



## September 2021 Newsletter

### President's Corner

Dear AHEA Members and Colleagues,

Greetings! We're in the heart of Summer, I hope and trust that you are doing well and have had some time to rest and enjoy a well-earned vacation. Greetings from Budapest! I'm pleased to be sending this letter from Hungary. I'm happy to be here. After the lockdowns and travel restrictions, it is liberating to travel once again (with due caution). The city is bustling with activity: buildings are renewed, roads being repaired, people coming and going. It feels good to see the city so alive!

[Call for Abstracts:](#) The 46<sup>th</sup> Annual AHEA Conference will be held in Hamden, Connecticut (in the USA) at Quinnipiac University on April 7 – 9, 2022. The call for abstracts is now open until January 10, 2022. Submit a paper presentation, a workshop, or a panel discussion. We welcome your contributions.

Reminder: sign up, if you are interested in this literary performance **(in Hungarian)**.

Title: "Vannak Vidékek" [rough translation: There are Regions]

Who: Dr. Havas Judit

Where: Live on Zoom; performance is free and registration is required

When: TODAY, September 14, 2021 at 3:00 PM EST / 9:00 PM CET.

Registration: [At this link](#)

Please reach out if you have comments or suggestions on how AHEA might better support your career advancement.

With best wishes for your good health and continued success,

\*\*\* Dr. Judit Havas, AHEA President \*\*\*

## Awards and Honors



[Paul Sohár](#), longtime member of AHEA, is recognized for his excellent work in literature and translation; he is the recipient of this year's **Balassi Grand Prize for Literary Translation**. This prize honors a literary translator who has an established body of translated works in Hungarian literature whose translations are known and widely recognized for excellence in quality. In the evaluation, the professional board of trustees also considers whether the recipient mentors the younger generation of translators. Nominations are judged by a professional board of trustees convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and consists of representatives of the many distinguished writers' associations. We are proud of Paul's recognition and are pleased that his nomination was submitted by members of AHEA. Congratulations!

## 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 **Ilana Rosen**

**Please tell us a little bit about your career arc, particularly how you came to specialize in the history of Hungarian (and Carpatho-Rusyn) Jews.**

I am a researcher of folk and documentary literature of Israelis and Jews in the twentieth century, dealing with the Holocaust, immigration, foundation of new places in Israel and more. I come from a family of Hungarian Jews who arrived in Israel in 1949 from Nagyvárad (presently Romanian Oradea). This background enables me to approach and sound the story of Hungarian Israelis, the older generations of whom often lack sufficient command of Hebrew. Therefore, for my PhD thesis, acquired at the Jerusalem Hebrew University (1994), I studied the Holocaust memory of Hungarian Jews of both Israel and Hungary; this study later became my *Sister in Sorrow* book (Hebrew, 2003; English, 2008). In turn, this work made the Tel Aviv University Diaspora Research Institute invite me to study the oral history and lore of Carpatho-Rusyn Jews of the interwar period. Since then, I turned also to paremiology or proverb study and to documentary and oral history of Egyptian Israelis. Yet Hungarian and Central-European topics have always remained at the center of my academic interest and oeuvre.

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

I found out about the AHEA around 2007, when Louise O. Vasvári, later the Editor-in-Chief of the

AHEA E-Journal (later titled *Hungarian Cultural Studies, HCS*), invited me to contribute to two study-collections she was then co-editing for *Comparative Literature and Culture (CLCWeb)*. The two volumes were devoted, respectively, to the Holocaust and to Central European Cultural Studies. It soon followed that I became acquainted with and active in AHEA, started publishing articles in its journal, and as of 2013 I am the *HCS* Book Review Editor.

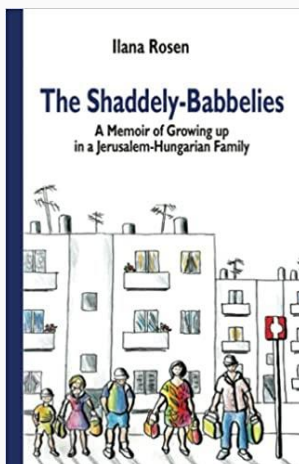
**What impact has your involvement with AHEA made on your career and/or your work?**

My work and ties with the AHEA have made me even more committed to the study of Hungarian and Central-European topic, as well as realize the broader contexts of events and situations that I had studied earlier focusing on Hungarian Jews. Interestingly, in the more recent years I have also become more aware of my own transcultural identity as a person of Hungarian origin, and this in turn led me to writing a memoir (forthcoming on Amazon) about my growing up in a Jerusalem-Hungarian family with its unique Hungarian language, culture, habitat and—indeed—traumas and longings. [See the announcement below. –Ed.]

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

My current project is a later outcome of my interest in various genres of documentary writing and oral expression. This project centers of documentary poetry, termed also “witness poetry.” Most people do not expect poetry to be documentary but rather lyrical, personal, and ahistorical; whereas documentary expression is seen as factual, communal and historical, as well as written mostly in prose genres. But I have come upon dozens of poems of Israeli poets who are second-generation to immigrants of all four winds, and I was able to discern recurrent themes and concerns in their poetic works. Therefore, currently I am writing a book-length study of Israeli documentary poetry about coming of age in the early statehood period. A pioneering article of this project is accessible online at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol22/iss1/3/>.

## New and Forthcoming Member Publications



What are "baby-killer" pills? What shall the girl sent to buy Zeller ask for at the vegetable store? Why is being on your own always said to be "alone as a dog"? And what might happen to the moon if they don't stop bothering it? In *The Shaddely-Babbelies*, Ilana Rosen, a professor of folk and documentary literature, revisits her childhood and adolescence in Jerusalem of the 1960s and 1970s, in a family whose parents had lived through the horrors of World War II and the Holocaust in Hungary. In some fifty amusing, poignant sketches, Rosen depicts Holocaust survivors, Hungarian-Israelis and their unique languages, streets, schools and cultural sites in Jerusalem, as well as many songs, nursery rhymes and expressions. The book is enriched by the drawings of the author's sister, Jerusalem artist Tova Balma [Click here to purchase this book on Amazon.]

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## Have a New or Upcoming Publication?

We would love to help share news of the impressive and diverse work that AHEA members are doing! If you have a recent book, article, or other scholarly/artistic work you would like your fellow members to know about, send a brief description/promotional blurb and a link to further information to [aheanews@gmail.com](mailto:aheanews@gmail.com). Requests will appear in the order in which they were received and may be edited for space.

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## 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



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.