



Tabáni tavasz

By: Mihály László Barna

This romantic poem dealing with spring in the old Tabán section of Buda was written by a homesick Transylvanian student who left his homeland following its takeover by the Rumanians after World War I. The Tabán was located below Buda Castle, and was inhabited by a mixture of nationalities, some of whom had been brought to Hungary by the Turks. In the 19th century it became the Bohemian quarter. It was demolished in 1930 for city planning purposes.

Tabáni tavasz

By: Mihály László Barna

Édes láz nyargal véremen keresztül,
Élet pezsdíti meg a holt röget
S a kertek is mind rendre ébrednek
S vággyal sóhajtva suttogják: jöhet!

Tavaszuhan végig a vén Tabánban,
Előtte virgonc szél-apródja fut;
Fütyül, dudol a kis haszontalanja
S mezzörrent minden rozzant, ó kaput.

S csókot hint a Tavasz játszin, kacajjal;
Selyempipőben míg végigszalad,
Útszéli, tarlott gesztenyék avarja
Felnögy jajongva lépteit alatt.

Zokog, felsír minden száradt levélke
S fájdalmasan feljajdul a szívem,
Pedig nem gázolt rá picinyke talpa,
Csak kis keze ért hozzá szeliden.

Mosolyg az ódon házak ráncos arca
S a villamos robaja halk, vidám –
(Hát otthon, otthon? ott is kikelet van
Bozontos homlokú, vén Hargitán?..)

Tavaszuhan végig öreg Tabánban
S árván ödögök utcák szegletén
S rá gondolok gyönyörű Máriámra
Én száműzött, bús, erdélyi legény!...



Zórád Ernő képméltékei a
Tabánról

Government Recognition of Dr. Balázs Somogyi EPF

Among the list of awardees announced in Parliament on March 15th, Dr. Balázs Somogyi of Wallingford, Founding President of the Hungarian Cultural Society of Connecticut and Vice President of the New York 1956 Memorial Committee, was presented with the Middle Cross (Civic Section) of the Hungarian Medal of Honor (*Magyar érdemrend középkereszt polgári tagozata*). Since he was unable to attend the ceremony in person, the award will be sent and presented at a later date.

The Consul General of New York, Kumin Ferenc, had jumped the gun and announced the award at the fund-raising gala held at the New York Hungarian House on March 12th.

The Budapest announcement cited his outstanding, selfless and tireless efforts to further Hungarian cultural life through his organizational skills and his ability to keep such initiatives running. Congratulations, Balázs! The honor is well deserved!

Mihály László Barna (1902 – 1977), poet, novelist and journalist, was born in Székelyudvarhely. Following World War I he went to Budapest, where he obtained a teaching degree in Hungarian and history. He married Jánossy Margit, a writer. He was a contributor to many literary journals, including "Pásztortűz" and "Erdélyi Helikon". During World War II, Mihály was a press correspondent in Italy. After this war, he worked in the Szabó Ervin Könyvtár. His poems are marked by Catholic ethics, love of his Székely homeland and homesickness. This poem is taken from his slim volume of poetry entitled "Hazavágyom!" (I Long to be Home!) published by the Marosszék section of the Székely Egyetemi és Főiskolai Hallgatók Egyesülete in Budapest in 1926.

Farewell to Remy P. Papp

By: EPF

It's hard to write an obituary notice when it is about your own brother. Remy was the person who had known me my whole life. And now he is no longer there on the other end of the phone ...

Born in Berlin because our Dad could not find an engineering job in post-Trianon Hungary, Remy had also been in France before he was three years old! When our parents returned to Hungary, and he was asked about what they had done abroad, he replied in his first full sentence (albeit somewhat in baby talk): "Mentünk (nem „mentünk”) ide, mentünk oda" – we went here, we went there.

As happened to many others, World War II gave his life a different turn. He completed his prep school studies in Germany after the war, and once in America, obtained his degree in civil engineering from Columbia University and began working in New York. In 1955, he returned to Germany to marry, because under the immigration quota system of the time his fiancée would have had to wait very long to enter the US.

In 1968, he obtained a masters' degree in Business Administration from NYU, which enabled him eventually to set up his own engineering consulting business, RPP Construction Consultants, in Connecticut in 1986, concentrating on bridge foundations. His wife Agnes was his answering service, despite the fact that she suffered from multiple sclerosis. She passed away in 2012.

Before moving to Connecticut, Remy had traveled extensively (and still "went here, went there") on business to Nigeria, and Central and South America. He wrote up a number of humorous episodes from these job-related trips in an unpub-



lished booklet entitled "Gleanings by a Construction Stiff".

For the past several years, Remy had numerous health issues. He passed away on Good Friday, March 25th, 2016. He was 86 years old.

Big brother, may you rest in peace!

March 15th in Fairfield, CT

The observance, sponsored jointly by the Pannonia American-Hungarian Club and the United Church of Christ, was held on Sunday, March 13th at the upstairs church hall. Guest Speaker was Dr. Zsuzsanna Király, Leading Consul from New York.

This year, the observance sponsored jointly by the Pannonia American-Hungarian Club and the United Church of Christ was held on Sunday, March 13th at the upstairs church hall. The hall has been renovated and was a great venue for the occasion.

Zsuzsanna Deer, President of the Pannonia Club greeted the guests. The introductory and closing invocations were said by Rev. Tibor Király. Irén Fehér recited Petőfi's "Magyar vagyok", and Tünde Csonka sang. Allyson Szabo played several melodies from 1848 on the flute, and Peter Deer played Johannes Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 5 on the violin. Robert Ujj recited Vörösmarty's Szózat. And of course no

March 15th observance would be complete without recitation of Petőfi's "Nemzeti dal", rendered this time by Imre Ihász.

Guest speaker was Dr. Zsuzsanna Király, Leading Consul from New York. We are publishing the full text of her

speech here:

„Tisztelt Hölgyeim és Uraim, Kedves Magyar Honfitársaim!

„Ismét március 15.-e megünneplésére gyűltünk össze!

„Első gondolatom az volt e jeles nappal kapcsolatban, hogy hálát adhatunk a 'magyarok Istenének', hiszen szerte a világon megünnepelhetjük e napot magyar közösségeinkben: mert jelen vagyunk a világ térképének minden részén, és több mint 1000 évvel a Honfoglalás után szabad hazánk áll Európa közepén!

„Immár 168 éve annak, hogy 1848. március 15-e nem csupán egyetlen tavaszi napnak, hanem másfél esztendő csodálatos szabadságküzdelmeinek és a nemzeti függetlenségnek, közös jelképe lett.

„Petőfi gyűjtő hangú költeménye a 'Talpra Magyar' - a csodálatos reformkor megelőző eseményei után - szinte törvényszerűen vezette győzelemre a pestieket, ezt követően pedig a vívmányok megőrzéséért, Kossuth Lajos – akit a nép Kossuth apánknak nevezett – az önfeláldozó szabadságharcba vitte az egész népet, gyermekektől aggastyánig! 1848-49-ben e másfél év dicsőséget, fényes győzelmeket és vesztés csatákat egyaránt hozott, felállítva ezzel a magyar nemzet számára a nemzeti függetlenség és a politikai demokrácia európai mércéjét.

„Ma már olyan távolinak tűnik történelmünk aranylapjainak ez a szakasza, mintha nem is véres



valóság lett volna! Pedig ha nem vívták volna meg elődeink ezt a hatalmas történelmi ütközetet Ausztriával, a Habsburgokkal, Európa nagyhatalmával, amit – tegyük hozzá – Ausztria nem is tudott egyedül leküzdeni, csak Oroszország, Paskievics katonáinak segítségével – akkor ma nem lennének Európa közepén álló szabad ország.

„Igaz, ezért a 20. században is meg kellett küzdenünk, az 1956-os forradalom és szabadságharc egyedülálló küzdelmeivel, melyeknek legyőzésével is győztünk!

„Miben?

„Mindkét szabadságharcunkban: a magyarság hite, bátorsága, önfeláldozása, önzetlensége és istenszeretete tett győztessé bennünket legyőzöttségünkben is, mindazokkal szemben, akik ezekkel az erkölcsi tulajdonságokkal nem rendelkeztek! És ez nem merő idealizmus, hanem megfogható eredményekben is tükröződő igazság!

„De úgy tűnik ez a mi hivatásunk a világban: felvenni a harcot kicsinységünkben is a – kor szabályai szerint – a történelemben, az önmagát túlélő túlérővel szemben: hazánk jövőjéért, de közvetve másokért is, közös kultúránkért!

„A 21. század európai világa is megfogalmazta már az új feladatokat, kihívásokat a mi kis népünk felé.

„Petőfi üzenete a 19. századból - amit a költőknek mond, - nemzetünk számára is iránymutató. Így ír :

‘Újabb időkben Isten ilyen,
Lángoszlopoknak rendelé
A költőket, hogy ők vezessék
A népet Kánaán felé.
Előre hát mind, aki költő,
A néppel tűzön, vízen át!
Átok reá ki elhajtja
Kezéből a nép zászlaját...’

„A költők helyére úgy gondolom nyugodtan behelyettesíthetjük nemzetünket. De látnunk kell, amire szintén Petőfi figyelmeztet: hogy

‘Vannak hamis próféták, akik
Azt hirdetik nagy gonosan,
Hogy már megállhatunk, mert itten
Az ígéretnek földje van.
Hazugság, szemtelen hazugság,
Mit milliók cáfolnak meg...’

“És mindezért további küzdelemre szólít a költő, amit talán már meg is kezdtünk mi magyarok itt Európa közepén!

„Úgy érzem ezek a mi történelmi és irodalmi tanulságaink. Mert bármilyen réginek tűnnek történelmi eseményeink, mindig tanulhatunk belőlük. Sőt, ezek nélkül nem lennének azok, akik vagyunk és leszünk - amint az ember idős korában sem létezne régmúlt ifjú korának küzdelmei és eredményei nélkül - amint az ember idős korában sem létezne régmúlt ifjú korának küzdelmei és eredményei nélkül!

„Jó, nemzeti érzelmű emlékezetet és a mai kor kihívásaira válaszoló jó nemzeti lelkiismeretet kívánok valamennyiünknek, amely a világban bárhol élő magyarokat is tettekre sarkallhatja. Hogyan? Kinek-kinek lehetőségei adják a teremtő gondolatokat! Mert boldog emberek csak jó lelkiismerettel lehetünk!”

Nyergestető: David vs. Goliath, 1849

The Revolution and Freedom Fight of 1848-49 was remembered in Hungary, the US and wherever Hungarians live – for example, in Transylvania. Perhaps the most evocative such commemoration occurred at Nyergestető .

Nyergestető is a mountain pass, a saddle, between the Háromszék Basin and the Csík Basin. It had been the scene of many bloody battles during numerous Tartar and Turkish invasions.

One of the last battles of the Revolution and Freedom Fight of 1848-49 was valiantly fought there, and that battle is commemorated twice annually, on March 15th and on the actual anniversary, on August 1st. It was there that Major Tuzson János repeatedly fought off 200,000 Austro-Russian troops with 200

(yes, that’s two hundred!) men and eight cannons. Only when a Rumanian shepherd showed the attackers a way to circumvent the Hungarian patriots and led them behind the Hungarian positions were the Magyars defeated.

Their mass grave is marked by innumerable crosses and *kopjafák* (carved grave markers). A stone monument was erected in their honor in 1897.

Today there is also a tree carved into a *kopjafa*, illustrating Kányádi Sándor’s tribute to the defenders in which he compares them to a full-grown tree which does not bend, but breaks in two.

EPF



Conducting ATM business in Hungarian!!

By: Paul Soos

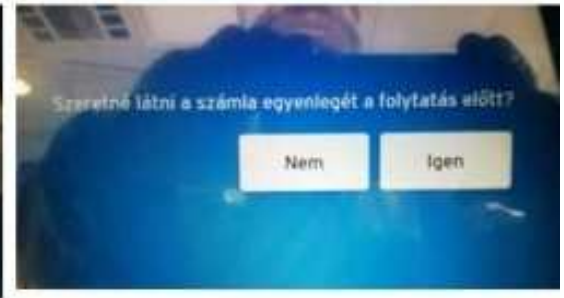
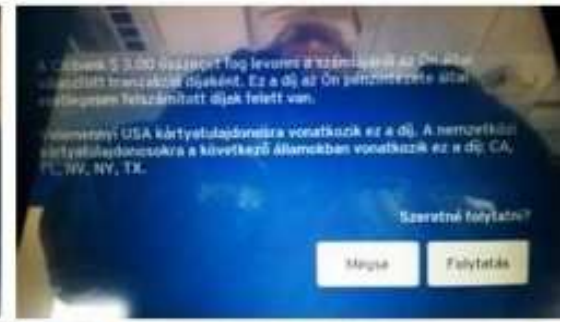
*One of the language options for using **citibank's** ATMs is Hungarian!!*

***CITIBANK** does business in more than 160 countries, including Hungary, and you would expect to see this in Budapest—but in Connecticut? Caution, if you want to make a készpénzfelvétel (ready cash withdrawal), meg kell nyomni a helyes gombokat (you will have to press the right buttons!*

I found the initial instruction ("Please dip your card all the way in the slot....") a bit amusing when I used a **CITIBANK** ATM for the first time but was nearly in shock when I saw "Magyar" as a selectable language for using the machine. Naturally, I just had to try it.

I couldn't help smiling as I navigated through all the screens in Hungarian and I could sense that the surrounding customers were wondering what was so entertaining about a bank machine. I saw the reflection in the monitor of the person behind me trying to peer over my shoulder to see what I was doing. When I saw her roll her eyes I smiled even more—I knew I had discovered a secret language for doing business in privacy. Wow!

The accompanying photos show you most of the displays. If you try this and get confused, you can always hit the "kilépés" (exit) button



and try another language. Have fun!

Paul Soos is a member of the Editorial Board of Magyar News Online, a lay reader at St. Ladislaus R.C. Church in South Norwalk, Connecticut, and a student at the Magyar Studies Hungarian School in Fairfield. He is a former U.S. Air Force Officer.

Magyar News Online

242 Kings Hwy Cut-off
Fairfield, CT 06824

www.magyarnews.org

Editor: Erika Papp Faber
Founder, Editor and Publisher
Emeritus: Joseph F. Balogh
Editorial Board:

Olga Vallay Szokolay, Éva Wajda,
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Olympic Competition for Trades

By: Olga Vállay Szokolay

*This biannual international competition for trades is called **WorldSkills** and a young Hungarian cabinet-maker took home the gold medal in his trade in 2015.*

The biannual international competition called **WorldSkills** was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil last summer. In the cabinet-making category, 25 countries' competitors vied for making the best cabinet of the same specifications, in 22 hours. They were judged daily on the various phases and aspects of the work such as workmanship of surfaces and accuracy. Joints were virtually examined with magnifying glasses.

The winner, 21-year-old **László Attila** of Pécs, Hungary, comes from a "dynasty" of cabinet-makers. His grandfather, father and brother were all masters of the trade. Attila grew up in the shop. As a small child he already had a visible talent and feeling for the materials and tools. Returning from elementary school daily, he played with wood, tools and created various objects with them, for his own pleasure.

He was preparing two years for the event, constructing pieces of previous competitions. His love of the trade, precision, thorough knowledge of the materials and methods as well as his excellent physical condition and strength made him a perfect candidate for winning.

Beside making furniture, Attila also carves handicraft products, of which he already has a collection of 20 juried pieces.

The next WorldSkills event will be held in Abu Dhabi in 2017, however, Attila will be over the age limit by then and will not be able to participate.

His long-term plans mean staying in the family business and concentrating on restoration of antique furniture. *Olga Vállay Szokolay is an architect and*



Professor Emerita of Norwalk Community College, CT after three decades of teaching. She is a member of the Editorial Board of Magyar News Online.

Gundel Palacsinta (Gundel crepes)

It has been an internationally favored dessert of the famous Gundel restaurant in Budapest.

Crepe batter:

2 cups flour
Pinch of salt
3 eggs
¾ cup milk
1tbs melted butter
2 cups sugar (optional)
2/3 cup soda water

Combine the flour and salt. Add the eggs, milk and the melted butter. Add the sugar if the crepes are to have a sweet filling. Beat the ingredients to make a smooth batter and pour in enough soda water to give it a thick, creamy consistency. Let stand for about 10 minutes, then cook the crepes. If the batter becomes a little too thick while standing, thin it with a little soda water or milk.

Because the batter already has the melted butter in it, you may find that you have to grease the skillet only for the first crepe.

For the filling:

½ cup milk
3 tbs sugar
½ cup ground walnuts
2 cups candied orange peel
¼ cup raisins
2 tbs rum

For the chocolate sauce:

1 ¼ cups of milk
2/3 cups sugar
2 cups vanilla sugar
2 egg yolks
2 tbs cocoa powder
2 tbs flour
2tbs rum
4 tps butter

Make the crepes and keep them warm. To make the filling bring the milk and sugar to the boil, then add the nuts. Simmer the mixture, stirring all the time, until it thickens and a custard forms.

Add the candied orange peel, raisins and rum. Fold the pancakes over twice into a fan shape, and arrange them on a serving dish. Keep them warm.

To make the sauce, mix together ¾ cup of the milk with the sugar, and the vanilla sugar. Bring to a boil and melt the chocolate in the hot milk. Whisk together the remaining cold milk, egg yolks, cocoa powder, and flour until foaming, then add it to the chocolate mixture, stirring all the time.

Bring the sauce to the boil again, then remove from the heat and add the rum and softened butter. Pour the chocolate sauce over the crepes and serve immediately.



Széchenyi, the Soldier

By: Erika Papp Faber

Although we don't think of military service in connection with Count Széchenyi István, he had distinguished himself several times by his daring and his diplomatic sense. This is the fourth in our series commemorating the "greatest Hungarian" during the 225th anniversary year of his birth.

In his eastward push to conquer all of Europe, Napoleon reached Austria and took Vienna in May of 1809. He issued a proclamation, addressed to the Hungarian nobility, to declare their independence from Austria. But the Hungarian nobility had the example of Poland before them: that country had stood with Napoleon, yet was plundered by the French, was now paying multiple times the taxes as before, and had a sizeable portion of their men conscripted into the French army, from whence many never returned.

Consequently, the Habsburgs, who had respected their rights, seemed a safer bet for the Hungarian nobility. The noble insurgents were called to arms by the Habsburgs, and formed two divisions which, in April of 1809, marched to meet the French army headed towards western Hungary.

Although each family of nobles was obligated to send only one of its sons to join the Habsburg army, the Széchenyi family decided to send all three, Lajos, Pál and István.

Following a brief, six-month military training, István was named First Lieutenant and assigned to assist at the construction of entrenchments at Győr. His job was to deliver the pay due to each worker. He spent his

spare time drawing topographic maps.

In a feat of daring, after the defeat suffered by the Austrians at Győr on June 14th, Széchenyi rowed across the Danube to avoid the French troops, and sought out the Lieutenant General to inform him of the whereabouts of part of the army which had become separated from the main body. This made it possible for the two sections to be reunited, and earned him royal recognition.

Once the insurgent army was dismissed, his brothers returned home, but István remained. First he served with the 7th Hussar regiment, then with the First Lance Regiment at Világos, then in Czech and Moravian



territory. He advanced to Captain, but did not have his own squadron.

Széchenyi fought in the Sixth Coalition Conflict (1812 – 1814). In it, France was opposed by Austria, Prussia, Russia, the United Kingdom, Portugal, Sweden, Spain, and some German states. Preceding the decisive Battle of Leipzig (also known as the Battle of Nations) in October of

1813, he was sent by Field Marshal Schwarzenberg to the Prussian Field Marshal Blücher, asking him to join the planned battle. Széchenyi chose the shortest route, which led straight through enemy lines, and delivered the message safely.

Next, in the name of the two emperors and the Prussian king, Széchenyi was sent to convince the former French Marshal Prince Bernadotte, who had changed sides and was now fighting against Napoleon, to join in the battle. Bernadotte refused. Then Széchenyi asked for a receipt to prove he had transmitted the message of the three rulers. This caused Bernadotte to change his mind, and he joined the battle on the third day, thereby securing the Coalition's victory. This was the largest pre-World War I European battle. (In the course of the entire conflict, some two and a half million people were killed, including an estimated one million who died as a result of Napoleon's invasion of Russia.)

In recognition of his outstanding service, Széchenyi was raised to the rank of Captain First Class, and also received a form of the Russian Order of St. Vladimir and a Prussian decoration. He also distinguished himself in a battle in Italy, and was given further decorations, including the Austrian Army Cross.

He then had himself transferred to the Hessen-Homburg Hussar Regiment, and served there until his army retirement in 1826. As the special envoy of the Austrian emperor, he accompanied the delegation sent to attend the coronation of Charles X as King of France in 1825, and for this was granted the *Ordre du Saint-Esprit* (Order of the Holy Spirit).

Erika Papp Faber is Editor of Magyar News Online.

Tatar Invasions and Fortress Churches

Erika Papp Faber

Although some of the defensive walls have been taken down in the course of time, fortress churches still dot the landscape, especially in the area of Transylvania. They are closely tied to the constant barbarous attacks Hungary had to endure as the "Bastion of Europe".

The plaque commemorates several thousand heroic defenders of Bánffyhungyad who died in Tatar invasions of 1241, 1600 and 1661



This year marks the 775th anniversary of the *tatarjárás* or Mongolian (Tatar) invasion which, in one year, devastated Hungary to such an extent that King Béla IV had to call in foreign settlers to repopulate the kingdom. He therefore has been called the second founder of Hungary.

But the Tatars (or Tartars) were not content to despoil the country in 1241-42. (See "Muhi csata – Battle of Mohi", April 2015 issue, Magyar News Online). They returned time and again, massacring the population, burning villages and taking prisoners who would never come back. Their invasions were so frequent that many communities developed a defense sys-

tem around the local church. They would surround the church with a high wall, within the confines of which the entire population could find refuge in times of attack.

In Hungary proper, the churches of Hajdúnánás and Hajdúdorog on the Alföld were so fortified. In Transylvania, it was mostly – though not exclusively – the so-called "Saxon" settlements (those that had been settled in the 12th century by German immigrants brought to the area inside the southern Carpathian range by King Géza II) that were exposed to Tatar attack. Of the 250 – some say 300 – "Saxon" fortress churches, seven are among UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. They are located in Nagybaromlak, Kelnek, Berethalom, Prázsmár, Szászkézd, Szászfehéregyháza and Székelyderzs. Although this last is in Székely country, it is said to have been originally founded by Saxons.

The fortress church of Székely Csíkkarcfalva was built between 1350 and 1450. In the 15th century, it was provided with a defensive wall, the highest such wall in all of Csík County. The wall surrounds a grassy ground around the church, where the town populace could take refuge in time of siege. On top of the wall is a covered walk, from whence the defenders could ward off an enemy attack by shooting through narrow embrasures.

At Székelyderzs, the first church was destroyed by the Tatars. The existing church is a 14th century expansion of a 13th century chapel. The top of the high church wall is endowed with holes for pouring down boiling tar on the attackers, and the surrounding wall, built in the 17th century, also has embrasures for shooting.

What makes Székelyderzs unique, however, is the fact that the local populace used the cells built into the defending wall and its bastions for storing grain and bacon, even in peacetime. They are still used for that purpose, and now the townsfolk derive some income from tourists who are served breakfast by candlelight in one of those cells, featuring homemade bread, fresh scallions and green pep-

pers, *kolbász* and the bacon they still store in the corner bastions.

(The church at Székelyderzs also boasts partially preserved, early frescoes – dating to 1419 – depicting scenes from the life and legend of King St. László.)

The church of the "Saxon" settlement of Prázsmár dates back to the 1240's, and was supplied with a wall and bastions in defense against the Turks in the 15th century. What sets this fortress church apart are the 275 chambers built into the wall in four tiers, accessible by wooden stairs and walks on the inside façade. Without windows, for obvious reasons, these chambers are barely higher than a person's height, but would serve well to protect a family and their valuables in times of siege.

A major Turkish-Tatar raid was directed against Hungary in 1660, led by Pasha Szejdi Ahmed, who beheaded the defenders of Hajduszoboszló and scalped the heads. In Debrecen, he cruelly tortured the city's leaders and levied a tribute of 100,000 thalers. The defenders of Nagyvárad numbered only a fifth of the attacking force, and finally had to surrender.

The last major Tatar invasion was recorded in 1717. That year, the Tatars of Crimea and Dobruja, at the bidding of the Turkish sultan, ravaged Ugocea, Bereg and Máramaros Counties. On August 24th, they completely destroyed the village of Szék in Doboka County, taking some of the 900 inhabitants captive, and leaving only 100 alive. (After the tragedy, the survivors decided to take the colors black and red for their own, and those are the colors of their distinctive folk costume.) To this day, the villagers commemorate the event every year on August 24th, St. Bartholomew's Day.

Peaceful as they may look now, the fortress churches were witnesses to harsh times of strife. If you are in the area, it would be worth your while to visit one for a better understanding of the history of the land.

Erika Papp Faber is Editor of Magyar News Online.



Captions: top: Fortress church of Csíkkarcfalva; shooting gallery on top of wall; church of Székelyderzs from inside the wall ; 2nd row: Inside wall of Csíkkarcfalva church; cells built into defensive wall of Prázsmár ; 3rd row: Szék; Székelyderzs from the outside ; bottom: woman in typical Szék costume; Prázsmár from the outside; one of the cells in Prázsmár

The Loving Hungarian Grandfather of Espresso

Olga Vállay Szokolay

Who would associate espresso with Hungary?

Believe it or not, the inventor of espresso, Francesco Illy (a.k.a. Illy Ferenc) was Hungarian.

In Hungary, after World War II, espresso became hugely popular and made its way into the everyday lifestyle of the nation's urban population. Yet few would draw any conclusion and relation even there to coffee being Hungarian.

Worldwide, for decades now, at every supermarket's coffee aisle you could find the silvery cans with the bright red square logo: illy. How did any Hungarian get involved with coffee? Well, the story goes like this.

At Temesvár, then part of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy (today Romania), a Magyar boy, named **Illy Ferenc**, was born in 1892. He had his early education at his hometown, studying economics. After secondary school he moved to Vienna to learn the trade of business, working for big companies.

At age 22, he was conscripted into the KuK (short for "Imperial and Royal") army, to serve at the Italian front of the First World War. When the fighting was over, Ferenc opted to stay with his sister in Trieste, the city he **loved**. There, in the early 1920s, he married the woman he **loved**, the Italian Vittoria. He also found a business he **loved** dealing in cocoa and coffee. Soon, coffee roasting became his sole focus.

In 1933, he founded his own com-

pany: "**illycaffé**", in partnership with a local manufacturer. Over time he invented his own method of maintaining the perfect quality of freshly roasted coffee so it could thus be delivered to the consumer and retailers, rather than roasting it on site producing inconsistent results.

Illy's first automatic coffee machine, "**illetta**" was invented in 1935, substituting pressurized water for steam. To the present, it is considered the **blueprint for modern espresso machines**. His revolutionized coffee preparation and innovative pressure-based packaging enabled him to export abroad from the 1940s on.

After World War II Ferenc, now Francesco Illy, passed the leadership on to his son, Ernesto, a highly educated food chemist whose passion for research secured the continued success of the company even after his father's death in 1956 in Trieste.



In the 1950s, **illy** started selling smaller cans of ground coffee for the first time.

Ernesto moved the company to its current Via Flavia location in 1965. Today, **illy** is synonymous with premium Italian coffee around the globe, under the leadership of the founder's grandsons, Andrea and Riccardo.

Their secret is using 100% arabica beans, making **illy** coffee so intensely flavored yet smooth. The only other ingredient is **love**...

Olga Vállay Szokolay is an architect and Professor Emerita of Norwalk Community College, CT after three decades of teaching. She is a member of the Editorial Board of Magyar News Online.



Ferenc, illetta, Ernesto, Andrea and Riccardo

Kicsi a világ! It's a Small World!

Judith Eöry Colby

We had a fabulous trip to "Down Under" in 1987 – centered around a convention in Sydney at the end of January...

I did have one of those "it's a small world moments" in Sydney when we checked into the Sheraton for our convention. The concierge had an unmistakable Hungarian accent!

I spoke to him in Hungarian and asked whether he could help me get a couple of opera tickets. By that night we had tickets for Donizetti's "The Daughter of the Regiment" with a young Australian soprano they were touting as the next Joan Sutherland!

Why is our native language so useful? Because – all together now! –

"It's a small world!"

Did You Know?...

....this time we welcome some Hungarian successes being born as well as farewells to some famous Magyars?

...that history was made when snowboarder **Gyarmati Panka** won the "slopestyle" world cup at Mammoth Mountain, California? The girl from Eger, Hungary became the first Magyar to ever win any international snow sport competition. Slopestyle is one of the freestyle disciplines, along with moguls, aerials, cross, and half-pipe, in which athletes ski or snowboard down a course studded with various obstacles including rails, jumps and other terrain park features. Since 2014 it has been an Olympic event.

... that wild rice is now grown in Hungary? A staple of Native Americans and also eaten in China, it is not a form of rice but a type of grass of the *Zizania* genus. In 1988, an American businessman with Hungarian roots, Miklós Molnár decided to bring wild rice production to Hungary, which lies at the same latitude as Minnesota, the center of commercial wild rice production in the US. With the help of agronomists and other experts, his company, Indián Ríz Ltd. began operations in Kisújszállás (east of Szolnok) in 1989. It offers a variety of wild rice blends and works with top food companies in Europe.

... that Hungary is the world capital of "dental tourism"? Due to lower fees, an estimated 60,000 people come annually from abroad to have their teeth fixed, bringing some \$227 million into the coffers of Hungarian dentists, and another estimated \$45 million to the hotel and restaurant trade.

Hungary has more dentists per capita than any other country.

...that the legendary CEO of Intel, Andy Grove was Hungarian? His original name was Gróf András István, who was born in Budapest, in 1936. He emigrated to the United States after the 1956 Hungarian Revolution was crushed by the Soviets. He continued his studies in the U.S. and became a chemical engineer. In 1968, with two associates he founded Intel Corporation, which has since developed into the world's largest semi-conductor manufacturer. Most of us have "Intel inside" our computers. Andy Grove had Parkinson's disease and passed away on March 21, 2016.

...that Krencsey Marianne, celebrated actress of the 1950s and 60s Hungarian stage and screen, passed away in New York, on March 30, 2016?

...that Hungary's first Nobel-laureate author, Kertész Imre, died in his Budapest home at age 86, on March 31, 2016, after a long and serious illness? He was a novelist, essayist and translator. In his work Kertész, a Holocaust survivor, focused on the experience of the individual trapped in barbarianism, a recurring theme in several of his quasi-autobiographical novels.



Gyarmati Panka



Andy Grove