

2012 AHEA Péter Basa Award
Brooklyn, NY April 28, 2012

The American Hungarian Educators Association established the **Péter Basa Award** in to recognize outstanding contributions to the advancement of the purposes and activities of the AHEA. The award is presented every two years to the most deserving member of our association.

Today we are proud to present the 2012 American Hungarian Educators Association Péter Basa Award to **RUTH BIRO**, to honor her early, sustained, and long lasting commitment to the goals of the Association.



Ruth was one of the founding members AHEA in 1974 and her dedication to the work of the Association did not diminish throughout the years. This dedication says a lot both of Ruth and the AHEA itself. Ruth is not Hungarian by birth, yet she dedicated her scholarly life to doing research about Hungary and she found a receptive home in the organization. She has served the organization in several capacities throughout the years, from secretary, treasurer, nominating committee chair and VP.

Ruth has attended nearly every conference and has presented papers on a wide variety of education/library topics, such as Comenius in Sárospatak, Children's and Young Adult Literature about Hungary in English, Raoul Wallenberg in Hungary, Women and Children in WWII in Hungary, Hungarian-English Picture Dictionary on the Hungarian Language and Culture; Righteous Gentiles in the Hungarian Holocaust, King Matthias Corvinus: 15th Century Bibliophile, Literature on Hungary as Refuge for Polish Jews in WW I, Hungarian Activist Margit Slachta, Documenting Hungarian-American Materials, Educational Exchange Programs with Hungary, Hungarian Themes in Multicultural Education.

Dr. Biro has actively supported ethnic and multicultural programs to broaden awareness, within the United States, of Hungarian contributions to civilization. We can just list a few of her publications. Not only did she publish on Hungary and Hungarian topics, she has trained generations of students at Duquesne University to appreciate and understand Hungary. Some of her recent publications that fall in this category are:

Biro, Ruth G. and Judith Lechner, comps. "Children's Books by and about Hungarians and about Hungary," International Reading Association World Congress on

Reading.

Children's Literature Symposium: Bridging the World through Hungarian Children's Literature. Budapest: Eotvos Lorand University, 2006. Annotated list in Hungarian and English 27 pp. Published on 2006 website:

http://www.reading.org/association/meetings/wc_handouts.html

Biro, Ruth G. and Christina Levicky. "Literature for an Interdisciplinary Holocaust Course: Books on the Hungarian Holocaust for Comparative Cultural Study," Teaching the Holocaust in Catholic Schools. Ed. Kathleen McSharry. Greensburg: National Catholic Center for Holocaust Studies, Seton Hill University, 2008, 101-110.

Biro, Ruth G. "Representations of Budapest in 1944-1945 in Holocaust Literature," Comparative Central European Holocaust Studies. Eds. Louise O. Vasvari and Steven Totosy de Zepetnek. Purdue University Comparative Culture Series. West Lafayette IN: Purdue UP, 2009, 3-17.

Biro, Ruth G. "Hungarian Women and the Holocaust: Memory and Memorialization in Literature," The Legacy of the Holocaust: The World Before, the World After. Eds. Zygmunt Mazur, Stephen Gaies, Arnold Krammer, and Wladyslaw Witalisz. Krakow: Jagiellonian UP, 2010, 59-76.

Biro, Ruth G. "Hungarian Women Remember the Holocaust in Their Literature: Lessons in Resiliency in Overcoming the Consequences of Persecutions," Holocaust Persecution: Responses and Consequences. Eds. Nancy Rupprecht and Wendy Koenig. Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2010, 167-183.

During her 49 year tenure at Duquesne University, Ruth endeavored to deepen student appreciation for Hungarian culture. Her activities, both in and out of the classroom, helped promote understanding of the disciplines that comprise the study of the humanities together with the aesthetic, intellectual, political, and religious dimensions of Hungarian culture. Some of the publications listed above could be included here also.

Ruth has served on doctoral committees on Hungarian topics at universities in the Pittsburgh area, she has worked at the Hungarian Nationality Room of University of Pittsburgh, she is a member of the Hungarian Association of Friends (Magyar Baráti Közösség), of the William Penn Association, of the Hungarian Professional Society of Pittsburgh, of the Hungarian Social Club, of the American Hungarian Social Club, of the Hungarian-American Chamber of Commerce.

Congratulations to Ruth, as the second recipient of the Péter Basa Award of the American Hungarian Educators Association.

*Judith Kesserű Némethy, AHEA President
April 28, 2012*