

HÍRLEVÉL

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015



Hungarian-American Club of New Mexico

P.O. Box 3454

Albuquerque, NM 87190

www.hacnm.org

2015 Events:

March 8
1848 Revolution

June 7
Picnic

August 9
St. Stephen's
Day

October 18
1956 Revolution

TBA— December
Holiday Event



Greetings from the President

Steve (Pityu) Borbas

As we have not put out a newsletter in some five months, I'll summarize in a few sentences, paragraphs or tomes, what went on at our club events.

Starting with St. Stephen's Feast, we ate cold cuts, salads, cheeses and bread. Joe Galko brought strudel for dessert. Thank you again to all our helpers. Éva Nagy-Boross talked about our first King. Éva is a newbie to our club and a great addition.



Remembering October 23 again, involved some stories about how and where some of us ended up. Deneb Teleki and I talked about the revolution and its effects on Transylvania with additions and a poem by the Rezler Scholars, Tomi and Erika. The auction, by Joan Shaw, again was very successful and then the food – cassoulet or bab gulyas was a very unusual and delicious surprise. Thank you Simone and the other ladies.

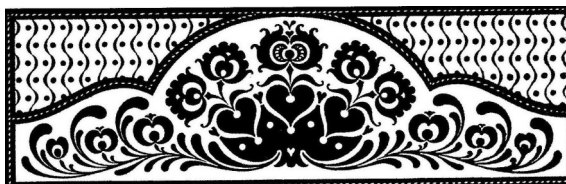
The holiday gathering brought together 86 of us, with some 16 kids – the most members ever! And Carolyn's phone rang and Santa told her that he was in the area and would pop in. The kids screamed when Santa walked in and again gave out some goodies. Panni and David

Powless shared a video about Hungarian Habitat for Humanity and gave a presentation about the holidays in Budapest. Members brought appetizers and desserts, but Rose and friends surprised us all by making lángos secretly.



Meanwhile, Walter Kirsch, longtime member of the German Club and friend to the Hungarian Club, played wonderful piano music throughout our ceremonies. Éva Nagy-Boross and her daughter Emese set up a Kids Korner to entertain and occupy the little ones throughout the programs.

Another surprise of the day was the Bishop family, whose 10-year-old son Carlos was doing a school project about Hungarian Christmas traditions. They were invited to attend and Carlos learned a great deal. I received a nice thank you note from them. See you Sunday, March 8 at 1 p.m. at the 1848 Revolution!



A Beautiful Rose

By Carolyn Gonzales

Everyone knows her as Rose, but when she was born in Akron, Ohio, on March 12, 1925, the Hungarian midwife named her “Rosalia.” Rose Galko by any name would be just as sweet. The Hungarian American Club of New Mexico honors Rose on the occasion of her 90th birthday at its March event.

Rose’s parents were both born in Hungary – if one isn’t too particular about the date of the Hungarian map being used. Her mother, Elizabeth Bebesi, was born in Nagykónyi, in Tolna County, in 1902. “She came to the United States when she was 10 years old. Her parents were already in the U.S. and she was living with her grandparents. They had to go and get her when her grandmother died,” Rose explained.

Her father was born Anton Czimerman in Tasnád, in what is now Romania, in 1901. He came to the United States at the age of 14. “He spoke to us in Hungarian,” Rose said. He changed the name to Zimmerman – dropping the “c” because people teased him, calling him “Cinnamon,” she said.

Rose also recalls the kindness her father bestowed on others less fortunate. “There were hard times in the 1930s. He helped others with money. He was very kind to people. People owed him money, but never paid him back,” she said.

A budding Rose

“Dad had a big, wide rocking chair. My sister Erzsi and I would be on either side of him as he would talk, sing and rock us,” she said. Christmas memories included paper dolls, which the girls loved. “Mom would play with us.”



Her father worked for Firestone. Akron was the tire capitol, with General Tire, Goodrich, Firestone and Goodyear having their headquarters there. Only Goodyear remains. “My father was hurt at work.

He developed

bleeding in his stomach. The doctors told him it was caused by spicy Hungarian food,” she said. He bled to death internally. Anton was only 33; Rose was just nine years old.

Her mother tried to sue Firestone. “They didn’t give her any money, but she got a job, instead.” At first, her mother worked in the tire room. “Then she got a job working in the cafeteria for the executives. After that, we always had a nice Christmas,” Rose recalls.

After her father died, her mother worked to acquire citizenship. “She studied at the table with us,” Rose said.

Rose in bloom

Rose graduated from South High School in class of 1943. The class numbered around 300. “Many of the boys were already gone. They were drafted into World War II as soon as they turned 18,” she said, adding that a handful of those young men were lost in the war.

Rose took a job at Firestone after graduation, working in the warehouse.

Rose accepted an invitation to go to Cleveland

to see the Ice Capades with friends. It was a life changing moment. A young man named Joe Galko was among them. "I knew who he was," she said with a twinkle in her eye. A romance bloomed. They got engaged in June and married in September, 1946.

The wedding was held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, which served a predominately Hungarian community. "We had a sit-down dinner for 200. The ladies at the church made it all - the chicken and soup, noodles and even the cake," she said. The church, like many of the ethnic churches, was closed down in 2010 by the bishop.

Joe, like many of his generation, was in the service. "He was stationed at Pearl Harbor, after the attack," she said, adding that they visited Hawaii many times afterward.



Rose transplanted in Albuquerque

Following his service, Joe returned to Firestone where he worked as a machinist. They stayed in Akron until Joe came upon an ad in the Akron Beacon

Journal. The Atomic Energy Commission was seeking individuals to work in the nuclear industry. "Since Joe was a machinist, he came to Albuquerque to make components for big bombs," Rose said.

So, in 1958, the Galkos - now with sons Joe, born in 1947, and Rick, born in 1949 - set up housekeeping in Albuquerque. Both boys went to Sandia High School and in 1966, the family moved into her current home. Rose

kept busy cooking and cleaning, and of course, working in her garden.

She and Joe were early members of the Hungarian Club, although they missed the first meeting because they were in Ohio. "There was one time when it was at risk of folding," she said, adding that she recalls meeting at various places including an activity room at a trailer park.

She's been a staple in the kitchen for the Hungarian Club and has fond memories of getting to know and cooking with "the girls": "Eva, Joan, Ilde Rolfs, Fred Griesbacher's mother Elizabeth - we cooked at Joan's [Shaw] house." The club membership fluctuated, so they found they always had to cook more. "They come with hearty appetites. We make enough to sell leftovers," she said. Rose has been alone since Joe died, January 12, 2002. "We were married 55 years," she said.

She keeps busy with the Hungarian Club, doing the cooking and being part of the "brain trust" because she enjoys her friends. "And I can't tell myself to sit down," she said.

What keeps Rose in Albuquerque? "The weather...and the Hungarian Club."



Letters from
Habitat for Humanity



Dear Steve, Betsy and Friends at the Hungarian American Club of New Mexico,

Thank you for your gift of \$400 in December!

We are grateful to have closed a wonderful year that allowed us to help close to 100 families, and work with the help of a great number of supporters who contributed their time, effort and money. Thank you so much for being one of them!

2015 is going to be a very exciting year for us. We will continue our HabitatPoint program to help mostly Roma families living in deep poverty, and we will involve our volunteer teams in a Housing First program to help homeless persons and couples move into a decent home! And with our continued advocacy efforts we hope to change the lives of many thousands.

Thank you for being a part of this!

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andras Szeker".

Andras Szeker
National Director | Habitat for Humanity Hungary

Dear Steve and Betsy,

Thank you so much for donating to support our program again, it's so nice of you! I hope you find the newsletters we have been sending you interesting – I really appreciate our friends' feedback on our work, so please if you have any questions or comments, let me know. And of course we will keep you updated.

We are preparing for the coming build season, which we expect to be especially exciting. We will involve volunteers in a program that enables homeless persons or couples move into a rented home!

One of our team leaders is actually looking for team members, and I was wondering if you could share this link with your members, maybe someone will be interested:

<http://www.habitat.org/gv/trip GV16475> I appreciate your help.

Thank you once again for your contribution!
Looking forward to hearing from you,

Renata Scheili
Volunteer and Donor Relations Coordinator | Önkéntes- és adományozói koordinátor

Hévíz—the Spa

By Albert Gaspar

The main attraction of the town is Lake Hévíz, the largest thermal lake in Europe covering 4.4 hectares (almost 12 acres) and embraced by a protective forest of 50 hectares.

According to current data the lake is 38 metres (over 100 feet) deep. The water gains its heat from geothermal energy. The temperature is the result of the mixing of hot spring waters gushing up to the surface and dolomitic water. In summer the water temperature is over 90 degrees.

In the course of history almost all people who appeared in the Balaton region left their trace on Hévíz.. In 2001 archaeological excavations show that this area has been inhabited for seven millennia. Based on earlier findings we can assume that the Romans already knew about the curing effects of the thermal water. The water was also used for industrial purposes – for the manufacture of hemp, flax and leather products.

The name “Hévíz” first appeared in a charter dated 1328. Linguists suppose that the Hungarian word “hévíz” means "streaming,

hot spring" and so it was used in this sense in the Middle Ages. Lake Hévíz emerged from anonymity during the 18th century to give rise to Hévízfürdő. In 1769 the first scientific analysis of the spring lake waters was carried out and published by Ferenc Szláby, the chief medical officer and physicist of Zala County.

In 1783 on the order of Joseph II, the map of the first military survey shows Lake Hévíz was labeled as "a hot sulphurous lake". The name of Hévíz appeared in print for the first time in Károly Gottlieb Windisch 's work in German (“The Geography of the Hungarian Kingdom”). Hévíz was also mentioned in Mátyás János Korabinszky’s Cyclopaedia of Hungarian History of Geography. The valley was valued because of the mills and - here and there - the excellent hay crops. The utilization of the medicinal water came to the forefront in the last decade of the century.

It is the merit of Count György Festetics to promote the rediscovery of the water and the development of the spa resort.



This week in World News Report BBC

Hungarians Protest as Putin meets Orban

Some 2,000 people have marched through the Hungarian capital, Budapest, ahead of talks between Prime Minister Viktor Orban and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Tuesday's visit is Mr. Putin's first to an EU leader since June 2014.

Hungary wants to negotiate a new agreement for Russian gas supplies.

Russia has been largely shunned by EU member states because of the conflict in eastern Ukraine, although it denies accusations of fomenting the violence.

Protesters rallied in Budapest on Monday night carrying banners saying "Putin No! Europe Yes!".

Much of the city center was closed to traffic on Tuesday as security was stepped up ahead

of the visit.

Mr. Putin's trip comes less than a fortnight after German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Budapest before embarking on a week of intense diplomacy, which resulted in the announcement of a ceasefire in eastern Ukraine.

...Hungary relies on Russia for more than half of its gas supplies and wants to negotiate a flexible long-term deal to succeed the current agreement which expires later this year.

Mr Orban, who rose to prominence with a strong anti-communist and anti-Russian stance as a student leader, told Hungarian radio on Friday that there were psychological tensions with Russia, but he wanted to overcome them.



Book to explore by a Hungarian American author

Triptych by Margit Liesche

Briefly, *Triptych* tells the stories of two sets of mothers and daughters: the first, caught up in the brutalities of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956; and the second, in 1980s Chicago, dealing with the lingering effects of the Revolution and trail of secrets left behind. *Triptych* is sure to arouse interest in the readers in your community.

"Liesche, the daughter of Hungarian refugees, cleverly weaves her family's history into a fine mystery that is an even finer tale about finding one's roots."—Kirkus Reviews

Check out www.margitliesche.com if you are interested to learn more about the author and her other books.

This book is available in paperback through Amazon.

News from the Bottle

By Pityu

Before we can speak of fun, Valentine, and gossip, we have to bow our heads to a couple of staunch and active members of our club.

Roger Kurucz and Ernie Szabo passed away close to the turn of the New Year at ages 76 and 91. They were members of St. Luke Lutheran Church. Roger was particularly active in the church, born in Wisconsin, was a chiropractor, grandfather, Northwestern University loyalist and a primary club jokester. Ernie and Sonya, who were married 34 years, were quiet, enthusiastic and generous members of the club. He was born in New Jersey, the first in his family born in the USA. He worked as a petroleum geologist in Algeria and taught in Texas

As we are all getting dangerously old, we wish Dr. Laszlo Zold and Eva Gyongyosi speedy recovery from hip fractures and our dear Betsy Townsend, the club secretary/treasurer for many years, a recuperation from cancer treatment.

February 14 is Valentine’s Day here, but in

Hungary it is Balint Day, translation from “Valentine.” A minor celebration time, mostly promoted by the florist association, ex pats and young people. Interestingly, it is also the first day of the mating season for chickens, ducks and geese. And also the foretelling of spring weather by sparrows. Panni also remembered that if bears see their shadow, spring is on the way. Otherwise, they go back into hibernation.

Masks in Hungary are “Mardi Gras” like traditions at carnivals and weddings, but not allowed by the authorities. The “buso” procession in Mohacs shows off the carved wooden masks in a ritual pattern. Many of the masks are of bear, goat, horse and stork, often very grotesque.

Elections are due at our March 8 gathering. Due to Betsy’s illness, we ask for a secretary or treasurer to self-nominate for those positions. Others are welcome to throw their hats into the ring for all positions.

Membership dues are payable in March – either at the door, or, if unable to attend, please send it in. Cut out this form and mail to: HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN CLUB OF NM, PO Box 3454, Albuquerque NM 87190.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Seniors - \$12 each, less than seniors - \$15 each, newsletter only - \$10.

Apolitical Aphorisms

- *If God wanted us to vote, he would have given us candidates.* ~Jay Leno~
- *The problem with political jokes is they get elected.* ~Henry Cate, VII~
- *We hang the petty thieves and appoint the great ones to public office* ~Aesop~
- *If we got one-tenth of what was promised to us in these State of the Union speeches, there wouldn't be any inducement to go to heaven.* ~Will Rogers~
- *When I was a boy I was told that anybody could become President; I'm beginning to believe it.* ~Clarence Darrow~
- *And let's not forget Mark Twain's wisdom on the topic: Politics, noun, from the Greek prefix poly-" meaning "many," and "tics" meaning "blood-sucking insects

Hungarian Owned Businesses in Albuquerque

DANIELS
FAMILY
Funeral Services

“Our Family Serving yours”

Istvan “Steve” Simko
www.DanielsFuneral.com

IF YOU WISH TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS OR SERVICES IN OUR NEWS LETTER, PLEASE CONTACT Steve Borbas 265-7088 or Albert Gaspar 892-0861

If you have news, or you need information, please call Steve Borbas 265-7088 or Albert Gáspár 892-0861.


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The Newsletter staff members are Steve Borbas, Albert Gaspar, Rose Galko, Anna Powless, with guest writers and articles.

HUNGARIAN AMERICAN CLUB of NEW MEXICO

Purpose: To foster Hungarian culture among those residents of new Mexico who are of Hungarian descent, related people of Hungarian descent, or who may have Hungarian affiliation, but who are interested in preservation of ethnic cultures such as Hungarian, which may become lost without organizational effort.



**You are cordially invited to join the Hungarian Community to
commemorate the 1848 March 15 Revolution**

Sunday, March 8, 2014, 1-5 pm
at the German-American Club
4821 Menaul Blvd. NE Albuquerque

We will be serving paprikas chicken with noodles
and dessert.

The program includes the Hungarian dancers,
poem, talk about Petofi, raffle.

Meal and entry is \$10.00

From:

The Hungarian-American Club of NM
P.O. Box 3454
Albuquerque NM 87190-3454

To:

