

MAGYAR STUDIES OF AMERICA

MAGYAR NEWS

ONLINE

September 2007

In Search of Hungarians

By Richard Stephen Nemeth

Question. What did Bridgeport, Connecticut, Cleveland, Ohio, Newark, New Jersey, and Pocahontas, Virginia have in common? Give up? Why large Hungarian immigrant communities, of course! Never heard of Pocahontas, Virginia? Well, neither had I until I met Paul Munkasey (more about him in a later story) years ago. Paul, who was raised in Bridgeport, told me that, before his family moved there, he had been born and lived in Pocahontas. He also told me that Father Chernitzky, the long-time priest of St. Stephen's Church on Spruce Street, and Hungarian-American Community leader, had ministered in the Pocahontas area before arriving in Connecticut. Ever since hearing Paul's stories and locating the isolated town on a map, I have



wanted to visit there to search for evidence of the Hungarian community. My chance came this summer as I was travelling from my home in Fairfax, Virginia, to Kentucky to attend my wife Helen's family reunion and Pocahontas was "kinda on the way."

So, how did Hungarian immigrants manage to find their way to an isolated Appalachian mountain community in Southwest Virginia? It seems that in the years following the American Civil War (1860-1865), high quality coal (which was to become the coal of choice for ships of the U.S. Navy) was discovered in the area. Large-scale mining operations began in 1881, soon after the arrival in the

area of the Norfolk and Western Railroad. Needed miners were recruited by coal company agents who were positioned at the various ports of entry. In spite of what must have been a formidable language barrier, many of the recruits were Hungarians who soon found themselves with their families on a train bound for the mountains of Appalachia. It did not take long for Pocahontas to grow into a thriving coal company "boomtown" with a population of many thousands. It soon had a company store (1883), company-built housing, an opera house (1895), churches, and a Jewish Synagogue (1900). Many first-run Broadway shows found their way to the opera house.

The mines became unprofitable and, after operating for about 75 years, were shut down in 1955. Today the population of Pocahontas is around 400.

As we drove into town on the main street along a stream named "Coal Run", a banner stretched above the roadway, advertising an upcoming community event. It proclaimed the obviously Hungarian name of "Gaza Kovach" who we later learned had been the high school principal and football coach for many years. What a welcome to Pocahontas, I thought. Continuing our

search, we turned onto a side street into a residential area and noticed an elderly woman walking beside the road. We stopped, hailed her over to the car window, and hesitantly asked if she knew where we might find evidence of the Hungarian community. I was astounded when she replied "Why, you are in Hunktown, right now!" Mission accomplished. Now I know how Lewis felt when he

sighted the Pacific Ocean. "Oh, the joy," he proclaimed.

The woman was Helen Soos. She had lived in Pocahontas her entire life. Her parents arrived there in 1907, immigrants from the town of Kis St. Marten (my guess is that the name of the place was really Kismarton. Erika), Hungary. Her father and husband had worked the mines and, as so many had, died of the dreaded "Black Lung Disease." She still lives in one of the old company houses which her family purchased from the company for \$3000 when the mines shut down. Helen told me she could speak Hungarian at one time but now she remembers only an occasional word. As we sat on her front porch, she waved at other houses along the street, and told me that many of her neighbors were Hungarian-American families with names such as Seuch, Sabo (John Sabo, Jr. was



The author and Helen Soos in "Boomtown" Pocahontas, Virginia

mayor of Pocahontas in 1981), Danko, and Kovach. Helen then pointed out a boarded-up brick building at the end of the block and told me it had been the Hungarian Reformed Church. Calling my attention to a large gleaming-white church on a nearby hill overlooking the town, she informed me that it was St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, which was built in 1896 by a Father Emil Olivier, a French priest.

(It is still an active parish. I later learned it is ministered by a Filipino priest and serves about 40 families about half of whom are of Hungarian heritage. When we visited we could not enter but I learned that the interior is beautifully adorned with ten life-sized murals, the work of George Brouche a friend of the pastor at the time) Helen spoke proudly of two grandsons who were in college; one at the University of Miami and the other at Florida State. As we departed, she urged us to return for the town's annual celebration of its "European Heritage" which features Hungarian stuffed cabbage!



St. Elizabeth's overlooking Pocahontas

As we departed we noted a memorial park across from the town hall. I decided to stop and check the names listed on the memorial for those thought



to be Hungarians. There were many on the list of those who served in WWII: Bertok (3), Dobos, Kertez, Kovach (4), Nagy (3), Satmary (4), Savko, Zarborsky (4), Toth (4), Soos (3), and Sabo. I thought it interesting that the listings for the Korean and Vietnam Wars had no Hungarian names, possibly indicating an exodus from Pocahontas of Hungarian families after WWII.

On a beautiful tree-covered hillside just outside of town there is a large 200 year old cemetery. It contains a mass grave for 114 miners who perished in a mine disaster in 1884. Each year a memorial service is held at the site to honor those who perished in the mines.

We stopped to visit and search for Hungarians buried there.



Hungarian immigrant's grave

We found several and even found a stone inscribed in Hungarian. As I wandered through the quiet, beautiful tree-shaded hillside resting place, I wondered what it must have been like working day after day in that dark underground world so far from their beloved homeland.....and I was very sad.....

"The coal powder absorbs our tears,
Our laughter is drowned in smoke,
We yearn to return to our little village,
Where every blade of grass understood Hungarian."
(Excerpt from a folk song)

Author's notes:
For further information about the subject of this article, recommend you "Google" the following:

-Pocahontas Exhibition Coal Mine Museum, Pocahontas, Virginia

-Shinbrier (contains an extensive collection of photographs of early mining operations)

The author, Richard Stephen Nemeth, wishes to dedicate this article to his grandparents who arrived from Hungary in 1902. A former resident of Bridgeport's West End, he graduated from Roger Ludlowe High School in Fairfield, Connecticut in 1949. He was a career U.S. Air Force officer. Now retired, he resides in Fairfax, Virginia with his wife of 51 years, Helen. Richard is a previous contributor to the print version of Magyar News.

Two events, two lively crowds.

The last week in June had two very entertaining and very different events for our area friends. On Sunday, St. Ladislaus Parish in So. Norwalk, Ct continued to celebrate its 100th anniversary with a Pig Roast Búcsú and the following Friday, in Wallingford, a

Hungarian Folk Ensemble from Transylvania, the Úszűrű Magyar Népegyüttes, performed for a very receptive after-dinner audience.

The búcsú was an all you can eat event that featured **two** roasted pigs, gulyás, kaposzta, hot dogs, and hamburgers. Also available for purchase was various shapes of mezes kalacs. A lively band helped the revelers enjoy a wonderful summer afternoon.

According to their website, "An "úszűrű" is a particular type of forked branch pitched in the fields of Székelyföld (Eastern Transylvania). Its function is to support the drying of



06.24.2007

crops and haystacks." The Hungarian Cultural Society of Connecticut (HCSC) brought this marvelous group to Wallingford to the delight of a very responsive audience. We should have more weeks like this.



06.24.2007



06.24.2007

MNO staffers enjoying the festivities

Magyar Studies Picnic

Alexis Kiss

The schoolbooks were closed for the summer and it was time for the traditional year-end celebration for the Magyar Studies class of 2007.

This year the summer picnic was even more special than usual because the School was celebrating the successful completion of the 1956 Memorial Statue erected in Kaposvar Hungary on October 23, 2006.

The picnic was held at Blue Spruce Farm in Monroe Connecticut on June 3rd. Rosanne Balassa Plavinsky, a Magyar Studies student generously offered her lovely farm grounds for the picnic. Roseanne offered rides for the children on her lovely pinto pony. Her husband provided hayrides around the property.

There was plenty of delicious Hungarian food that was supplied by both the teachers and the students. Éva Mikolai, Krisztina Rivel, Zsuzsa Deer and Irén Feher cooked Gulyas over the fire. Zsuzsa Lengyel and Aniko Dowell coordinated the event.

Entertainment was provided performances by the students. Oliver Valu, who studied at the Liszt Music School in Hungary, sang several Hungarian songs.

A special award ceremony was held and medals sent to Magyar Studies by The Comradeship of Corvin-köz of 1956 were presented to 10 people who were instrumental in the planning and completion of the 1956 50th anniversary Memorial Statue. The letter from the Comradeship of Corvin-köz of 1956 read in part "We would like to offer 10 sets of the 300 pieces to your organization, to those persons you deem most deserving."

The recipients of the medals were: József Balogh, József Czentnar, the Honorable Carl Dickman, Gyula Egervári, Elizabeth Kakas, Károly Mákos, György Mismás, Karolina Szabó and Olivér Valu. A medal was also awarded to Sz. Andrea Wargha, our Hungarian representative of the Memorial Statue Committee.

Planning is underway for the Magyar Studies school year for 2007-2008. You can find information for registration on this website.



MSA picnic June 2007



HUNGARIAN SCHOOL

The **Magyar Studies of America, Inc.**, a nonprofit organization with 30 years of experience is offering free (except a small registration fee) instruction in Hungarian for students ages 5 and up and for all adults.

Registration: Monday, September 24th, 2007 at 7 P.M.

Classes are on Mondays from 7:00 to 8:15 P.M.

at Fairfield Woods Middle School
1115 Fairfield Woods Road, Fairfield, CT

For further information, please call:

Krisztina Rivel (203)226-3536 krisztina@rivel.com
Zsuzsa Lengyel (203)746-2162 budailany@sbcglobal.net
Our Web site: www.magyarstudiesofamerica.org

MAGYAR NYELVISKOLA

30 éves tapasztalattal működő

Magyar Studies of America, Inc.

2007 szeptemberében újra indítja ingyenes osztályait.
(kivéve egy beiratkozási díjat kérünk)

Szeretettel vár minden gyerek (5 éves kortól)-és felnőtt tanulót, aki szeretné megtanulni, fejleszteni, csiszolni, vagy akár csak ápolni magyar nyelvtudását.

Beiratkozás: 2007. szeptember 24-én, hétfőn, 7órai kezdettel.

A tanítási órák hétfő esténként, 7-től ¼ 9-ig tartanak.

Helyszín: Fairfield Woods Middle School,
1115 Fairfield Woods, Fairfield, CT

További felvilágosításért hívják:

Rivel Krisztina (203)226-3536 krisztina@rivel.com
Lengyel Zsuzsa (203)746-2162 budailany@sbcglobal.net

Honlapunk: www.magyarstudiesofamerica.org

PÁPA az 'Oskola Varos'

Dr. Dora Józsefné sz. Tima Irma

Budapest es Becs kozott 150km-re egyforman mindket varostol fekszik a szep kis barokk varos Pápa. Evszazdokon keresztul Dunantul iskola varosakent emlegettek. A Fo teri Griff kavehazban ropta a tancot Kisfaludy Sandor Szegedy Rozaval.

A Kisalföld és a Bakony találkozásánál épült Pápa, fel uton Becs es Budapest kozott. Ha Pápára gondolok, nem a mai modern város jelenik meg, hanem diákkorom gyermekzsivajtól hangos, iskolába igyekvő gyerekek vonulása. Én is itt végeztem a középiskolát és belém ivódott a régi kisváros barokk – klasszicista és ki tudja még hányféle stílusú építészete, amit most felnőtt fejjel másként értékelek.

Regeszeti adatok szerint az 1. szazad masodik feleben romaiak telepultek le a kis meleg vizu Tapolca patak mellett, de mar az ujkokortol kimutathatok emberi telepulesek nyomai. Evszazadokon keresztul a foldmuvelés mellett híres volt a malomipara. A kis Tapolca patak több malmot hajtott, még az utjában eso kis falvakban is. Eszakra Papatol, Nagyacsádon, a kicsi faluban ahol szulettem es nottem fel, ket malmot hajtott, meg telen is messze falvakbol hoztak a gabonat orlertni, mivel a Tapolca 15 C foku meleg vize nem fagyott be.

Szekesfehervar a templomok varosa, Papa meg az 'iskolavaros', Dunantul Athenje. A híres Papai Református Kollégiumot 1531-ben alapítottak. Itt jart iskolaba Petőfi, Jókai, és még hány tudós ember hagyta itt szellemét. A ferencesek 1535-ben helyeztek itt el theologiai foiskolajukat, majd a palosok 1721-ben alapítottak iskolat, amit kesobb a bencések kaptak meg,

ma a Turr Istvan Gimnazium, Deak Ferenc is itt tanult a palosok alatt. Papan alapitodott Dunantul az egyeduli zsidó polgari iskola az 1700-as evvek masodik feleben. Az 1800-as evvekben leanynevelo iskola, majd a polgari leanyiskola (Natus) 1901-ben, 1902-ben pedig a tanitonokepzo nyillott meg. Az utobbi evvekben epult a várkertben az új Petőfi Gimnázium.

Papa a Dunántúl, sot talan Közép-Europa egyik legszebb barokk stílusú városa.

A Fő terét meghatározza a római katolikus Nagytemplom, melynek tornyait messzirol latja az odaerkezo. Templom szinte monumentalis, tornyai 72m magasak. A templom egy régi kis templom helyere epult, szentelese 1795-ben törtent. A mennyezet freskoi Franz Anton Maulbertsch dicso munkaja, amiért 9000 aranyforintot fuzetett a plebania. A Fo teret veszik korben az Esterházy-kastély, amit a papaiak ma

helyreállított, vagy szinte változatlanak maradt házak, mint ekszerek diszitik a barokk és klasszicista stílusaikkal a város Fo teret. A Fo terol nyilik a Korvin utca, itt van a ferences templom 1678-1680-as evkebol. A Fo terol a Kapuszin alatt jutunk be a belvaros tobbi reszebe, a satalo Kossuth utcara, ahol a vasarlo leli oromet. A Kossuth utca masik vege felé es a Fo ut kozott van az 1931-1934 kozott epult uj reformatus templom. A Fő utcan figyelemre melto a Kékfestő Múzeum. A Kluge-fele kekfesto uzem 1784-1956-ig mukodott. A muzeumot evente kb. 40,000 latogato keresi fel. A ligetben épült a színház és az élményfürdő. Van boven néznivaló a turistáknak, ha nincs is kötődése Pápához.

Pápa ma modern várossá fejlődött es ma is közlekedési csomópont és bizony 34000 lakosú várossá nőtt, de nekem most is a régi macskaköves



var-nak mondanak. A 75 szobaban ma zeneiskola mukodik, a Jokai Konyvtar as a Helytorteneti Muzeum helyezkedik el. A Fo teren lathato a felujitott Griff Haz, a hires Labashaz es a Zichy haz. Ezek a csodálatosan

utak, gyermek kacagas, harangszó jut eszembe, ha Pápára gondolok, az ifjusagom varosa.

English translation follows

, mint ekszerek diszítik a barokk és klasszicista stílusaikkal a város fő terét. A fő teret nyílik a Korvin utca, itt van a ferences templom 1678-1680-as évekből. A fő teret a Kapuszin alatt jutunk be a belváros többi részébe, a sárga Kossuth utcára, ahol a vásáros leli örömet. A Kossuth utca másik végén és a fő út között van az 1931-1934 között épült új református templom. A fő utcán figyelemre méltó a Kékfestő Múzeum. A Kluge-fele kekkészítő üzem 1784-1956-ig működött. A múzeumot évente kb. 40,000 látogató keresi fel. A ligetben épült a színház és az élményfürdő. Van bemenő nézőtér a turistáknak, ha nincs is kötődése Pápához.



Pápa ma modern várossá fejlődött és ma is közlekedési csomópont és bizony 34000 lakosú várossá nőtt, de nekem most is a régi macskaköves utak, gyermek kacagás, haragszó jut eszembe, ha Pápára gondolok, az ifjúságom városa.

English translation follows

Pápa

Translated by Karolina Szabo

Where the green and gently sloping Bakony mountains meet the Kisalföld (the small plain), halfway between Vienna and Budapest, lies the small city of Pápa. A scenic place, it may well be the most beautiful baroque city in middle and eastern Europe. When I think of Pápa, in my mind's eye, I don't see the modern city. Rather, I see the streets with clamorous students hurrying to school amidst beautiful surroundings. I attended high school and college here, and I fell in love with the stunning buildings constructed in baroque, classic, and other styles.

According to archeologists, Romans lived in the basin of the small Tapolca Creek as early as the second half of the first century. However, there is evidence of settlements there as early as the New Stone Age. For centuries the area was well known for its milling industry, set amidst a significant agricultural region, one of the grain baskets of Hungary. Many grain mills were located on the banks of Tapolca

brook in every town through which it flowed. A pair of mills operated in Nagycsád, the small town north of Pápa where I was born and grew up. From faraway towns and villages, farmers hauled their grain to the mills, which operated year round since the water temperature never went below 15 degrees centigrade, and thus did not freeze in the winter.

Székesfehérvár to the east is called the "city of churches"; Pápa is called the "city of schools" or "the Athens of Transdanubia". The famous Papai Református Kollegium was established there in 1531. The nation's favorite poet, Sándor Petőfi, and the famous story teller, Mór Jokai, as well as many other well known scholars attended the college. The Franciscan order transferred their school of theology to Pápa in 1535, and then the order of St. Paul established a school in 1721. Later given to the Benedictine order, the school is now known as the "Turr István Gimnázium". Ferenc Deák, known as "A Haza Bölcsője" (Wiseman of the Nation) studied there when it was still called St. Paul's. The first and only Jewish school in Transdanubia was established in the second half of the eighteenth century. During the second half of the century, a school for girls was initiated, followed by a civil school for girls (Natus) in 1901. In 1902 a teacher's college was opened for women, and more recently a new Petőfi Gimnázium was constructed in the Varkert.

The Fő tér (Main Square) is the central attraction of the city, one that is almost

unique in Hungary. In the middle of the Square stands the Nagytemplom (Great Church). The church is of monumental proportions, with the twin towers reaching upward 72 meters, or over 220 feet. Travelers can see it from far away in all directions. The church was constructed on the site of an older and smaller church, and it was dedicated in 1795. The frescos in the church are the work of Franz Anton Maulbertsch, at a cost of 9,000 gold forints, paid for by the parishioners. Beautiful baroque villas surround the square. The Esterházy castle, to this day called the Varkastély (fortress castle) by the local residents, was built in the 1740's. Now a music academy, it houses the Jokai Library and the Historical Museum.

Also on the Fő tér (Main Street) are the Griffház, the famous Labasház (house on legs) and the Zichyház. These beautifully restored buildings adorn the square like so many jewels. From the square Korvin utca begins. The Franciscan church is located there. It was constructed between 1768 and 1860. Under the Kapuszin (Arch), the rest of the inner city can be approached. On Kossuth utca small shops are waiting for visitors.

At the other end of Kossuth utca stands the Calvin Reformed Church, which was built between 1931 and 1934. The building, itself, is modest. Only the size of the church and the double tower grab the visitor's attention. On the Fő utca it is worthwhile to visit the Kékfestő Múzeum (Blue Dyer). The Kluge kekkészítő was in operation here from 1784 to 1956. Approximately 40,000 people a year visit this museum, a significant number for this small city.

Pápa grew to a modern city with a population of over 34,000. Recently a new swimming pool and a theater have been built in the Liget (park), and Pápa has become a major transportation center. But I like to think about the old cobblestone streets, the narrow alleyways, the laughter of children, and the ringing of bells in the City of my youth.

Did you know....

That it was the Hungarians who introduced the use of underwear in Europe?



Running a 5K Race in Debrecen

By Judit Vasmatyics Paolini

St. Ann Church—Debrecen

Often our dreams and goals are achieved through diligence and hard work; but once in a while we attain them unexpectedly as the opportunity simply falls in our lap! A few years ago my husband George was so lucky! He enjoys running primarily to stay fit which he does as a daily routine; he has entered some local races—always for the personal challenge and nothing more. Of course, he has never been in the top ten but has been quite satisfied to be among the runners in the middle and not the last one crossing the finish line!

George had hopes of someday running race in Europe; we knew that the possibility was always there—sometime in the future. Then, a few years ago while making plans to visit relative and friends in Hungary, we discovered a 5K race was being held in Debrecen on August 20th. I'm sure many readers know that August 20th is a National holiday in Hungary celebrated with numerous parades, fireworks, and many other festivities. The city of Debrecen was holding its annual Festival of Flowers; the race would precede the Parade of Flowers. Thus, George eagerly made some plans to enter the race; though I was born Budapest and had been to Hungary many times I had never been to Debrecen! So I too was delighted and looked forward to discovering the city—especially the Festival of Flowers which I've heard was truly spectacular and similar to our Rose Bowl Parade.

When we arrived we noted the hub of excitement which filled the city; people came from cities throughout Hungary in anticipation of the Festival of Flowers.

While people were looking forward to this event and the firework which would be held at on August 20th no one seemed to know about the race! To our surprise there weren't any flyers posted either! Finally, we managed to find someone who was able to answer our questions providing the information we needed and a flyer as well. Okay, so George would be running a race in Debrecen and fulfilling his dream!

We found the city to be quite charm-



ing. Of course in this day and age we were not at all surprised to find a MacDonald's; but we opted for a restaurant which offered a traditional Hungarian cuisine—needles to say we ordered chicken paprikas! We were seated at a table by the widow overlooking the main street. Suddenly, to our complete

surprise we spotted several floats decorated completely with flowered passing by in preparation for the parade which would be held the following day. That certainly was an unexpected treat!

The next day we woke up early and set off for the 5K race. Upon arriving we discovered that since the race was relatively simple serious runners chose not to enter; no wonder there were hardly any flyers promoting it! George does not speak Hungarian but for a few words; I translated as accurately as I could helping him complete the required forms and understand the route the race would follow. I cautioned him that the children and adults would start together from the same starting line, but the children's race was shorter and would depart from the main course. George had to make sure he stayed on the main route which eventually ended at the stadium.

George noted a few differences from races he ran in Connecticut. One which particularly surprised him was that no food or water was provided at the end of this race. Though the race in Debrecen was a fun run the length was a 5K. George said, "Food and especially water should have been provided for all of the runners. During a race water is depleted from the body which needs to be replenished."

He also observed that his shoes were of a better quality than his opponents; some of the runners were quite interested in his shoes, but not being able to communicate prohibited a meaningful discussion or exchange of ideas. Despite the language barrier many smiling faces encouraged

George and made him feel welcome. Of course, I must note that had the race had professional runners their running gear would have surpassed George's for he is only an armature running simply for the sport of it.

George believed that most of the adult racers were in their twenties or thirties with very few in their forties like him. He found the race quite exhilarating and gained a new surge of energy every time someone along the parade route cheered him on. Nonetheless, one of the most exciting moments during the race occurred when he entered the stadium where the race ended and it was filled with about 30,000 people who were primarily there for the Flower Festival which followed the race.

There was a young runner in his twenties running a few feet ahead of George. Hearing the wild cheer of the crowd this young man believed it was for him. When the crowd's cheer became more intense and enthusiastic he turned and saw George, who was at least twenty years older, gaining on him! This gave both of them a new surge of energy as they ran for the finish line. Once they crossed it the younger

man congratulated George.

Only the first six runners in the men's and women's division received a T-shirt and a certificate. Once again George was not among such winners but he was most pleased as he received a certificate for participating. I was delighted for him as he achieved his dream of running a race abroad!

In my many travels to Europe I've had the pleasure of meeting many different people and discovering that our differences are actually insignificant if we allow them to be. Hobbies, sports, the arts, etc. bring different people together—people from different cultures; a common interest enables people to attain a greater understanding for his/her fellow man/woman. George certainly had the pleasure of doing just that when he ran the race in Debrecen. I had the pleasure of accompanying him!

The people of Debrecen are proud of their annual Festival of Flowers; it draws thousands of tourists not only from Hungary but other countries as well. Having had the opportunity to see this special event—in addition to rooting for George—I concur, the citizens of Debrecen certainly have the

right to be proud!

MAGYAR NEWS KITCHEN

Veal Steak Paprikás

From the kitchen of Eliz

1 ½ lb veal steak
1 fresh tomato, cut up
1 green pepper, cut up
2 medium onion, chopped
2 TBSP oil
1 tsp paprika
¼ - ½ cup water
Salt and pepper to taste

Heat oil in skillet. Brown meat on both sides and season to taste. Remove meat from oil. In the same pan brown chopped onion. Add cut-up peppers, tomatoes and browned meat. Add water, cover and cook until meat is tender.

Serve with cooked rice and cucumber salad.

EPILOGUE OR SOME AFTERTHOUGHTS ABOUT THE DEDICATION OF THE ANGEL OF FREEDOM IN KAPOSVÁR

By Zsuzsa Lengyel & Károly Mákos

The Hungarians, all over the world, have been very active, everybody in their own way, nurturing the ideal of 1956. During the last 50 years, though, a lot of them have grown old, passed away, or just got disillusioned. Still, when the 50th anniversary was approaching, the Hungarians started organizing again and everybody wanted to celebrate. A lot of people went back to Hungary, so they can celebrate in their beloved homeland. Old friends, family



members, old cellmates from the labor camps got together to bring back old memories. It was heartwarming for us to see a lot of young people there and a lot of them even participated in the different programs. Here are a few examples of some of the little seemingly unimportant things or comments that happened or were overheard. At the dinner afterwards the unveiling, Gyuri Mismás was sitting at the end of the table and started talking with a 70 year old man. It turned out; they were both at the same labor camp in Hortobágy. The name of this person is Albert Varga, who wrote a book about those hard and sad years, illustrated with pictures. The family of Katalin Gera was also attending this dinner including her two grandsons. The two growing boys were able to hold an intelligent conversation with the other people at the table. No wonder, they are surrounded with very knowledgeable and talented people with strong nationalistic feelings. Their grandfather, Árpád Csernák, is the editor of a very high level cultural magazine published monthly. He is also the one who has been organizing and preparing the demonstrations in Kaposvár since September 18, 2006 every night. Kálmán Magyar, a historian and president of the Museum of Kaposvár was there also. He organized the memorial service for the heroes of the county of Somogy on the 22nd. He was giving out postcards of the 301 Parcel, which is a section in a cemetery where the heroes of '56 are buried, a lot of them unknown. These were printed by another Hungarian in Chicago, named László Göncz. It is good to see that there still are Hungarians who do not forget, and are willing to make sacrifices for the Hungarian cause.

One of the members of our committee found a branch of his family, who moved from the county of Vas to the county of Somogy 150 years ago. When Gyula Egervári was walking to the Imre Nagy Park with another member of our group, he was not sure if he is going in the right direction. An older man was limping on the street, and asked him if they were heading toward the park. He answered, come with me I am going there myself. He said I just had heart surgery and should be resting, and not get overly excited, but I cannot miss this wonderful event. When we got to the park, we could see why the streets were empty. Everybody was in the park. Kaposvár was celebrating. There could be a whole book written on our experiences. The heroes' blood, the sweat of the workers soaked that land, but spring is coming and a new awakening. The seed of life in our nation will grow into conscious self-respecting Hungarians in Kaposvár and in other towns and villages in the country. The creative genius and character, holding onto the spirits of the ancestors, will create

a renewed culture and an even more beautiful Hungary.

THE ANGEL OF FREEDOM WILL WATCH OVER THEM!



Mága Zoltán

és az Angyalok

VIRTUÓZ HEGEDŰMŰVÉSZEK
BUDAPESTRŐL
TURNÉ 2007. USA - CANADA



A nemzetközileg elismert többszörös arany és platinalemezmagyar hegedűvirtuóz,

Sir Mágá Zoltán

(www.magazoltan.hu)

kápráztatja el hallgatóit két különleges tehetségű bájos Angyalával. A művész saját feldolgozásában hallható virtuóz klasszikus daraboktól az operetten és a musicaleken át a jazzig és a filmzenéig, sokféle stílust játszik. Hívták már a Királyok Prímásának, a Szeretet Hegedűsének, a Zene Nagykövetének, az emberek közötti hidak építőjének. Mondják: senki sem lehet próféta a saját hazájában. A kivételes tehetségű és emberségű művésznek, Mágá Zoltánnak mégis sikerült. Számos kitüntetés mellett megkapta a Magyar Köztársasági Arany Érdemkeresztet, a Magyar Köztársaság Lovagkeresztjét, a Kisebbségért Díjat, de emellett máltai lovagként Magyarország kulturális nagykövete is.

Repertoárjukon szerepel: VIVLADI, MOZART, LISZT, BARTÓK, KODÁLY, BRAHMS, STRAUSS, OFFENBACH, PAGANINI, LEHÁR, KÁLMÁN, STING, WEBBER...

Sikerdarabjai: MONTI CSÁRDÁS, BRAHMS MAGYAR TÁNCOK, PACSIRTA, NÉGY ÉVSZAK, SCHINDLER'S LIST, KERESZTAPA, OPERAHÁZ FANTOMJA...
és még sok felejthetetlen pillanatot okozó zenemű.

SUN SEPT 23 4 PM BRIDGEPORT

BESSEMER CENTER 2200 NORTH AV

TICKETS: \$ 20 IN ADVANCE (AT DOOR \$ 25)

CONTINENTAL TRAVEL 255 0890;

PONGRÁTZ ENTERTAINMENT 13214 S 38 ST PHOENIX AZ 85044
E-MAIL: ATP7@QWEST.NET TEL/FAX 480 706 0677 MB 480 258 8444