
AHEA Newsletter: April 2023

1 message

American Hungarian Educators Association <aheanews@gmail.com>

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April 2023 Newsletter

President's Corner

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

Plans are well underway for AHEA's 47th Annual Conference planned for the last week of April (27th – 29th). We have an exciting [program](#) planned. The papers are:

- [interdisciplinary](#) (History and Political Science 15, 32%; Cultural Studies 10, 20%; Language and Literature 8, 16%; Education 8, 16%; Music and Folklore 6, 12%; Science and Economics 2, 4%)
- [bilingual](#) (42, or 86% in English; 7, or 14% in Hungarian)
- and [international](#), with four countries represented (US, Hungary, Romania, Canada)

[Registration](#) is still available; be sure to email the completed form before April 13th [info@ahea.net] to avail yourself of early bird prices.

As I approach the end of my term as AHEA President, I wanted to reflect on the past five years. This period has been marked by unprecedented challenges brought on by the pandemic. I am immensely proud of how well AHEA and its members have met these challenges. You have been remarkable in every way possible. On behalf of AHEA, many thanks to all of you for your dedication, flexibility, and hard work, and congratulations on your many achievements.

I was recently taken by an ancient proverb: "When the winds of change blow, some build walls, while others build windmills." Indeed, AHEA has spent the past five years building windmills. Early in the pandemic, the Board of Directors made a number of important strategic decisions. We have come through as a stronger Association. I believe that we

have met several of our ambitious goals and that the future of AHEA is very bright. We have used a three-pronged strategy to sustain and engage our membership and strengthen our Association. We focused on 1) enhancing membership options and increasing social media presence and monthly outreach through our Newsletter; 2) increasing our global footprint and establishing stronger ties with scholarly organizations; 3) renewing our governance procedures and documents. I want to share with you and celebrate our many remarkable successes in these areas.

On a personal note, it has been my great honor to serve as the President of AHEA. Five years have flown by, and I am most grateful for having had the opportunity to serve such a worthwhile Association. At the end of our annual meeting, I will transition to the position of Past-President and once the elections are concluded we will welcome the new President of AHEA. If you are a member of AHEA and have not yet [voted](#), please do so before April 14th. We have an amazing and extremely capable slate of officers up for election. I know that the Association will continue to thrive under the new Board's leadership. Please remain engaged with AHEA and let us know how we can best support your scholarly pursuits

With my very best wishes for the coming Spring and the year ahead. Stay safe and well.

Sincerely yours,
Klára Papp, AHEA President
klarakpapp@gmail.com

2023 Conference: Quick Links

- **Conference Program:** [Click here to open a PDF version.](#)
- **Registration** is available [at this link](#) and payable through PayPal.
- **Evening Programs:**
 - Thursday (4/27), 7:00pm: Screening of the film *Blokád* [Blockade] at the Clarion Hotel Conference Center
 - Friday, (4/28), 8:00pm: Concert featuring pianist Judit Gábos and violinist Daniel Sender at the QU Mount Carmel Buckman Center
 - Saturday (4/29), 6:30pm: Gala Banquet at the Wallingford Hungarian Club (Wallingford, CT), featuring music from Daniel Sender; **registration required**
- **Transportation options:** There are numerous ways to get to Hamden, CT. Our conference is at [Quinnipiac University North Haven Campus](#). It is about 20 minutes by car from our conference hotel. We will provide transportation to the conference venue.
- **Hotel reservations** may be made by calling the conference hotel, [Clarion Hotel & Suites Hamden-New Haven](#) 2260 Whitney Ave., Hamden, CT. 06518 US. Telephone 203-288-3831. We have reserved a block of rooms; when registering, let them know you are a member of AHEA.

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 **Judith Kesserú Némethy**, two-term former president of AHEA (2008-2012) and Nominating Committee Chair

Please tell us a little bit about your career arc, particularly how your work in education has intersected with Hungarian Studies?

I was born in Budapest but left Hungary at the end of World War II, when I was two years old. I spent three years with a Swiss French family. My family arrived in Buenos Aires in 1948 and, like most émigrés, sought the company of compatriots in the new world. I had to learn Spanish and Hungarian right after arriving; I learned Spanish at school and Hungarian at home. Soon after we arrived, a Hungarian weekend school and Hungarian scout troops were formed, and I naturally participated in both. They both had a decisive influence on my development and interests.

My academic and professional background is rather eclectic. I have a PhD in History, an MSL in Library Science, and a BA in French. At Cornell I taught Spanish language, and instituted and taught Hungarian language courses (Hungarian 131 and 132), which unfortunately closed after we moved from Ithaca to New York. I taught Spanish language and literature at the Department of Spanish and Portuguese of New York University, being first the director of its Language Program and later director of NYU's academic centers both in Madrid and in Buenos Aires. As director of the Language Program I set up the graduate course Methodology of Spanish Language Teaching, which was mandatory for all teaching staff. I also created a course for majors and minors in Spanish American dialectology called "Is Spanish One Language?"

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

I joined AHEA 35-years ago, after one of the much esteemed leaders of AHEA, Károly Nagy, suggested I present a paper on my language experiences in the scout movement. I did so with my paper "Bilingualism in Third Generation American Hungarian Teenagers." In 1993, I presented the work I had done both for the Hungarian scouts and for my students at Cornell as "Spelling and Reading Exercises for Non-Native Hungarians or Students Learning Hungarian as a Foreign Language." In 2006, on the fiftieth anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution, I presented a paper at the AHEA conference in Bloomington on the "Impact of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution in Argentina." I also presented two papers in Hungarian, in 1996 and 2001, on teaching Hungarian in Western countries. I

was a respondent at the 2009 Berkeley conference on the topic “Ways of Interpretation of Hungarian-American Ethnic-based Public Life and Identity.” At the 2015 AHEA conference in Cluj (Kolozsvár), I presented the book *21st Century Hungarian Language Survival in Transylvania*, published by Helena History Press.

Beyond my participation at AHEA Conferences, I served two terms as president (2008-2012) and am currently chair of AHEA’s Nominating Committee.

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

The large number of outstanding presenters at AHEA served as role models to me and inspired my academic pursuits; they had an invigorating impact on my general research and teaching. My work relates to the Spanish world, but I could find lots of parallels with the Hungarian one, not only on how to teach the language and culture, but as how to explain the problems of dual identity, roots, affinity, or diaspora.

Tell us, please, about your current project.

I am currently researching and writing the history of the Hungarian Scouts Association in Exeter. While scouting was prohibited in Hungary by the communist regime in 1948, it spread and thrives to date among the diaspora on four continents as the Hungarian Scouts Association in Exeter. I am fortunate to have an immense wealth of documents to work from and I am fully immersed in their study at this time.

Member Publications

The listing of publications is for our members' information and does not signify endorsement by AHEA.

Life member **Peter Sherwood** announces the UK/EU publication of his translation of *Barcode* by Krisztina Tóth on March 30, 2023. It is scheduled to appear in the US in the fall of 2023. Details can be found on the [publisher's website](#).

Call for Abstracts



“The present and future of identity rooted in the past”

INTERNATIONAL INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE

Veszprém, June 21–24, 2023.

You are invited to attend an international interdisciplinary conference entitled “The Present and Future of Identity Rooted in the Past” between June 21–24, 2023 organized by the Faculty of Modern Philology and Social Sciences at the University of Pannonia. Researchers from Hungary, Europe, and overseas are invited to Veszprém, a university city and the European Capital of Culture. More detailed information about the conference may be found [at this link](#).

Registration and abstract submissions can be [completed here](#). The deadline for submitting abstracts **has been extended to April 23, 2023**.

Invitation from the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada



Join the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada at

congress 2023

Reckonings & Re-Imaginings



Hungary, Hungarians and the Quest for Justice

Organized by the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada. To be held on May 27-June 3, 2023 at York University in Toronto, Ontario. A [hybrid conference](#), it may be of interest to some AHEA members.

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. Requests will appear in the order in which they were received and may be edited for space.

Membership Renewal Drive

As we approach the end of the year and look forward to both the next conference and our association's next elections, it is more vital than ever to renew your membership for 2023.

- Only members in good standing can vote in leadership elections;
- Your dues enable you to access "Members Only" section of the website;
- Your annual contribution to AHEA not only helps fund our conferences, but allows us to support your colleagues through our range of [awards and scholarships](#)

👉 [Click here to renew through a convenient PayPal link!](#) 👉



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