



Cleveland hungarian heritage society

Magyar történelmi társulat

REVIEW

Vol. XXIII No. 1

March 2010

Wine Tasting at the Museum: 2009 Vintner Dinner

The Museum was crowded with guests who, with their wine glasses and tasty appetizers, walked down memory lane. Images from the old neighborhoods graced the walls and counters throughout the Museum. Stories of simple folk who raised families, built churches and businesses pulled people to the displays, while the stories of Hungarian immigrants played on one TV screen and images of familiar buildings and groups played on another. The gentle and serene faces of many notable civic leaders gazed at us from painted canvases and framed photographs placed on easels throughout the Museum.



The evening of October 17th was so special, so memorable for our guests. It was as if there was a Hungarian “neighborhood” reunion going on in the Galleria in Downtown Cleveland! People found themselves searching faces



in photographs of church outings, harvest festival groups and first communions. Pictures of Ladies Guilds, shop owners, amateur actors and Hungarian dancers locked us into an era when the Buckeye Road and near Westside Lorain Avenue neighborhoods were home to so many Hungarian Americans in Cleveland. Guests searched the maps and found their street ad-

dresses: Cumberland, Soika, Griffing, East 120th, Lorain Avenue, Bridge, Fulton and so on...all streets that we remembered as part of the lives of so many families. Lists of businesses on Lorain Avenue and Buckeye Road brought back fond memories, as well as pictures of the Harvey Rice Gardens; samples of the harvest costumes worn in those famous parades brought nostalgic recollections of fun times and community celebrations. The ambi-

ance of the evening was set by the wonderful music provided by Harmonia, who created sounds and melodies of days when Hungarian Americans enjoyed an evening at The Night in Budapest, or the Elite Ball, or at Settler’s Tavern.



Our Guest of Honor for the evening was **Ewald E. Kundtz, Jr.**, grandson of Theodor J. Kundtz, an entrepreneur and Hungarian civic leader in Cleveland. Ewald E. Kundtz had the foresight to publish a book on his grandfather, and for this the Hungarian American community in Cleveland is very grateful. “Tori in Amerika: The Story of Theodor J. Kundtz” is a gem of a book, detailing the life of an amazing individual who came to America as a young man and built a large manufacturing company in Cleveland, becoming Cleveland’s largest employer at the turn of the 20th century. We celebrated the contribution of this great entrepreneur as well as his grandson who made it a personal project to tell the story of his grandfather and share it with the greater community. Thank you to all who attended



our annual fundraiser!! It was a great success and a tribute to the hard work of the Vintner Dinner Committee.



Régi emlékek értéke

Szappanos István, alelnök

A 2009-es Borkóstoló Vacsorát, mint mindig, most is már az év elején el kezdtük tervezni. Tudjuk azt, hogy a részvételi kedvet és hangulatot nagyban emeli az, ha annak vezérmotívuma közel áll támogatóink lelkivilágához. Nem is gondoltuk, hogy választásunk az egykori clevelandi magyarlakta szomszédságokra, milyen nagy sikert fog aratni. Elképzelhető, hogy múzeumunk tartalék anyagában mennyi régi irat, fénykép található. Kiállítás rendezőnk Lázár Bandi már az év elején elkezdte ezeket gyűjtögetni és június 6.-án megnyílt kiállításunkon a Buckeye Road és Lorain Road magyarlakta vidékeinek emlékei kezdtek megelevenedni. A nagyszabású sikert azonban Molnar Mary Jane és Borzy Lou anyaggyűjtő, és kiállítás alkotó lelkes munkája tette lehetővé. Ők ketten két hónapon át, a Vacsoránk dátuma előtt órákat töltöttek emléktárgyak, iratok, fényképek rendezésével, azoknak kiállításra való feldolgozásával. A nagy munkában mindég több és több részlet bontakozott ki, amíg végre az október 17.-iki vacsora előtti fogadáson a múzeum területének minden négyzetméterén láthattunk, rábukkanhattunk egy-egy emléktárgyra, fényképsorozatra, régi magyar üzletek névsorára, vendéglők étlapjára, még útjelző táblákra is. Több vendégünk könnyes szemmel nézte és követte a különböző tablókat, emlékezve saját gyerekkorára és szüleine, nagyszüleine. A vacsora utáni időszakban is tömegesen jöttek a látogatók. Fialatok, hozták



szüleiket, nagyszüleiket - messze vidékről telefonon érdeklődtek, meddig tart még a kiállítás? Ebből a lelkes érdeklődésből származott, hogy úgy mondván közkívánatra a kiállítást meghosszabbítottuk egészen január közepéig.

Gála Vacsoránk díszvendége Kundtz Ewald, az egykori legendás Kundtz Theodor unokája volt, aki aztán kiterjedt családjáé és rokonai jelenlétével tisztelt meg bennünket. A nagypapa az 1800-as évek végén érkezett Amerikába Kassa vidékéről szegényen, egyedül. Hamarosan azonban szorgalmas munkájával és leleményességével iparosította magát és gyorsan növekvő gyárüzemében majdnem kizárólag magyar bevándorlókat alkalmazott. Magyar családok száza köszönheték megélhetésüket ennek, és még ma is sokan emlékeznek hálával volt munkaadójukra. Ezért a kiváló munkásságáért Ferenc Józseftől lovagi rangot kapott. Az 1950-es években még működő White Sewing Machine gyárüzemében még én is, úgymint sok más akkor érkezett magyar bevándorló kezdte amerikai munkás életét.



Borkóstoló Vacsoránk ismét a múzeum melletti Sausalito vendéglőben emelkedő sikerrel folyt le. Vendégeink száma, és erkölcsi, de főleg anyagi eredményünk is ezt bizonyította. Ezt folytatva, 2010-ben 25.-ik évfordulónkat ünnepeljük és ígérjük, most sem fogunk lemaradni vacsoránk tradicionális elsőrendűségében.



How You Can Help ...

Another way to support the Museum is by responding generously to our **Sustaining Fund Appeal!** We will be contacting the Hungarian American community this year for support in this most important campaign to insure that we are able to cover the increases in our facility costs over the next few years. Our Museum is well situated, easy to find in Downtown Cleveland, centrally located. However, our landlord has increased our rent to such an extent, that good stewardship requires that we raise funds to meet these cost increases. Join us in this campaign and **help set the foundation for the next 25 years!** Please respond **generously to our future solicitations with your pledges.**

How you can help . . .

The Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society is **25 years old**
its **Hungarian Museum** has become the
Heartbeat of Hungarian Culture in Northeast Ohio!

When planning your estate, please consider making the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society a beneficiary in your will, IRA account or life insurance policy.

From our Guest Book ...

"Surprised you're still here....One of the best places to visit in Cleveland downtown. Best wishes for continued business!"

Iris Richards

"Édes fájó érzéssel csodálhattuk meg ezt a magyar múzeumot. Sajnos, nem tudtam szabadulni attól a gyötrő gondolatától, hogy amint egykor Ravasz László mondotta: az amerikai magyarság-ben a református egyház is- sorsa a jéghegyekéhez hasonló...Köszönöm Istennek, és a Magyar Múzeum gazdáinak, hogy feleségemmel itt lehettem."

Pásztori István, református lelkész, Marosvásárhely

"Köszönet és elismerés az igényes és sokoldalú kiállításához, ami gyökereinkre még az új világban is ilyen gazdagon figyelmeztet. Mélységes hálával tartozhatunk jeles multunknak, hogy ennyi értéket ad jelennek és jövőnek!"

Kucsera János, Budapest-München, a Széchenyi Kör elnöke

"Örömmel néztem végig a Cleveland-i Magyar Múzeum gazdag anyagát. Köszönettel,"

A Patrona Hungariae Gimnáziumából, iskolanővér, Budapest

"Nagyszerű kiállítás!" - Fischer Viktor, New York

"Lenyűgöző, csodálatos a múzeum, köszönöm ezt a rendkívüli élményt. Sokkal több időt kellene itt eltöltenünk, sokkal többeknek. Őrizzük meg mindazt, együtt, ami összeköt bennünket. Szeretettel, köszönettel." - Martonyi János, Magyarország



"What a wonderful museum! We learned so much about Hungarian culture!" - Alan and Angela Currey

"Nagy örömmel néztük meg ezt a csodálatos múzeumot, amely tanítanivalóan szép példája a magyar lelkesedésnek, összefogásnak..." Ablonczy Bálint, HetiVálasz, Budapest és Ablonczy Balázs, Bloomington és Budapest.

"Tisztelettel köszönjük kitarásukat, odaadásukat amellyel őrzik magyarságukat." - Szabó Magda, alelnök, Duna TV, Budapest

"Thanks for a wonderful display of Buckeye Road. My family and I really enjoyed it. Brought back many memories."

Lorrie Krajnyak

"I enjoyed your Museum. I lived as a child (born 5-28-47) in the Buckeye Road East 116th street area. My first job was at Orban's Flowers while in high school which I see still exists. We lived on Griffing Ave. and my brother and I used to ride our bikes to the Woolworth store. My grandfather Vincent Takacs was my Mom's dad and was born in Hungary. This museum brought back many memories. My mom made the best Hungarian nut and poppy seed rolls." - Linda of Parma Hts.

Programs and Exhibits at the Museum



Mrs. Kuni Nadas

Throughout the last few months, so many people have visited the Museum because of special exhibits and programs. Our first two lectures in our series were well attended. On October 10th, Mrs. Kuni Nadas presented a well researched lecture on the **Anjou Dynasty** and its impact on Medieval Hungary. The policies of the two

Anjou monarchs had lasting implications for the future of Hungary well into the 15th century. On November 14th, Mrs. Dóra Solymosi captured the **Golden Age of Transylvania** and summarized the Transylvanian approach to Turkish relations, an approach that served the people living in that region of Hungary well for a number of years. Both lectures gave the audience a more detailed look at these two eras in Hungary's history, supported by historical evidence and enriched with contemporary visual and musical material.



Mrs. Dora Solymosi

Our special exhibit on „**Hungarian Applied Arts: Influence of Folk Art in Textiles and Pottery**” served to showcase Hungarian culture. Graceful examples of contemporary clothing, decorative tablecloths and a majestic matyó bedspread, beautiful vases and stunning dishes all gave evidence that folk motifs do impact how Hungarians have crafted and continue to craft useful items for the consumer. Most Hungarian American homes today contain examples of Hungarian applied art and this exhibit confirmed why many people have purchased and collected “magyar” flavored household items to grace their homes- these items are simply beautiful!

The collection of images of the **Buckeye Road and Near West Side neighborhoods** brought back many fond memories for hundreds of visitors to the Museum. People scanned the many group photographs, finding therein people they knew or even themselves. The exhibit contained programs, Church information, menus, old advertisements, past publications, harvest costumes and many more items that served as a catalyst to bring back memories of a time when Hungarian Americans in Cleveland lived, worked and socialized in neighborhoods. Two DVDs played on televisions revisiting the old neighborhoods, one, produced by Marge Kotnik, focused on the West Side of Cleveland and the role that Helen Horvath and Theodore Kundtz played in the early Hungarian community and the other presented contemporary images of Hungarian churches and activities in the neighborhoods. Many people shared their stories, their memorabilia, and their



It is with a deep sense of sorrow that the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society remembers **Mr. Victor Simonyi** who passed away on December 9, 2009. Mr. Simonyi served as secretary of the Society from January 2001 through May of 2003. He remained a faithful member and supporter of the Museum and its activities. His family designated the Society as the beneficiary of any donation in his memory and for that we are very grateful.

Hungarian Christmas

Erzsi Kovats

On December 12, 2009, the Hungarian Heritage Museum was filled with a group of eager and enthusiastic children from various age levels ready to participate in the fun filled activities that would familiarize them with the knowledge of Hungarian customs and traditions. Many of the children were repeat visitors who enjoy and look forward to these programs. This was just one of a series of programs that the Museum planned and organized specifically for children so that through educational and exciting hands-on activities, various games, crafts, arts and songs would make learning about Hungary fun for everyone including parents and grandparents. Activities included locating cities on a large Hungarian map, decorating the traditional "mézes kalács" cookies, listening to stories and join in a scavenger hunt for articles in the museum. Thanks to the members of Hungarian Girl Scout Troop 34 who enriched the activities with singing lovely traditional Hungarian Christmas songs in which the audience also participated. Then the children played an exuberant game of musical chairs which was entertaining to watch. The young boys and girls left with their "goody bags" filled with their art works and prizes anticipating their next 'Hungarian Encounter'. What a wonderful way to make the museum vibrant and meaningful!!

The Hungarian community thanks the Hungarian Heritage Museum and is very grateful for their dedication, time, and effort to instill and pass on to the younger generation an appreciation of the Hungarian culture and heritage.



September 2009 Church Tour



It was with a sense of the bittersweet that a group joined the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society for a tour of four churches slated for closing by the Cleveland Diocese. While *St. Paul Shrine* on Euclid Avenue will not close as a church, it will no longer be a parish church for the Diocese. It's beautiful interior, richly carved pews and altar serve as a testament of the craftsmanship employed in the 19th century to build this marvelous church. Our next stop was at *Sacred Heart of Jesus Church* on Krakow Avenue in Slavic Village, built by the Polish American community through the sacrifice of generations of hard working Poles in the neighborhood. After a great lunch, the

next stop was *St Emeric (Szent Imre)*, the west side Hungarian community's beloved church, and our guests heard **Frank Dobos** tell the story of how this parish built the current church using parts of their old church such as the altar, some stained glass windows, and the baptismal font. As our last stop, we traveled a few streets over from St. Emeric to *St. Wendelin Church*, built by the Slovak American Catholic community. The day trip ended with a stop at Farkas Pastry Shop on Lorain Avenue so that our travelers could purchase some goodies to take home with them. Change is often difficult to deal with, and many in our group were saddened by the thought that three beautiful houses of worship, of varying styles, built by immigrants to Cleveland, were slated to be closed.

Hungarian Americans Together Conference

The Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society hosted the 3rd Hungarian Americans Together (HATOG) conference in September. Participants representing 38 Hungarian organizations arrived on the 18th and met for two days.

They followed an agenda that included discussions on issues that were relevant to Hungarian Americans and their organizations. Attendees were asked to update their organizational profile on a central website so that information about Hungarian American organizations would be accurate, especially when used by publications in Hungary. Members also discussed methods of working together to sponsor programming, informing the community about scholarships and other funding, recruiting new membership, communicating with each other on a regular basis and sharing information on the Gulyás Pot website.

The group also heard a report on the recent discriminatory language laws in Slovakia and church closings in the Cleveland area as well as elsewhere in the United States. Friday evening found the participants enjoying a presentation by Csárdás Dance Company and having a group dinner afterward.



The next conference is scheduled to take place in Chicago. As more Hungarian organizations become familiar with each other throughout the United States, the Hungarian American community will grow stronger nationwide. We were honored to host this gathering at our Museum!



Join us for a Bus Trip!
the cleveland hungarian heritage society
 Invites you to travel with us to
 Wooster, Ohio for
 The Ohio Light Opera
 presentation of
THE GYPSY PRINCESS
 By Emmerich Kálmán
 Sunday, August 1, 2010 at 2 p.m.

The most globally popular of this composer's work, THE GYPSY PRINCESS has not been performed in Wooster since 1993. Every song is an acknowledged gem! We will enjoy a delicious dinner at the **Balaton restaurant** on the way home!

The bus will leave from the West Side Market parking lot, next to St. Emeric's Church, at 11:45 a.m. Adequate free parking is available.

Cost is \$85 per person. Deadline for reservations is July 9th, but only 55 seats are available on the bus—first come, first served!

Mail the reservation form below to: Marcia Mestrits
 6689 Metro Park Drive
 Mayfield Village, OH 44143

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Number of tickets _____ @ \$85 each \$ _____ enclosed
 Make checks payable to The Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society (CHHS)

Entrée choice: Weiner Schnitzel Beef Gulyás Chicken Paprikás



Enjoy a night at Classic Park as the
Lake County Captains celebrate Hungarian Heritage Night!

In partnership with the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society & Museum
 and Northeast Ohio Hungarian Cultural Center

Saturday, June 5 @ 7:00 PM

What's on Tap?

Pre-Game Parade • Hungarian National Anthem • Pre-Game Performance by the CSÁRDÁS Dance Company & Hungarian Scout Folk Ensemble • Strudel, Sausage, and Stuffed Cabbage available at the Concession Stands • Concourse Activities including Hungarian Museum Exhibit and Face Painting • Post-Game Fireworks Spectacular!

Group Benefits

Hungarian Group Name on the Video Board • Exclusive Group Raffle for Hungarian Groups •
 10% Discount on Non-Sale Merchandise in the Cargo Hold

Please detach and mail this form to:
 Lake County Captains
 Attn: Andrew Grover
 35300 Vine Street
 Eastlake, OH 44095

Make Checks payable to the Lake County Captains. All orders must be received two weeks prior to the game. For more information, or to order by phone please contact Andrew Grover at (440) 975-8085 x136 or via email at agrover@captainsbaseball.com

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ Zip _____
 Day Phone _____ Evening _____
 Method of Payment (Circle One) Check AmEx Discover Visa MasterCard
 Card Number _____ Exp Date _____
 No. of Tickets _____ @ \$9 = _____ + \$3 Service Fee Per Order = \$ _____

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please consider giving three or four hours a month of your time as a volunteer at the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Museum. For information to schedule a training session, call Katalin Gulden at 216-381-0995 or Andrea Mészáros at 440-247-5144. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the Greater Cleveland community while having fun and making new friends.

Play Ball!

It was great night for baseball!!! An almost brand new park, flags flying in the breeze, clearing sky and good minor league baseball- who can ask for a better summer outing?

Saturday, August 29 was Hungarian Heritage Night at the Lake County Captains Classic Park in Eastlake, Ohio. Hundreds of Hungarian Americans showed up to celebrate their heritage at a venue that can best be described as “a bit of Americana”- a baseball game! Members of the Hungarian Boy Scout Troop served as the honor guard. In addition to the American National Anthem, we sang the Hungarian National Anthem as well. Representatives of the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society and the Northeast Ohio Cultural Center threw out the first pitches. We paraded, cheered, ate fabulous Hungarian food and watched Hungarian dances during the intermission. Members of all generations enjoyed a wonderful event. Mark your calendars now: Saturday June 5, 2010- the Second Annual Hungarian Heritage Night at the Lake County Captains!!



Kosztolányi and Reményi— Fifth in a Series by James Pavlish

Dezső Kosztolányi wrote voluminously about literature and writers. His writings about World Literature and writers fill an entire volume, and his writings on Hungarian Literature and writers have recently been reissued in a 780 page volume entitled *Tükörfolyosó – Magyar Írókról* (Hall of Mirrors-Hungarian Writers). One of the more than 130 Hungarian writers to whom he devoted a three part essay in 1927 is Cleveland's József Reményi. Not much else has been written about Reményi in Hungary and today he is virtually unknown there.

The first part of the essay, which is translated below, is interesting because it shows Kosztolányi's view of a “prosaic” America during the boom years of the 1920s, with stereotypes and images that he himself acknowledges might not be accurate.

“From this distance, life in America has an extraordinary attraction for me. Why? In the first place, it is because it has no ‘poetic’ quality about it, according to how some observers are accustomed to refer to the poetic. I like its ‘prosaic’ quality which, like a rugged, active surface, makes the real poetry stand out. My belief is that the writer is completely isolated in whatever environment he finds himself, whether that be in the thousands of literary circles, the coffeehouses, the libraries, or in the museums. A goose's quill is not more poetic

than a typewriter; a motorcar or water pipe is not more prosaic than a horse-drawn carriage or a country well. Nowadays, when it gets down to basics, the creative spirit is everywhere in chains. It has lost its freedom, its courage, its initiative, and its leadership role. As a result, the world's feverish productivity has become mechanical and business and finance have engendered a system that does not favor the work of the soul. America does not make any secret of this. Here in Europe we try to hide it. I find no reason to withdraw my favor from those who, with the directness of children or barbarians, dare to speak aloud what others are embarrassed to say. Besides, it is clear that the American continent also has its romantic and lyrical side, only it appears in new forms that are not yet recognized. I often dream that I am walking under the futuristic glare of the neon lights, or that I'm eating in a huge restaurant with hundreds of other people, or, that I'm looking down from the 33rd floor of a skyscraper, and, on a given day at the end of summer, all the New York bankers, real estate agents and office workers throw down their straw hats which then cover the pavement like the acacia leaves do here. A fantasy about this new world lives within me. It could be that it is just because I imagine a kind of America that perhaps does not exist.”

Translations of the following two parts of Kosztolányi's article on Reményi and his writings will follow in subsequent issues. If anyone would like to see the original Hungarian article we will be glad to forward a copy.

CLEVELAND HUNGARIAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

is located on the second level of the Galleria at Erieview, 1301 East 9th Street, Cleveland

Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society
P.O. Box 24134
Cleveland, OH 44124

The Review is a publication of the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society and Museum.

It is published periodically for members and patrons. Membership rates are \$25 per person, \$45 per couple (to senior citizens \$20 single and \$25 per retired couple) yearly. Organizational membership for libraries, schools and government agencies is \$100 initial fee and \$20 thereafter yearly.

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The Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society is 25 years old and its Hungarian Museum has become the Heartbeat of Hungarian Culture in Northeast Ohio!

When planning your estate, please consider making the Cleveland Hungarian Society a beneficiary in your will, IRA account or life insurance policy.

Become a Member - Please consider becoming a member of the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society. For information regarding membership, please contact Ms. Judith Torma at 1121 Fresno Drive, Westlake, Ohio 44145 (telephone at 440-333-4390). Your annual membership helps support our efforts to preserve our Hungarian heritage and culture here in Northeast Ohio. We sponsor many programs, including educational programs; we support the arts

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Save the Date

25th Anniversary Celebration
of the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society

VINTNER DINNER

Saturday, October 2, 2010

Save the Date ...

HOURS at the Hungarian Heritage Museum: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 11-3; Fridays 11-5

Save the Date....

Saturday, March 13, 2010: **The Kossuth-Széchenyi Debate*-(4th in our Lecture Series),

Saturday, March 27, 2010: **The Art of the Easter Egg* Seasonal Program for all ages:

Tuesday, April 20, 2010: Members' Annual Meeting, Hungarian Heritage Museum, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 15, 2010: **Hungary Between the Two World Wars*-(5th in our Lecture Series)

***All three of programs begin at 2 p.m., at the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Museum in the Galleria, Downtown Cleveland with refreshments following the presentation.**

Parking is available in the Galleria parking garage.

Call Andrea Meszros at 440-247-5144 for information.

Saturday, June 5, 2010: *2nd Hungarian Heritage Night* at the Lake County Captains Classic Park baseball field in Eastlake, Ohio. Fireworks after the game. Gametime: 7 p.m.!

Call Andrew Grover at 440-975-8085 ext. 136 for ticket information.

Sunday June 20, 2010: *Hungarian Cultural Gardens Benefit Gulyás Cookoff*
St. Emeric Church. To sign up as a chef, contact **John Megyimori, 440-871-2796**

Sunday, June 27, 2010: *Opening Picnic*, Hungarian Cultural Center of Northeastern Ohio

Sunday, August 1, 2010: *Bus Tour* to see the *Gypsy Princess* by the Ohio Light Opera.

Call Marcia Mestrits for information: 440-442-3414

Visit the Hungarian Heritage Museum to view our **special exhibit on Hungarian Classical Composers**. As you tour the exhibit, you can view opera on the TV at the Museum or listen to music composed by many of the featured composers.