meetings. Ask for posting. Local students should have special low or no fee attendance to conferences. After discussion, the following members volunteered to create AHEA presence in social media: Nóra Deák – Facebook, Judith Olson – Meet-Up groups, Klára Papp – Twitter. Webmaster will continue to post materials to be forwarded to the various platforms.

Proposal: Katalin Vörös submitted a proposal to invite the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC) to be an Affiliate of AHEA, same as the American Hungarian Folklore Centrum of New Jersey is an Affiliate. This would mean that HSAC would have an Ex-Officio member on the Executive Board of AHEA.

Kálmán Magyar seconded the proposal and it was accepted unanimously. Judy Young, Executive Secretary of HSAC, was asked to relay the AHEA invitation to the board of HSAC at their conference at the end on May 2016.

Submitted by Klara Papp, Secretary
May 2, 2016

Other news

Várdy Grant

Founding members of AHEA, Professors Steven Béla Várdy and Ágnes Huszár Várdy established, upon retirement from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, the Drs. Steven Béla Várdy and Ágnes Huszár Várdy International Research and Study Grant. The fund will promote international academic work and broaden students' global awareness by providing an annual financial award to a leading graduate history student or undergraduate history major who conducts overseas research or studies abroad. The first student recipient will be named in summer 2016.

The Department of History at Duquesne U. is asking all of us to support the Várdy Grant with a donation as well as to disseminate news of it to eligible applicants.

Please visit www.duq.edu/give-now and designate your gift to the Vardy Grant

AHEA Membership Dues Renewal

Dues are payable for the calendar year. All members are urged to send dues for the current year if not yet paid. Reminders for dues renewal are emailed in January. Check out your entry under Members, <http://ahea.net/members>, for last time we received dues from you, changes you wish to make, additional information, etc.

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. You may also pay on-line with PayPal at

<http://ahea.net/members/membership-information>

We are using email to communicate news of a timely nature or those with a deadline. Also, we will send you updates on conferences and other dated news. Emails are sent out via the web site and do not contain emails of recipients, so your privacy is protected.

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(ISSN 0163-0040) is published in Chevy Chase, MD by the American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA), a non-profit educational organization. Send inquiries, address changes and all correspondence to eniko.basa@verizon.net, Enikő M. Basa, 4514 Willard Ave., Apt. 2210 Chevy Chase, MD 20815