



April 2021 Newsletter

President's Corner

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

News about AHEA21

Our [tentative program](#) with the abstracts arranged (according to Eastern Standard Time). Please adjust the schedule according to your time zone! Watch for registration information coming soon.

In early June, we will host sessions for conference attendees, conference presenters, session chairs to orient everyone to the online virtual format of the meeting, to field questions about participation, and to provide opportunities to ask questions and clarify technical issues. We would like to ensure the success of the online conference to make sure everyone is oriented and knowledgeable about the technical aspects of participation.

Awards and Honors



Enikő Molnár Basa, Executive Director of the American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA), received the Knight's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit from Dr. János Áder, President of the Republic of Hungary. This high honor was given to her last month in a ceremony at the Hungarian Embassy in Washington DC by His Excellency Szabolcs Takács, the Hungarian Ambassador to the United States. The award recognizes Enikő's many decades of service to AHEA whose mission is to nurture and disseminate Hungarian culture in an American, English-speaking environment. AHEA is now the most important

scientific and professional organization of Hungarian scholars in universities of the

United States. The article is at this link [EBMolnar Award](#). Congratulations, Enikő! This high honor and recognition reflects well on all of us in AHEA and especially on you.

Countdown to Vote on our Bylaws in 7 days!

In last month's newsletter, we invited you to consider AHEA's new Bylaws and revisions to our Articles of Incorporation. These changes bring our governance documents into alignment with the laws of the state in which we are incorporated (Maryland). Please review these documents. On **April 20, 2021**, all members of AHEA will be sent an electronic ballot and be invited to vote on whether to approve these documents. Please be ready to vote. Proposed [AOI and By Laws available for review](#). Following our adoption of Bylaws, we will elect AHEA's Board and Officers by confidential electronic ballot. Let your voice be heard!

Here's wishing you good health, much success in your scholarly pursuits. Please reach out if you have comments or suggestions on how AHEA might better support your career advancement.

With best wishes,
Klara Papp, PhD
President, AHEA
klarakpapp@gmail.com

IMPORTANT CORRECTION TO MARCH NEWSLETTER

ERRATUM: In last month's Newsletter, we announced the Kaffka Margit Award given to Louise O. Vasvári. The Award was conferred by the Gender Studies Research Group of the Institute of English & American Studies at the [University of Szeged](#), not the University of Pécs, as previously stated. We regret the error.

Member Spotlight

AHEA is a scholarly organization connecting a diverse set of educators, researchers, professionals, independent scholars and academics who come from many walks of life. Each month we highlight the academic and professional career of a different AHEA member.



This month's featured member is **Nóra Deák**.

1. Please tell us a little bit about your career arc, particularly how you came to your interest in American Studies.

I am currently a PhD candidate in American Studies at the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) in Budapest. My research topic is the reception, registration, and resettlement of the 1956 Hungarian refugees in the United States. I majored in English and Russian languages and literatures, graduated in 1990 in Debrecen, then received an LIS MA degree in 1997 in Budapest. My first job was at the Debrecen University Library as a subject librarian for five years. I have been working as Head of the Library at the School of English and American Studies Library, ELTE, in Budapest, since 1995.

My interest in American Studies and the issues of emigration from Hungary/immigration to the U.S. started with the topic of my thesis paper: I chose Joseph Pulitzer who had practically been unknown in Hungary before 1989. A few years after changing jobs and moving to Budapest, I decided to apply for a Fulbright grant in 2006 (completed in 2007-08) at the American Hungarian Foundation in New Brunswick, where I was cataloging the archival material of the American-Hungarian Reformed Church congregations called Bethlen Collection. The finding aid has been available on the Rutgers University Libraries website.

My current research on the post-1956 Hungarian refugees was supported by a Fulbright Visiting Research Scholarship at the American Hungarian Foundation, and by Rutgers University Libraries as a Visiting Research Student during 2014 and 2015 in New Brunswick, NJ. I also participated in the Mikes Kelemen Program for three months in 2017-18 aiming to assess and preserve diaspora archival, library and individual book collections, and making sure they belong to a public or academic facility in the U.S., or they are transported to Hungary – if donated – for redistribution and proper re-use, for example in Hungarian-speaking communities in neighboring countries.

2. How did you find out about AHEA, and what led you to join?

The Pécs conference will be the seventh that I attend, with six previous presentations: Duquesne University in Pittsburgh (2008), University of Szeged (2010), Rutgers University in New Brunswick (2013), Kolozsvár/Cluj-Napoca (2015), University of Maryland (2016), and University of Pittsburgh (2019). I was especially excited to return to Pittsburgh in 2019, after my very first AHEA conference experience as a participant during my Fulbright scholarship with the American Hungarian Foundation in New Brunswick, NJ. But my relationship with AHEA – more precisely with Enikő and Péter Basa – goes way beyond 2008: we became friends when I spent three months at the Library of Congress as a Soros Fellow in 1993, and we kept in touch with occasional emails and visits. In addition to the similar professional background, Enikő and Péter added an extra layer to my cultural and personal experiences in DC.

3. What impact has your involvement with AHEA made on your career and/or your work?

I am pleasantly surprised to count a bunch of librarians – once trained and/or practicing LIS professionals – as regular members of AHEA or occasional speakers at AHEA conferences: Enikő Molnár Basa, Julia Bock, Fuchs Márta, Komlódi Anita, Kovács Ilona, Némethy Kesserű Judit, Jim Niessen, Ken Nyirady, Mária Oldal, Christina Peter, Erzsébet Molnár Rajec, Judit Hajnal Ward. The list is obviously not exhaustive, yet representative of the diverse subject fields and disciplines librarians by training and/or professions do research about – art, culture, history, language, literature, and pretty much everything else in between. In some cases librarianship is a career, a profession for us, and research is a life-long passion. In other instances LIS training served as a base for further academic and scholarly endeavors.

AHEA to me means people, colleagues, sharing ideas and experiences, discussions and networking, friendships, and better understanding and appreciating each others' culture and the rich relationships between them.

4. Tell us, please, about your current project.

My current project is to write my dissertation about the Operation Mercy and the reception, registration and resettlement of the 1956 Hungarian refugees in the United States, based on the Camp Kilmer refugee registration process. I am involved in a four-year project called *The Post-1956 Refugee Crisis and Hungarian Émigré Communities During the Cold War* – to be introduced (teaser!) at the 45th AHEA Annual online conference in June 2021 – organized and coordinated by senior research fellows at the Institute of History at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

I have several side-projects in progress and hobbies involving American-Hungarian cultural heritage such as the life story of Zsuzsanna Kossuth Meszlényi, including her exile in the U.S. cut short due to her illness and untimely death, and what happened to her descendants; the re-construction and hopefully publishing the third volume of *Magyarok Amerikában* by Géza Kende, in cooperation with Ilona Kovács and Zoltán Fejős; documenting Hungarian monuments, plaques and memorials in the U.S.

Bylaws Vote on April 20

Renew Your Membership Now!

We are pleased to announce that our Bylaws have been rewritten to comply with the laws of the state in which we are incorporated (Maryland). [We have posted the new Bylaws on our website](#) and invite members to vote on its acceptance by electronic ballot on April 20, 2021. All dues paying members in 2020 and 2021 will have the right to vote. Voting members will receive a personalized link by email to access their ballot. The election will be held over a 14-day period and all voting members are urged to exercise their right to vote.

You can [join or renew your membership](#) to participate in this important governance issue.

Don't Let Your Membership Benefits Stop!

Renew your 2021 membership to ensure uninterrupted membership today to ensure access to an expanded network of scholars and academics working in multidisciplinary fields of Hungarian Studies.

AHEA's membership dues enable you to access "Members Only" section of the website, participate in the governance of AHEA through your vote on our newly revised Bylaws as well as officers and board members.

We are pleased to announce membership discounts as well as the option of a new **lifetime membership**. Visit <https://ahea.net/members/membership-information>.

Only members in good standing can vote in leadership elections. Please remember to renew yours! **Click here** to access our PayPal link, or to get information on paying by check or bank transfer.

Where Your Membership Dollar Goes



**AWARDS AND
SCHOLARSHIPS**
28%

CONFERENCE OPERATIONS
43%

**INTERNET
HOSTING
AND
SUPPORT**
12%

**ORGANIZATIONAL
OVERHEAD**
17%

71% of your membership dues directly fund AHEA's mission of the **teaching and dissemination of Hungarian culture** through the annual conference and scholarship support programs. The other 29% helps keep our organization running.