

President's Report — 2004 November

Minnesota Hungarians, Inc.

Dear Friends,

In a short report I want to inform you about the Minnesota Hungarians activities and what we have accomplished in 2004.

OUR ORGANIZATION :

The Minnesota Hungarians organization is a non-profit organization registered in the State of Minnesota by the Secretary of State. It is a direct continuity of the Baross Gábor Self-insuring Fraternal Association, formed in St. Paul, MN 109 years ago.

Our purpose is: to represent and to maintain the Hungarian heritage and culture, to promote American and Hungarian exchange programs in education and in commerce, assist Hungarian visitors of American activities, observe Hungarian holidays and celebrate special events; we want to help the needy materially and by human contact, let them be in the US, in Hungary or those outside of Hungary's borders.

LEADERSHIP in 2004

Agnes Fulop, President

Csilla Grauzer, Vice President

Laszlo G. Fulop. Secretary

George Bor, Treasurer

Tibor Gallo, Parliamentarian

Board Members: Olga Domokos, Ilona Fillyaw, Josef Hegedus, Edith Kosa, Agnes Mulvihill, Alan Nadosy, Rozy Nemeth, Gyongyi Slade-Erdohati, Jolanda G. Szekely.

NEWS: At the recent Annual Meeting the following new members were elected to the Board: WELCOME

Sandor Gallo, Maria K. Vincze & Tamás Szinyei; - Gyongyi Slade E. resigned from the Board.

MH CONTACTS:

We keep contact with various organizations and have liaisons at the Immigration History Research Center (Edith Horvath), at the American Professionals for Infection Control (Barb Bor), Communion of Hungarian Friends (Agnes Fulop) and the Hungarian American Coalition (Laszlo Fulop).

MH FUNDRAISING PROGRAM:

One of our major purposes is to help the needy. The membership fees cover only a minor portion of the association's work and purposes. Most of our income is derived from the profit we make in the Hungarian Café at the Festival of Nations and in various fund-raising dinners. The "profit" is made possible by the work and contribution of our numerous volunteers. This is what enables us to operate the association and to provide help to needy Hungarians.

Therefore, out thanks to all who come to our dinners and support our causes with their presence and donations.

And thanks to those who work on the preparation, organization and execution of our dinners and of our various programs at the Festival of Nations. These people donate their time, labor, skill and goodwill to the causes identified by the Minnesota Hungarians.

The following worked on the *Farsang/Carnival Dinner*:

Acs Ella, Barbara, György és Katie Bor, Fillyaw Ilona, Fulop Ágnes és László, Kathy Tibor Gallo, Grauzer Csilla & Andris, G.Székely Babus, Hegedüs József, Horváth Edit, Edie Kosa, Miho Lajos Miho Marika, Mulvihill Ágnes & Patric, Alan Nadosy, Nemeth Rozy, Szabó Emma, Varga János.

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The following worked in the *Hungarian Café at the Festival of Nations in 2004*:

Anna and Rozy Nemeth, Sheryl Alms, Ilona and John Barsness, Betty Bodnár-Belanger, Barbara, George & Katie Bor, Alexi and Rachel Bryant, Attila Domokos, Dennis Fritz, Warren Galena, Kitty & Karen Gogins, David & Teri Gunderson, Justin Hames, Amy Konkoly, Ron and Debbie Margittay, Aniko Mészáros, Jim Mork, Agnes Mulvihill, Al Nadosy, Erzsébet Nemeth, George Nemeth, Joe Nemeth, Lynn Nemeth, Laszlo Nemeth, Mike Nemeth, Rick Nemeth, Teri Nemeth, Joe Noé, Papp Olivér, Kaila Pfau, Emese Pilgram, Joanne Talbot, Ujszászi Bernadett, Varga János, Doug Wright.

The following worked in the **Exhibit, Fashionshow, Chess** (simultan) **at the Festival of Nations**

Exhibit: *Agnes & Victoria Aysola, Daniel Biro, Maria Borbély-Ralston, Angela Farris, Emöke Ficsor, Agnes & Laszlo Fulop, Paul G. Fulop, Kitty & Karen Gogins, Andris Grauzer, Hegedus József, Keviczky Tamás, Edith & Zoltán Kosa, Agnes & Patrick Mulvihill, Anna Williams, Vincze Zsolt & Maria, Vincze Demetri, Vincze Zsolt jr.*

Fashion (Ethnic Costumes) show: *Katie Bor, Alexi Bryant, Angela Farris, Laszlo Fulop, Eموke Ficsor, Karen Goggins, Edith Kosa.*

Chess masters: *Laszlo Ficsor, Eugene Kerkay*

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Special thanks to the **Minnesota Videki Dancers**, who graciously embellished our fund-raising events with their Hungarian folk dance performances.

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In early November we held a **Fundraising Dinner** at the Unity Church Unitarian to help **the Kids Club**.

Our thanks to: *Dezso & Ella Acs, Olga & Zsolt Domokos, Amy & Attila Konkoly, Marika & Lajos Miho, Edit Horvath, Emma Szabo, Agnes & Victoria Aysola, Robert & Dennis Acs, Laura & Peter Szukics, Aniko Meszaros, Andrea Magyar, Bernadett Czettisch, Maria Vincze, Gabi, Feri & Lilli Szecsi, Heni & Steve Melco, Anita & Örs Szabo and Rita,*

Worked on the success of **the Hungarian Picnic**

Lajos & Marika Mihó, Csaba Papp, reservation Ágnes Fulop

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PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

In 2004 our Farsang dinner party was held at the Unity Unitarian Church combined with the commemoration of March 15, the Hungarian Freedom Fight in 1848-49. Program organized by Agnes Mulvihill.

We also participated in the Festival of Nations events. Café/Kitchen (Rozy Nemeth), Exhibit (Agnes Fulop), Fashion show, Videki Dancers and chess master (Laszlo Ficsor & Eugene Kerkay).

In August we enjoyed a picnic together (cooks: Lakos Miho and Csaba Papp).

In October we remembered of the 1956 Uprising and freedom fight in Hungary. Program organizers were the Fulop Agnes and Laszlo, and Tamas Szinyei lead the event.

Our thanks to everyone who helped, worked and participated in our events. The next event will be our Christmas celebration at Warrendale Presbyterian Church (Como Ave. St.Paul)

SPECIAL EVENTS

In October MH President Agnes Fulop and Secretary Laszlo Fulop went **to Cleveland to meet with the former Hungarian Prime Minister, Viktor Orbán, Congressman János Horvath and the former Secretary of State Zsolt Németh** at the home of Laszlo and Gyorgyi Bojtos. The Minnesota Hungarians' leaders were among the 20 Hungarian-American leaders who had been invited to an after dinner "fireside chat" to talk about challenges, problems and issues facing Hungarian-American groups and organizations.

Doug Grow Mpls Star Tribune columnist interviewed **Dr. Robert O. Fisch**, a former leader of the Minnesota Hungarians, on the occasion that his book ("Dear Dr. Fisch, Children's Letters to a Holocaust Survivor") and his paintings were exhibited in The Minneapolis Institute of Arts. The exhibit is open from Oct.28 till Feb.28, 2005.

The book and drawings attest the relationship between Dr. Fisch, a Holocaust survivor from Budapest and the American and European students who have heard him talk about his experiences.

The book is for sale at the Art Museum's bookstore

On the occasion of the Czech, Hungarian, Polish and Slovak Republics joining the European Union, Dr. Josef Mestenhauser Honorary Consul organized a forum in the Sokol Hall on May 25, 2004. The audience, approx. 50 strong, heard views about the **cooperation and future of the Visegrad Countries**. In the panel discussion Prof. represented the Czech-, Dr.John Radzilowski the Polish-, Honorary Consul John Luknic the Slovak, while Laszlo Fulop the Hungarian viewpoint. Following the introductory words of Dr. Mestenhauser, Laszlo Fulop gave a short historical and background description, which was ensued by the panel discussion.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Son of Gyöngyi Erdőháti & Michael Slade: **Peter Slade** 2003 december 15.

Son of Gabriella Acs & Jacek Kozdroj: **Tomas Kozdroj** 2004.február 2.

Son of Gabriella Sinka & Matthew Heath: **Samuel Roald Heath** 2004 Julius 20

Our best wishes to all of them.

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PAUL RUPPRECHT SCHOLARSHIP

The leaders of the Minnesota Hungarians have established an educational assistance fund for Hungarian and Hungarian-American students in 2003. The assistance may be obtained by application. The officers will give reports about the status and the handling of the fund annually.

Tyler Thompson college student of Elk River, MN (Hungarian descent) received \$500 in 2003 and Annamária Török (Bolyai University, Kolozsvár, Transylvania) received \$500 financial assistance in 2004. Our thanks to the gracious donors, who made this possible.

At this time we are also *asking for additional donations* for supporting the fund. Donations may be sent directly to the treasurer of the Minnesota Hungarians. Names of donors will be published in our reports.

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PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

We owe a gratitude to those who — in the life of our 108-year old association — performed eminent work

In 1996 the then president, Tibor Zoltai initiated the Presidents Award to recognize those doing exceptional and outstanding work in behalf and for our association.

President's Awards have been given to:

1996 Saári, Dénes vice president (TZ)

Prach, Kornélia treasurer (TZ)

1997 Gardil, Ilona former president of MH and organizer of the Hungarian Cafe at the Festival of Nations for years for her tiredness work (TZ)

Dr. Rupprecht, Pál long time member and PR person of the MH and liaison to the Hungarian American Coalition (HAC), for his long time exceptional work in the MH leadership (TZ)

1998 Dr.Zoltai, Tibor president of the MH and Zoltai, Olga for their long time commitment to Hungarian matters and leadership for the existence of MH (AF)

1999 Németh, Anna board member for her long time commitment and continuous work for Hungarian matters (AF)

Bodnár Belanger, Betty for her exceptional work teaching Hungarian embroidery delegating the MH to the Festival of Nations events. (AF)

2000 Nemeth, Rozy long time board member, organizer of the Hungarian Kitchen at the Festival of Nations, dancer at Videki Dancers assemble (AF)

Fillyaw, Ilona board member for her volunteer work executing help (AF)

2001 Gallo, Tibor Parliamentarian (AF)

Gombos, György Vice President(AF)

2002 Dr. Fisch, O. Róbert MD, Board Member (AF)

Mihó Lajos Board Member and Miho, Marika for their work for the Hungarian community (AF)

Ács Dezső Board Member and Ella for their work for Hungarian matters (AF)

2003 Gracza, Rezso former Secretary of MH for his supporting work toward students and new comers to the Twin Cities.(AF)

Mestitz András former Treasurer for his outstanding work (AF)

Csáthy Dénes (posthumus) (AF)

2004 Dr. Simon Géza MD. Board Member, Membership Committee Chair for his committed work especially in fundraising (AF)

Vidéki Dancers for their commitment toward Hungarian music and dances, for their high level performances in various occasions, also for their workshop teaching (AF)

Elected as Honorary Members

1999 Dr. Jeszenszky Géza, Ambassador of the Hungarian Republic to the USA (AF)

1999 Dr. Bruce Schilling MD. Orthopedic Surgeon honoring his successful humanitarian operation on a Hungarian Special Olympic athletes, who was born with a severally deformed face and his wife Marcy Schilling (AF)

1999 Grace Ellefson, Hungarian Soccer team supporter at US CUP events (AF)

Special Recognition Certificate by the President

2000 Minnesota APIC (<http://www.apicmn.org/sitepages/pid58.php>) and organization leaders Barbara Bor, Carol O'Boyle, Diane Beck and Sue Garyalde establishing and strengthening the connection and work with the Hungarian chapter of HAPIC. (AF)

Déki Lakatos, Sandor Jr. and the Déki Lakatos Gypsy Orchestra performing at the International Institute.(AF)

2002 Katie Bor and Andrew Grauzer students for their willingness being part of all programs and activities, participating in all MH events (AF)

2003 Rev. Robert Eller and Janne Isaacs Ministers of Unity Church Unitarian Saint Paul, honoring them for their welcoming support toward the MH. (AF)

Rev. Robert Bailey, Board Member, Presbyterian Minister of Warrendale Presbyterian Church, Saint Paul MN for his supporting work toward the MH (AF)

Máthé Dénes and Berta (posthumus) for their leading work for Hungarians at St.Paul to keep the community together.(AF)

Olga and Zsolt Domokos, and Amy and Attila Konkoly, organizers of Kids Club (AF)

Erzsi Bryant-Nemeth co-Chair of Hungarian Café (Kitchen) at Festival of Nations for her exceptional gift arranging donation from a Dental Office, Eden Prairie, MN to the children of Deva Orphanage (AF)

(Legend: TZ= Tibor Zoltai President AF= Agnes Fulop President)



DONATIONS:

In 2004 we were able to send assistance to the following places:

American Refugee Committee (Earthquake in Iran),

Center for Hungarian American Congressional Relations (to help eliminate border barriers dividing a Hungarian town SZELMENC that has been split between Slovakia and Ukraine since the end of WWII.)

Magyarországi Református Egyház(Hungarian Reformed Church)Bethesda Children Hospital Budapest,Hungary

University of Minnesota Arboretum in memory of Elizabeth Gracza

St.Francis of Assisi Foundation/ Orphanage in Déva Transylvania. We sent financial aid from personal donations, and additionally large volume of mostly children's clothes & shoes donated by Zsuzsa Larson-Fulop, variety of clothing by Jolanda Székely, Rozy & Erzszi Nemeth, Teri Gunderson, school supplies, cash, vitamins, medicine and clothing by Jay Shahidi & Csilla Grauzer, Agnes & Laszlo Fulop, Sally & Ben Cohen, Mary Tankenoff, Fahim & Hamid Mohtadi. Lucianna Pellizzer, Trisha Hoyt, Pamela Brink, Lois Steven, Kathy Baradaran, Bob & Ellis Naegele, Pam & Ferraidoon Bourbour, Joann's Group and the Minnesota Hungarians.

Dental care utensils (360 tooth brushes) requested by Erzszi Nemeth donated by Metropolitan Endodontics.

Szent Adalbert Mission-Beregszászi Gimnázium/ Hungarian High School in Beregszasz, SubCarpathia, Ukraine; the MH donation was embellished by personal donations of Charles & Jean Gallo and Tibor & Kathy Gallo.

HAPIC Conference in Siofok Hungary, (also personal donation by Olga Zoltai)

Minnesota Hungarians Kids Club, (also personal donations by Barbara & George Bor, Klara & Tibor Fabry, Csilla Grauzer, Gabi & Jacek Kozdroj and Betty Palfalvi.)

Hungarians for International Children's Games, Cleveland, OH /to help Hungarian teams to travel to the US and participate in the athletic games.

American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund for the Florida hurricane disasters;

U of M Immigration History Research Center /Emigrant Archive with some contribution of books, newspapers and other publications collected by Gracza Rezso and Laszlo Fulop

We have received thank you letters acknowledging the receipt and designated use of our donations from most agencies.

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We sent flowers and get-well cards to Hungarian friends in distress and, when required, helped with the transportation of those in need.

Kids Club

Founder and organizer, *Olga Domokos* and *Amy Konkoly* with matching contributions are leading the program.

At the tri-weekly meetings the children learn Hungarian language in a playful manner (poems, songs, activities and games, etc.) at various locations. Our thanks to Olga, Amy and the parents who participate with loving enthusiasm and help out the work of the Kids-club: *Attila Konkoly, Barbara Bor, Bernadette Czetics, Andrea Magyar, Csilla Grauzer, Heni Melco Gabi Szecsi, Agnes Aysola, Zsolt Domokos, Rezso Gracza, and others.*

The Kids-club welcomes every child and parents who want to learn Hungarian. The Minnesota Hungarians enthusiastically supports this significant initiative.

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Forum on the Cooperation and Future of the Visegrad Countries

On the occasion of the Czech, Hungarian, Polish and Slovak Republics joining the European Union, Dr. Josef Mestenhauser Honorary Consul organized a forum in the Sokol Hall on May 25, 2004. The audience, approx. 50 strong, heard views about the cooperation and future of the so-called Visegrad Countries.

In the panel discussion Professor represented the Czech-, Dr. John Radzilowski the Polish-, Honorary Consul John J. Luknic the Slovak, while Laszlo Fulop the Hungarian viewpoint. Following the introductory words of Dr. Mestenhauser, Laszlo Fulop gave a short historical and background description, which was ensued by the panel discussion.

SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION

Dear friends, ***your support and participation*** are very important for us to continue our work and make our events possible.

Please ***become an active member*** of our community. This is also a reminder that we cannot exist without your minimal support. Send your fully **tax deductible membership fee** for year 2005 and/or contribution to

George Bor treasurer. (Address: 7707 20th Avenue N., Hugo, MN 55038)

Membership fees: Family \$30, single \$ 20, single senior/student \$10, senior family \$20/year.

We hope you enjoyed our programs in the past and we invite all of you again to join.

Visit our website on Internet at **<http://minnesotahungarians.onza.net>**

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In behalf of the Board Members, Officers and myself

I wish you all

a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Agnes M. Fulop

Elnök/President