

2010 AHEA Péter Basa Award
Szeged, June 6, 2010

The American Hungarian Educators Association established the **Péter Basa Award** in 2009 to recognize outstanding contributions to the advancement of the purposes and activities of the AHEA.

Péter Basa was a founding member of the AHEA in 1975 and was active in it until his death in 2000. Beyond that, he supported a number of Hungarian cultural programs and American-Hungarian initiatives. He contributed freely of his time and energy to ensure the continuing development and long-term existence of the AHEA.

He was responsible primarily for recognizing the need to orient the activities of the Association toward the broader aspects of Hungarian culture and, with this in mind, he stimulated the interest and participation of educators active in Hungarian studies. In recognition of his vision, sustained efforts, and contributions to the growth and development of the AHEA, this award carries his name.

Our first awardee is **Enikő MOLNÁR Basa**, to honor her total dedication to the success of the AHEA.

Enikő was there at the time of the initial establishment of the organization and since then we witnessed her tireless efforts on behalf of Hungarian scholarship, conference planning and management of the affairs of AHEA from day one. Our organization has completed 35 years under her capable leadership.

Enikő obtained a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill in 1972. Shortly thereafter, Enikő joined the Library of Congress, becoming Senior Serials Cataloger of the National Serials Data Program. She retired in December 2004. During these years, Enikő published a number of monographs on Hungarian literature, on Madách, Petőfi, Csokonai, Molnár, Kosztolányi, Radnóti, among others. She also wrote the chapter on Hungarian Literature in the Review of National Literatures published in 1993.

Her studies in Hungarian literature, combined with her organizational work as cataloger, provided the basis for her many contributions to the development and well being of our Association. Since the inception of AHEA, Enikő has been indefatigable as its Executive Director, convening and facilitating its conferences, maintaining its correspondence, files, and historical documents. She has edited the AHEA newsletter and initiated the association's e-Journal; she founded the Hungarian section of the Modern Language Association and sustained it for years, ensuring Hungarian presence in that institution. She also is the liaison to a number of Hungarian cultural institutions in the United States and Canada. It is the nominators' firm belief that without Enikő's dedication, there would be no AHEA. This fact was also recognized by the Hungarian Government, which in 1997 granted her the Presidential Gold Medal of Hungary.

Congratulations to Enikő, as the first recipient of the Péter Basa Award of the American Hungarian Educators Association.

Judit Kesserű Némethy, AHEA President



Judit Kesserű Némethy and award recipient Enikő Molnár Basa