
AHEA Newsletter: September 2025

1 message

American Hungarian Educators Association <aheanews@123673990.mailchimpapp.com> Mon, Sep 22, 2025 at 3:00 PM

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September 2025 Newsletter

President's Corner

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is my special pleasure to welcome you to the first newsletter of the 2025-2026 academic year. As the new president of AHEA, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the former President Helga Lenart-Cheng for her dedication, and also the members of the previous AHEA Board for their commitment to and work for AHEA.

This year's American Hungarian Educators conference took place in Pécs, Hungary. It was a successful event attended by over 70 presenters as well as by many other interested colleagues. The program and the abstracts will remain available on our website, so please feel free to consult them to see the broad range of AHEA supported scholarship. I would also encourage you to contact the presenters for further discussions. Fulbright Hungary has also been a supporter of the work of AHEA for many years, and it was a particular pleasure to have many presentations from Fulbright scholars working and teaching in Hungary. We hope to develop this relationship much further. We also celebrated the recipients of our prizes, including the awardees of the Helena History Press Award and the Best Student Presentation Award.

Our next conference will take place in Cleveland, Ohio, on April 16-18, 2026. We look forward to returning to the city, which is home to one of the most established Hungarian communities of North-America, and where AHEA conferences have been hosted on several occasions. I am looking forward to seeing everyone in Cleveland next year. Please continue to check the AHEA site for the call for papers and further details.

We are also very pleased to announce the launch of the 2025 volume of our flagship journal, *Hungarian Cultural Studies*. The issue, under new editorship, covers historical topics such as a cluster of articles on the Johnson-Reed Act of 1924,

Hungarian theatrical culture in the early 20th century, Slavonic loanwords in the language use of Transcarpathian Hungarians, as well as several book reviews covering books about politics, literature and the visual arts. Happy reading!

Please consider getting more involved in AHEA's activities. We would like to hear more about your academic interests and needs, and we are very open to enter into conversations about ways in which you as an academic or your academic organization could benefit more with closer collaboration with AHEA. Do not hesitate to contact us directly with suggestions and ideas.

With the best wishes for the 2025-26 academic year,

Zsuzsanna Varga, PhD
President, AHEA

Recently Published: *Hungarian Cultural Studies* Vol. 18

We are pleased to announce the publication of [Volume 18 of *Hungarian Cultural Studies*](#). Following a brief introduction by our editor in chief Anna Fenyvesi, it begins with a Thematic Cluster: The Impact of Johnson-Reed in Hungary: Changing Trajectories and Perceptions, led by guest editor Balázs Venkovits, which includes an introduction and four papers. The next section has six general articles and is followed by eight book reviews. This issue includes a diverse array of topics in history, literature, documentary film, architecture, and contact linguistics.

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 **James Pavlish**,
John Carroll University (retired)

Please tell us a little bit about your career arc. In particular, how did a professor of Spanish also become a scholar of Dezső Kosztolányi?

Hungarian is very much a second language for me. My grandparents on my father's side spoke Hungarian and I was intrigued by the rough-sounding language that I listened to without comprehension as a child. I was fascinated by languages in general and majored in linguistics in college. There in one of the classes the teacher talked about the uniqueness of Hungarian and so was given even more incentive to learn it. After a succession of textbooks and tutors, I finally went to Hungary in 1979 with a pitiful smattering of the language. There I met Bernadette in Pécs, who was studying English and knew it better than my halting Hungarian. We corresponded after the trip and eventually married in Pécs in 1981. Learning Hungarian was still a struggle and it didn't start to come together until we raised our three children bilingually and I learned together with the children. I was also helped by my discovery of the clear, accessible writings of Dezső Kosztolányi, but more on that later.

I first started reading Kosztolányi to help me learn Hungarian but ended up dwelling on his writing for itself. Others have been obsessed with a writer and even with Kosztolányi. Dezső Mészöly wrote about searching for his writings even in the magazines at the dentist office and wrote "egy-egy könyvet olvasva el ámultam. Hogy ismerhet ő engem ennyire?" He speaks for me, and I have never found a writer in any language who riveted me like Kosztolányi. Often it caused me to wonder how the Hungarians didn't revel more in the national treasure they had. It has been estimated that he wrote some 30 volumes of short stories, essays, poetry, novels, translations, plays and journalistic pieces. Really, he wrote in every genre. I have read—and, more importantly, reread—most of his works. Honestly, I would read his shopping lists if they were available.

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

I got involved with AHEA because two teacher acquaintances were coordinating the conference in John Carroll University in Cleveland, where I ended up teaching. I believe the first conference I participated in was some 25 plus years ago. I presented a paper on Kosztolányi 's writings about radical changes in technology in the early Twentieth Century.

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

Over the years I presented more papers on Kosztolányi and joined the organization and attended many of the conferences. The conferences were a good incentive to develop a research topic and present it within the time frame.

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

I'm planning to give a talk next year on Kosztolányi and his extensive writings on language in general and especially the Hungarian language. I would like to see more of his writings translated and marketed to English speakers, although I lack the skill to translate them myself. Eventually it would be interesting to do a comparative study of Kosztolányi and Borges from Argentina and Fernando Pessoa from Portugal, who were both more or less contemporaries but have entered into the canon of world literature. Kosztolányi's writings and translations of Shakespeare are another potential study topic. His friendship with Freud colleague Sándor Ferenczi and the influence of Freud also could be of interest.

Out and About with Our Members



August 17, 2025: AHEA members **Zsolt Máté** and **Andrew Lee** met up for lunch near Washington, DC's Union Station just as Zsolt was wrapping up a week of research at the University of Maryland archives and Andrew returned from his Fulbright year in Serbia.

Submitted by Andrew Lee

Of Interest to Our Members

This third-party announcement is included for the benefit of our readers.

AHEA is not directly affiliated with the programs described below.

Book Launch: Hungarian Roots & American Dreams Tracing Personal and Local History

We warmly invite everyone to the launch of the second volume of the Hungarian Roots & American Dreams series!

The book brings to life captivating stories about Hungarian immigrants to America and their descendants. At the event, the editors – Anna Fenyvesi and Réka Bakos – will speak about the making of the book, the waves of emigration to America, and the most significant Hungarian sites. Following this, four of our authors – Elizabeth Lukács Chesla, Elyse Craft, Christine Portnoy and Lisa Levitt – will share their own family stories.

The event is co-organized by the Consulate General of Hungary in New York, and AFHLE, Hungarian House, and will be moderated by dr. Andrea Novák.




CONSULATE GENERAL OF HUNGARY,
NEW YORK



October 15, 2025 | 5:00 PM ET



Hungarian House, 213 E 82nd St, New York



Register
here



HUNGARIAN
HOUSE OF
NEW YORK

Hungarian Roots & American Dreams: Diaspora Dialogues

We warmly invite you to an engaging event where the past and future of the Hungarian diaspora will come to life through two sessions. Under the umbrella of *Hungarian Roots & American Dreams: Diaspora Dialogues*, the program will connect stories of emigration and family history with the voices of the next generation.

TRACING THE PAST: PERSONAL AND FAMILY HISTORIES

This roundtable explores the history of Hungarian immigration to America through both scholarly and personal perspectives. Waves of emigration and significant Hungarian sites in America will be discussed by the editors of the *Hungarian Roots & American Dreams* book series, Anna Fenyvesi and Réka Bakos. Personal journeys and family memories will be shared by authors Renáta Mateisz, Alex Jalsó, and Liz Szabó Vos.

SHAPING THE FUTURE: DIASPORA IN HIGHER EDUCATION

This presentation highlights the voices of past and current participants of the Hungarian Diaspora Scholarship, introducing experiences of studying in Hungary and reflecting on how these opportunities shape identity, career paths, and vision for the future of the Hungarian diaspora.

We look forward to welcoming you to this special occasion of dialogue, memory, and shared inspiration. The event is organized by the Embassy of Hungary in Washington, D.C., and we warmly encourage you to join us in celebrating the richness of Hungarian roots and the dreams they inspire across generations.

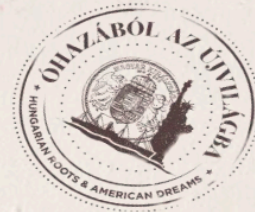


October 17, 2025
5:00 PM ET



Embassy of Hungary, 1500 Rhode Island Ave, NW,
Washington D.C. 20005

Both in-person and online
attendance are possible.
Please register here for
either option:



Embassy of Hungary
Washington, D.C.



Hungarian
DIASPORA
Scholarship



Hungarian American
Cultural Association, Inc. 

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.



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