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## AHEA Newsletter: February 2024

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**American Hungarian Educators Association** <aheanews@mail.mailchimpapp.com>

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# February 2024 Newsletter

## President's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

I hope this message finds you well. I am delighted to share some exciting updates about our upcoming 48th Annual Conference in May.

This year, as we celebrate AHEA's 50th anniversary, we are determined to make the conference truly special. The program promises a rich array of individual presentations, panels, workshops, and book presentations, as well as social events. A huge "thank you" to the Conference Program Committee who evaluated all the proposals.

To make the most of the event, it's time to register for the conference! Please note that we only have a limited number of reserved hotel rooms, so if you plan to stay at the conference hotel, it's advisable not to wait. Information about registration, hotel reservation, and payment can be found on the conference website:

<https://sites.google.com/stmarys-ca.edu/2024-ahea-rutgers/2024>.

Additionally, the conference website provides links to award applications, some of which have a February 15 deadline! Apply for a presentation grant to help cover your travel expenses! The full program will be available in a couple of weeks.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to reach out to me: [hl4@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:hl4@stmarys-ca.edu)

Questions about the venue or Rutgers? Please contact the Local Organizing Chair, Jim Niessen: [niessen@rutgers.edu](mailto:niessen@rutgers.edu)

Questions about payments and social events? Please contact AHEA Treasurer, Kalman Magyar: [magyar@magyar.org](mailto:magyar@magyar.org)

Questions about the schedule? Please contact Vice President Zsuzsanna Varga ([Zsuzsanna.Varga@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Zsuzsanna.Varga@glasgow.ac.uk)) and Past President, Klara Papp ([klarakpapp@gmail.com](mailto:klarakpapp@gmail.com))

We look forward to seeing you in New Jersey in May!

Helga Lenart-Cheng  
President, AHEA

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## Renew Your Membership for 2024!

We invite you to renew your membership or become a member of the American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA). To become a member or to renew for 2024, [click here](#) to access the link. Please note that we now offer a discounted 3-year, and life membership.

Renewing today will allow you to maximize your membership benefits by maintaining access to the organization's member benefits and resources. Your membership enables you to:

- Present at AHEA Conferences and have the privilege to chair sessions
- Participate in the Committee work of AHEA
- Be eligible for awards
- Become a voting member

We are grateful for your support, and please let us know how we can continue to provide value for our members.

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## 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 **Andre Szentkirályi**,  
Chairperson of the Board, Hungarian American Coalition; teacher at Nordonia  
High School; Former President, United Hungarian Societies

**Please tell us a little bit about your career arc, especially how and why you embraced your Hungarian heritage as a scholarly pursuit.**

I was an English major with a German minor, and started teaching middle school immediately after college. Then I got an MA in English (Composition track) and taught high school as well as middle school. My wife and I both wanted our children to attend school for a year in Hungary, we were up for some change and adventure, so I got a leave of absence and we spent a year abroad in Budapest. There I taught at Pázmány University (monthly pay: 144K HUF for a family of six...) and was the director of administration for an international preschool and kindergarten. (That paid the rest of the bills...). Upon our return, I continued teaching exploratory German to eighth graders and soon grew intellectually bored. When you teach *Guten Tag* and *eins, zwei, drei* seven times a day, three times a year, after a while it can get mind-numbing.

And it was while attending AHEA conferences that I began writing articles and also met Tibor Glant, who became my mentor and encouraged me to pursue the PhD. More on embracing my Hungarian heritage later.

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

I knew that Katalin Vörös regularly attended the AHEA conference, it was always in a different city, so I thought I'd try it as well. The intellectual discussions, interesting presentations, and friendly people kept me coming back.

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

Presenting at AHEA conferences allowed me to pursue topics I knew about (working with Hungarian diaspora youth in the scouts) and also topics I was interested in (émigré Hungarian authors, military history, and other literary topics). Eventually I took some of these presentation topics, turned them into articles. Then, looking back at the community I was raised in (Hungarian Cleveland), I was able, with the help of Tibor Glant, to complete my dissertation in literary and cultural studies. Thus AHEA conferences were instrumental in guiding me along this scholarly path.

Although my day job is teaching high school, in a roundabout way AHEA and my attendance at its conferences have facilitated my PhD, which in turn allows me to be an adjunct instructor for dual-enrollment writing courses (at my high school and at Kent State University), and it also bumps me higher on the public school teacher pay scale. But more importantly, AHEA allows me to meet like-minded intellectuals who share my sense of culture and don't have to elbow each other aside in pursuit of

ambition. Quite simply, it's a nice, friendly, helpful group of people who are pleasant to be around, and at this stage in my career, that means a lot.

### **Tell us, please, what you're working on right now.**

My wife and I just finished a summary history of fifty years of Cleveland's Hungarian Scout Folk Ensemble, complete with over 700 pictures; I will present about this at the forthcoming AHEA conference at Rutgers. While teaching five classes a day (plus a daily study hall or cafeteria duty, and coaching...) precludes too much research, but I will probably help out Cleveland's Hungarian School (a heritage language school on Monday evenings serving second and third generation children) in the very near future.

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## Member Publications

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

Life member **Peter Sherwood** shares that his translation of Krisztina Tóth's "Barcode" (Jantar Publications, 2023) was shortlisted for the 2023 Warwick Prize for Women in Translation late last year. Out of more than 150 submissions, it was one of eight that reached the shortlist.

**László Stachó** has published a new monograph *A zongoraművész Bartók: modellek és ideálok* (Balassi Kiadó). From the author's submitted information:



"Béla Bartók (1881–1945) was one of the most compelling figures of early 20<sup>th</sup>-century pianism. However, for posterity, his pioneering compositional output has long overshadowed his fame as a pianist. His playing was regarded as magnetic, vigorous, irresistible by his contemporaries, and it is captivating for today's listeners even when heard through the veil of his archive recordings. László Stachó's book is the first monograph-length, in-depth analysis of Bartók's performance practice. It aims to offer a comprehensive and critical analysis of his contemporary models and influences related to performance, drawing upon his instructive editions of the classical piano repertoire, oral history sources, reviews, contemporary treatises on performance practice, and sound recordings. Furthermore, the book makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the cultural and historical context of Bartók's formative years as a pianist, and analyzes the similarities and the differences between the performance style of Bartók and his most influential predecessors and contemporary pianists."

**Marlene Kadar** announces the publication of her recent book *Broken Fiction* (Inanna, 2023). From the publisher's website: "*Broken Fiction* is a collection of short autofictional stories and poems that both offer solace and depict anguish at the collision of memory, loss, and grief. This kind of story-making negotiates a recognition and acceptance of hard truths without resorting to easy resolution.[...] *Broken Fiction* invites readers to consider a way through—and sometimes around—illness and love, pain and joy, and gives a droplet of hope in nature's comedy of errors and coincidence."

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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 [ahenews@gmail.com](mailto:ahenews@gmail.com). Requests will appear in the order in which they were received and may be edited for space.

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## Call for Papers: Hungarian Studies Association of Canada Conference

*This third-party announcement is included for the benefit of our readers.  
AHEA is not directly affiliated with the program described below.*

**New deadline for submitting abstracts – February 16<sup>th</sup>**

“Interconnected Cultures: The Place of Hungary and Hungarians in a Sustainable World”

### Call for Papers for the 2024 Annual Conference Hungarian Studies Association of Canada (HSAC)

The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada invites proposals for individual papers, posters, roundtable discussions, workshops, complete panels, and other innovative presentations and sessions for our annual conference to be held in conjunction with the Congress of Social Sciences and Humanities hosted by McGill University in beautiful and dynamic Montréal, Québec, from June 15-17, 2024. As the conference will follow a **hybrid** format, we invite proposals for **both in-person and virtual** presentations. **Please indicate in your proposal which presentation format you wish to be considered for.**

Building on the Congress theme of “Sustaining Shared Futures” and its target emphasis on the achievement of environmental sustainability in a manner that assures global equity, this year’s HSAC conference seeks proposals that thematize efforts to engage in collaborative cultural change and exchange, as well as addressing human impact on the environment, both natural and human-made. This thematic focus invites consideration of a range of topics from cultural output to historical events, including political, economic, legal, ethical, literary, journalistic, artistic and scientific endeavors related to sustainability and mutual collaboration. All relevant considerations of these themes within the field of Hungarian studies writ large will be considered.

Although we strongly encourage proposals that speak to the conference theme, we also welcome proposals on any topic related to Hungary and Hungarian Studies. The Hungarian Studies Association of Canada also supports and encourages both creative and critical scholarly engagement within and across disciplines.

We especially encourage proposals from graduate students. In addition to offering limited funding to offset the costs of participation in the conference, HSAC will choose one graduate student presenter to receive Congress’s Graduate Merit Award. The award winner will be recognized publicly by Congress, and will receive a \$500 award.

Proposals should include a **maximum 300-word abstract and a brief 100-word bio that can be used to introduce the speaker**. Since both the abstract and the bio will be published online, they should be prepared in Word format using Times New Roman, 12-point font. **Abstracts should be sent electronically both** to the Chair of the Program Committee, Ginny Lewis ([Ginny.Lewis@northern.edu](mailto:Ginny.Lewis@northern.edu)), and to Agatha Schwartz ([Agatha.Schwartz@uottawa.ca](mailto:Agatha.Schwartz@uottawa.ca)). Proposals are preferred in English or French but will also be accepted in Hungarian if an English language abstract is also provided.

Presentations at the conference are no longer than 20 minutes with an additional 5-10

minutes for discussion. **The deadline for submission is Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.** We will notify presenters of the Committee's decisions no later than March 15, 2024.

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## Hungary Foundation Scholarships

*This third-party announcement is included for the benefit of our readers.  
AHEA is not directly affiliated with the program described below.*



Hungary Foundation together with the Mathias Corvinus Collegium Alapítvány, Budapest, Hungary is now accepting applications for the Budapest Fellowship Program (BFP), for the 2023/2024 academic year (September 2024 - July 2025).

The Budapest Fellowship Program is a full-time, fully-funded transatlantic fellowship in Budapest, Hungary, for young American scholars and professionals, and it includes a Junior Fellowship aimed for students currently pursuing their Master's degree or recently graduated from a Masters program, and a Senior Fellowship, for advanced doctoral students (i.e. pre-doctoral fellows), post-doctoral researchers, and early career professionals, who hold at least a Master's or a Ph.D. degree.

The 10-month program aims to cultivate the next generation of American policy professionals and academics by equipping them with a thorough understanding of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) and Hungary. The fellows will have an opportunity to conduct research on the topic of their choosing while also gaining practical experience researching or working at a Hungarian host institution that matches their professional interests.

The BFP, through Hungary Foundation's support will cover all program expenses, including roundtrip airfare to Budapest, Hungary, housing, a monthly stipend as well as health insurance. This opportunity is open for US citizens with a research interest in Central and Eastern Europe and have outstanding research and academic credentials.

You may find more details about the Budapest Fellowship Program [on the Hungary Foundation's website, at this link.](#)

**Application Deadline: April 30, 2024**  
**Expected Fellowship decision: May 2024**

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