



Photo by: Scheffer János

## Regulating the Tisza and Danube Rivers

Erika Papp Faber

*As part of the economic development of Hungary, Count Széchenyi István considered it vitally important to regulate the two main waterways: the Tisza and the Duna (Danube). The Tisza meandered across the Great Plain in its "shoreless channel" (as described by Petőfi in his poem) and annually caused untold damage to crops, livestock and houses (not to mention loss of lives) during the spring floods which the dikes were unable to control and which did not abate for months. Ice jams on the Duna caused periodic flooding, and at the lower end (at the Vaskapú or Iron Gates), unpredictable currents and huge rocks in the river bed formed almost insuperable obstacles to navigation. In this, the eighth article of our series commemorating the 225th anniversary of Széchenyi's birth, we take a brief look at how his broad vision for improving these and other waterways contributed to the advancement of the country.*

### The Tisza

When Széchenyi undertook an exploratory trip down the Tisza, he and his entourage had breakfast at a riverside inn. As related in [The Spirit of Hungary](#) by Stephen Sisa: "What would you like to have for supper, gentlemen?" the innkeeper inquired on seeing them out.

"Thank you, dear fellow, we are not coming back but will continue our trip down the river," Széchenyi replied.

"That is exactly why I asked you," the innkeeper said with a grin, "because those who head downstream from here in the morning usually take supper in

my inn. The Tisza brings them back to just a stone's throw from here."

This story illustrates the wide meandering of the Tisza, which annually inundated approximately half of the *Alföld* (Great Plain), making navigation impractical and causing heavy damage, despite protective dikes erected here and there.

Various steps had been taken earlier to address the problem, and numerous flood prevention societies had been formed for the building and maintenance of protective dikes. But it was obvious that the solution required comprehensive planning and a concerted effort.

An important incentive for action was provided by the spectacular increase in the price of wheat and the skyrocketing demand for meat that developed by the beginning of the 19th century. Thus grazing land protected from floods all of a sudden was at a premium, giving momentum to the idea of taming the entire Tisza River.

In the summer of 1833, Széchenyi had personally investigated the navigability of the Lower Tisza, and he supported a proposal put forward to construct a Danube-Tisza canal. However, the engineer Vásárhelyi Pál convinced him that regulation of the Tisza and its tributaries would have to precede any canal construction. When later on, Széchenyi was named president of the Transportation Commission (a position he did not want but accepted in order to present a united front with Kossuth), he was able to push through the creation of the *Tiszavölgyi Társulat* (Tisza Valley Association) by the representatives of the various counties.

In 1845-46, Vásárhelyi submitted a detailed plan for the regulation of the Tisza. It included cutting across the Tisza's great curves in order to improve runoff of the flood waters. He suggested 101 such cuts (later increased to 111 as a result of the floods of 1853-55). Széchenyi himself turned the first sod with a hoe on August 27th, 1846.

Also included in Vásárhelyi's plans was constructing a proper riverbed and planting trees to protect the dikes from battering waves.

However, Vásárhelyi died of a heart attack in the midst of a debate of his plan by the *Tiszavölgyi Társulat*. Then Széchenyi invited a Venetian engineer, Peter Paleocapa, who had experience with the regulation of the Po River in Italy, to continue Vásárhelyi's plan. Digging sections of a new riverbed and raising existing dikes began in 1847. But Paleocapa was unfamiliar with conditions of the Tisza, and reduced the number of cuts to 21. They proved inadequate, and some years later, his work had to be corrected according to Vásárhelyi's original plan.

Széchenyi never saw completion of his vision. But when it was done, decades later – delayed by drought and other contrary conditions – the length of the Tisza had been shortened by 453 km (some 283 miles), and numerous dikes had been built. Some 6.4 million acres (4.5 million "*kataszteri hold*") were salvaged. Length of the annual flooding was reduced from the previous average of 5-6 months to 2.5 months.

Regulation of the Tisza and its tributaries was the largest river regulating and

nature transforming project in Europe. It later served as a model for regulating the Mississippi River in the US.

### The Danube

The Danube flows through many countries, and is an international waterway. Its potential for becoming an important outlet to the Black Sea and a trade route to the East was not lost on Széchenyi.

But the section of the Lower Danube known as *Vaskapú* (Iron Gates), was, in his time, a major obstacle to navigation and trade. In a stretch of 120 km (75 mi.), amply strewn with rocks and islands, width of the River varied from 2-3 kilometers (approximately 2 miles) to 170 meters, i.e., 510 feet. River depth went from a foot and a half to 150 feet plus, and the current varied from 2,100 cu. m. per second to 16,000 cu. m. per second.

Széchenyi visited there in 1830, traveling on through to Constantinople, to study first hand the difficulties of regulating that stretch of the Danube. He informed the Palatine, József Nádor (the highest administrative official) of the purpose of his trip and offered to submit a proposal for making the Danube navigable from end to end. His proposal was accepted, and Széchenyi was appointed Royal Commissioner to direct this project, a position he held for 10 years. He commissioned the engineer Vásárhelyi Pál to map the entire Danube. In 1833, Széchenyi gave him the task of planning a shipping lane for steamships along the *Vaskapú* section.

Vásárhelyi proposed the blasting of a canal parallel to the riverbed at that point. An unusually low water level in 1834 facilitated the removal, by blasting, of the most dangerous rocks from the riverbed. This made shipping possible for approximately 150 days of the year. Despite difficulties caused by inadequate equipment and by the Turkish government, later that same year the first ship was able to navigate the *Vaskapú*.

On the left bank of the same stretch, a road was constructed, cut into rock for the most part to facilitate the towing of

ships and to make possible the transport of goods even during the time of year when shipping was impossible. It became known as "Széchenyi út". Work stopped when Francis I died in 1835 and the Empire's interest turned away from the Balkans.

(The canal was not completed until decades later. As part of the millennial celebrations of 1896, the first ship through the Iron Gates carried the rulers of Hungary, Serbia and Romania, indicating the international character of the area. It made possible shipping from Central Europe to the Black Sea, something that would have pleased Széchenyi had he lived to see it.)

### Steamships

Széchenyi was fascinated by the idea of steamships. He became a stockholder in the First Danube Steamboat Shipping Company organized in Vienna in 1829 for passenger traffic, and was later on its board of directors, most active in developing the company. Its first steamship was built at the *Hajógyári sziget* in Óbuda in 1835, and made its first run between Pest and Zimony (on the outskirts of today's Belgrade) in 1831.

In 1833, Széchenyi traveled to Szeged on the first steamship ever to ply the waters of the Tisza.

It was he who gathered shareholders for the *Balaton Gőzhajózási Társulat* (The Balaton Steamship Association) and began steamship traffic on Lake Balaton in 1846. The first paddle-wheel steamer, named *Kisfaludy*, brought visitors from Keszthely, Kenese and Alsóörs to Balatonfüred. Initial use was disappointing, and the outbreak of the Revolution and Freedom Fight of 1848 brought civilian steamboat traffic on the Balaton to a standstill. Regularly scheduled crossings became possible again only in 1852, and helped to develop the area as a vacation and tourist destination.

Regulation of the main waterways and the promotion of steamships were integral – and as their implementation confirmed – tremendously beneficial to the development of Hungary. All

worthwhile projects take time, and so did some proposed by Széchenyi. But they proved worth the wait, and as far as can be guessed by hindsight, lived up to his expectations.

*For much of the information on the regulation of the Tisza I am indebted to an article by Danis György entitled "Zavaros a Tisza vize, nem tiszta", and for the map and the two etchings on the construction of dikes.*

*Erika Papp Faber is Editor of Magyar News Online.*



*Széchenyi at the Vaskapu – painting by Schoefft Ágoston*

## Magyar News Online

242 Kings Hwy Cut-off  
Fairfield, CT 06824  
[www.magyarnews.org](http://www.magyarnews.org)

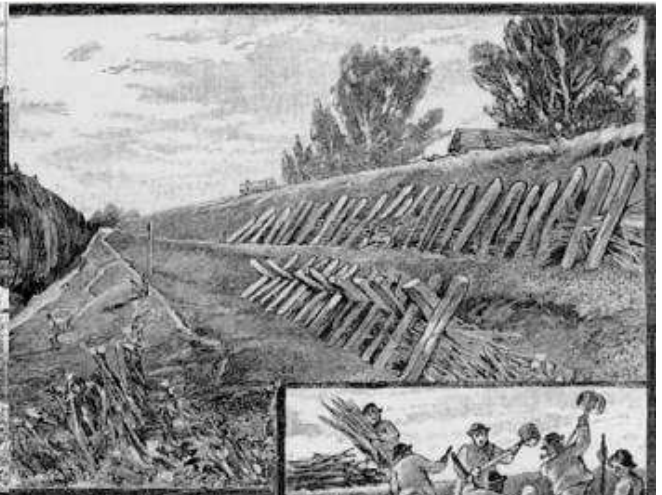
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## The Tisza \*

*Petőfi Sándor*

By the winding Tisza, one summer day,  
I stopped at sunset as I passed by way  
Of little Túr Creek\*\* that hurries into it  
Like a child, on its mother's knee to sit.

So smooth and mild did the river amble  
On its slow way in its shoreless channel,  
It did not want to trip up the sun's rays  
By making ripples or billowy waves.

Red rays on its mirror-smooth surface danced  
(Like a small troop of fairies in a trance),  
One could almost hear their steps a-tinkling  
Like the sound of tiny spurs a-jingling.

Where I stood, a yellow carpet of sand  
Was spread, leading to the meadow inland  
On which swaths of aftergrowth lay parched  
Like printed lines across a book's page march.

Beyond the meadow in majesty stood  
Already in twilight, a fine high wood.  
But sunset threw an ember on its head,  
Making it seem ablaze and bloody red.

Yonder there, on the Tisza's other side,  
Hazelnut and gorse bushes I espied.  
They left only one gap through which to see  
A little village spire distantly.

Like memories of happy hours gone by,  
Puffy pink clouds floated across the sky,  
And from the far distance broodingly gazed  
The peaks of Máramaros\*\*\* through the haze.

No noise at all. In the solemn quiet  
Rarely did a bird whistle its riot.  
The humming of an old mill down the stream  
Only like a mosquito's buzz did seem.

Just across from me, on the other side,  
Jug in hand, came a peasant bride  
While filling her jug in the water gray,  
She looked at me, then hurried away.

I stood there motionless, without a sound,  
As if my legs were rooted to the ground,  
Into a deep and sweet rapture I fell,  
As Nature's beauty round me wove its spell.

O Nature, Nature, glorious you are!  
What tongue would even dare with you to spar!  
How great you are! The more silent you keep,  
The more you say, more beautiful and deep.

I reached the farm, at last; it was quite late.  
A dinner of fresh fruit I gladly ate.  
With my companions we chatted for long  
While a brushwood fire blazed beside us strong.

In talking with them I was moved to muse:  
"The poor Tisza why do you so abuse?  
So much evil about it you proclaim,  
Yet of all earth's rivers it's the most tame."

A few days later, fitfully sleeping,  
I was roused by the alarm bell's pealing.  
"The flood's coming! Flood's coming!" was the shout,  
And I beheld a sea when I looked out.

Like a madman who has torn off his chain,  
The Tisza galloped wild across the plain.  
With a roaring boom, breaking the dike, it swirled,  
Wanting to swallow the entire world.

*This poem helps explain the need for regulation of the Tisza as envisioned by Széchenyi, and described elsewhere in this issue.*

\* After the Danube, the Tisza is Hungary's most important river. It rises in the northeastern Carpathians, cuts through the Alföld (Great Plain), and flows into the Danube at Titel (now in Serbia). Before Széchenyi's program of regulation was undertaken in the mid-19th century, the Tisza's devastating floods regularly ravaged the countryside. (See article elsewhere in this issue.)

\*\* Túr – pronounced "toor"

\*\*\* Máramaros (pron. "mahr'-uh-muh-rosh"). The northeastern part of the Carpathians has snow-covered peaks, known as "the Alps of Máramaros".

translated by Erika Papp Faber  
(taken from "A Sampler of Hungarian Poetry"  
available at [cicoka6@gmail.com](mailto:cicoka6@gmail.com))

# Taste of Hungary Festival

The weather was ideal for the Taste of Hungary Festival held at Calvin United Church of Christ in Fairfield, CT on August 20th.



László Papp and Enikő Szatay at the Taste of Hungary Festival; Éva Wajda sampling the lángos; the hurka-kolbász stand; Café Dolce and their dobos torta; participants enjoying the food, the company and the weather.

## THE OLDEST MAN IN CANADA IS A 110-YEAR OLD HUNGARIAN CHESS PLAYER

On June 28, 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife Sophie Chotek were assassinated. The event triggered the First World War. Zoltán Sárosy was not yet 8 years old at the time, living with his mother and his military doctor father in a military base on the Adriatic, in the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

“One morning I came out of my room to see my mother packing. She said war is coming, we have to leave within 12 hours,” says Mr. Sárosy. The family made their way to Herzegovina on board a torpedo boat, to Trieste via passenger ship, and finally reached Budapest by train.

Today, Mr. Sárosy lives in a seniors’ home in Toronto. He is celebrating his 110<sup>th</sup> birthday on August 23, which, according to The Globe and Mail, makes him the fourth oldest person in Canada after three women, and the oldest and probably only man who still remembers the beginning of the First World War. Zoltán Sárosy was born in Budapest in 1906. His chess career started at the age of 10 when he noticed someone playing in a public park.

“I was with my mother and I saw a boy playing chess and I asked, ‘What is that?’ The next day I was back at the park. That boy’s mother wouldn’t let me play with him but I found others,” said Mr. Sárosy. He played throughout school and at university. He studied international trade in Vienna, graduating in 1928, and then he returned to Budapest, and soon became a grandmaster. “In 1943, I played in the Hungarian championship and gained the Hungarian [chess]master title,” he says.

He served in the Second World War as a volunteer translator, speaking Hungarian and German, while the men of his generation were drafted and sent to the front. However, after the war was over, he fled from Hungary, worried that he might get caught by the Russians for his role in the war as a military translator. He left his

wife and daughter in Hungary. He lived in places all over Europe, from Salzburg to a refugee camp, and finally in Alsace, a German-speaking province taken back by France after the war. In 1950, he discovered that Canada was welcoming immigrants, and he applied.

He arrived in Halifax on December 27, then went to Toronto where he found employment doing tiling work on an upper floor in the Bank of Nova Scotia Building. “I started my career in Toronto at a high level,” he jokes.

Once he settled in Canada, he sent for his family but his wife didn’t want to leave the country, so they got divorced. His daughter visited him at one point, and considered moving to Canada, but then changed her mind.

Sárosy wanted to be independent and did not want to work for other people, so he started selling cosmetics, eventually importing them himself, as well.

Some years later, he bought a convenience store, which he ran until the late 1970s. He continued his chess career as well, winning his first championship in Canada in 1955. He became the Canadian Correspondence Champion in 1967, 1972, and 1981, and he is a member of the Chess Hall of Fame.

After his first marriage, he married Heino Mallo, an Estonian immigrant. She died in 1998, and Sárosy moved to the seniors’ home in 2000, at the age of 94. It was another 10 years before he started using a mobility scooter to get around. Today, he uses a wheelchair, but his mind is as sharp as ever.

“He remembers the past but what amazes me is his short-term memory,” says Elena Yeryomenko, lifestyle program manager of Sárosy’s home. “It is phenomenal at this age to have a sharp mind. He remembers his life as a child and he remembers what he had for breakfast.”

In 1999, he also purchased a computer to play chess. A game of correspondence chess, which he played with people from around the world via mail, would take four or five years to

finish and he was worried that at 93 he might not make it to the end of the game.

When asked about the secret of his long life, Zoltán Sárosy laughs. He started then quit smoking as a teenager, and only drank in moderation, but he doesn’t have a definite answer.

“I’m still working on the formula. However, when I get it, I’ll go to the patent office”, he says. “I’m like an old used car with rusty body, wobbly wheels but a good engine.”

*This article posted on August 22, 2016 by Eszter Vass, is used by permission of Daily News Hungary*



*Zoltán Sárosy*

# LATINOVITS ZOLTÁN : OUR AGE OF INNOCENCE

*Olga Vállay Szokolay*

*On September 9<sup>th</sup> the Hungarian Actor-King of the 1960s and 1970s would have become 85 years old. June 2016 also marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his tragic death. This article deals only with anecdotes of our unforgettable romance that cannot be found in published sources.*

All his friends knew him as "Piki". When asked how this sobriquet originated, he started explaining: "The baker at Balatonszemes had a dog and its name was Piki." But he never got any further into the story, for whatever reason. I have checked with others and the answer was the same... Thus nobody ever found out how Piki got his name.

His mother was Gundel Katalin (Tinka), the third of 13 children of the world renowned restaurateur, Gundel Károly. By the time Piki was born, his father had already left Tinka, fulfilling his threat to his father-in-law who refused to bail him out of some gambling debts. Rumor had it that in 1867, Latinovits Oszkár's family had owned 67,000 acres of the rich land in Bácska. That huge fortune, however, had been mostly lost by the 20<sup>th</sup> century, in the hands of the irresponsible owners.

Thus Piki was growing up as part of the Gundel family. They all lived at their large villa by the Budapest Zoo, the location of the original Gundel restaurant. He enjoyed relating that he had grown up in the Zoo... His youngest uncles, István and Imre were just a few years older than he. As a youngster, he thought that when he'd be their age, he too could call his grandmother "Mama", as the other boys did...

He and I had met as thespians of the Architectural School of the Budapest

Technical University. I was still trying to get over a star-crossed romance. In America, my lopsided love "had to" marry, as I phrased it: "with tragic suddenness" – a familiar phrase used to indicate *suicide* in obituaries...



Zoli (sic) was introduced to me and we were cast together in a short play preceding the annual Architect's Ball in early April. While the audience was gathering at the huge auditorium, in the tiny control room I picked up a guitar and started to play and sing some American tunes for the cast – or so I thought. Meanwhile, however, the mischievous Latinovits had turned on the P.A. system and, peeking out, reported to us with a broad grin: "The audience loves it! They are jumping in their seats!" No sooner did he make the announcement than the Party secretary blasted in: "Are you guys out of your mind? Turn off the sound immediately!!!"

The show went smoothly, followed by the ball. At that point, just when I thought we might have had a spark, he said he had to leave now but he'd be back.

I didn't believe he'd return. Yet, I decided to have a jolly good time, danced as if there were no tomorrow. And – lo and behold – after a few hours, he DID come back, aimed straight at me and we danced only with each other the rest of the night. He walked me home, arm-in-arm in the April daybreak. I lived just a block away and wished it would be

further...

We exchanged letters: mostly philosophy and poetry, that we handed to each other in passing, instead of mailing them. I knew by then that there was, and will be, life after that previous ill-fated infatuation.

In May, he invited me to join him at his uncle Pista's wedding. There I met his family and they all warmly welcomed me. After the ceremony, he and I went to the most popular little bar, *Pipacs*, and sat at a tiny table in the "lap" of the piano. Danced and laughed, walked home in the navy-blue moonlit night across the *Lánchíd*, talked and kissed, fully enjoying being 20.

One day, his closest friend, Rozsnyay Bigyó, got some furlough from work camp, the unarmed forces for sons of deported families. The three of us took off in the evening for a precious little restaurant called *Bolero*. In the vestibule stood an illuminated aquarium from which one's dinner could be picked. We could not afford dinner, of course, just had a bottle of wine. The magical courtyard, where we sat in one of the stone booths, was surrounded by multi-story white-washed walls soaring toward the dark sky. A man with a finely chiseled profile roamed among the tables with a viola and played Fibich's *Poem* for us...

Afterwards, the two boys flanked me arm-in-arm in sparsely populated streets and we were whistling *Anchors Aweigh* in open defiance. In front of a building we found a wheeled scaffold that we pushed away a few blocks, laughing all the way how the workers would look for it in the morning...

In late May, the Architectural School organized an excursion by ship up the Danube to Esztergom. After participating in the compulsory educational exercises, Piki and I roamed over the hills, rolling in the fresh grass, kissing as if forever. Back on the ship I felt somewhat short of

breath. My asthma, which I had since childhood, started to act up, most likely as a reaction to the fresh grass. By the time we reached my apartment building I was severely wheezing. Couldn't wait to get into the elevator – just to learn that it was out of order! We lived on the seventh



floor (American 8<sup>th</sup>). Seven times 24 steps... And Piki scooped me up in his arms and carried me up the 168 steps... In spite of gasping for air I felt like Snow White in the arms of Prince Charming!..

One Sunday in June, we attended Mass together at the Gothic Mátyás Church in the Castle District, a delightful experience every time. After a stroll, Piki walked me home in the afternoon.

Very early next morning our phone rang: Tinka néni, Piki's mother! She wondered what I knew about her son's whereabouts because he hadn't been home all night. In those days one didn't know what to expect: walking alone after dark could mean arrest and jail, with various fabricated accusations, as it was commonplace. I told her all I knew and kept my fingers crossed.

Half an hour later my closest friend, Bessy called: her fiancé, Laja unexpectedly came home for furlough from work camp and they decided to get

married. Could I, with Piki, be their witnesses for the civil ceremony? I said I'd be more than happy to do so but had no idea how to find Piki. Details to follow as they evolve...

Another half an hour later Piki called at last: he had spent the night at the place of one of his friends, having attended Mass for the second time as he felt the first one was not valid since he had only been looking at me... Ultimately, the two of us duly showed up at Bessy and Laja's civil wedding and our signatures still verify that in the old books.

But our relationship was becoming tense. I did not quite understand that while the warm, happy wonder of our kissing left me completely satisfied, at the same time his frustration bordering on anger seemed to grow in unfulfilled desire...

Vacations with families separated us for the summer. It was only the last day of August when we met at Balatonszemes, after several weeks of distance. The encounter took place at high noon on the terrace of the pastry shop. It wasn't a date. Also present were Piki's stepfather, the dear "Fröci", as well as two half-brothers, the 10-year-old Bujtor István and six-year-old Frenreisz Károly (both kids became entertainers later – Bujtor, who died in 2009, was an actor, Frenreisz a singer-songwriter). It was a polite little social event that Piki probably so designed, so arranged, to arrest the otherwise unmanageable tension.

In the early afternoon I took my leave on a steamship. It was some relief that I was the one to literally move away. From the deck I waved, sensing that it might be our farewell. At Balatonföldvár, I "hitched a ride" on a friend's sailboat in scorching sun and totally silent air that suddenly changed, as is typical for the capricious Lake Balaton, into a roaring storm. We arrived at Balatonfüred, (from where I had to return to my assignment at Inota in the morning), soaked to the skin. My friends greeted me at the clubhouse with drinks and a dry inflatable mattress.

And it was there and then, around midnight between August and September, that I met my future husband...

*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.*

## Two Mornings

Jules S. Vallay

*Having worked in Budapest for a couple of years in the nineties, Jules Vallay offers some musings about the city at dawn. He wrote it shortly after his return to the States. It was published in the December 16-22, 1993 issue of the weekly Budapest Week, by the title "Remembering Budapest Mornings".*

A letter arrived from Hungary. I read it at the breakfast table and I must confess I was overwhelmed with nostalgia. I recalled other mornings not so long ago when, on the other side of the world, I traversed Budapest, the city yawning in the breaking light of dawn.

My Lord, I thought back to those brisk, fresh-tasting mornings when I viewed the awakening city at my feet from the side of Gellért hegy. My car happily rolled down Hegyalja út, throwing an off-hand greeting to the Royal Palace which, much like our Hungarian past, on one side darkly hid the yesterdays, while its eastern bastions mirrored the hopeful promise of the blushing dawn for a better tomorrow.

Here the road squeezes its traffic to apportion the stuffy air among the drivers, in anticipation of entering the tunnel under the Várhegy, and just as promptly opens to the oval view of the lofty stone piers of the Lánchíd. The bridge's silhouette is still dimly guarded by the decorative lights, but I must squint looking squarely at the rising sun. In my mind's eye, I could see the stone lions stretching on the



pillows of the bridgehead, and swiftly passed the traffic circle in front of the Hyatt where street cleaners, with measured moves of a hundred years' practice, collected the discarded souvenirs of last night's strollers along the Danube promenade.

I am stopped now at the traffic light on Deák tér where I used to scrutinize the pleated skirts on swaying waists of pretty pedestrians until the halls of the Trade Center swallowed them all up.

Now I am good to go on Andrásy út and make a quick sign of the cross as I pass Szent István Bazilika off to the left and wonder how far the work has progressed on restoring its cupola damaged in World War II. I respectfully slow down while passing the Operaház on my left, bathing it in infant beams of sunlight filtering in from the direction of the Oktogon, while on my right the beautiful arcades of the School of Ballet augur the continual renaissance of Hungarian art.

The yellow #6 tram crosses my way at Nagykörút, giving me time to give a nod to the four great stone giants which bear the weight of the façade of two ancient apartment buildings on their shoulder. I swiftly zip through Kodály tér and have a sensation that the balconies are winking "good morning" to each other in the light of the rising sun, like elegant ladies standing in a half-circle of gossip.

The angel on top of the Millennium Monument is already bathed in sunlight, like an exclamation point in Hungarian history. Below her, the Grand Council of Árpád gathers proudly, though tattered, mounted on horses frothing at the mouth. In the background of the imposing gallery pigeons alight on the bronzed heads of history's greats, as if to proclaim their innermost thoughts to the world.

And then the quiet of dawn sprouts wings as the capital comes to a rumbling awakening. Morning is here.

*Hungarian-born Jules S. Vallay, retired telecom executive, was the organist and choir-master of St. Stephen of Hungary Church in New York City. Between 1990 and 1992, he represented NYNEX in Budapest, counseling the newly liberated Hungarian government on modern telecommunications systems. Mr. Vallay is also the author of historical essays and is currently retired in Virginia. He is the cousin of our Editorial Board Member Olga Vallay Szokolay.*



## Két reggel

*Vállay Gyula*

Levél érkezett Magyarországról. A reggeliző asztalnál olvastam és meg kell vallanom, hirtelen elöntött a „honvágy”, ha szabad így mondanom. Visszaidéztem más reggeleket nem is olyan régen, amikor a földteke másik oldalán keltem át a derengő hajnali fényben ázó Budapestben.

Istenem, visszagondoltam a friss ízű, fűgereggelekre, amikor a Gellérthegy oldalából vettem szemügyre a lábaim előtt fekvő éledező várost. A kocsik öröme gurult le a Hegyalja úton, félvállról üdvözölve a Királyi Várat, amely éppúgy mint magyar múltunk, egyik oldalán sötéten takarta a tegnapot míg keleti bástyái visszatükrözték a pirongó hajnal reménytelen ígéretét egy szebb jövőre.

Most egy kis tülekedés, hogy az Alagút fullasztó levegőjét melyikünk szívhatja legelőbb, majd ovális kőkeretében tárul elém a Lánchíd magasztos hídfője. A híd sziluettjét még halványan őrzik a lámpák, de már hunyorítok, amint szembenézek a kelő nappal. Magam előtt láttam a kőoroszlánokat nyújtózni a hídfő párnáján, majd „elhajtottam” a Hyatt előtti félkörben, ahol az utcaseprők gyűjtötték össze száz éve megszokott kimerő mozdatokkal az előző esti Dunakorzósok eldobált souvenir-jeit.

Előttem volt a Deák-téri forgalmi lámpa, amelynél oly-annyiszor várakoztam az elmúlt két évben, szemügyre véve a szép gyalogos átkelő ringó rakott szoknyáját, amíg a Trade Center csarnoka el nem nyelte őket...

Most megindulok az Andrásy úton, gyors keresztet vetve a Bazilika felé, és fél szemmel felmérem, vajjon haladt-e a munka a kupola restaurálásán. Tisztelettel és kissé áhítatva lelassulok az útkereszteződésnél, ahol balomon az Operaház fürdik az Oktogon felől besurlódó fiatal napfényben, jobbomon pedig a balett iskola gyönyörű árkádja sejteti a magyar művészet folytonosan megújuló hajnalát.

Mielőtt megpillantom a hatos villamos sárga oldalát a Nagykörút sarkán, fejét bólintva köszöntöm a négy hatalmas kőóriást, akik a két ősi bérház homlokzatát viselik vállukon. Átshatok a Kodály téren s úgy érzem, az erkélyek „jó reggel”-t pislognak egymásra a kelő nap fényében, mint félkörben álló elegáns társalkodó hölgyek.

Már messziről köszönt a Millenniumi Oszlop anyaga – felkiáltó jel a nagy magyar történelemben! Alatta büszkén, de kopottan gyülekezik Árpád Nagytanácsa tajtékzó lovain. A háttér impozáns gallériájában galambok szállnak bronzba öntött nagyjaink fejére, mintha a szobrok legmélyebb gondolataikat sejtetnék a külvilággal. Majd madárszárnyra kél a hajnali csönd amint lassan dübörögni kezd a főváros élete. Beköszönt a reggel.

# A Date in Hungarian History: September 2, 1686

Charles Bálinttitt Jr.

*On this date occurred the liberation of Buda after 145 years of Turkish occupation.  
Let us look at it on this 330<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

Three hundred thirty years ago, on this day (9/2/1686), Buda was reclaimed from Ottoman Turkish occupation. This was a very long time in coming and not an easy feat to accomplish.

The eventual conquest of Hungary by the Ottoman Empire began in 1521 (after numerous skirmishes over the previous century) with the capture of Nándorfehérvár (today's Belgrade) by Suleiman the Magnificent. After turning his attention elsewhere for a few years, he returned to impose the greatest defeat Hungary had suffered in its history, at the Battle of Mohács on August 29, 1526, which also resulted in the death of young King Louis II. And his death, without any heirs to the throne, created a power vacuum.

Eventually on November 11, 1526, Zápolya János, the Duke of Transylvania, was crowned King John I, which did not please Ferdinand I (Habsburg) who also claimed the throne of Hungary. In 1527, the Austrians invaded Hungary and seized Buda. This led John I to flee to Poland in 1528. In 1529, he made a deal with Suleiman the Magnificent to become a vassal state of the Ottoman Empire. This led to the Turkish siege of Vienna in 1529, which was unsuccessful, along with a later attempt in 1532. Consequently, western Hungary was ceded to Austria in 1533.

In 1538, Zápolya signed the Treaty of Nagyvárad, making Ferdinand I his heir, since he was childless. However, 9 days before his death, a son, John Sigismund, was born and became his heir. The following year, on August 21, 1541 after a 3 ½ month battle, Suleiman the Magnificent defeated Ferdinand I's army and captured Buda. The Turks would go on to rule the city for the next 145 years.

It was not until the next Battle of Vienna in 1683, that all of Western Europe became alarmed. The Turks were defeated, but it showed that they still had great aspirations to move further west. As a result of this, Pope Innocent XI organized the Holy League in 1684 to begin the Great Turkish War for liberating the rest of Christendom from Ottoman rule. The original members of this union were the Papal States; the Holy Roman Empire, under Habsburg Emperor Leopold I; the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, under John III Sobieski; and the Venetian Republic. They were joined by the Tsardom of Russia, ruled by Peter the Great and Ivan V, in 1686.

The forces of the Holy League, consisting of 80,000 men, were led by Maximilian Lorenz Starhemberg, commander of the imperial army and General Louis William, Margrave of Baden-Baden; and was under the overall command of Charles V, Duke of Lorraine. They successfully captured Esztergom to the north before part of the troops moved on toward Buda. The unsuccessful Siege of Buda in 1684 was led by Field Marshall Count Ernst Rüdiger von Starhemberg with 43,000 men. In the end, the 109-day siege resulted in the remnants of the army retreating. About half the men died due to battle injuries, dysentery and a fever epidemic. This loss was blamed on many tactical errors made by the Field Marshall.

Two years later, in 1686, the Holy League began the next Siege of



Buda. This time they sent a larger army consisting of about 70,000 to 80,000 men. This included many nationalities; the Hungarians, Austrians, Bavarians, Germans and Brandenburgians supplied the most. But many others were represented as well, including Dutch, Czechs, Italians, Danish, Burgundians, English, Spanish, Swedish, French and Catalonians. The various divisions were led by prestigious nobles, barons and counts. The overall commander of the forces again was Charles V, aka Lotaringiai Károly.

This time the troops came straight from the north through Visegrád. Around June 15<sup>th</sup>, they interrogated a few Turks whom they had captured in the area and found out that the Turkish defenders of Buda amounted to about 12,000 soldiers and 3,000 cavalry. The armies marched along the Danube with parts of the army reaching Pest by June 17<sup>th</sup>. Then they began surrounding Buda and digging strategic trenches.

The leader of the Turkish defense was Abdurrahmán Abdi Arnaut Pasha. In preparation for the impending siege, he ordered all the Turkish troops to return to the fortress from



Top: Painting by Benczúr Gyula - Recapture of Buda. Lotaringiai Károly is on the white horse; Petneházy Dávid with sword in hand; also shown Bercsényi Miklós, Pálffy János, Savoyai Jenő, Bottyán János. In the center is the deceased Pasha Abdurrahman. Center: Painting of Siege of Buda; symbolic tombstone of Pasha Abdurrahman; Bottom: Inscription on statue "Budam Virgo Dabit Auxilium" (The Virgin will help Buda); statue of Pope Innocent XI; angel commemorating the retaking of Buda

Pest and Víziváros (part of modern day Buda). He had them bring all the food supplies from Pest with them. He also had all the roof tops in the fortress removed, so they would not catch fire when the bombing began.

Some of the leaders of the Holy League, arriving at various times during the siege with their armies, included Count Serényi János, Pálffy János, Bottyán János, Count Esterházy János, Pálffy Ferenc, Bercsényi Miklós, Petneházy Dávid, Barkóczy Ferenc, Csáky László and Friedrich Siegmund Scherffenberg. Some already had titles of nobility and others would receive them as a result of these battles.

The Turks were given an ultimatum to surrender and have free passage or have everyone killed regardless of age or gender. They turned down the offer basically because they felt that Allah had helped them before and would do so again. So the cannons began firing over the walls of Buda on July 1, 1686. On July 7th, the mining of the area began and on July 13th the first storming of the walls commenced. They were able to get close enough to position some cannons near the walls by July 15<sup>th</sup>. The Turks saw the danger and were able to sneak out of the gates at night and capture a few of the cannons. Due to unknown reasons, the Turkish ammunition storage area blew up on July 22<sup>nd</sup> detonating about 800 tons of gunpowder. This knocked down a sizeable portion of the southern wall (c. 200 meters) and killed about 1,500 while others ran out through the castle walls and were captured.

The Holy League army tried to attack from the southern flank where the wall was down, but this was too steep and many men were killed. The Turks then mounted a mostly unsuccessful counter-offensive. They were also trying to hold out as long as possible because they heard that about 40,000 Turkish troops were on the way to help them. The army of Grand Vizier Sari Suleiman Pasha did arrive in the middle of August, but his forces were repelled. During this battle, Abdurrahmán Abdi Arnaut Pasha was

killed. Many said that he died a heroic death for his cause.

Since they were tied up with the additional advancing Turkish forces for a while, a new assault of the southern flank of the fortress could only take place on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. With additional troops having just arrived and with the brilliant planning of Lotaringiai Károly, all the forces attacked from various sides of the fortress on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. With blaring drums and cannon shots the final assaults were mounted. By 5:00 pm they broke into the fortress and Fiáth János mounted the Hungarian flag on the bastion. Around the same time Petneházy Dávid tore down the Turkish military emblem that had hung on the Buda castle wall for 145 years.

The almost 23-year old Savoyai Jenő, who was severely wounded in his right hand during the battle, would continue fighting the Ottoman Empire for many years, eventually as a commanding general. He did not stop until the last of the Turks agreed to leave all of Hungary and Transylvania in 1699, after signing the Treaty of Karlowitz (*Karlócai béke*). After this he led and survived many other battles in defense of Hungary. Ironically, he died of a stroke in 1734, at the age of 71, shortly after having been relieved of his command and called back to Vienna by Empress Mária Terézia and Prince Lotaringiai Ferenc.

In the aftermath of the capture of Buda Castle, many other Turks and Jews, who had helped them were killed by angry soldiers. After the initial onslaught, many Jews were spared because Oppenheimer Sámuel paid the soldiers to let them go free. It also turned out afterwards that the siege took so long because each time the troops would storm the walls, the Turks would be warned by a drummer named Schreyer or Laufer, so they knew which side of the wall to defend.

After the victory, during the celebration a Capuchin monk, Avianoi Márk, pulled a cart with the statue of the Blessed Mother all around the fortress, before celebrating Mass. This happened be-

cause when the gunpowder storage area had exploded, the demolished wall revealed this statue of the Blessed Mother, which had been walled up to hide it from the Turks. It became known as the "Gunpowder Madonna" or the "Madonna of Buda".

Apparently quite prophetically, before the battles began, when the Holy League was formed, the Pope had written a letter to this same monk stating, "**B**udam **V**irginis **D**abit **A**uxilium" (The Blessed Virgin will help Buda).

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

## Sághegy Volcano

Livvy Szabo

*One does not automatically think of volcanoes in connection with Hungary. But they were there, active at one time. Here is a brief description of one by our youngest contributor.*

This summer, I went to Hungary with my family for two and a half weeks. It was one of the most amazing experiences of my life, and one of my favorite parts was visiting Kemenes Vulkán Park, where we hiked up a dormant volcano, the Sághegy.

We visited a museum at the foot of the mountain before we hiked, where the many rooms displayed explanations of different features of the volcano, including hands-on activities that showed how volcanoes erupt, the tool used to measure the force of volcanoes, and much more. A cool fact about it is that the gravel outside the building (and most cobblestones of the city streets and roads around) are made from basalt, a volcanic rock! Though the volcano hasn't been active for millions of years, scientists were still able to gather lots of information about the history and science behind the Sághegy and the other European volcanoes.

We drove up a small portion of the mountain, where we parked our car

## Magyarország vulkanikus hegységei



*Map of Hungary's volcanic mountains, original seismograph, plaque, Ally and Livvy in the spa, Livvy on the top of Sághegy, Sághegy.*

and headed towards a huge staircase! When we were walking up, we were so tired that I began to joke that once we got to the top, we would be in heaven! Half way up, there was another museum where there was more hands-on and information. There was the original scientific instrument called a seismograph which measures seismic waves, the movements of earth's tectonic plates, and it was tested right there on Sághegy by a famous Hungarian physicist named Eötvös Lóránd.

At the top, there was a spectacular view. You could see Kemenesalja and Celldömök, the city we stayed in for most of our trip. We took what seemed like hundreds of pictures but no camera could ever capture the beauty of this view. You also had the option to walk down into the crater, which had been taken over by vegetation since the activity of the volcano ceased. Most of the vegetation and wildlife in the Sághegy crater are rare, and are protected. The crater also has amazing acoustics, so they have many concerts and have even filmed a movie (Eragon) there!

Most of the volcanoes in Hungary were active 4-5-6 million years ago, and many of them are located on the North side of Lake Balaton, the "Tanú Hegyek" (witness mountains), Szent György-hegy, Badacsony, Csobánc, Gulács, Tóti-hegy, and Haláp. The Western most is the Somló and Sághegy. These mountains are witnesses to the height of the land millions of years ago. They are of basalt lava which is hard, while the softer rocks corroded and were washed away by the elements.

To this day, anywhere they drill into the ground in Hungary, water heated by the underground magma comes up, and many cities made spas out of this discovery. I have to say, I had no complaints about relaxing in some nice warm mineral water for hours at the Celldömök Vulkán Wellness and Vacation Spa!

*Livvy (Olivia) Szabo is a seventh grader at Madison Junior High in Trumbull, CT. She is the granddaughter of our Webmaster Karolina Tima Szabo.*

## Animal References

*Erika Papp Faber and  
Olga Vallay Szokolay*

*The Hungarian language is chock full of words and expressions built around the names of animals. We have compiled a list running to several pages – probably far short of being complete! – and will present some of these to you in this and future issues.*

Some of the words and expressions referring to animals are quite logical and obvious - for example, "báránfelhő" (lamb clouds) for cirrus clouds. (Can't you just see those furry little lambs up in the sky?) But less obvious is, for example, the connection between "medvecukor" (bear sugar) for "licorice". Here are some more:

pulykaméreg – lit. turkey anger – a quick outburst of temper  
 macskazene – lit. cat music – a mock serenade  
 libasor – lit. line of geese – single file  
 góyaláb – lit. stork's leg – stilts  
 disznóság – lit. swinishness – a very mean thing, a scandal  
 szamárfészek – lit. donkey's nest – an unmade bed  
 majomszeretet – lit. monkey love – foolish coddling of children by their parents  
 kecskeszakáll – lit. goat's beard – goatee  
 bogaras – lit. having an insect – crotchety, eccentric  
 A kutyafáját! – lit. dog's wood – Dog-gone it!  
 Ha nincs ló, szamár is jó! - lit. If there is no horse, a donkey will do. – Half a loaf is better than none.

If these have jogged your memory, you may want to send us what you remember along those lines and we will add them to the list. Our address is: [editor@magyarnews.org](mailto:editor@magyarnews.org).

Have fun!

## Szombathely and Its Historic Festival

*viola vonfi*

*This is where the largest Central European historic festival of Central Europe has been held every August for the last 17 years. Also, it is where St. Martin of Tours was born 1,700 years ago.*



Founded in the year 45 AD by the Romans as Colonia Claudia Savariensum, today's Szombathely is the oldest documented city in Hungary, having been continually occupied for 2,000 years. This is also the city where St. Martin of Tours, son of a Roman soldier, was born 1,700 years ago (although Pannonhalma also claims him as its own native son). Therefore this year has been named St. Martin of Tours year, concentrating on the saint's life and his connection with Hungary, and both cities share exhibits on his life. After all, he did return later, and even baptized his mother here.

So it was appropriate that the opening procession of the Savaria Historic Festival held from August 25th to 28th in Szombathely would be led in by a huge papier-maché figure of St. Martin (propped up by several men with poles). The street show included the famous scene from his life in which he cut his soldier's cloak in two to clothe a beggar. (For more about his life, see the biography at the end of this article.)

St. Martin was followed by groups of Roman legionnaires and gladiators, as well as folk dance groups who performed as they went. There were alto-



*top: Lighting of flame at start of festival; St. Martin leading the opening procession; middle: Roman legionnaires; Jewish Court; bottom: Sign for 1700th anniversary of St. Martin's birth; painting from Pannonhalma, depicting St. Martin cutting his cloak in half for a beggar. (photos derived from the Internet, and from „Szent Márton, Pannónia védőszentje” by Magyar Zoltán)*

gether some 600 costumed participants in the procession.

The original St. Martin, was a "light-bearer" to the hearts and souls of the people of his time, gave his torch to the mayor of Szombathely, who used it to light a huge fire in a cauldron (reminiscent of lighting the Olympic flame).

Some 250 programs were on the agenda, in 23 locations throughout the city. These included street theater, concerts, crafts, folkdance groups, gladiator fights, jugglers, fire-eaters, crusading knights and commoners of the Middle Ages and food vendors. An Eastern Court offered bellydancing, a Senegalese drum and dance routine, and glimpses of Turkish and Indian culture. There was also a Jewish Court and Bazaar. There was a Street of Artists, an exhibit of tropical butterflies and giant insects, and many, many other programs. Archaeologists have unearthed an almost intact and rather large temple of Isis in Szombathely, and so it too was featured among the events of the weekend.

On the lighter side, there was a 20-hour continuous double rope jump, with 3 Hungarian and 3 foreign teams participating, organized by the *Kötélugró Klub* (Jump Rope Club) of Szombathely, in celebration of its 20th year. Participants changed every 12 minutes. They achieved a world record of 135,640 jumps, hoping to popularize the sport. (See the January 2015 issue of Magyar News Online for the work of Bánhegyi Adrienne, a superstar of the jump rope.)

The festival ended on Sunday night, with fireworks and the dousing of the flame. The mayor gave the torch to the figure of St. Martin the soldier, to continue the spirit of the festival until next year. All participants were given a small box of matches to bring some of St. Martin's light home with them, as a reminder that sharing of goods, love and knowledge with others will not impoverish anyone but make him/her richer. A flame can be shared with anyone, without diminishing, while it spreads brightness all around.

Attendance was expected to exceed last year's, when 170,000 spectators had gathered to enjoy the festivities.

## St. Martin of Tours

c. 316 – 397

He was born in the Roman province of Pannonia, corresponding to the northern part of present-day Hungary, the son of a pagan Roman soldier or tribune and his wife (whether in Szombathely or Pannonhalma is still a matter of debate). A few years later, the family moved to present-day Pavia in Italy. He had a spiritual yearning that led him, at approximately 12 years of age, secretly to ask for acceptance as a catechumen.

At age 15, a decree of the emperor forced him to join the Roman army in place of his father. Although still a catechumen, Martin tried to live like a monk even in the military. He was assigned to a ceremonial cavalry unit and eventually became an officer. He was sent to Amiens in Gaul (present-day France). It was there that the famous episode occurred, of his meeting a beggar in the wintertime, and cutting his cloak in half to cover him. That night, he saw Jesus, wearing the half cloak, and saying to the angels around him, "Martin, still a catechumen, covered me with this mantle." That episode is how he is depicted in many churches in Europe, where he is greatly venerated.

As soon as he turned 18, Martin asked to be baptized. Two years later, at the end of his military service, he left the army, and became a disciple of St. Hilary at Poitiers. But he did not stay long, because he was directed in a dream to return to his native Pannonia to spread the faith. It was there that he baptized his own mother (another oft-painted scene), although his father remained a pagan. At the time, Pannonia was a center of the Arian heresy which denied the divinity of Jesus, and he could not spend much time there. He went back to Italy, and founded a monastery at Milan, but was driven from there too by the Arians.

When St. Hilary returned to Poitiers from exile, Martin joined him to help

spread the faith. Many were attracted to join him, and miracles began to be attributed to him at this time. When St. Hilary died in 371, the people chose Martin to be their bishop. A legend relates that Martin tried to hide from the crowd coming to make him bishop by crawling into the coop used by the geese, but the geese gave him away by honking very loudly. (This is the origin of "St. Martin's goose".)

As bishop, Martin zealously continued his missionary work, destroying pagan temples and building churches in their stead. His pastoral work extended beyond the boundaries of his own diocese into Normandy, Flanders and Burgundy as well. He was dedicated to the freeing of prisoners, and was able to obtain the freedom of many through persuasion.

When Martin died, both Poitiers and Tours vied for his body. The citizens of Tours came by night and stole the body, taking it home by boat. (That is why he is now known as St. Martin of Tours.) In 473, a basilica was built over his tomb. He is the first officially canonized saint who was not a martyr. His feast is November 11<sup>th</sup>.

In Hungary in the Middle Ages, there were 200 churches dedicated to St. Martin, but most of them have fallen into ruin. He is, however, remembered in legends and Hungarian folk traditions and customs (see Magyar News Online, November 2014, "St. Martin's Goose and Cup").

*viola vonfi writes from Stamford, CT.*

## Did you know...

... **that** there is a Stuffed Cabbage Festival? Or that we can once again report on a film prize, and various other items?

... **that** the Hungarian contingent at the Rio Olympics returned with 8 gold, 3 silver, and 4 bronze medals? Of the total number of gold medals, 3 went to swimmer Hosszu Katinka, who also brought home a silver medal. Hungary also excelled



in women's kayak-canoe (3 gold medals), and fencing (gold). Silver was awarded in men's swimming and fencing (épée). Bronze medals were won in team fencing (épée), women's shot putt, and swimming (both men and women).

Being first and winning is secondary; participating is more important. Participants want to share the flavors of their kitchen, and show their customs and traditions. Heirloom recipes inherited from mothers and grandmothers are proudly used.



The Festival is famous even outside of Transylvania, and visitors come back year after year to enjoy the fabulous Székely stuffed cabbage.

honor at the Warsaw Book Fair this spring. The Festival will run until the end of 2017.

**... that** for some 15 years or so, in the early 20th century, Hungary was a "colonial power"? As part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, it took part, with eight other nations, in putting down the Boxer Rebellion in China (1899 – 1901). For its efforts, Hungary was awarded one square kilometer in the city of Tientsin, covering a dockside and four streets with 20,000 inhabitants who were governed by Hungarian laws. There was a consulate, a school, a prison, a market, and an officers' club. Now, the officers' club is being restored by the Chinese, and will have a restaurant, tea room and a Hungarian exhibit of "Our Little China".

**... that** the Hungarian film "It's Not

the Time of My Life" (original title: "Ernelláék Farkaséknál") won first prize, the Grand Prix Crystal Globe, at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival in the Czech Republic in July? It is a low-budget family drama, played by the real family members and friends, and was originally a theater project. Hajdú Szabolcs, the director, who also stars in the movie, received a best actor award too at this, the largest East European film festival.

**...that** the U.S. women gymnasts owe their phenomenal Olympic success to a Hungarian couple? The wife and former pupil of Béla Károlyi, **Márta Eröss Károlyi** (both of Transylvania), created the unbeatable teams and individuals of the past three decades, reaping medals around the globe. The couple sought and was granted asylum in the U.S. in the 1980s. After years of hardship, they have trained 9 Olympic champions, 15 world champions, 16 European medalists and many national champions.

**...that** the small town of Parajd of Hargita County, Transylvania (population 3,450), is famous not only for the salt mine, but also for the International Stuffed Cabbage Festival? This year's Festival will be held September 23rd to the 25th. The three-day Festival will also include concerts, folklore programs, sport programs, exhibits, and a mini-cabbage festival for children and a stuffed cabbage cooking competition for adults. Usually, about 18-20 groups sign up, but some years there have been as many as 25. They make small, medium and large stuffed cabbages; the largest was a 20-meter stuffing on the 20th festival, which was sent to the Guinness Book of Records.

Although we are only in 2016, three Hungarian films have already made the list of 100 best films of the 21st century. They are "Werckmeister Harmonies" (2000), "The Turin Horse" (2011) and "Son of Saul" (2011).

The "Final Five", as the gymnastic team called themselves, celebrated their beloved coach, Márta, upon her retirement, following the 2016 Rio Olympics. She had played a key role in training athletes for 11 Olympic Games.

**... that** Poland is hosting a Hungarian Cultural Festival to commemorate the events of 1956 – the Polish anti-Communist Poznan uprising and the Hungarian anti-Soviet uprising? Scheduled for the year-long event are concerts, exhibitions, ballet performances and plays. In the same context, Hungary was the guest of

## Transylvanian stuffed cabbage

*Since we mention a Transylvanian Stuffed Cabbage Festival in our Did you know... section, we are including a recipe for you.*

## Ingredients:

4 ½ lbs sauerkraut  
20 sour cabbage leaves  
7 oz rice  
6 cloves of garlic  
3 red onions  
1 lb Transylvanian bacon  
1 kolbász  
1 large smoked pork loin (neck)  
2 lbs chopped pork  
Goose fat  
Salt  
Pepper  
Paprika  
Fresh dill green  
Savory  
1 green pepper  
1 tomato  
Wine

## Direction:

- 1) Cube half the bacon, slice the other half. Cube the smoked pork loin, slice the kolbász.
- 2) Simmer rice on goose lard, add water and cook until done. When rice cooled, add to chopped meat. Add salt, paprika, black pepper, and crushed garlic and mix well. Roll meat mixture in cabbage leaves, making sure ends are folded in, so the meat doesn't come out during cooking. Put aside.
- 3) Fry the cubed bacon, add chopped onion and fry. Add cut-up green pepper and tomato. Add rinsed sauerkraut, salt, paprika and mix well.
- 4) Line the bottom of a large pot with sliced bacon, add a layer of sauerkraut mixture, kolbász and smoked pork loin and a rolled cabbage. Sprinkle it with chopped dill. Continue layering until all gone, finish with sauerkraut. Finish it with dill and savory. Add 1 bottle of wine; if wine doesn't cover it, add water. Cover pot and cook slowly on medium heat for



3-4 hours.

- 5) Cool overnight; serve next day with fresh bread and sour cream.

## Erdélyi töltött káposzta

### Hozzávalók:

2 kg savanyú káposzta  
20 db savanyú káposztalevél  
25 dkg rizs  
6 gerezd fokhagyma  
3 fej vöröshagyma  
50 dkg erdélyi szalonna  
1 nagy szál csabai kolbász  
1 nagyobb darab (2 ökölnyi) füstölt tarja  
1 kg darált hús  
liba zsír  
4-5 csipet só  
1 kiskanál bors  
4-5 evőkanál pirospaprika  
kapor  
csombor  
1 zöld paprika  
1 paradicsom  
1 üveg bor

### Elkészítés:

- 1) A szalonnát félbevágjuk, a felét felkockázzuk, a másik felét felszeleteljük. A tarját nagyobb kockákra vágjuk, a kolbászt felkarikázzuk.

2) A rizst kevés libazsíron megpirítjuk, majd 7 dl vízben megfőzzük, aztán kihűtjük és a darált húshoz adjuk. Hozzákeverünk legalább 4-5 evőkanál pirospaprikát, 4-5 nagy csipet sót, 1 kávéskanál őrölt borsot, valamint az áttört fokhagymát, és alaposan összegyúrjuk a húsos masszát. A káposztalevelekbe töltjük a tölteléket, és

az így keletkezett kis csomagokat félretesszük egy tábla. A töltésnél ügyelni kell arra, hogy a feltekerésnél mindig behajtsuk a széleket, nehogy kibuggyanjon majd főzés közben a hús.

3) A felkockázott szalonnát zsírjára sütjük, rátesszük a felaprított hagymát és megpirítjuk, majd hozzákeverjük a felkockázott paprikát és paradicsomot. Eztán hozzáadjuk a vízzel leöblített savanyú káposztát, és sózzuk, pirospaprikával megszórjuk, és alaposan összekeverjük az egészet.

4) Egy nagy edény alját betérítjük a megmaradt, felszeletelt szalonnával, majd hagymás-szalonnás káposztát teszünk rá, arra kolbász- és tarjadarabokat, majd a töltelégeket. Megszórjuk kaporral, és jöhet a következő réteg: apró káposzta, húsfélék, töltelék, és addig folytatjuk a rétegezést, míg minden elfogy. A fazék tetejére káposzta kerüljön, végül pedig néhány levél, kapor és egy kis csombor. A rakományt felöntjük 1 üveg borral és egy kis vízzel (ha a bor nem fedné el teljesen), és lassú lángon, fedő alatt főzni kezdjük. A vizet pótolni kell.

5) 3-4 óra alatt elkészül, eztán hideg helyre tesszük, és másnap friss kenyérral, tejföllel kínáljuk.