

AHEA Conference  
14-17 April 2011  
John Carroll University, University Hts. (Cleveland), Ohio USA

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## ABOUT the TÁNCHÁZ ["Dance House"]

Led by Ilona and Sebestyén Solomon, Cleveland, Ohio  
Friday evening, April 15, 2011, in the Murphy Room, after the Piano Recital  
Open to all, free admission, everyone welcome.

*Táncház* means literally “dance house.” Today it refers to a casual Hungarian folk dance gathering of anyone who wants to participate (as opposed to stage performances).

The AHEA is pleased to welcome **Ilona and Sebestyén Solomon**, who will lead the activities for the evening. Born in the Cleveland area, Ilona is a former director of the Cleveland Hungarian Scout Folk Ensemble, the “*Regös*” group, while her husband Sebestyén hails from Romania, learning his authentic Hungarian dancing growing up in a Moldavian Csángó village. Additional assistance will be provided by **Judy Olson** and **Endre Szentkirályi**, who are members of the 2011 AHEA Conference Program Committee.



Everyone, young and old alike, is invited to participate and learn some Hungarian folk dance steps – or just come and watch till you literally — *“feel like dancing”!*

### About the *Táncház* movement:

In the early 1970s, many Hungarians looked to a kind of “Hungarian roots revival” of traditional culture. *Táncház* participation was one of the movements that developed. At present, it remains an active component of Hungarian culture. It has become very popular across the whole country of Hungary, in cities, towns and villages, small, medium, and large, and even in major cities like Budapest.

*Táncház* draws on traditions from across Hungary, in particular (folk) music and (folk) dance, as well as the Transylvania region of present day Romania (*Erdély*). The term **Táncház** is actually derived from a Transylvanian tradition of holding dances at an individual's home.

In Hungary and in neighboring areas with significant Hungarian populations, *Táncház* traditions were recreated as authentically as possible, via detailed research on Hungarian folk culture. Numerous formal as well as informal groups have since sprung up. Moreover, and also since the 1970s, non-ethnic Hungarians living in Hungary have also had their folk traditions treated with the same support as their Hungarian neighbors. In addition, the dances and other cultural traditions of ethnic Hungarians living outside of Hungary, such as Hungarians in Transylvania, Slovakia, and the Siret River valley of Moldavia, are also celebrated and promoted by the *Táncház* movement.

Within the USA, the Cleveland Hungarian Scout “*Regös*” Folk Dance Ensemble (<http://www.clevelandregos.org>), as well as the Cleveland *Csárdás* Dance Company (<http://csardasdance.com/>) have engaged in and are still actively participating in the *Táncház* movement. There are also other Hungarian dance groups such as *Kárpátok* (in Los Angeles: <http://karpatok.net/>), and *Életfa* (in New York and New Jersey: <http://eletfa.org/>). Sometimes they also perform on stage so they can bring to and share the feel of the *Táncház* with general audiences. There are also dance camps such as *Ti Ti Tabor* (in Washington state: <http://tititabor.org/>) and *Csipke* (in Michigan: <http://csipke.org/>). They bring dance teachers and musicians from Hungary and Transylvania to teach North Americans the music and dance of the Hungarian people.

Local venue arrangements for the *Táncház* were made by **Dr. Katherine Gyékényesi Gatto**, and **Dr. Martha Pereszlényi-Pintér**, John Carroll University, AHEA Local Organizing Committee.