

American Hungarian Educator

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of the
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Educators
Association

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Please visit the AHEA Web page at: <http://ahea.net> and send any suggestions you have to the Executive Director, eniko.basa@verizon.net

Conference

The 43rd Annual American Hungarian Educators Association Conference was held at Cleveland State University in downtown Cleveland, April 12-15, 2018. The conference theme was Forging the Future, Facing the Past: Hungary and its Diaspora. The Consulate General of Hungary in Chicago supplied the Thursday night film that was also well-attended by local Hungarians. *Kincsem* (2017) is an entertaining costume drama set in the 1850s and built around the true story of a spectacularly successful Hungarian prize horse.



At the official opening the next morning the keynote and the guest speakers reflected on different aspects of the conference theme. Károly Jókay, Executive Director of the Hungarian-American Fulbright Commission, entitled his talk “Fulbright Hungary and the Diaspora: A Quarter Century of Friendship.”

He argued, employing telling examples and short videos with scholarship fellows, that “Fulbright changes lives” and also changes our understanding of diaspora to encompass both Hungarians and those who become attached to Hungary (and there were many Fulbrighters in attendance) through their scholarship and experiences.



Jókay (center) with Fulbright fellows Sarah Lucas and Andrew Lee

Imre Lendvai-Lintner, President of the Hungarian Scouts Association in Exeteris, provided a historical survey of Hungarian scouting in the diaspora and its recovery in the Carpathian Basin since 1988.

Two parallel sessions extended over the bulk of Friday and Saturday. The diaspora theme returned in several papers on émigré writers. The Revolution of 1956 and its refugees were the focus of well-attended sessions featuring

original research and lively discussion. AHEA travel grants, awarded for the first time this year, facilitated the attendance of two presenters.

The Cleveland Hungarian Museum hosted a reception Friday evening with fine wines and buffet amidst its impressive permanent exhibition.



At the Hungarian Heritage Museum

The closing banquet took place in Cleveland State's Fenn Tower Ballroom the next evening. An ensemble of richly costumed Cleveland Hungarian Scouts performed traditional songs and dances before a feast that was lubricated by Hungarian wines donated by the Consulate General in Chicago.

A photo report from the 43rd AHEA conference, by Zsolt Molnár of the Cleveland Bocskai Rádió, is posted on the [AHEA website](#).



Cleveland Hungarian girl scout singers

At the banquet the biennial Péter Basa Award of the AHEA was presented to Louise O. Vasvári, Editor-in Chief of *Hungarian Cultural Studies, e-Journal of the AHEA*, for her leadership in making the journal a recognized and respected scholarly publication.



Louise O. Vasvári and James P. Niessen

We congratulate the local organizers led by Kára Papp, with Mónika Fodor, Márta Pereszlényi-Pintér and Endre Szentkirályi, for their contribution to a successful and enjoyable conference.

James P. Niessen, AHEA President

Business Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 am.

- 1. President's Report:** James Niessen reported that the membership voted and approved the creation of a new position to the AHEA Board: Membership Development Officer. The role of this individual is to reach out to scholars and all interested parties to welcome them to membership in AHEA. The membership voted in March to amend the By-Laws, to add another officer's position to the governance of AHEA, a Membership Development Officer. This is an elected position and creating it required an Amendment (to Article X) and vote by

the full membership. Dr. Katalin Kádár Lynn volunteered to serve as Membership Development Officer on the Board. It was seconded and approved. She indicated that she would be inviting others to work with her in a subcommittee reporting to the Board in this capacity.

2. **Secretary's Report:** Klára Papp first asked all current officers and board members to stand and be recognized. She thanked them, on behalf of the membership, for their service to AHEA. She reported the 2018 AHEA election results. Ballots closed on March 2, 2018. Of the 111 members in good standing 68 (61%) participated in the election.

- The membership voted to amend the By-Laws, creating a new Membership Development Officer position: 97% approval.
- The membership voted for the governing body for the term 2018-2020, starting at the end of the 2018 AHEA conference.

Officers

- President: Klára Papp
- Vice President: Helga Lénárt-Cheng
- Secretary: Zsuzsanna Varga
- Treasurer: Kálmán Magyar

Advisory Board members (3)

- Katalin Kádár Lynn (second term)
- András Ludányi
- Mártha Pereszlényi-Pintér

All were in favor and accepted the Secretary's report.

3. Discussion of Future Conferences:

2019: Zsuzsanna Magdó and Andrew Behrendt both at the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania described plans for the conference at U Pittsburgh. The proposed date is April 4-6, 2019. They presented a detailed budget and showed the buildings and the grounds where the conference is planned. The group enthusiastically accepted their proposal indicating that the details will be worked out with the conference planning committee in the coming months. Participants were asked to propose themes for the 2019 conference. Several were suggested: Identity: Hungarian, European, or Global? Hungary in the World — Past, Present and Future; Hungary in Dimensions of Time and Space. Klára Papp referred a more detailed discussion to the next executive meeting. Jim Niessen reminded the group of the presence of a Kőrösi Csoma Programme intern at Pittsburgh, who may be enlisted to help organize the conference.

2020: Mónika Fodor (Fulbright/University of Pécs) presented plans and possible dates for the AHEA Conference in Pécs, Hungary. Plans for the date are currently tentative to be scheduled in late May or early June. Mónika Fodor mentioned the possibility of financial sponsorship coming from Pécs under the University's new management. Following the conference, a 4-5 day Danube Boat Cruise is planned from Budapest to the Iron Gate [Vaskapu]. This would be an extra program and it is hoped that many participants will take advantage of this possibility to learn and view the historic Duna - traveling through Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania.

4. **Treasurer's Report:** Kálmán Magyar submitted the treasurer's report (below). Enikő Basa briefly summarized the treasurer's report which was unanimously accepted.

American Hungarian Educators Association

4515 Willard Ave. #2210

Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Checking Account

Beginning balance	\$1,983.02
Income	<u>3,081.45</u>
Balance	\$5034.47
Expenses	<u>-\$2022.77</u>
End of year balance	3041.70

Income Summary

Dues (includes picnic refund and program donation not listed separately)	\$1,996.45
Picnic refund	85.00
From Publication Fund	<u>1,000.00</u>
Total	\$3,081.45

Expenses Summary

Honor Networking (Server)	\$329.00
U. Of Pittsburg E-Journal	1,000.00
Susan Papp, Programs	214.04
Margaret Lovrics Conference Banquet	263.80
Web Maintenance	41.44
Picnic reservation	140.00
Newsletter and miscellaneous	<u>34.49</u>
Total	\$2022.77

Savings Account

Beginning balance	\$1,082.34
Interest	2.25
Ending balance	\$1084.49

Investment Income

Beginning balance (Jan. 1, 2017)	\$45,191.96
Ending balance (Dec. 31, 2017)	49,933.85
Gain of	\$4741.89

\$1,000.00 was withdrawn on 12/22/17 for payment for technical editor of *Hungarian Cultural Studies*.

5. **AHEA Affiliate Report by Kálmán Magyar, Director of the American Hungarian Folklore Centrum:**



American Hungarian Folklore Centrum

www.magyar.org

SUMMARY AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

In this correspondence I would like to review a few projects, which the American Hungarian Folklore Centrum [AHFC] has completed and plans to undertake in the future. I feel it is important to keep the AHEA informed – especially in the future when we plan to organize some major projects, which may have important impact on supporting Hungarian cultural maintenance in North America.

Also, as we are two years away from the next European Conference, I feel it is important to keep the Directors and the membership aware of some of the plans we are organizing, in order to achieve good participation and allow for sufficient planning time for everyone.

We would appreciate any suggestions and questions to be addressed directly to me regarding the below report.

1. Summary of 2017

- TOBORZÓ – Hungarian Folk Dance Gathering in North America:

We received support from Hungary [The Bethlen Gábor Alap] and from the Hungary Initiatives Foundation to organize this first event, which brought together young persons interested in Hungarian folkdance, mostly from the East Coast. This event was held in New Brunswick NJ – an important center for American Hungarians. The event was very successful and we are planning the next event for September 2018.

- AMERICAN HUNGARIAN MUSEUM, PASSAIC, NJ:

This Museum was closed several years ago; we are keeping the holdings in a warehouse in New Jersey. However, it has been realized that the best would be is to transfer the holdings to Hungary if a home cannot be found in the North America. We have initiated several discussions and searches to see how this transfer could be best accomplished.

2. Plans for 2018

- TOBORZÓ – Hungarian Folk Dance Gathering in North America:

As noted above, we are planning this event – with some sponsorship – for September 2018 in New Brunswick NJ.

- SPIRIT OF HUNGARY 1848 TOUR – HUNGARIAN NATIONAL DANCE ENSEMBLE:

In 2016 we have helped to organize the SPIRIT OF HUNGARY 1956 Tour of the Hungarian National Dance Ensemble with success. That tour focused on the East Coast Hungarian communities. The tour this year [planned around the October/November time frame] will focus mainly on the West Coast communities. Some support will be provided though AHFC to achieve this major project.

- CSÓRI SÁNDOR PROGRAM TO SUPPORT HUNGARIAN FOLKLORE ACTIVITIES IN NORTH AMERICA:

This program was initiated in 2016 in Hungary to support folklore programs, which in turn support cultural identities and maintenance. We successfully lobbied to extend this program beyond the Carpathian Basin to the diaspora communities. AHFC will be responsible to

administer and manage a BLOCK Grant directed toward the support of events and groups involved in American Hungarian cultural work.

3. Plans for the 2020 AHEA Conference

- AHEA CONFERENCE at the UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS:

We will participate in the planning of the 2020 conference to assure that the participation from abroad will be easy, comfortable and cost efficient.

- BOAT TRIP FROM BUDAPEST DOWN THE DANUBE TO THE IRON GATE [VASKAPU]:

Following the Conference we are planning to organize a special Danube tour down the historic part of the Danube – through Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Romania. The specialty of this tour will be that we travel by boat all day, a guide will be telling us all the sights on both sides of the river. In the evening we will debark from the boat and will stay in a hotel – and after breakfast we will again travel by boat all day. At the end of the tour we will return to Budapest by bus. The boat will be a small – all equipped boat for about 50 travelers. We hope we can achieve a very nice closed group of members and friends of AHEA for the trip. All activities will be bilingual. Please plan to attend! We are keeping the costs as reasonable as possible – depending on how many participant will participate [maximum 50 persons] the cost will vary from 700 to 1000 US dollars. A great price for a 5 day boat trip – all inclusive!

Kálmán Magyar, Director

PO Box 7377, Monroe Twp., NJ 08831 U.S.A. magyar@magyar.org

April, 2018

6. Other Business

- Ginny Lewis, editor of the Hungarian volume of the [Literary Encyclopedia](#) called for contributors to the volume. Send inquiries to ginny.lewis@northern.edu

- **Membership Development Committee Formed**

The formation of the first Membership Development Committee of AHEA was approved at the annual meeting in Cleveland. The goal of the committee will be to extend the outreach of AHEA to a larger scholarly community of emerging and established scholars working in fields in, or related to, Hungarian Studies in North America. AHEA board member Zsuzsanna Varga, members Virginia Lewis, Jeff Pennington, Andrew Behrendt and Taylor Gombos, have already agreed to serve on the committee. Serving in an advisory role will be Louise O. Vasvári, this year's [Peter Basa Award recipient](#) who articulately spoke of the need for outreach and membership development on the part of AHEA on accepting the Peter Basa Award at the conference banquet. We are looking for a few more members to serve on the committee, which will shortly begin its work. Please contact the chair if you are interested to join, – all we require is your enthusiasm and current membership in AHEA!

Katalin Kádár Lynn

Chair

editor@helenahistorypress.com

or katalin100@gmail.com

- **Report by Louise O. Vasvári, Editor-in Chief of *Hungarian Cultural Studies*, e-Journal of the AHEA (ahea.pitt.edu)**
Hungarian Cultural Studies is a peer-reviewed open-access annual scholarly journal of Hungarian Studies published through the University of Pittsburgh. In addition to general and special thematic articles issues it also contains reviews, review articles, as well as a yearly bibliographical overview. We are indexed in the MLA and other important scholarly indexes, including in ESCI, a multidisciplinary citation and abstracting index. We invite you to submit your work, for which detailed [Guidelines](#) can be found online at our site. Our journal is published in early fall and hence submissions are normally due in early spring to allow time for copyediting, peer review, and final technical review. Submissions for the 2018 issue are now closed but we are now soliciting contributions for the 2019 issue, but should you not be able to commit for 2019 we are also interested in discussing possible proposals for 2020. Because we are not a narrowly specialized journal but interdisciplinary in nature your important work would receive even broader recognition among a wider audience than simply within print only sources. Please also, if you have a moment, take a look at our [2017 issue](#) by clicking [here](#).

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 am, respectfully submitted: Klára Papp with Zsuzsanna Varga

AHEA Membership Dues Renewal

Dues are payable for the calendar year. All members are urged to send dues for the current year if not yet paid. Reminders for dues renewal are emailed in January. Check out your entry under Members, <http://ahea.net/members>, for last time we received dues from you, changes you wish to make, additional information, etc.

Dues: Regular members: \$30.00, Couples/Joint members: \$50.00, Students/Retired: \$10.00

Make checks payable to: AHEA Treasurer and send to AHEA, 4515 Willard Ave. Apt. 2210 Chevy Chase, MD 20815. You may also pay on-line with PayPal at <http://ahea.net/members/membership-information>

We are using email to communicate news of a timely nature or those with a deadline. Also, we will send you updates on conferences and other dated news. Emails are sent out via the web site and do not contain emails of recipients, so your privacy is protected.

American Hungarian Educator

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