



Review

THE SECOND ONE HUNDRED YEARS

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The Museum is where things happen . . .

The Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society: bringing you fine programming, wonderful exhibits and great activities!!

Andrea Mészáros

Since the last time our Review arrived in your mail box, so many wonderful events have taken place at the Museum! Despite a snowstorm on February 11, we welcomed **Dr. Lilla Szabó** to the Museum. She is a curator at the Hungarian National Gallery, and was working as a Fulbright Scholar



at the American Hungarian Foundation in New Brunswick, New Jersey. Her Hungarian language talk focused on the artwork generated by Hungarian



artists living as ethnic minorities in the newly formed Czechoslovakia after World War I. Beautifully researched and rich in visual material, this lecture gave the audience a sense of how these artists, were able to express and disseminate their artwork despite the lack of exhibition opportunities available to them after the Treaty of Trianon. This was an especially relevant presentation for those listeners in our audience whose family roots take them back to areas located in current Slovakia.

Spring brought with it the lively rhythm of song and dance as members of the **Csárdás Dance Company** held a Hungarian folkdance work

shop at the Museum on March 10th. Designed for both adults and children, the program included performances by the dance group as well as actual dance instruction. The audience was divided into two parts and learned the same dance. Once each group had mastered the steps, the groups were combined and a wonderful



mix of young and old stepped and twirled to lively Magyar folk music!

The Museum's mission includes the showcasing of Hungarian culture through exhibits. On March 31st the Museum opened a unique exhibit organized by Board member and artist, George Kozmon. George's idea was to feature young Hungarian-American artists who grew up in Northern Ohio and who were nurtured in the local Hungarian community. Krisztina Lázár, Dr. János Nádas, Peter Tábor and Krisztina Walter showed their talent and artwork, full of vibrant energy, in the special gallery at the Museum. The opening of this special exhibit entitled "**4 Under 30**" was well attended by many younger members of the local Hungarian community who represent the future supporters of Hungarian cultural activities in Cleveland.



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You can be many things to many people if you take your mission seriously. That is precisely what the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society strives to do. On May 9th we served our mission in a very unique way by hosting the **citizenship swearing-in ceremony** (Állampolgársági Esküdtétel) of new Hungarian citizens. Two members of the Hungarian Consular Office traveled from New York City to perform this ceremony in Cleveland. This was the second time the Museum served as the site for such a ceremony and it is always a moving experience.

Our long time member Magdi Temesváry was one of the new Hungarian citizens celebrated by family and friends.



It seems that our members and friends like to go on bus trips. In the past we have traveled to Wooster, visited churches and old neighborhoods, and have always enjoyed these intimate outings. On

July 25th, we once again boarded a tour bus and **traveled down to Wooster**, Ohio for a delightful performance of Emmerich Kálmán's operetta, **Miss Springtime**. The Ohio Light



Opera continues to produce quality performances, featuring fine voices and good acting. Known in Hungarian as **Zsuzsi Kisasszony**, this Kálmán operetta

premiered in Budapest in 1915, and as **Miss Springtime** on Broadway in 1916. After the performance, our group enjoyed snacks on the way to the Balaton restaurant for dinner. People enjoy music, and we rightfully associate the best of the operetta genre with Hungarian composers. This CHHS sponsored outing was a true Magyar cultural experience: fine music and fine cuisine!

"Current events" is always an interesting topic if it is presented by someone who has knowledge and experience. Such was the



combination on Wednesday evening, August 29, when the Museum hosted **Fr. Tamás Forrai**, S.J., who was visiting Cleveland from Budapest, Hungary. Fr. Forrai addressed the issue of religious and spiritual life as he spoke about the challenges faced by religious institutions in Hungary today. Fr. Forrai was an effective speaker who managed to keep people engaged even after his speech ended...people just kept on asking questions and talking in small groups about this subject. One is reminded at times like this, that the reason why the early Hungarian immigrants to Northeast Ohio built their churches and synagogues as soon as they were able to was because these religious institutions offered the cultural and social support they needed in a new homeland. The question raised by Fr. Forrai's talk is whether these same institutions can be an important part of the lives of those living in Hungary today.

It's nice to write a summary like this about the activities of an organization. It calls to mind a truism that a living organization is one that touches the lives of many people. We aim to connect with both adults and young people, with many generations of Hungarian-Americans, from different



backgrounds and interests. We try to demonstrate that our Hungarian culture is one thing that weaves a common thread in our Cleveland

community lives, and our hope is that you will continue to join us for our programs, our exhibits and our bus tour adventures. You know, it's good to be Hungarian-Americans on the shores of Lake Erie!





Varga László,
President
Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society

Kedves barátaink és támogatóink!

Köszöntöm a kedves olvasókat a Clevelandi Magyar Történelmi Társulat nevében. Megtiszteltetem részemre, hogy szólhatok Önökhöz ezen az oldalon.

Visszatekintve immár huszonhét éves fennállásunkra, sok eredmény látható a Múzeum területén, a könyvtárban, az ajándék boltban. Azonkívül ami nem észlelhető a látogató által az képezi az előadásainkat melyek igyekeznek minden réteget és nemzedéket elérni és összehozni, hogy együtt ismerkedjünk közös kultúránkkal és történelmünkkel. Ezen közös gyökerek megőrzése és tovább adása a fő célunk.

Ezen célok elérésére és megvalósítására képtelenek lennénk Önök nélkül. Mind amit eddig és ezután elérünk, csak az Önök segítsége és jótékonyága által történhet. Ezért ünnepejük Önöket a barátainkat, támogatóinkat akik idejük, tehetségük és kincsük megosztásával, adakozásával teszik lehetővé a Történelmi Társulat fennállását és működését. Ezek nélkül egyszerűen nem létezne a Múzeum.

Ezt a bőkezűséget nekünk a vezetőségi karnak ki kell érdekelnünk és bizonyítékot kell tenni arról, hogy hasznosítjuk a cél érdekében. Tudom közölni, hogy a vezető kar, segítségével ugyan, de kidolgozott egy munka tervet az elkövetkező néhány évre. Igyekszünk követni ezt a tervet remélve, hogy így még jobban és biztosabban tudunk célunk felé haladni és gyökereinket, múltunkat megőrizni és tovább adni a következő nemzedékeknek.

A jövőben ugyanolyan nagy szükség lesz az Önök idejére, tehetségére és kincsére mint eddig. Tehát, a támogatásukat kérjük továbbra is. Bizom abban, hogy még hosszú ideig ki tudjuk érdemelni a támogatást és maradunk az a központ ahová látogatóink, távolról vagy közlőrl, felkereshetnek bennünket és kellőképp tudjuk szolgálni Cleveland és Környéke magyarságát. Köszönettel és hálával fogadjuk ezt a sok segítséget.

From our Guest Book....

People who have visited our Museum routinely sign our Guest Book. It is gratifying to see groups in our book such as the Case Western Reserve University Women's Club. We are equally excited to see names of visitors from Taiwan and Albuquerque, New Mexico. And perhaps we get a little sentimental when we see the signatures for May 9, when we hosted the Hungarian citizenship ceremony (Állampolgársági esküttétel) for Hungarian-Americans living in our area. Below are some messages we want to share with our readers:

„Jó itt járn!”, *István Székely*

„Nagyon tetszett a Múzeum, és öröm volt látni, hogy olyan messze Magyarországtól is ápolják a Magyar értékeket. Köszönjük!” *Zircből*

“I enjoyed the Museum very much. Hope to bring my mother here one day.” *Julius Baumann*

Dear friends and supporters!

It is with honor and gratitude that I am extending my greetings to you on behalf of the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society.

This year we are celebrating you, our friends and supporters, who through your generosity made the success of the last twenty-seven years possible. We are celebrating philanthropy and are grateful for your support.

Our goal is to preserve and hopefully pass on to future generations our Hungarian culture and history in Northeast Ohio. As you visit the Museum you see a lot that affirms our accomplishments in the exhibits, the gift shop and the library. The less visible work we do is our lecture series. By presenting a wide range of topics we are trying to reach and bring something of interest to all generations who would like to learn and become familiar with our heritage.

To carry out this work, we rely upon your contribution of your time, talent and treasure. And indeed you have been generous in all three. Without you we would not be able to function.

We know we must earn your generosity in order to continue to receive it. I'd like to report that we have embarked upon, with some outside help, the development of a vision and work plan that the Museum intends to follow in order to help us achieve our purpose and to keep us on course toward our goal.

I am making a promise that we'll do all we can to be worthy of your support, and I am confident that you will continue to share your time, talent and treasure so that the Museum can serve for a long time as a location where we together can enjoy and learn more about our Hungarian heritage. We are grateful to every one of you for your help in whatever form or amount you support us. Thank you!

„Nagyon szép a kiállítás és nagyon örülök, hogy itt lehettem, és láthattam ezt a csodás gyűjteményt. Sokat jelent az, amikor az ember kicsit otthon érezheti magát. Köszönettel,” *Bertók Tünde, Debrecen,*

“Extremely imaginative artwork by each of the artists.”
(4 Under 30 exhibit book.)

„Kellemes volt felfedezni ezt a kis, meleg Magyar helyet. Szeretettel,” *Anna és Loránd Fejérvári*

„Ezer köszönet a gyönyörű kiállításért, a könyvtárat, és elsősorban a meleg

fogadtatásért. Szeretettel,”
Noémi Goodall

“Wonderful exhibit and it is a country I would like to see some day.”
Peter Johnson, MN.



It is always a great jumpstart to every summer to have a group visit the Museum, and such a group came from Hamlet Village in Chagrin Falls. It was wonderful to see and meet these folks, among them long-time Museum supporter Idi Kozmon.

Did you know...

that 28 years ago, Thomas (Tamás) Bodnar Legeza, a long-time supporter of the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society, was inducted into the Greater Cleveland Sports Hall of Fame?

In truth, Tamás Legeza, was a fine athlete, a skilled sabreman, who captured a total of 38 medals during his competitive career. He competed in this sport from 1953 through 1965. His most notable triumphs included two international invitational championships, four Ohio titles and one Illinois championship.

This past summer we witnessed an extraordinary Hungarian Olympic team as it competed in the London Summer Games. By far the “surprise team” of these Olympic Games, Hungary ended up 9th in overall rankings, winning a total of 17 medals. The team earned 8 gold medals, 4 silver and 5 bronze. Always known for its fine athletes, this 2012 Hungarian team gave us an exceptional performance. So it shouldn’t surprise us that we have so many talented athletes in Northeast Ohio of Hungarian descent. Tamás Legeza was one such athlete who had the honor of being formally recognized for his achievements.



How you can help . . .

The Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society and 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.

ANNUAL MEETING

(The *Review* details the activities of the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society (CHHS) on a continuing basis. The report presented below is made here in accordance with Article 3.02 of the Bylaws of the CHHS to inform the membership of the results of the Annual Meeting. Report by: Dr. Magdalene Meszaros, Nominations Committee Chairman.)

The Annual Meeting of the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society (CHHS) was held on Wednesday, June 6th, 2012 in the Hungarian Heritage Museum located in the Galleria at Erieview. Andrea Lazar served as Elections Chairman and called upon certain officers and advisors of the CHHS to give their reports to the membership. President Laszlo Varga, Treasurer Andrew Strada, Tax Advisor Eva Szabo, Endowments Chairman Elmer Meszaros, and Exhibits Director Andrew Lazar presented their reports.



Following the presentation of reports, the Elections Chairman proceeded with the elections process.

The following officers were elected: Laszlo

Varga, President; Andrea Meszaros, Vice President; Andrew Strada, Treasurer; and, Elizabeth Kovats, Secretary.

The following persons were elected to serve three year terms on the Board of Directors: Louis Borzy, Otto Friedrich, Sandor Kezdi,

George Kozmon, Zoltan Mestrits, Kori Smith, Csilla Varga, Sandor Varga and Laszlo Zala. The newly elected officers and directors of the CHHS were sworn in by

Magdalene Meszaros.



Volunteer Appreciation Lunch



We could not be open four days a week and on program-Saturdays if we did not have a core of faithful volunteers. These supporters of our efforts generously give of their time to open the Museum, run sales on the cash register, and greet our visitors. The comments in our guest books testify to the good work these men and women do on our behalf. For the past few years we have celebrated this group by having our annual Volunteer Luncheon at the Museum. This year we gathered on Wednesday, May 9th to eat lunch together and then have some fun playing a Hungarian trivia game. This event is always a good time, and this friendly atmosphere is what you can experience if you become a volunteer. Please consider joining us as a volunteer. Whatever time you can commit to is welcomed. Call Katalin Gulden at 216-381-0995 for further information.

2012. március 31. nyitó fogadás a Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Muzeumban. Thurner Klára

A **4 under 30** kiállítás nyitására közel 100 személy vett részt. Szinte jól jött, hogy nem mindenki egyszerre érkezett a kiállítás megtekintésére, mert nem fértünk volna mindanyian egyszerre a terembe. Jó volt látni a rengeteg fiatalot, akiknek a javarésze harmincon aluli felnőtt.

5.30-kor Varga László, a múzeum elnöke, üdvözölte a vendégeket amiután Kozmon György, a főmozdítója és szervezője ennek a kiállításnak, bemutatta a négy művészt, akiknek munkáját ott a múzeum hátsó falain megtekinthettünk. Mindegyik művész elmesélte, hogy hogy jutott szakmájához, s elemezte egy pár műjének a hátteret. Ezt követően kérdéseket tehetett fel a közönség az egyik vagy a másik művésznek.

Még hét óra után is ment nagyban a beszélgetés a múzeumban és félnyolckor úgy kellett kihessegetni az embereket. Nyilvánvalóan mindenki nagyon jól érezte magát.

Mind a négy művész cserkész és három művésznek már a szülei is mint cserkész ismert köreinkben. Mind a négy művész: Lázár Krisztina, Nádas János, Tábor Péter és Walter Krisztina Cleveland környékén nőtt fel és a magyar közösségben résztvettek a különböző magyar eseményeken. Mind a négyen tagjai a Külföldi Magyar Magyar Cserkészszövetségnek, vezetői cserkész pozíciókat értek el, s valahányan a mai napig cserkészpozíciókat töltenek be, kettő közülük mai napig aktív cserkész. Öröm látni, hogy nem csak angolul de mind a négy fiatal művész folyékonyan beszél magyarul.

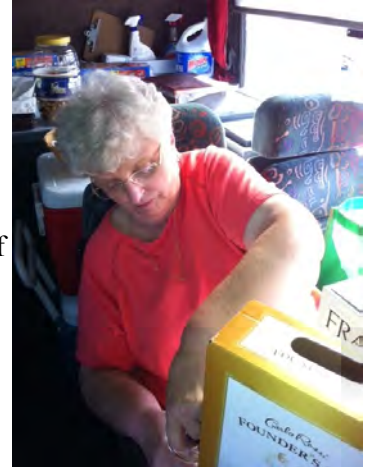
A kiállítás magába foglal különböző elemeket és a



művészek munkája példázza a magyar etnikai hátterüket. A művészek szülei is persze ott voltak ezen a kiváló eseményen és Walter Krisztina meglepedésére az ő édesanyja, Papp Klára, is eljött New Yorkból és még finom süteményt is hozott, amit nekünk sütött. A szülők joggal büszkélkedhetnek gyerekükkel. Gratulálunk a szülőknek és a művészeknek példás sikerükhöz.

THIS AND THAT...

We are so grateful to **Marcia Mestrits** who has served as our Social Events coordinator. She made sure that at every program our guests were dazzled by a beautifully arranged table of tasty snacks and beverages. We welcome **Erzsébet Madzsar** as our new hostess and thank her for her generous commitment to serving in this capacity.



So many treasures find their way into our Museum and Library. One such item is an album of photographs beginning from 1932 featuring **Camp Kossuth** memories lovingly assembled by **Eugene Farkas** who attended the camps as a youngster. His sister, Margaret Weizer, generously donated this piece of our community history to the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society. The album also gives the reader a glimpse into the fine character of the camp's beloved director, the **Rev. Stephen Csutoros**. You are invited to come by and page through this gem in our library!

A very special "thank you" goes out to all the families who designated the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society as the beneficiary of donations made in memory of their deceased loved ones. Such generosity is a special sign of commitment to the work we do. This past year we have received donations **in memory of Mr. Gus Enyedy, Mrs. Maria Szabó, and Mrs. Edith Molnár.**

Dr. Emory Ladanyi was a creative Hungarian man of medicine whose artistic talent included painting, sketching and drawing. He was born in Hungary in 1902 and attended medical school at the University of Budapest. He emigrated to the United States in 1929. Throughout his life he continued to pursue his artistic work while practicing medicine. The Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Museum owns some Ladanyi pieces through the generosity of the Emory and Ilona E. Ladanyi Foundation. Recently, the Foundation, through its president, **Andrew S. Erdelyi**, donated \$3000 to our organization "for the maintenance of the museum's art." What a wonderful gesture on the part of this Foundation!

Beszbol is Great! by Alex Kézdi

The Fourth Annual Hungarian Heritage Night at Classic Park was celebrated Saturday, June 16th at 7:00 P.M., in Eastlake, Ohio, where Hungarians of all ages and different levels of knowledge of the “Homeland” could celebrate their traditions with good ‘ole American “Beszbol” as the theme.

The Lake County Captains, Class “A” affiliates of the Cleveland Indians, played on their home field and defeated the Dayton team 11 - 2, before an enthusiastic and friendly crowd, of which a whole big *hunk* (pardon the expression) were “Magyar”s.

Your Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society, The Northeast Ohio Hungarian Cultural Center, and the

William Penn Association were the main sponsors. Mary Jane Molnar, Richard Sarosi and Andrea Meszaros were Varsity Cheerleaders, organizing and advertising and soliciting the members of their organizations, friends and family, to create a family oriented American style get-together of Hungarians to celebrate their common heritage.

The Csardas Dance Company, in beautiful Magyar costumes, provided pre-game and on-field entertainment, displaying the intricate and vigorous steps we admire so much. Proud Hungarians presented a very large and beautiful Hungarian Flag on the field for the singing of the Hungarian National Anthem. This Anthem and the National Anthem of the United States were proudly sung by the “Little Hungarian Chorus” (Kis Magyar Korus) which is directed by the Reverend Zoltan Tamasy and is sponsored by the West Side Hungarian Lutheran Church, served by the Reverend Eva Tamasy.

Our Heritage Society members Magdi Meszaros and Albertina Halacsy provided great fun and ethnic pride to many youngsters with their lovely and detailed face painting stand. Flowers, of course, and Runic Hungarian script were among the favorite subjects. But one adult fellow, with quite a bit of space on top of his head, requested a sprightly, spirited “Paprika” for a crown!

Great fireworks ended a splendid family evening of Hungarian food, music, and outfits, side-by-side with hot dogs, mustard and innings and outs. A true example of what most of us and our children have become: bearers of tradition and memories, in the new, welcoming, land of our lives.



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Vintner Dinner, 2012

Beginning with the lovely artwork of Board member George Kozmon that graced the invitation, to the elegant setting at Shaker Heights Country Club, the 2012 Vintner Dinner was a lovely event designed to raise funds for our



Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Museum. The evening's theme was Philanthropy, and Board President Laszlo Varga's opening remarks explained that this year's dinner was dedicated to all those who have supported our efforts by giving of their time, talent or treasure. Our guests enjoyed tasting fine handcrafted wines from some of the best wine growing regions in Hungary and we sampled wines from family-owned vineyards that have produced wine for centuries. Our red wine for the evening was certified organic, while one of our white wines came from a father-son owned winery. Unusually fine wines come out of these smaller, family owned enterprises. We also celebrated one of the founders of the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society, Otto Friedrich, and welcomed our Guest of Honor, Dr. Zita Bencsik of the Hungarian Consulate in New York. In addition to sampling good wine, Harmonia provided wonderful dance music that carried us twirling around the dance floor. It was nice to greet some new guests as

well as some faithful supporters who have placed this intimate dinner dance on their autumn social calendar. The Vintner Dinner Committee wishes to thank all those who attended this year's dinner, and we invite you, our reader, to please consider joining us next year!!

