
AHEA Newsletter: March 2024

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

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March 2024 Newsletter

President's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our esteemed colleague and Editor-in-Chief, Paul Olchvary. His dedication and leadership has left an indelible mark on our community. See below. We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and express gratitude for his invaluable contributions that will forever resonate within AHEA. In the coming months, we will commence the search for a new Editor in Chief.

As we gear up to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our association, I'm amazed at how many individuals have contributed to AHEA over the past decades. In the coming months, we will use this newsletter to remember milestones in the history of AHEA and individuals whose vision has shaped our organization into what it is today.

Join us May 2-4 at Rutgers in person to commemorate half a century of shared accomplishments and to network with colleagues! The program draft is ready, [posted on the conference website](#).

Remember to register for the conference and hotel before April 1st!

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

Helga Lenart-Cheng

President, AHEA

In Memoriam: Paul Olchváry (1965-2024)



We dedicate this space to the memory of our late colleague, Paul Olchváry, Editor in Chief of [Hungarian Cultural Studies](#) and member of the AHEA Executive Board, who [passed away suddenly in February](#). Paul was a [prolific and award-winning translator](#), whose translation of József Debreczeni's *Cold Crematorium* was lauded by the [New York Times](#) in January. He was kind enough to share the story of his career in our [December 2023 Member Spotlight](#).

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 **Kálmán Magyar**, American Hungarian Folklore Centrum and AHEA Treasurer

Please tell us a little bit about your career arc, especially how you came to be involved with the American Hungarian Folklore Centrum?

I was born in Hungary and essentially grew up in Budapest until I was almost 18 years old. Since my mother and two sisters emigrated to the USA, after the 1956 Revolution I was able to join them with my father in 1962. As with most new immigrants, I searched for the local ethnic community. Very shortly I found the HUNGARIA Folkdance Group based in New York City. Since I had some dance training in Hungary, soon I became one of the leaders. Since then, Hungarian folkdance and folklore became one of the most important part of my life. It offered me to cherish my identity, share my cultures with others, and set my life on a path to acquire more and more knowledge about the wonderful Hungarian folk culture. This passion, which was shared by my wife, Judith, led us to organize workshops and search for other Hungarian folklore enthusiasts in North America. Eventually, in 1975 we established the American Hungarian Folklore Centrum [AHFC]. The purpose of AHFC was and remains to be the same: "promote and share Hungarian folklore with the general public in North America." The AHFC, which is a totally volunteer organization, has organized and made possible hundreds of programs to fulfill its mission.

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

As noted above, when AHFC was established in 1975, we searched for a similar organization which shared the same vision with ours. We found AHEA, and since we immediately wanted to operate as a non-profit organization, asked AHEA to help and allow us to organize programs under its sponsorship. Enikő and Peter Basa wholeheartedly supported our mission and since then we have operated under the AHEA as an affiliated partner. This partnership proved very profitable since AHFC helped to organize over 20 conferences of AHEA and both organizations greatly benefited from the partnership in many ways.

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

In view of the above, I must confess, I am not "teacher" or college professor in any manner. I am a chemist and a businessman, who worked in the pharmaceutical and medical device business in the USA, later as an owner of a packaging technology company in Budapest. However, as I noted above, our passion is to share our Hungarian folk culture with others in North America, therefore we "educate" in a more

participatory way than if in a scholarly setting. Our programs may be searched on www.magyar.org or www.magyarmuseum.org or www.centummanagement.org. To answer the question I can state, that although AHEA has not affected my career much, but it made me and my family and hundreds of friends happier and more fulfilled persons. I must mention and thank the work of Judy Olson, who helped me greatly to bring more musical and folkloric programs to the AHEA conferences. I hope this helped and supported those scholars who are in this field of academics.

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

Although one would think that it is time to retire, it seems to be a totally unthinkable goal for me. On a non-folkloric level, I plan to help build the Hungarian packaging industry by continuing to develop our business, AMCO Kft. in Budapest. Regarding AHFC we will continue support projects which plan to support our mission of promoting and sharing Hungarian folklore in North America. In 2024, we plan to help the Csipke folklore camp, we help the establishment of the Hungarian Folklife Association – a newly established entity which hopes to continue the work of AHFC, in the Fall we support the planned tour of the Budapest Vadrózsa Ensemble, and we work to help our grandkids' folkband the Sarjú Banda to advance. In 2025, I plan to help to organize the AHEA Pecs conference, which have been postponed twice. After that conference, I think it is time for me to hand over my involvement in AHEA to younger and hopefully more qualified people.

As concluding thoughts, I must say AHEA and AHFC have made my life richer and more enjoyable in many ways. The many wonderful friends with whom we were able to share our Hungarian culture was probably the most rewarding experience in my life after my family.

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.

New! AHEA Early Career Network

The AHEA Board is pleased to announce the formation of the **AHEA Early Career Network**.

The goal of the group is to provide international networking opportunities, mentorship, and resources to students and early-career scholars in Hungarian studies as they navigate the challenges of publication, grant writing, job searches, independent scholarship, as well as contingent faculty positions.

We welcome PhD students and scholars **within 10 years** of receiving their PhD. Please [fill out this form if interested](#).

The network will be launched at the May 2024 AHEA Conference at Rutgers University.

Questions and suggestions regarding the new group are welcome and may be directed to Sarah Lucas at sarah.lucas@tamuk.edu

Member Publications

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



Máttyás Mervay (matyas.mervay@nyu.edu), a New York-based historian of China and Habsburg Central Europe, recently launched his non-fiction in Budapest about the Shanghai Hungarian rescuer of Jewish refugees. Written in his mother tongue aiming to be accessible to a non-specialist audience, *A cserben hagyott hazafi – Zsidómentés a háborús Sanghajban* (Budapest: Könyv Népe Kiadó, 2023) is a book-length fruit of Máttyás's decade-long academic work, which includes his dissertation "Habsburg Refugees in China: Postimperial Diaspora, Diplomacy, and Orientalism in the Republican Era (1918-1949)" he's prepared to defend in this spring at New York University. Máttyás is currently looking for a publisher for an English edition of his book, the title of which he has rendered as *Patriot Left Behind. Rescuing Jews in Wartime Shanghai*.



Péter Hevő announces the publication of his recent monograph *VISSZA a FEGYVEREKHEZ? A hadsereg és külpolitika kapcsolata Németországban*. The book seeks to answer the questions of how Germany moved towards a more active international role after the reunification, what obstacles it had to overcome, and how the German governments tried to balance the expectations of its allies with domestic constraints. The monograph is recommended for readers who are interested in the security challenges that the international community had to face after the Cold War, and how Berlin responded to these developments. The book is [available on ElteReader](#).

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.

Applications Open for Fulbright Hungary Teaching Assistantship

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

The Foreign Language Teaching Assistant (FLTA) program is seeking applications.

The deadline is **May 15, 2024**.

Visit the [Fulbright Hungary page](#) (in Hungarian) for more information!

Diaspora Scholarship: Summer University

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



University of Pécs: Studies Summer School

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EUROPEAN STUDIES SUMMER SCHOOL

July 7 – July 20, 2024 – University of Pécs, Hungary

Hungarian diaspora scholarship available!

During the summer school, students will study the political, economic, cultural and social achievements and challenges in the European Union. Participants will expand their knowledge on topics such as migration, security, economic transitions, art history, gastronomy and folk traditions in Europe. Engaging social programs will also be offered to provide a unique intercultural experience, including a Hungarian dance house, an Intercultural Evening and a wine tasting program.

- Credits offered: 6 ECTS
- Language of instruction: English
- Who can apply: members of the Hungarian diaspora
- Housing: dormitory
- The scholarship covers: instruction, meals, accomodation, social and cultural activities
- Application deadline: March 28, 2024, 5 PM (CET)

Apply for the scholarship here

More information:
summerschool.pte.hu
Have a question?
Contact us at summerschoolpecs@pte.hu

UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS
Rector's Cabinet – International Centre

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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