



MAGYAR STUDIES OF AMERICA
Magyar News
Online
www.magyarnews.org
June 2016 Issue 100

Our 100th Issue!

We are thrilled to present the 100th issue of Magyar News Online. When in 2007, with the leadership of Bob Kranyik, we started MNO as successor to Joseph Balogh's print Magyar News, our header was black and white, and because we were still feeling our way, the first issue was a double one – that of June-July. By December we had a color photo next to the header, and by February of 2008 we switched to a full-color header.

Our aim, then as now, was to present various facets of Hungarian history, language, customs, culture and local social happenings that bind us together as a worldwide community. We stay away from politics, because that is more explosive than dynamite! And we welcome contributions – editorial or otherwise – to further the cause of our ethnic identity and to keep MNO on the internet. (For publication, articles must meet certain guidelines and be approved by the Board of Editors.)

We are still an organization of volunteers who do what we do because we love to. Nevertheless, posting each issue on the internet has a monetary price which we must meet every month. Therefore we appreciate all donations that help us stay posted. Our address is Magyar News Online, 242 Kings Highway Cut-off, Fairfield, CT 06824.

As we look forward with confidence to the next 100 issues, we gratefully acknowledge the collaboration, donations and interest of so many supporters, and we ask the Lord's continued blessing on our work!

Éljen a magyar!

Here we present Bob Kranyik's editorial introducing that groundbreaking first issue.



Robert Kranyik, Ph.D.

MAGYAR STUDIES OF AMERICA
MAGYAR NEWS

June – July 2007

A New Beginning

By Robert Kranyik, Ph.D.

During the fall, 2006, after much thought and considerable reflection, Joseph Balogh decided that he could no longer publish the Magyar News as we came to know and love it. In the final edition, published in January, 2007 Joseph formally announced his decision, and reminisced regarding his seventeen year experience as editor and publisher, in his article titled "...with a broken heart..." There was palpable sadness among the members of the Hungarian-American community in Southwestern Connecticut who had come to love Magyar News, and to await eagerly its arrival in the mail, or at the local churches or Drótos (now Gulyás) Market. An institution in our community had come to an end.

A number of readers began to share feelings about the demise of the Magyar News. We began to discuss possibilities for carrying on the work of the News in some way, shape, or form. There were conversations at the Monday night Hungarian School in Fairfield, conversations over coffee, and lots of telephone calls. Hope was emerging that somehow we might have the Magyar News in the future.

Several of us had long conversation with Joseph about various possibilities. One day while several of us were having coffee at the Fayerweather Yacht Club in Black Rock (the closest thing to a Hungarian yacht club that we know), when Joseph Ull, Assistant Circulation Manager of the printed version of Magyar News, and an electrical engineer, suggested that we consider developing a website. This sounded promising, since we would have, in effect, an electronic organization which would enable a team to create, communicate, and publish quickly and without having to meet endlessly... This idea of a website seemed to sit well with busy people...

Approached with the idea of a website, Joseph Balogh agreed that it sounded like a good possibility. We spoke with Zsuzsa Lengyel, President of Magyar Studies of America, about possible sponsorship of an electronic Magyar News. She was supportive, and consulted with her Board, which was also in favor. We talked about run-

ning the website as an all volunteer organization. People with computers could simply get on the web to read the Magyar News, and churches, organizations, and grandchildren could download the News for older folks who were not comfortable with computers. And, so, we called together a group of people to explore the idea and possibly move ahead.

Our first meeting was held on January 15, 2007 at Aqualawn, Kings Highway, Fairfield... Since that time the number of supporters has grown, and steady progress was made through the winter and spring. What you are presently viewing on your screen is the result of the creativity and effort of a good number of people who feel that the traditions and culture of Hungary, and the interest of the Hungarian-American community need to be preserved, and conveyed to younger generations of Americans. Joseph Balogh once wrote an article about why Hungarians are so smart. Then I found out that Hungary has more Nobel Prize winners for its size than any other country. The work of our community has demonstrated the fine qualities of our people, and why we are proud of ourselves and our culture.

I have already mentioned that Joseph Balogh will stay on as editor, albeit with much lighter workload. Karolina Szabo enthusiastically volunteered to serve as a webmaster, and will be assisted by Joseph Ull and Paul Soos. Erika Papp Faber, Judit Paolini, Olivér Valu and yours truly will serve as the editorial board, assisting Joseph... Eliz Kakas and Éva Hlacs have volunteered to do a regular feature in Hungarian cooking (for those of our readers who don't know, Eliz teaches Hungarian cooking at the Fairfield Evening School, and Éva Hlacs is a former proprietor of Pearl of Budapest, which was a superb Hungarian restaurant in Fairfield.)

Dennis Rich of the Hungarian School, an expert in philately, will do a regular feature on Hungarian stamps, and what they tell us about Hungarian history and culture. Vic Berecz, a well known Hungarian genealogy expert will write monthly about how to find your Hungarian roots, a subject of much interest among our younger Hungarian-Americans. Dr. Alexander Havadtoy, beloved pastor emeritus of the Calvin United Church in Fairfield, has agreed to write for us periodically as a contributing editor... Dr. Gyula Egervári, founder of Magyar Studies of America, and leader of the successful effort to erect a memorial to the 1956 Revolution, now in place in Kaposvár, Hungary, is supportive of our effort, and hoped that we will have at least one article each month in the Magyar tongue.

We are also looking forward to having regular news about our precious Hungarian School in Fairfield, provided by Anikó Dowell and the staff. And, since there are so many fascinating stories out there about the Hungarian-American community, we encourage other writers and the readers of Magyar News Online to submit their articles for our consideration.

Zita Balogh, who so effectively supported the Magyar News, stepped in and immediately started working on the financial aspect of Magyar News Online. Zoltán Domoki, a computer expert, offered us much valuable advice regarding the creation of a website. Carl Dickman, a former Fairfield Selectman and member of the Connecticut Legislature is constantly using his computer skills to dredge up valuable information and photographs for the website. Attorney Joan Farkus generously supported our new project, and was able to obtain the legal advice we needed for this venture by putting us in touch with Mr. Charles Costello, a legal expert in the field of electronic publishing.

Finally, (I am looking over my shoulder, hoping that I have not left anyone out!), we are very indebted to Mr. Andy McCallihan of the Connecticut Post, who volunteered his time to create the website which you are now viewing. We hereby proclaim him an honorary Hungarian!

At a point in time, I thanked Karolina Szabo for one of the many things she has done to move the work of the committee ahead. She replied, "Bob, you don't have to thank me. We all do this for the same reason!" **And, that is the truth...**

Minden a másé / Everything Belongs to Someone Else

By: Mihály László Barna

Másé a föld, másé a birtok,
Az erdő, hol őszám fejszéje irtott,
Másé a nagy kert, az ősi ház;
Örökségünkben jött-ment nép tanyáz.

Minden másé: prédája idegennek,
A napjaink csak vánszorogva mennek,
A romlás vége minket ért utol;
Egyéb nincs: pár ékszer s kopott bútor.

Nagyapó jól élt, unokája böjtöl:
Még annyi sem maradt nekünk a földből,
Amennyit befogad egy virágcserep –
Nemes apák fia jobbágy – cseléd.

Vánszorgok száműzötten, meggyötörten,
Csak vérük, vágyuk, éhük örököltem –
Mint koldus nótás mégse szórok átkot:
Övék vagyok, legyen emlékük áldott.

Poem written by a young man after the Trianon treaty had torn his ancestral land of Transylvania from Hungary and annexed it to Romania. "Everything is someone else's," he laments. Although his forebears had cleared the forest, the family manse and property is now the booty of foreigners; not even a flowerpot's amount of soil has remained his. And yet, although he is now a "begging singer", in exile, he does not curse, but blesses the memory of his ancestors whose blood, desires and hunger he has inherited.

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". He wrote under the pseudonym Pasquino.

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 Marossszék section of the Székely Egyetemi és Főiskolai Hallgatók Egyesülete in Budapest in 1926. During World War II, Mihály was a press correspondent in Italy. After this war, he worked in the Szabó Ervin Könyvtár.

Trianon: Those on Our Side

EPF

Even though the official British and French hatred of Hungary prevailed in Trianon, some voices were raised there, as elsewhere, in opposition to the harsh terms, backing Hungary.

The West was not as monolithic in its determination to crush Hungary as



Map showing how 71% of Hungary was torn off and given away by the Allies through the Treaty of Trianon.

one might have thought from the final result. There were voices – some more powerful than others – which opposed the harshness adopted in the final treaty.

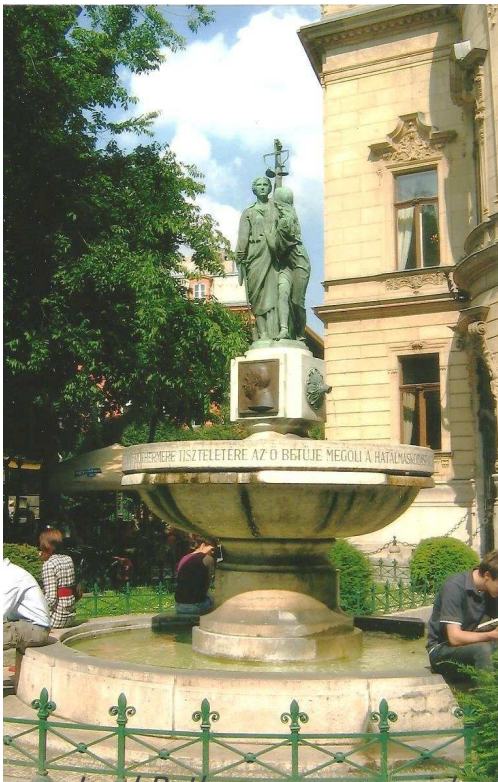
Chief among these, of course, was President Woodrow Wilson himself, who promulgated the famous principle of "the self-determination of peoples" which, had it been applied, would have been in the end much less detrimental to the geographic integrity of Hungary.

The French historian Henri Pozzi (1879 – 1946) was another "friendly" voice, writing in 1933:

"Of all the vanquished of World War I, Hungary had been the most cruelly hit...The punishment inflicted upon her was an execution ... Injustices, abuses and illogicalities – worse than anything of the kind experienced in the past – were thus sanctioned for

the benefit of three countries whose leaders ... had in 1917 formed a conspiracy ... They set to work in ministerial as well as editorial offices, the latter including influential newspapers of Paris, Rome, London and New York, with their propaganda articles and chequebooks (sic!), forging maps and statistics, mutilating documents and using all kinds of horse-trading methods in general.... ethnic minorities were being crushed by new oppressive practices, a hundred times more cruel than had been those they replaced" (taken from his book *La Guerre Revient*, as quoted in "The Spirit of Hungary" by Stephen Sisa).

In England there was Lord Rothermere (see Magyar News Online at magyarnews.org, June 2013). A British press baron who had lost two sons in World War I, he urged revision of the Trianon Treaty. In an editorial published in the June 21st,



Lord Rothermere memorial fountain

1927 issue of *The Daily Mail*, he wrote:

"I suggest that the time has come for the Allied Powers who signed the arbitrarily drafted instrument, the Treaty of Trianon, to reconsider the frontiers it laid down, in light of the experience of the past seven years. When an arrangement does not work well after a trial of seven years, there is a strong probability that it is inherently unsound... I urge this revision of the Central European situation as much on the ground of expediency as of justice..."

"A people like the Hungarians, with a thousand years of national and constitutional tradition behind it; with a medieval record as gallant defenders of Europe against the Turk; with a Magna Carta of its

own – the 'Golden Bull' of A.D. 1222, only seven years later in date than our own – is not to be treated like a newly formed Balkan State of upstart institutions and inexperienced politicians..."

And then there was Aristide Briand, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of France, who declared that Hungarian borders as set by the treaty of Trianon "were not necessarily final, because certain rectifications will be necessary".

The Italian Prime Minister, Francesco Nitti, declared in September 1924:

"At Trianon, no country was ruined more fiendishly than Hungary. But this country is inhabited by spiritually strong people, who will not acquiesce in the devastation of their homeland.

"The maiming of Hungary is so disgraceful that no one accepts responsibility for it. Everyone pretends not to know about it, everyone keeps

prudishly quiet. Reference to the self-determination of peoples is only a mendacious formula..."

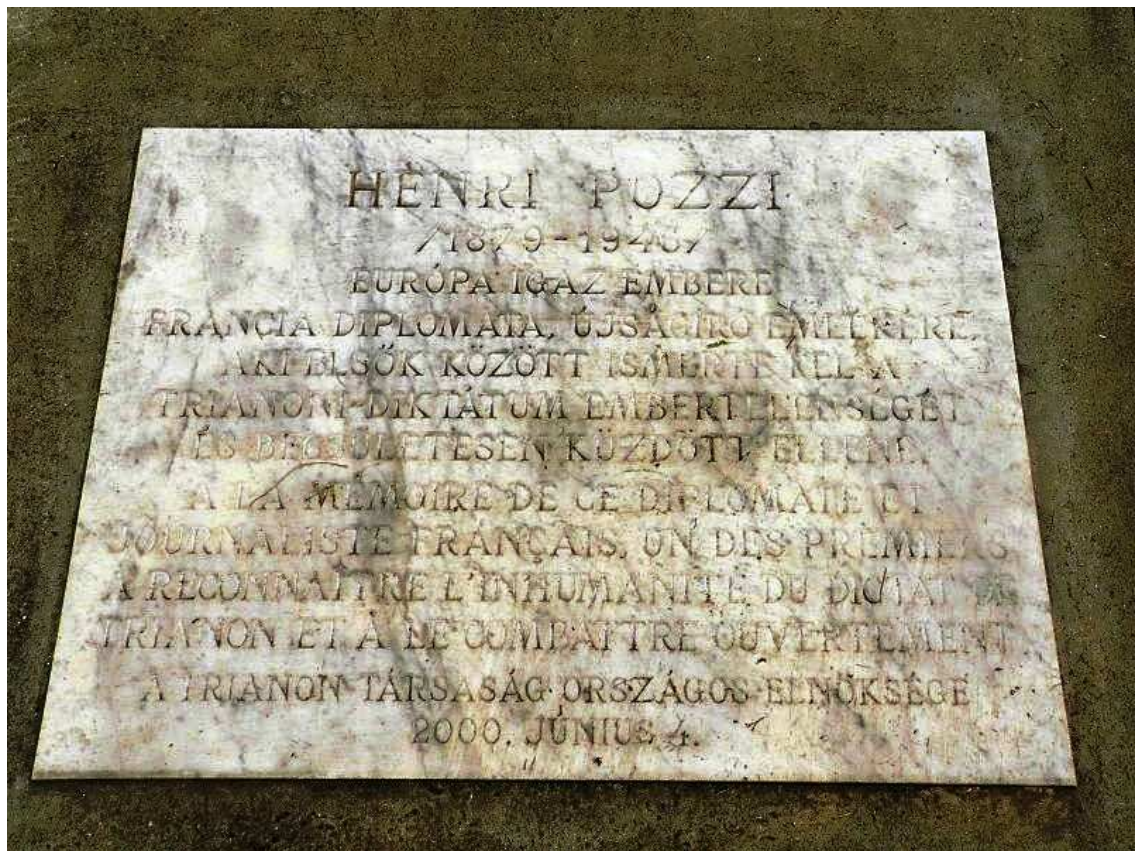
"Victory was most viciously abused... No Frenchman, Englishman or Italian would accept for his country those conditions which were forced upon Hungary."

We should also remember that the United States Congress did not ratify the Trianon Treaty...

The Hungarian people were grateful for these manifestations of good will. A memorial plaque to Henri Pozzi is found at the Trianon memorial in Zebegény. The inscription, in Hungarian and French, reads:

"A just man of Europe, a French diplomat, who was among the first to acknowledge the inhumanity of the Trianon dictate and honestly fought against it."

.S. I would never have thought that we would ever praise anything Lenin said; and although his is not a west-



Memorial plaque for Henri Pozzi in Zebegény

ern voice, yet if true (I have not seen reference to chapter and verse!), this quote would seem to have put him on our side:

"Peace was forced upon them (the Hungarians), but this peace is an extortionist peace, the peace of murderers and butchers... an unheard of peace, a robber's peace... this is not peace, these are such conditions as bandits with knives dictate to their defenseless victims."

Pity that Lenin's noble, sympathetic sentiments were soon forgotten by his followers, who a few years later overran Hungary, occupied it for 46 years and ransacked it, and in 1956 themselves "forced" peace upon them.

But then – what else is new?

How Astronomy Grew Its Ears

By: Olga Vállay Szokolay

A tall, long-haired young woman with a ready smile delivers her compelling, hard-core-science account of some celestial happenings for a most diverse audience.

This was the curious title of a lecture for the New York Hungarian Scientific Society at the Hungarian Consulate in NYC in March. The lecturer was Dr. Zsuzsa Márka, a most remarkable (pun fully intended) mother of four. The perfectly oval faced, girlish, smiling woman does not seem to fit into the preconceived prototypical image of one of the world's most serious research scientists.

Zsuzsa and her astrophysicist husband, Dr. Szabolcs (*Szabi*) Márka, as main moving forces in discovering gravitational waves, are earning international fame and professional recognition not only for themselves but their native country, Hungary.

They have known each other since

high school at Nyíregyháza. They both obtained their baccalaureate degree from the Kossuth Lajos University in Debrecen. And they both applied and were accepted for graduate work at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee in 1993. That's when they left Hungary, four years after the change of regimes in that country.

By 1998, they married during a short visit to Hungary and they were closing on their PhDs. Having moved a few times within the United States as dictated by job opportunities, at long last they settled in New York City, both working at Columbia University. Looking like a grad student himself in his mid-forties, Szabi is Professor at the Department of Astronomy while Zsuzsa is Associate Research Scientist in the Astrophysics Laboratory. Their research was featured in the New York Times. Their work even warranted a visit by Hungarian President Áder János, in their laboratories. The occasion was their key role in validating Albert Einstein's mental construct and thought experiment of 100 years ago.

Einstein had essentially no more arsenal at his command in getting information about the Universe than did his Renaissance predecessor, Galileo Galilei: the telescope. It provided them with visual data only: light, astronomy's EYES. And Einstein's visionary genius, with only "a clock, a train, a beam of light, an observer or two..." built his theory of special and general relativity exclusively in his head, in his imagination. He introduced the concept of space-time as one entity, substituting the centuries-long belief of them being separate notions.

For most of us laymen, equipped with no more than high school (Newtonian) physics and Euclidean geometry, these concepts are extremely hard to grasp. Our only conscious relationship with space-time is speed with its dimension of distance

over time. Einstein's idea of light beams curving instead of traveling in a straight line was as shocking in its time as realizing that the horizon, indeed, was curved instead of horizontal...

It took generations of physicists and astronomers to further develop the theory, then the technology, to chase and prove, for the first time ever, the existence and behavior of gravitational waves: the distortion and ripples in the fabric of space-time, simi-



lar to a pebble thrown into a lake, indicating significant events in the Universe. Those would be past collisions of "black holes", those burnt-out stars with a ferocious appetite. Their gravity being so intense they draw and "swallow" everything, including light, without a trace (hence the name), reminding me of mercury droplets uniting from a broken thermometer we used to play with as kids...

It took a hundred years, almost to the date, since Einstein had published his general relativity theory that "... today... researchers affiliated with the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory (LIGO) reported the detection of gravitational waves. The signal picked up by LIGO came from the collision of two black holes and was detected... by LIGO's twin detectors in Livingston, Louisiana and Hanford, Washington..." (New York Times, February 11, 2016,)

The event actually was detected on September 14, 2015 but its analysis, verification and subsequent detailed report was officially published only five months later. The crash of the two black holes occurred 1.3 billion light-years away = 1.3 billion years ago (!!!) and measured 29 and 36 times the mass of the sun, respectively... This is where we now have to expand our thinking to really "astronomical" numbers both in the realm of positive as well as negative exponents of 10... (Negative exponents because the measured effect in the LIGO detectors from this far-away event is a miniscule displacement of test masses at the order of a fraction of an atomic nucleus....)

And this is where the EARS of astronomy enter the picture. LIGO's twin observing stations are L-shaped structures with legs 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) long and are located 1,865 miles (3,002 kilometers) apart. At the speed of light, this distance corresponds to a difference in gravitational-wave arrival times of up to 10 milliseconds. The September 14, 2015 event was first detected in Louisiana, then 7 milliseconds later in Washington. The huge blast of gravitational-wave energy was recorded as a high-frequency "chirp" by LIGO as the two black holes merged. History was made and yes, astronomy can also be heard...

If Einstein could only have been here to jubilate, to jump up and down with joy on the trampoline of space-time!...

Dr. Zsuzsa Márka related all this in a most spellbinding 90-minute lecture. Having studied the English language since high school, she possesses a fine vocabulary and delivers it enjoyably.

The Márka family, with such stellar connections, is completely unassuming and informal. They live in the Columbia University neighborhood in a spacious apartment. It is relaxed and obviously not intended "to impress". The bedrooms, overlooking Morningside Park, feature homemade camp-style

furniture. The dining table is large enough to accommodate their family: at least seven. Black leather club chairs and sofa invite you into the corner. One room is exclusively serving cyber-activities, and various mysterious instruments and hiking gear line the walls in the living-dining room. Their four children, ranging from 15 to 8, were all born in the U.S. but have ancient Hungarian first names: Emese, Zsolt, Árpád, Gyula. The two grandmothers visit from Hungary semi-annually, taking turns in child-care. Besides attending Arany János Hungarian School on Saturdays and taking occasional camping trips with the Hungarian Scouts in New York City, the children maintain being bilingual by spending all summer vacations in Hungary.

Internationally, there is a race to establish a network of more "cosmic ears". Italy is already boasting the observation station VIRGO, their counterpart to and collaborator of LIGO. Japan and Germany are in it as well. Now Szabi Márka, with his Magyar Columbia team of his wife Zsuzsa, Imre Bartos and Zoltán Haimann, is strongly promoting a new observatory to be built in Hungary. They have pointed out a known location in Gyöngyösorosi where seismic movements are proven to be minimal, if any.

Dr. Szabolcs Márka is certainly

one of the most promising young scientists of the world today. As the old adage says: "Behind every great man is a great woman." In their case the preposition and proverb must be modified to read:

"Alongside this great man is a really great woman!"

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.



Zsuzsa sporting a LIGO T-shirt, LIGO as the ears of Galileo, Dr. Zsuzsa Márka showing the New York Times article, Animation of Space-time with the Earth and the Moon, Zoltán Haimann, János Áder, Szabolcs Márka and Zsuzsa walking to the astrophysics laboratory

Hard Work Bears Fruit

By: Karolina Tima Szabó

If you heard Allyson Szabo playing her flute in March at Calvin Hall, you will be excited to learn about her most recent achievement



On May 25, 2016 eighty-six 7th grade students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society during a ceremony at Madison Middle School in Trumbull, CT. One of the students was Allyson Szabo.

The **National Junior Honor Society ("NJHS")** is a nationwide organization in the United States, founded in 1921 by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. The NJHS has many chapters in the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada.

Membership in the NJHS is the highest honor that can be awarded to a student. Selection to be a member to the NJHS has many requirements: citizenship, service, leadership, scholarship, good grades and character. These include performing service in schools, communities and/or other organizations. They are also required to maintain a high grade point average of 3.85; they have to live up to their obligations by participating in the chapter's projects.

Ally has maintained a 4.2 grade point average during her two years at the middle school. She has played tennis for 6 years, and the flute for 4 years.

She is an active member of Trumbull Congregational Church, takes part in church service and in Sunday School. She has also participated during the Magyar Studies of America and the Pannonia American Hungarian Club Inc. functions. She was heard at the October 23rd Observance at the Fairfield Museum and History Center, and most recently at the March 15th Observance at Calvin Hall, Fairfield, CT.

Allyson was the only 7th grader from Madison Middle School to be selected for participation in the Western Regional Middle School Honors Concert on March 19, 2016 at West Conn, Danbury. She is also a member of the Madison Middle School Band, where she is first flutist. She took part in the 2015 Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Trumbull Town Hall.

In 2014, Ally and her classmate, Lauren Vitola, collected 120 lbs of food and over \$700 for the CT Food Bank and almost \$500 for Feeding America. (See "KidsKare – Youngsters Helping Other Youngsters in CT" in the February 2014 issue of Magyar News Online)

Allyson has a younger sister Olivia; they are the daughters of Andy and Deb Szabo. Olivia is also a very smart girl, has excellent grades, and excels in gymnastics and swimming as a member of the Trumbull Pisces.

Congratulations to this 2nd generation talented young lady.



Ally Szabó with her parents Debbie and Andrew

Salad Medley (Macédoine) – Francia saláta

A refreshing but hearty salad for a picnic, taken from a cookbook published in Budapest in 1963.



3 ½ oz carrots
3 ½ oz parsley root
10 oz potatoes
3 ½ oz canned peas
3 ½ oz apples
3 ½ oz pickles
pinch of salt
1/3 qt tartar sauce

Clean and dice carrots and parsley root, and cook until soft. Boil potatoes in their skins, peel and dice. Clean and dice the apples, and dice the pickles. Mix all ingredients with tartar sauce and season with salt.

*

Francia saláta

10 dkg sárgarépa
10 dkg petrezselyemgyökér
25 dkg burgonya
10 dkg konzerv zöldborsó
10 dkg alma
10 dkg ecetes uborka
1 dkg só
3 dl tartármártás

A sárgarépát és petrezselyemgyökeret megtisztítjuk, kockára vágjuk és puhára főzzük. A megmosott burgonyát héjában megfőzzük, megtisztítjuk és kockára vágjuk. A megtisztított almát és uborkát szintén kockára vágjuk, az egészet tartármártással elkeverjük és sóval ízesítjük.

Hungarian Falls – Mystery Resolved

By: EPF

Last year, a friend informed us that there is a spot in Michigan named “Hungarian Falls” – but could not find out anything about the origin of its name. After several tries, we have finally received an answer to our inquiries and herewith share the information.

When Frank Ipkovich sent us word that there is a Hungarian Falls, Michigan, we were all intrigued. We googled it, and found that it consists of three sections, the Upper Falls, the Middle Falls, and the Lower Falls. It is located in Hubbell, MI, near Houghton/Hancock and is administered by the Keweenaw Land Trust.

We learned everything about it, except the reason for its name. After several dead ends, we finally received an answer from Gloria of the Keweenaw Land Trust and Mary Lee (no last names indicated) of the Houghton County Historical Society.

It seems that on the Upper Peninsula in Michigan, there is a smaller finger of land called Keweenaw Peninsula jutting into Lake Superior. That finger is separated from the rest of the Keweenaw Peninsula by Portage Lake and the Keweenaw Waterway. It is locally known as “Copper Island”, first named thus by Finnish settlers since this is copper country. But it is not identified as such by either the US Geological Survey nor by the State of Michigan.

Hungarian Falls is found on Copper Island and consists of three sections, for a total of 90 feet, a quarter mile north-west of Tamarack City, MI. Above the falls is Hungarian Dam (which holds back Dover Creek) rising 330 feet above lake level. It provides water for the mills and for fire protection.

But where do Hungarians come in? Allow me to quote from the Daily Mining Gazette, April 25, 1978, sent to us by Mary Lee of the Houghton County Historical Society:

“Legend has it that a group of Hungarian people lived above the Tamarack City location. They worked for the Tamarack and Osceola mills chopping cord wood for the companies. Their boss was known as the ‘Big Hungarian’. While working in the woods, they came upon the falls thus naming it ‘Hungarian’.”

So if you are ever in the area, be sure to visit Hungarian Falls, considered to be “one of the most beautiful scenic spots on Copper Island”.

Caption: Upper, Middle and Lower Hungarian Falls



Trianon Required Declaration of Intent to Retain Citizenship

By: EPF

In what civilized modern country was it ever required to reclaim your citizenship when you were born there and lived there? Yet this form of degradation was imposed on Hungarian citizens by the stipulations of the Trianon Treaty!

Because Trianon automatically nullified Hungarian citizenship, exchanging it for citizenship of the new country which had taken over that piece of Hungary, whether the people wanted it or not! But they were generously ENTITLED to claim Hungarian citizenship within a year of the passage of this law (one of the few things they were still entitled to!)

My Dad, Papp Remig Antal György was born in Budapest, lived there and attended the Technical University in Budapest, but the family originally came from Erzsébetváros in Transylvania. For some reason, ancestry seemed to have been the determining factor here. Since Transylvania was given to Romania by the Allies through the dictated treaty of Trianon, Dad had to make an official declaration stating that he wanted to retain his Hungarian citizenship!

Foreigners take away the land of your ancestors, you live in the remaining bit of country left to you, yet those same foreigners tell you that YOU have to reclaim your citizenship??? Am I the only one who thinks this was insulting and demeaning?

This is the certificate provided by the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior to my Dad in the year 1926, dated February 4th, in accordance with the provision of Article XXXIII, 1921 of the Trianon Treaty. It was in response (a mere four years later!) to his declaration of intent which he made on July 21st, 1922.



A Hungarian Agronomist in Constantinople – Part II

By: Dr. Karátsony Géza

As he continues his reminiscences, dr. Karátsony describes his plan – unfortunately aborted – to improve Turkish agriculture.



Dr. Karátsony Géza

Only a tenth of the Turkish village lands were "cultivated" and everywhere the former landowners' estates lay abandoned and desolate. The "great" sultans purposely drove out those landowners who were more cultured and managed their estates better, because they sympathized with the people who had been robbed of everything and stood up against unjust multi-

ple tax collection. They had organized several local revolts against the tyranny of Istanbul. To break them, the more powerful and wealthier landowners were lured to the sultan's entourage with magnificent gifts and the granting of grand positions, while the smaller landowners were simply imprisoned and driven away from the villages. The fields lay fallow and the people were left to themselves as well. For the registration of land titles was unknown there, family names were not used, and people did not know where their ancestors' lands were.

The presence of a cultured landowner has an enormous educational effect on the uneducated people. The sharecropper working for the landowner learns about better quality animals, machines, choice plants, cultivating methods, working methods that he will then apply to his own land. Besides, the landowner and his workers have a very great role to play in the social life of the village. Due to his greater influence with the government or public services, new roads, railroads, drainage canals will be built. Agricultural plants, canning factories, cooperatives come into being on an altruistic basis. The landowner travels and hears and sees more, and the village people benefit from that indirectly.

Seeing all this, as a village landowner, I considered how the Turkish people could be raised to the European level.

I realized that the only way to achieve this was to give back to the villages their mid-size and large landowners. But how? The land has no value, even though it is of outstanding quality, because there is no one who knows how to manage cultivation of the soil, or would even want to do so.

I came up with the idea of training and choosing small to mid-size landowners who came from those villages, or at least from those areas, because no one else coming from an urban environment would want to live there under those primitive living conditions. The method of choosing and raising up such a stratum I based on the Turkish people's deep and intimate love of the Hungarian people...

The misery of the terrible war (World War I) came to my aid. There were the orphans of the Turkish heroes fallen on the battlefields, in need of government assistance. It would have been easy to pick out the more capable village boys who had no one at home to mourn them. According to my notion, we would bring these boys to Hungary at the age of 8 or 10, to be placed with Hungarian peasant farmers, as apprentices, to take part in all the phases of the farmers' work, as members of their family. They would go to school also, together with the other children.

Thus after a few years, at age 18 or 20, they could return to some village in Asia Minor where the government would have set aside for them an appropriate sized farm on which, with the help of a state loan, they could build their house and other farm buildings as they had learned to do. They would, of course, receive the necessary seeds for sowing, machines, farm animals and tools, together with the appropriate operational funds.

Some of the children would be apprenticed to tradesmen, so there would be people at home to repair the plows, shoe the horses, etc.

The second stage of this plan was choosing the mid-sized landowners from among the boys trained. These would be sent to secondary school, then to agricultural, gardening, vintners', forestry and veterinary academies in Hungary. Then they would receive practical experience on a well-managed mid-sized estate for a few years. Upon returning home, they would receive a larger estate, equipped and with operating funds, in the village where their brothers already were.

Some could be employed as farm and forestry supervisors, then in central, ministerial administrative jobs. The religious problem could be solved by having some Muslim imams in the Hungarian villages during the children's stay.

I presented this plan to the Turkish Minister of Religion and Public Education, who was clear-sighted and smart. He approved my plan and enthusiastically supported it. In my turn, to see what the Hungarian peasant thought of it, I went to the Alföld and traveled through the villages for months, presenting my plan to the farmers. Their eyes lit up as soon as the picture of free help came up. Several hundred signed up immediately, to take on Turkish children.

I took these lists to the Turkish Chief Consul in Budapest, who was my most enthusiastic backer. He took me to see the Prime Minister, who listened to all the particulars and approved my idea, promising to help and take the matter in hand as soon as the war was over. He told me to return to Turkey to keep the idea alive.

On my return to Turkey, Count B.M. visited me, saying he wanted to bring Turkish children to Hungary, and asked my advice. I told him everything. Thereupon he collected 40-50 young men of the aristocracy, the sons of notables, who were gladly sent because they were thus exempted from military service. B., in turn, victoriously brought these boys to Budapest, with "good press", and distributed them among the agricultural academies, where they engaged in revelry but had no concept of farming... In addition, the Turkish Minister of Religion and Public Education resigned. (Together with other distinguished politicians, he was later hung for having organized opposition to Kemal Ataturk.)...

And that was the end of a brilliant but ambitious scheme to improve the agricultural landscape of Turkey through a training program in Hungary, a hundred years ago. (Transl.).

Dr. Géza Karátsony (1883 – 1957) was born in Transylvania and received a doctorate in Political Science and Law from the Ferenc József Tudományi Egyetem in Kolozsvár. He also obtained a degree from the Academy of Agriculture. He became Director of the newly established Agricultural Academy in Constantinople, traveled on horseback throughout the Turkish Empire, visited Egypt, was a member of the WW I Peace Commission in Paris. Later, he was employed by the County of Baranya, Hungary, as Advisor and Secretary to the Chamber of Wine and Fruitgrowers' Association in Pécs. In 1942, he obtained a diploma from the Academy of Viticulture in Budapest and left Hungary in November, 1944, emigrating to the US in 1951.

He is the father of our Editorial Board member Eva Wajda.

Crescence: Széchenyi's Inspiration and Strength

By: EPF

"Behind every successful man is a woman." Never was this truer than in the case of Széchenyi István. Had this lovely Austrian countess not been in his corner, he would never have become the towering statesman who accomplished so much for the uplifting of the Hungarian nation. In this our sixth segment dealing with the life of Count Széchenyi István, in the 225th anniversary year of his birth, we look at the life of Countess Crescence Seilern-Aspang.



Born in Moravia in 1799, Countess Crescence Seilern-Aspang came from a family of wealthy nobles who moved within the magnetic circle of the Court, but were not counted among the highest echelon of the aristocracy.

After attending a convent school, she was introduced to society in Vienna. In 1819, she married Count Zichy Károly, a man twice her age, to become his third wife. She "inherited" one child from his first wife, and six children from his second. And she bore Count Zichy seven children!

In August of 1824, Széchenyi fell madly in love with her. He realized the hopelessness of the situation, and took a solemn oath before God and his friend Wesselényi Miklós, that he would not tempt Crescence to infidelity. Nevertheless, he did try to be around her as much as he could, meeting her at the theater and in other public places. Of course all this was not unobserved, and sent tongues wagging all over Vienna. He sensed that she too was drawn to him, although she behaved with utmost correctness, avoiding him as much as possible and returning his letters, an example of total marital fidelity. Her principles greatly influenced Széchenyi, who realized that she expected the same type of self-control from him. She became the standard by which he measured himself.

This went on for 12 years, when Count Zichy died. They

observed the customary year of mourning, and then were married at the Krisztinavárosi templom in Buda in February of 1836. This was followed by the most happy, balanced days of his life.

Three children were born to them: Béla who became an explorer in the Far East; Ödön who made a name for himself by organizing the fire department of Pest-Buda and of Constantinople (see June 2013 issue of Magyar News Online); and a daughter Julia who lived only two short weeks.

"Crescence's angelic purity became the life-giving fountain, giving him strength for the (political) battles he had to face. At her side, he felt he was unbeatable and indestructible. He believed he owed her eternal gratitude for all this, that he would not be able to express in words."

With her husband, Crescence became Hungarian. She who did not speak a word of Hungarian now learned the language, and became more and more determined to support her husband's causes. When, with the approaching revolution of 1848, Széchenyi wanted to send her to safety from Buda, she declared she was willing to die a martyr's death if that was what staying with him meant. He finally convinced her to go to Cenk with the children (see Magyar News Online, February 2016), promising to follow soon, although he knew that would not happen.

Crescence remained faithful to him even through the years he spent in the sanatorium in Döbling, Austria. She moved to Vienna then to be closer to him, to visit and care for him. She responded to his letters and was in constant contact with those around him.

Upon the death of Széchenyi, Crescence mourned him for 15 years until she herself died, faithful "for better and for worse".



Crescence Széchenyi

She provided him with the emotional background and the continuity he needed, making it possible for him to work and fight untiringly for the betterment of his nation.

(based mostly on "Budapest múltja: Seilern Crescence, a hitves" by Lipusz Zsolt, and "Gabriella : 1836 – Gróf Széchenyi István esküvője Seilern Crescence grófnővel, Budán, a Krisztinavárosi templomban")

Kicsi a világ! It's a Small World!

By: Ilona Ipkovich

Magyar is no longer a secret language!

Earlier this year my doctor sent me to a specialist to find out whether I need surgery. After I got his name, I checked him out on the internet. I found his name, picture, and the reviews were good.

When I went for my appointment, a small man came in, looking like he was from the Middle East, not the one I saw on the internet. I did not say anything, waiting to see what would happen. We started talking, and he asked me whether anybody in my family had stomach problems. Offhand I could not think of the word for "gyomorfekély" in English. He said to say it in my own language. I thought, that will do a lot of good, but I finally remembered it: "ulcer."

We finished talking, and he said the doctor would be in in a few minutes. He did come in soon, together with the Middle Eastern doctor. After we were finished, the Middle Eastern doctor asked where I came from. I said I am Hungarian. Then he answered me in almost perfect Hungarian..."I speak Hungarian also." It was good that I was sitting – I would not have thought even in my dreams that he could speak Hungarian!

He told me he had studied at Semmelweiss University in Budapest. He likes the city very much. Then he asked which part of Hungary I came from. I told him I lived closer to Vienna than to Budapest. I went to school in Sopron. He started smiling: the beer in Sopron is very good!

I decided that from now on I will not give my opinion about anybody out loud, neither good nor bad, because you never know who might understand, especially if they don't even look Hungarian. MERT KICSI A VILÁG!

Ilona Ipkovich was a certified kindergarten teacher in Hungary. She and her husband Frank came to the United States in 1957. Ilona taught at the Hungarian School in New Brunswick, NJ for several years. They were among the founders of the Danbury, CT Hungarian Club.

Szentkirályi Ásványvíz

By: Charles Bálintitt, Jr

With the summer season beginning, consumption of mineral water will increase as well. If you're in Hungary this summer, you might as well try the best.

Unfortunately, it is so far available in the US only in California. (No, Magyar News Online did not get a commission for this plug.)



Sometimes things just happen because of serendipity. This seems to be the case for the origin of one of the finest mineral waters in the world that comes from Hungary, of course.

In 1989, Balogh Sándor, a chemical engineer who had been working for Olympos Kft, started his own company named Vitapress Kft, which became a producer of soft drinks and soft drink syrups. He happened to find a good site for his new plant in the town of Szentkirály, which is 20 kilometers to the east of Kecskemét. To make these fruit drinks, he needed a lot of water, but this small town didn't have a sufficient supply for future increases in production; in fact it could even become problematic at their initial level of usage, so he decided to drill his own well. When they tested the water from the well to make sure it was clean and suitable for the company's purposes, he was quite pleasantly surprised. They found it to be extremely clear while also containing numerous minerals, without any nitrite or nitrate. As a result of this he decided to sell the water on its own merit.

Beginning in 1994, Vitapress Kft became the bottler and distributor for this exceptional water. In 2003, Sándor's son, Balogh Levente, founded the new company: Szentkirályi Ásványvíz Kft. By the end of that year, they only had a 0.2% share of the carbonated and non-carbonated mineral water market in Hungary. The market leaders at the time were Theodora and Aquarel, both owned by the world renowned Nestlé. They, along with other large companies, made it very difficult for a new company to break their stranglehold on the market. However, another stroke of luck would help the company grow exponentially.

In 1998, an old friend of Sándor's manufactured a large order of 2 deciliter bottles (6.76 ounces), but his buyer did not take delivery. So he asked Sándor if he could put something in them. He decided to use them for mineral water. A representative from Lufthansa noticed these small bottles, and thought how well they would fit into the catering bags used on their flights. At the time they were the only bottles of this size to be found in Hungary. So Lufthansa and then Austrian Airlines also began using these bottles on their airplanes.

In 2004, one of the directors of the upcoming Aqua Expo in Paris, happened to be on a Lufthansa flight and had a chance to sample the Szentkirályi mineral water. She then contacted Balogh Levente and asked him to take part in this exposition. She was a French woman of Czech origin, who was married in Paris, and wanted Eastern Europe to be represented in the West. Well, not only did Szentkirályi take part, but they won the Aqua-Eauscar Award for the best "still" mineral water in the world.

By May of the following year, they became the market leader in the Hungarian non-carbonated mineral water segment with an 18% share. And they had an overall

12.2% share of the market for carbonated and non-carbonated mineral waters combined. Obviously this success emanated from the award, but a lot of it also had to do with Balogh Levente's marketing strategy. He used Hungarian patriotism to increase sales by asking Hungarians to feel pride because this was "their water". At the time they received the award, their production was at 4,500 liters per hour. With the completion of their plant modernization, by June of 2005 this was increased to 25,000 liters per hour. In 2005, they also won an award for their rose flavored water.

The water is low in sodium chloride and high in magnesium and calcium, so it is OK for people with high blood pressure and is also safe for babies. The calcium promotes bone growth and the magnesium is beneficial to your cardiovascular system. The water comes from 206 meters below the surface, so it is well sheltered and hasn't been contaminated by anything from above. According to Balogh Levente this underground reservoir is the size of Lake Balaton and may have been formed a million years ago when the Danube River flowed through this area. The water temperature is a constant 18 degrees Celsius (65 Fahrenheit) year round. In 2005, it was estimated that at a total capacity of 1.5 billion liters a year the supply should last for another 50 years. However, they were taking out only about 200,000 million liters per year at the time. This has been increased since then, but that still leaves enough water for at least the rest of our lifetimes.

The road was not easy for this company. Many of the larger international companies tried to destroy the company or buy it over the years, as they do with any new company that they consider a threat to their own profitability. For over a decade, Levente held out, but last year he decided that he needed a strategic partner for further expansion and in

April of 2015, Szentkirályi Ásványvíz Kft. was merged into Central European Mineral Water Holding along with a couple of other companies including Kékkuti Ásványvíz, which had been owned by Nestlé. This holding company is owned by the Pasquale family of Italy. Balogh Levente remains a minority shareholder in this joint venture.

In addition to natural mineral waters, the company also produces many flavored drinks for babies and children (peach, apple, carrot-apricot and pumpkin) as well as flavored mineral waters (lemon-mint, orange-pineapple and raspberry-Indian cherry) along with other products that are all made with a base of natural spring water. They are sold all over Europe and have expanded to other regions of the world as well.

I always believed that Árpád and the first Magyar settlers of the Carpathian Basin, who had been nomads, knew what they were doing when they decided to stay in this beautiful region of the world. It just took another 1,100 years to find out what wonders were also hidden beneath them.

Charles Bálint Jr. is a working Customs Broker in Lawrence, NY and a member of the Magyar News Online Editorial Board.

Awards Szentkirályi Mineral Water



Captions: Aqua-Expo 2004 Best foreign still mineral water; Aqua-Expo 2005 Best foreign flavoured mineral water; Mondial SPA & BEAUTY 2006 Best foreign sparkling mineral water; Mondial SPA & BEAUTY 2007 Best foreign sparkling mineral water; Mondial SPA & BEAUTY 2007 Innovation Award; Second Global Bottled Water Congress finalist in the category of "Most beautiful glass bottle"; Aquallia 2005 Best foreign still mineral water; Szent Miklós Medal 2004 For patronizing fair issues; Monde Selection 2008 Vienna – Gold Medal Still and sparkling category; Monde Selection 2009 Venice – Gold Medal Emese, still category; Monde Selection 2009 Venice – Gold Medal Still category; Monde Selection 2009 Venice – Silver Medal Mild category; Foodapest Success Award 1998; Aranytallér Award 2004; Superbrands; Hungary 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010; Reliable brand 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010; Foodapest Success Award 2004; Best flavour award 2006 still mineral water; Best flavour award 2006 carbonated mineral water

Incitato: Memory of a Four-in-Hand

By: Zita Balogh

One of the means of welding together Hungarian society, Count Széchenyi István thought, was to introduce horse racing, which he had observed in his travels to England. It would also help improve the strain of horses used in agriculture and transportation, and aid in modernizing the country. So he organized horse races first in Austria, then at Pozsony, and finally, in 1827, in a four-day meet at Pest. The races excited every strata of society and betting added to the popularity of the sport. It even spread to Transylvania, where a variation of horse racing – four-in-hand – had been revived for a short time in 1990.

Some 13 kilometers from Fogaras (Transylvania) lies Alsószombatfalva, first mentioned in documents in 1534. Some two centuries later, the Bruckenthal castle was built there, becoming the fourth major stud farm of Hungary at the time. Lippizaner stud horses were brought from their estate at Mezőhegy.

The stud farm formed a separate little village next to the original village, and was inhabited mostly by Székely laborers who had their own kindergarten and school. This Lippizaner stud farm had one of the largest holdings of broodmares in Europe. (It is noted that Count Széchenyi István visited here on July 21st, 1821.) The farm was later moved to Bábolna, Hungary.

The original home of the Lippizaner horses is Lippiza, near Trieste, Italy. They are descended from a light cart horse type, of Austrian, Spanish, Italian and Arab ancestry which was bred at the court stud farm. It has 8 blood lines:

1) Siglavy Capriola (Spanish)

- 2) Napolitano (Italian)
- 3) Conversano (Italian)
- 4) Favory (Czech)
- 5) Maestoso (Czech)
- 6) Pluto (Danish)
- 7) Tulipán (Hungarian)
- 8) Incitato (Transylvanian)

This last is the connection to our story. For Tóth Ferenc, the father of the four-in-hand horse sport in Kézdivásárhely, Transylvania renewed (in 1990) the once very famous Lippizaner stud farm of Dálnok which had been closed in 1962. He brought back from Hungary the Incitato bloodline in the form of stallion X-35, bred at the stud farm of Count Bethlen Pál, which became the founding and eponymous stallion. In 1995, of the farm's 22 broodmares, 17 were already of Fogaras descent,



and 5 were from Dálnok. In the spring of 1996, Incitato-6, born, raised and trained at Dálnok, landed at the state farm of Bethlenfalva, by way of exchange, at the scene of the origin of this stock.

The Incitato Equine Club of Szentkátolna trained its horses in the specialty of four-in-hand carriage drive and prize riding. Their experts were trained in Transylvania and Kaposvár; their keepers were apprenticed at Szilvásvár and Kecskemét.

Starting in 1992, the Incitato International Four-in-Hand Carriage Cup was held at the *Fortyogó fűrdő* Horse

Center in Kézdivásárhely, in which 5-6 carriage drivers from Dálnok participated. From 1993 on, they took upon themselves a major role in organizing the Romanian carriage driver's championships where their sportsmen achieved great successes. After 1994, the horse arena of *Fortyogó fűrdő* became the venue also for the one-star Landover Cup (military) international horse races. It also accommodated the Balkan Cup.

From 1991 on, they took part in carriage driving meets abroad as well: in Hungary, at Szántópuszta, Tiszakecske, Kerekegyháza; in Austria, in Vienna. Their outstanding sportsmen were Dr. Kádár László, carriage driving champion (1992-1994); and Kovács István, who claimed to be a pupil of the trainer, Fülöp Sándor.

During these years, their carriages took part in numerous European world championships. The financial support for all these came from the Agronomixt company, and its hosting the races at *Fortyogó fűrdő* lasted until the company dissolved. Thus the Incitato Equine Club ceased to run Lippizaners, but its memory

goes on. Because Incitato gave its name to an annual international fine arts camp at which graphic artists, painters and sculptors create lasting works during the first two weeks in July every summer. The original purpose of the camp was to decorate the equine center of *Fortyogó fűrdő*, and to make the galleries set up at the Szentkátolna equine center into a permanent venue and a strong bastion.

The founders, Tóth Ferenc, camp organizer and Miholcsa József, sculptor from Marosvásárhely, did not dream that there would be a sequel to the first camp. But their love of horses and the enthusiasm that

sprang up among the artists carried on the spirit of the artists' camp. *Fortyogó fürdő* gave it a home for the first 10 years. After it closed, the camp moved to Bálványosfürdő, hosted by Daragus Attila, entrepreneur and mayor of Torja. We are grateful to him for his generosity and his comfortable and friendly hospitality for the last 13 years. He has been the most important supporter of the association since then. Apart from him, numerous local private entrepreneurs, local people and those from abroad have helped the club financially, for which they receive one of the works produced there each year.



This makes it possible for the participants in the camp to do field trips to riding schools in the area, where they can gain equine experiences.

By now, the organizers have 23 years, 23 camps behind them. Their dedication and love of horses carries them on from year to year, so that the graphic artist, the painter, the photographer and the sculptor can create works dealing with topics related to the horse.



In the past years, they have worked in topics such as "Horse and Rider", "The Conquest", "Horse and Carriage", "The Shaman", "Apocalypse", "Founding the Hungarian State, 1000 Years Ago", "Horse and Woman", "Lófőszékely (an obsolete rank of Székely nobility)", "Life on the Stud Farm", "Horse and Horsepower", "Pegasus", "Horse in the Circus", "Fehérlófia (a mythical figure of Hungarian folklore)", "Horses in Combat", "Hunor and Magor – the Horse in Hunting", "Dream Horse", "Csikó – Foal – a new beginning", "School of Horses", "Horse Species".

The subject is always determined by the artists themselves, and assigned for the following year. For 2016 they decided on "The Horse and the Elements". This year's camp is dedicated to the memory of Tóth Ferenc

and Balogh Oszkár, a major supporter.

The camp has regular participants who have been present every year since the first one, but the organizers always try to make the camp more colorful with new invitees. In the 23 years, over 135 artists have attended the artists' camp, mostly from Transylvania; a good number came from Hungary, but there have also been artists from Belgium, Holland, India, Italy, Kárpátalja (now under Ukrainian rule), and the Vajdaság (now under Serbian rule).

The exhibits come together under the artistic direction of Vincze László, Director, a graphic artist from Sarand, Hungary. They are first exhibited at the museum of Kézdivásár-

hely, then they visit the surrounding cities where they welcome the horse-themed new camp material.

It was at the 20th jubilee camp that the organizers were heard to say, "If this artists' camp has existed for 20 years, then we will prepare for the next 20."

Zita Balogh comes from Zágony, Transylvania, where she studied hotel management. She is currently receptionist at "The Inn at Fairfield Beach", and is a member of the Magyar News Online Editorial Board. Balogh Oszkár mentioned in the article was her husband (see the February 2012 issue of Magyar News Online.)

The Cog Railway – Fogaskerekű

By: Karolina Tima Szabó

Budapest has a variety of transportation forms: street-cars (*villamosok*), buses (*buszok*), subways (*földalattik*), children's railway (*Széchenyihegyi gyermekvasút*), the chair lift (*a János-hegyi libegő*), not to mention excursion boats (*kiránduló hajók*). And then there is the cog railway, the *fogaskerekű*.

The oldest transportation system in Budapest is the *fogas*, as the citizens of Budapest call it. Its steam engine train, the third in Europe, was built by a Swiss company, the Svábhegyi Fogaskerekű Vasút (Cog wheel railway), in 1873-74. (The first one is between Vitznau and Rigi in Switzerland, the second is the Kahlenberg rail in Vienna.) The permit was received on July 3rd, 1873. Work started immediately and was finished in two months. The first track was put down on April 22nd, 1874 and the first test run was on June 4th. It was put into operation on June 24th, 1874. The fare was 50 *krajcár*, later lowered to 40, but even that was too expensive at the time, although it was much lower than the fare on the Swiss rail.

The cog railway was built according to Nicolaus Riggerbach's system, who built the first cog wheel in Europe. The track started in the Városmajor and went up to the Svábhegy; in 1890 it was extended to the Széchenyi hegy. In 1927, the aged steam engine was replaced by an electrically powered one. New cars were acquired, and all the stations were rebuilt.

In 1972, the rail underwent total reconstruction. Today the number of riders on Line 60, as it also known, is very low, due to other lines in the



area, which are much faster. Since 1972, the rails were improved many times; now again, plans are in the works to reconstruct the line, lengthen it in each direction, and replace the cars.

Before the cog rail construction, Svábhegy was like a forest; to get there one had to walk or ride on horseback. Basically, it was built for recreational purposes. Later, when people started building homes on the Svábhegy, building materials were also transferred on the rail. Now it is used only for passengers. Coming

down from Széchenyi hegy, the rail cuts through Svábhegy where travelers can view the beautiful villas.

One car has 82 seats; the train altogether can carry 252 people, and also accommodate bicycles. Something else we should be proud of!

Karolina Tima Szabo is a retired Systems Analyst of the Connecticut Post newspaper and Webmaster of Magyar News Online. She is the proud grandmother of two.

Did you know...

... **that** the Hungarian girls' swimming team won the gold at the European championship swim in London for the 4x200 meter relay? Jakabos Zsuzsanna, Verrasztó Evelyn, Kapás Boglárka and Hosszú Katinka made up the team. This was the sixth gold for the Hungarian swimmers at this particular meet: 3 were won by Hosszú Katinka for 200m, 400m mixed, and 200m backstroke; Kapás Boglárka for 800m and Cseh László for the 200m butterfly.



... **that** in addition to England, France, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, and Czechoslovakia, the Treaty of Trianon was also signed by Japan, Siam, China, Nicaragua, Panama, and Cuba, among some others?

... **that** there is now a Hungarian billionaire? He is Csányi Sándor, chairman and CEO of OTP Bank, which has expanded into insurance, real estate development and pension fund management, with branches also in Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia and Ukraine. He has acquired Pick and Herz salami; runs the Bonafarm Group, an agricultural and food company; and bought 30% of OT industries, a group of engineering and construction companies which built the Hungarian-Slovak pipeline.

... **that** Allison Pataki has just published her sequel to "Accidental Empress" (reviewed in the May 2015 issue of Magyar News Online)? And that it is already on the NY Times best-seller list? Entitled "Sisi: Empress on her Own", it is available from Givington's ReConnect Hungary for a 32% discount. A purchase through them will help send young Hungarian-Americans (and –

Canadians) to Hungary for a personal encounter with Hungarian culture, traditions and history.

... **that** the downy oak of Báticasék (northeast of Pécs) was voted European Tree of the Year for 2016? 400 years old, it dates back to the 17th century, and stands in front of a chapel (St. Orban's) erected after a plague epidemic. It received 72,653 votes in the event sponsored by the Environmental Partnership Association. The tree had been cared for by the local farmers, who would cut off dead branches and paint its trunk to preserve it from diseases. It became a tradition to pour wine on it every May 25th (St. Orban's Day). People had fled to the protection of the tree at the time of the 1956 Danube flood.

Trees are chosen on the basis of their history and their relationship with, and importance to the community in which they grow.

... **that** 23-year old Babos Tímea defeated Venus Williams at the second round of the Women's International BNL in Italy? In Rome on May 13th, she bested the former Wimbledon champion with scores of 6:7 (5:7), 7:5 and 6:4.

... **that** Tarics Sándor, water polo gold medalist at the Berlin Olympics in 1936, died on May 21st in San Francisco? At 102 years old, he was the oldest living Olympic champion.

Magyar News Online

242 Kings Hwy Cut-off
Fairfield, CT 06824
www.magyarnews.org

Editor: Erika Papp Faber
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