

NOMINATION FORM FOR THE PETER BASA AWARD
of the
American Hungarian Educators Association

Nominee's Name: Katalin Kádár Lynn
Professional Title: Owner/Editor-in-Chief, Helena History Press
Address: Reno, Nevada
Email: editor@helenahistorypress.com

Your Name: Katalin Voros
Professional Title: R&D Engineering Manager Emerita
Address: Cleveland, OH
Email: voros@eecs.berkeley.edu

Date of submission: 1/20/26

Indicate in the section below, why you believe the individual you are nominating meets qualifications for the Peter Basa Award:

A 20-year member, Katalin Kádár Lynn started leadership activities with great enthusiasm as member of the Local Organizing Committee of the AHEA conference in 2009 at the University of California, Berkeley. Indeed, we all became so enthusiastic we were singing on the bus back to Berkeley, after visiting and wine tasting in Napa Valley, including a fantastic lunch (with wines) in Katalin's home.

After that conference she became an Advisory Board Member (2016-18) and soon initiated modernization of AHEA's dated organizational structure. Since the original charter of incorporation in 1974, the organization has grown steadily, communications technology advanced way beyond mimeographed newsletters and US mail distribution, manual membership and financial accounting. Katalin energetically called the attention of the Board to the need to review and update the Constitution and Bylaws. She worked with Helga Lénárt Cheng for two years to create a new document which governs the AHEA since 2020. By discontinuing the position of the Executive Director, responsibilities of running the organization were more broadly distributed among the Executive Committee members and created a strong leadership position for the President.

With increased responsibilities of the Executive Committee, Katalin proposed a prudent move, to take out legal insurance for the Officers and the Board. Also, we obtained a permanent official address for AHEA through a Resident Agent in Maryland, where the organization was incorporated in 1974. (This eliminated the need to change the address when a new slate of officers came in through elections.)

In 2018 AHEA created a new Executive Committee position, Membership Development Officer. Katalin, an Advisory Board member at the time, was asked to accept this position, which she took on enthusiastically. She continues to hold it through the current election cycle, 2025-2027. She assembled an active committee from AHEA membership, covering various interests from academia to area researchers in Hungarian studies and schools. She mentored Andrew Behrendt as associate chair and together they developed the very successful monthly online AHEA Newsletter. Katalin also proposed a tiered membership fee structure and introduced the Life Member concept.

Katalin's commitment to the goals of the AHEA has been demonstrated by establishing and funding of the Helena History Press Scholarship, in 2020. This is an annual award to recognize a scholar in any field of the humanities who specializes in scholarship related to or about Central and East Europe.

As owner of Helena History Press LLC, Katalin Kádár Lynn provides invaluable service to Hungarian cultural and historical scholarship, by publishing works about and from Central and East Europe in English. This effort is closely aligned with the goals of AHEA; thus, a symbiotic relationship developed between the two organizations soon after Helena History Press was established. Close to half of authors published by HHP are members of the AHEA.

I am nominating Katalin Kádár Lynn for the Peter Basa Award of 2026, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the advancement of the purposes and activities of the AHEA.

Katalin Kádár Lynn is a historian based in Budapest and Nevada whose principal area of scholarship is World War II and the Cold War with an emphasis on Central and East European émigré political activities and organizations. She is the founder and Editor in Chief of Helena History Press, LLC a publishing house specializing in scholarship about, and from, Central and East Europe in English. She serves on the Editorial Board of the journal Comenius, the International Advisory Board of Hungarian Cultural Studies, Journal of the AHEA. In 2011 she was awarded the Gold Cross of Merit of the Republic of Hungary. In 2020 she was the honoree of the American Hungarian Coalition for her "... commitment to professional scholarship on Central East Europe which contributes to a deeper understanding of the region's history and cooperation among its peoples..." She served as the first Membership Development Chair of AHEA and as advisor to the Membership Development committee in 2021-23.



Endre Szentkiralyi <endreszti@gmail.com>

Mon, Feb 16, 2026 at 10:48 AM

To: Katalin Voros voros@eecs.berkeley.edu

Subject: Basa award support letter

It is hard to think of a person who has better deserves the Peter Basa Award this year than Katalin Kadar Lynn. She always keeps the needs and interests of the American Hungarian Educators Association in mind, whether in attracting new members, helping young scholars, providing sage strategic advice to our organization, or merely – and in no small way – by her publishing work in terms of supporting and propagating a healthy outlook on Hungarian culture and academic cooperation.

As Membership Development Chair, she keeps her eyes open and talks to prospective young scholars, encouraging them to attend our conferences and to join our membership. As a member of the Board of Directors, on any given issue of the day, especially if it involves even a whiff of controversy or might contain any possible political undertones, she is spot-on in analysis and keeping the bigger picture in mind. She thinks strategically, always keeping long-term consequences in mind, and is not afraid to politely point out possible mistakes or wrong paths, yet is always ready and willing to provide reasonable solutions to complex problems. She has finesse and tact, yet tells it like it is.

Her publishing, however, is what really works wonders in terms of advancing scholarship and propagating Hungarian Studies. As publisher and editor-in-chief of Helena History Press, she gives a forum for serious scholarship in all areas of Hungarian culture, whether music, diplomacy, history and politics, statesman memoirs, immigration studies, linguistics, or Holocaust studies. From personal experience I can say that she is a helpful and kind editor, not afraid to push a writer and bring additional perspectives into play. Her knowledge of audience and the market allow her to challenge and broaden, yet she is always kind and nice and pleasant. It really was a pleasure to have her edit my monograph.

Katalin Kadar Lynn is a scholar who helps and supports both people and organizations, and her positive qualities and accomplishments make her a fitting recipient of the Peter Basa Award of the American Hungarian Educators Association.



Endre Szentkiralyi

Peter Basa Award Nominating Committee
American Hungarian Educators Association

Re: Letter of Support for Katalin Kadar Lynn's Nomination for the Peter Basa Award

Dear Nominating Committee:

I write with wholehearted and enthusiastic support for Katalin Kadar Lynn to receive this year's Peter Basa Award. Her contributions to the American Hungarian Educators Association have been both transformative and enduring.

Her achievements through the decades that she has been active in AHEA are too numerous to elaborate. I mention just a few highlights that stand out as particularly significant in meeting the award criteria. Katalin has been instrumental in guiding the comprehensive revision of our bylaws—an effort long overdue and essential to bringing the organization into full compliance with the laws of the state in which we are incorporated. She undertook this complex and often thankless work with diligence, clarity of purpose, and a deep commitment to the organization's long-term health.

In her role as Membership Development Chair, she has dramatically accelerated both the pace and breadth of membership growth within AHEA. Under her leadership, interest in joining the organization has surged, and our membership roster has expanded significantly. She was also the driving force behind the introduction of special lifetime and multi-year memberships, an innovation that has proven to be a major asset, strengthening both our financial stability and member engagement.

Through her vision and leadership, AHEA has also experienced a substantial expansion of its social media presence, greatly enhancing our visibility and outreach. In addition, her generous support has enabled the establishment of numerous scholarships and dedicated funds, further elevating AHEA's profile and credibility as an academic organization committed to research and scholarship. Her generosity—both personal and material—has accelerated positive change and served as a powerful example, inspiring others to contribute and lead.

At our Board meetings, Katalin exhibits the highest level of professionalism. She can diffuse thorny issues, bring clarity to discussions, and is considerate of differences in perspectives. Katalin's vision, leadership experience, and generosity of spirit have helped foster a collegial, welcoming community in which individuals are eager to join and willing to contribute. She is more than deserving of this honor and recognition. I nominate her without reservation and with the highest possible enthusiasm. Do not hesitate to contact me if I might offer additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,
Klara Papp



Cleveland. 2026.02.08
