

American Hungarian educator

NEWSLETTER

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Please visit the AHEA Web page at: <http://magyar.org> and send any suggestions you have to the Executive Director at eniko.basa@verizon.net or 4515 Willard Ave. Apt. 2210, Chevy Chase, MD 20815-3685

The 26th Conference of the AHEA was held at Georgetown University, April 19-21. Interesting papers were delivered on the theme, "Hungarian Culture-Central European Culture." Nine sessions were held, and in spite of the last minute cancellation by the Magyar Professzorok Világtanácsa the program was a full one. (Abstracts of papers on are available via the AHEA home page whenever presenters sent an abstract.) As is traditional, the annual meeting of the Association was held on Saturday morning (see minutes below for details).

The Conference opened with a showing of *Jadviga párnája* followed by a discussion and wine and cheese reception. James Collins, Chair of the Dept. of History at Georgetown and our host opened the sessions on Friday morning, and Beatrice Camp, Branch Chief, Educational Information & Resources Branch, Bureau of Educational & Cultural Affairs of the State Department gave the keynote speech, "Hungary's Role in International Educational Exchange" in which she spoke not only of the Fulbright or IREX programs, but the many other opportunities for exchanges in which Hungary is increasingly an equal partner, giving as well as receiving. Ms. Camp recently completed a tour of duty in Budapest as the US cultural attache.

On Friday evening the Hungarian Embassy hosted a reception and book exhibit. Three recently published books were introduced: Ede Császár's *The International Problem of National Minorities*, Károly Nagy's *Emigránsok küldetésben*, and Béla Várdy's *Magyarok az Újvilágban*. Many recent and interesting books from Hungary were also on display and participants had the opportunity to purchase both from these and from the book by the featured speakers. A fascinating exhibition of posters from the transition of Hungary to democracy in 1989-90 from the collection of Stephen L. Pellathy complemented the book display. These were collected in 1989-1990 in Hungary and reflect both the electoral campaign and the end of the Communist era. Mr. Pellathy is interested in young Hungarian artists and seeks venues for them to exhibit in the US.

At the closing Banquet on Saturday Géza Jeszensky, Ambassador of Hungary, outlined both Hungary's historical role and its new position as a member of NATO in advancing the ideals of democracy and stability in this region of Europe in his talk, "Hungary, a Key Ally of the West," He touched on both the political and economic situation that makes Hungary a central player in the politics of the region and in bringing the former Eastern Europe into the Western community of nations.

This closing event was held in the Riggs Library of Georgetown University, a historical setting

among the rare book collection of the University

NEWS and INTERESTING DEVELOPMENTS

The Hungarian Ambassador to the United States, Géza Jeszensky, has forwarded the reactions of the Hungarian government to the events of **Sept. 11** via e-mail. These have been forwarded to AHEA members whose e-mail the Secretariat has. The messages are: Statement by the President of the Republic; Statement by the Prime Minister, Statement by the Government, Statement by the Foreign Minister. Also available from the Embassy is the *Resolution* adopted by the Government on September 18 in response to the terrorist attacks. The web site of the Embassy is: <http://www.hungaryemb.org>.

Also of interest might be the campaign to call to the attention of the **UN High Commission for Human Rights** of the existence on the Czech and Slovak legal code which still discriminates *de jure* against Czech and Slovak citizens of Hungarian background. Our member, Charles Wojatsek, called attention to this in a letter to the High Commissioner. Again, those whose e-mails are available to us have received information on this.

Also sent via e-mail was the letter of the Hungarian Ministry of Education on the initiative to provide guest lecturers for the higher education initiatives the Ministry is supporting among Hungarian minorities in the neighboring countries.

The **Nyugati Magyar Tanács** has sent their news to us. Since it came in printed and not in electronic format, we are unable to send it out. For information contact Károly Nagy at ktnagy@aol.com.

The **Nemzeti Tankönyvkiadó** strategy was released by the Hungarian department of education. It can be accessed at http://www.strategia_kulhoni.doc.

The **Sapientia Foundation** has established a private Hungarian university in Transylvania. The goal of the university is to address the needs of the community for the modern world. To do this, exchange programs are encouraged. Programs particularly targeted are those in which no Hungarian language instruction exists in Romania at present, or in which no advanced-level programs in Romanian exist, or which are crucial to the preservation of ethnic identity. For further information: Hungarian Human Rights Foundation, P.O. Box J, Gracie Station, New York, NY 10028.

The **Kossuth House Social Club** sponsors a variety of programs, including Hungarian classes in the Washington, DC area. They publish a newsletter, and also maintain several web sites: <http://www.kossuthhouse.org/khsc>, an on-line forum: <http://www.kossuthhouse.org/ubb>, and a site for cultural events: <http://kossuthhouse.org/washington>. Also, check out the following site, <http://www.hungarinamerica.com/harc/> listing Hungarian resources with rich links.

Another web site that might be of interest to members is that of the **Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe** of the US Congress. It is <http://www.csee.gov>.

Minutes of the AHEA Annual Meeting

The AHEA meeting was held at on Saturday, April 21. It was decided that we will establish links to the Hungarian Studies Group in Canada (www.hungarianstudies.org) and the AHEA homepage will be revamped. The AHEA will assist the Collegium Hungaricum Juventutis Occidentalis; for now, the cooperation is limited to an exchange of membership lists. The **Együtműködési Megállapodás** drawn up between the AHEA and representatives of Hungarian minority schools at the Cleveland meeting (1999) has had no response from these schools. The AHEA scholarship program predates this initiative and is independent of it, and each year funds are sent to Slovakia and Romania.

The Treasurer's report

Checking Account		Deposits	
Beginning balance (Jan. 2000)	\$ 966.07	Dues	\$ 700.00
Interest and Deposits	<u>2,611.07</u>	1999 Conference	1,300.00
Total	3,577.80	Scholarship	600.00
Expenses	- 1,443.42	(from memorials to Peter Basa)	
Ending balance (Dec. 2000)	\$2,134.38	Interest on checking	<u>11.07</u>
		Total	\$2, 611.07
Savings Account		Expenses	
Beginning balance	\$2,137.45	Labels and stationery	\$ 45.00
Interest and Deposits	<u>1,067.95</u>	P.O. Box	41.00
Total	3,205.40	Savings	600.00
Withdrawals (for CD and Scholarships)	-1,548.34	Newsletter printing	59.71
Return to checking	-440.00	Postage	12.71
Ending balance	\$1,217.06	Scholarships	<u>660.00</u>
		(includes wire transfer fee)	
CD		Total	\$1443.42
Earlier CD's rolled over to 5-year CD	\$5,451.66		
Added from Savings	<u>1,548.34</u>		
	\$7,000.00		

Elections were held by mail ballot prior to the meeting. The results announced by the Nominations Committee. The **new officers** are:

President:	Martha Pereszlényi
Vice-President:	Kálmán Magyar
Treasurer:	Enikő M. Basa
Secretary:	Ruth Bíró

Members of the **Executive Board** are Nándor Dreisziger, Mario Fenyő, and Susan Glanz.

A grant/loan of \$500.00 was given to the Kovaşna Children's Choir to enable them to perform at Salt Lake City. If the tour materializes, they will repay the loan. Otherwise, it is a gift to them in good faith.

The Magyar Professzorok Világtanácsa had wanted to join us in our conference. Unfortunately, they canceled their participation shortly before the conference for technical reasons. We regret that the cooperation could not be arranged, but the MPV needs learn about the mechanics of hosting a conference and fiscal responsibility before meaningful cooperation can occur.

A resolution "in support of those Hungarian educators in Slovakia, Carpatho-Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, and Slovenia who work for the preservation, the teaching and the usage of Hungarian language and culture, on all levels and in all walks of life in their countries, in full accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Linguistic Rights" was endorsed at the general meeting.

The 2002 Conference will be held in Toronto, Ontario in conjunction with the Hungarian Studies Association of Canada May 25-27. We urge members to attend. The conference is under the umbrella of the Congress of the Social Sciences and the Humanities, which will require a registration of approximately \$40.00 for students and \$100.00 for others. These are in Canadian dollars, so the cost is actually much less. Fuller information will be sent later, or is available from the HSAC secretariat, Hungarian Chair, U. of Toronto, 1 Spadina Crescent, Room 104, U. of Toronto, Toronto, ONT, Canada M5S 1A1. The nationwide exposure is a benefit for the AHEA. Please support this conference, which will have good local programs for us also.

The 2003 conference will most likely be held in Szeged, Hungary. The University, the Hungarian Studies Program, and the city are welcoming us. Details will be available later.

Programs

Study Abroad Program: St. John's University conducts summer programs in Hungary. For information, contact: Dr. Susan Glanz, Division of Administration and Economics, or glanzs@stjohns.edu. The course offers three college credits and costs between \$1,800 and \$2,000.

Hungarian Studies at the U. of Toronto offers both language instruction and cultural studies. For further information write: George Bisztray, Professor of Hungarian Studies, U. of Toronto, 1 Spadina Crescent, Room 104, Toronto, ONT M5S 1A1, Canada or see <http://www.utornoto.ca/slavic>.

Central European Teaching Program sends English teachers to work in Central and Eastern Europe. For more information contact Alex Dunlop, Beloit College, 700 College St., Beloit, WI 53511 or <http://www.beloit.edu/~cetp>.

Exhibits and Books

"A People Cried Out: the 1956 Revolution and Fight for Freedom in Hungary" is a new exhibit at the **Museum of the American Hungarian Foundation** at 300 Somerset St., New Brunswick, NJ. Opened on Sept. 30, it will run until November 4. For information call (732) 846-5777.

Julianna Puskás: *Ties That Bind, Ties That Divide: 100 Years of Hungarian Experiences in the United States* was published by Holmes & Meier Publishers of New York. In addition to the well-researched narrative, the work includes first-hand accounts, interviews, and striking observations. 464 pp. \$45.00. Contact Sarah Muir at smuir@holmesandmeier.com

Also available: *Magyarok az Újvilágban* by Béla Várdy, available from the author at 5740 Aylesboro Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15217 or Svardy@aol.com

AHEA Membership Form/Dues Renewal

Dues are payable for the calendar year. All members are urged to send their 2001 dues (if not yet paid), or 2002 dues promptly. The date on your mailing label indicates the year we last received dues from you.

Name: _____

Address: (give preferred mailing address) _____

Business phone: _____ **Home phone:** _____

Fax: _____ **email:** _____

Institutional affiliation: _____

Other address (optional) _____

Dues: Regular members: \$15.00 Couples/Joint members: \$20.00 Students/Retired: \$10.00
Make checks payable to: AHEA Treasurer and send to 4515 Willard Ave., Apt. 2210, Chevy Chase, MD 20815-3685. Please clip or copy and return with a check for the appropriate amount.

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