

Welcome to the first edition of the Minnesota Hungarians electronic newsletter, published for members and friends of the Minnesota Hungarians.

Look for your issue with interviews, news, upcoming events and more!

Minnesota Hungarians

E-Newsletter

Issue 1

March 2007

Did You Know?

Tim Pawlenty, Governor of Minnesota has declared Oct. 23, 2006, as Hungarian Freedom Day. The Gubernatorial Proclamation was presented to András Simonyi, the Hungarian Ambassador to the United States by President Emirata, Ágnes M. Fülöp in Washington, D.C.



Dr. András Simonyi, Ambassador to the U.S. with Ágnes M. Fülöp

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Meet the President...

Csilla Grauzer, who has served as vice president of the Minnesota Hungarians for the last five years was elected to be the next president at our November annual meeting. Agnes Mulvihill has asked Csilla a few questions about her plans.

Q: Csilla, can you tell me a little bit about yourself? What brought you to Minnesota? Why are you part of the Minnesota Hungarians?

A: I was born in Nagyszentmiklós, Transylvania, studied in Temesvár, came to the United States in 1983 and have lived here ever since. I came to Minnesota because my two brothers had lived here at the time. I am married to Jay and have three children, Sasha, Sierra, and

Andre. I have been an active member of the organization for many years now and have served on the executive committee and as vice president. I am part of the Minnesota Hungarians because it is very important to me to maintain my Hungarian heritage and carry forward the language, the culture, and traditions, so we can pass them on to the next generation.

Q: The organization has many active members and volunteers as well as a strong board of directors with 18 current members. How are you going to build on the work that was done by people who went before you and what is your vision for the Minnesota Hungarians?



Csilla Grauzer

A: I am very happy that we have an active membership and a strong board. I am hoping that everyone will continue to contribute ideas, suggestions, and in addition, will offer help to make those ideas a reality.

Cont'd on page 3....

Plan Ahead!

Here are our upcoming events:

- March 15 Commemoration—Sunday, March 18 **Cancelled!!**
- Festival of Nations—Thursday to Sunday, May 3-6, River Centre, Saint Paul
- Summer Picnic—Saturday, Aug. 4, Golden Lake, Circle Pine, Minnesota
- 1956 Commemoration—Sunday, Oct. 21, Warrendale Presbyterian Church, St. Paul
- Fundraising Dinner—Saturday, Nov. 10, Unity Unitairan Church, St. Paul
- Annual Membership Mtg—Sunday, Nov. 18, Warrendale Presbyterian Church, St. Paul
- Hungarian Christmas—Sunday, Dec. 9, Warrendale Presbyterian Church, St. Paul

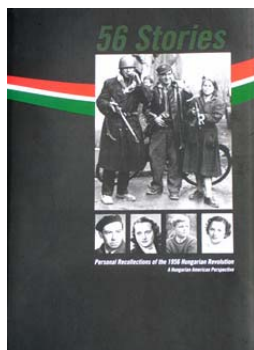


Prof. Albert Tezla sitting in middle; standing behind him are László Fülöp, Kathy Tezla, Michael Tezla, and Ágnes M. Fülöp

We Are on the Web!

Visit us at

<http://minnesota.hungarians.onza.net>



56 Stories: Personal Recollections of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution

Honoring Professor Emeritus Albert Tezla

By Ágnes M. Fülöp

Professor Emeritus Albert Tezla was awarded the Middle Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary presented by Ambassador Dr. Gábor Horváth, Consul General of Hungary to the United States.

At the same event he was presented the President's Award of the Minnesota Hungarians by Ágnes M. Fülöp, president for his dedicated and outstanding achievement and contributions to Hungarian-American literature at the University of Minnesota, Duluth (UMD) English Department (1949-1982), for his scholarly work on the history of Hungarian emigration to the US and for being a major advocate and translator of Hungarian literature in the United States.

The presentations took place on Thursday, April 27, 2006 at the Tweed Museum of Art, at the University of Minnesota, Duluth. This prestigious event was hosted and presented by Dr. Vince Magnuson Vice Chancellor for UMD Academic Administration.

Professor Albert (Béla) Tezla was born in 1915 South Bend Indiana. His parents emigrated from Pade, Torontal County, Hungary. Speaking the Hungarian language he realized the importance of translating the rich Hungarian literature to English. He translated Hungarian literatures and wrote documentary book about the life of Hungarian emigrants in the US. The title of the book is: **"Somewhere over Fairyland." Hungarians in America 1895 -1920.**

News from Our Members

Do you have news to share? Send an email to agnesmulvihill@yahoo.com. Your news will be published in our next issue. Your submission may be edited.

Looking for a Good Read?

Here are two books you should consider written by members of the Minnesota Hungarians.

The Metamorphosis of Freedom by Dr. Robert O. Fish (\$17)

Dr. Fish wrote this book as a testimonial to the value he treasures above all others: freedom. In his own words: "The purpose of this book is to describe the importance and privilege of being free, in the hope that some day freedom will be right for every human being". (The book is available for purchase from Ágnes M. Fülöp).

56 Stories: Personal Recollections of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution(\$49.95)

For those who bore witness to the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, it had a significant and lasting influence on their lives. The stories in this book tell of their universal desire for freedom and the uncommon courage with which they tried to attain it in 1956.

This book contains 56 personal testimonials from '56-ers, two of which are from our very own **Ágnes M. Fülöp and László Fülöp**, nine stories from relatives of '56-ers, and a collection of archival photographs and original illustrations. The book is available for purchase through the Freedom-Fighter56.com website. (Five books are still available for purchase from Ágnes M. Fülöp).

Get Involved!

Volunteers are needed for the Festival of Nations to help out in the Hungarian Kitchen and the Hungarian Cultural Exhibit. This year's theme is fun & games. If you would like to volunteer, please call Rozy Nemeth (kitchen) at 763.561.7538 or Sandor Gallo (exhibit) at 651.699.2323.



Anna Nemeth, Rozy Nemeth, and Erzsi Nemeth at the Festival

Got Kids?

To find out about the next Hungarian Kids Club event, sign up for the email distribution list by sending a note to Amy and Attila Konkoly at akonkoly@comcast.net, or call 952.934.5469.

The Kids Club welcomes every child and parent who wishes to learn Hungarian and would like to participate. Past events have included Hungarian map "treasure hunt", circle time and Hungarian language class, learning the Hungarian national anthem, making kerchiefs with a Hungarian motif, and visiting the historical Oliver H. Kelley farm. Social time and snacks are also part of the meetings.



Kids Club Members at the Oliver H. Kelley Farm



Meet the President...cont'd from page 1...

As a leader of this organization, I want to listen to our members and want to be open to all suggestions. Only together will we be able to achieve our mission. Our mission has not changed and our objectives remain the same. We want to keep the Hungarian community alive, promote it and cultivate it. We want to show and teach our children about Hungarian culture and heritage. We want to reach out to Hungarians living in and outside of Hungary and keep supporting worthy causes such as sponsoring Hungarian students in need. One of my goals is to

develop a more robust structure through which we donate our funds.

Q: What do you view as the biggest challenge to achieve this vision? How can people help?

A: I would like to see even more people at our events. I would like us to develop new relationships and revive old ones so that everyone feels they are part of this community. I feel that the Kids Club is very important. They represent the new generation. I want kids to learn about their Hungarian

heritage and I want adults to help. One does not have to sit on the board, have a fancy title or have an official leadership role to help out. For example, both Rudi bácsi and Olga néni have offered their houses on different occasions to the Kids Club for a meeting place, which was really appreciated. (Thank you again, Rudi Bácsi and Olga néni!)

Further, I would like to have more and better communication between leadership and membership and ultimately even more paying members. One major source of income for the Minnesota Hungarians is the membership fees. I am sad to say that out of the

approximately 350 households on our mailing list, only 50 are paying membership dues. This is a serious problem that could cause our expenses to exceed our income. Please help our organization by paying your dues.

Thanks for your time, Csilla, and good luck to you in your new role!

Congratulations

to our newest board members:
Attila Szabó
Charles Galló
Erzsi Németh
Katalin Kovács

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Our Mission

The association of the Minnesota Hungarians is a nonprofit organization, licensed in Minnesota. The mission of the Minnesota Hungarians is to represent and maintain the Hungarian heritage and culture, to support humanitarian activities for projects in cultural, education and health endeavors, to promote American and Hungarian exchange programs in education and in commerce, to assist Hungarian visitors of American activities, to observe Hungarian holidays, and to celebrate special events.

Our 2006 Donations

Déva Orphanage, Transylvania Romania (continuous donations via the Déva Orphanage Fund) | **Palatinus Association** at the European Plaza in Révkomárom, Slovakia, to erect the statue of Béla III. Hungarian king as part of their historical preservation effort | Voivodina (Vajdaság) to support **one Hungarian student** with scholarship for a school year | **Hungarian school** in Csangoland, Moldova, for school contraction (from our Farsang Dinner profit) | **Unity Church Unitarian Harvest Hope** sustainable agriculture program for Homoródszentpéter Transylvania, Romania | **American Hungarian Foundation**, New Jersey, for the construction of an addition to the Hungarian House to enlarge the library and provide space for exhibit area and community programs | **Hungarian High School** in Beregszász, Kárpátalja, Ukraine | Making of the film, titled **"Torn from the Flag"** to honor the 50th anniversary of the 1956 Freedom Fight in Hungary, made in the USA by Klaudia Kovacs and associates | **Center for Austrian Studies, University of Minnesota** for co-sponsorship of a program dedicated to "The Hungarian Revolution of 1956" | **Hungarian Infection Control Organization** to organize and execute the "2007 National Infection Control Conference" in Hungary.

Become a Member!

Your membership fees are tax deductible. To become a member or to renew your membership for 2007, write a check payable to the Minnesota Hungarians and send it to: Minnesota Hungarians, 11705 Live Oak Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55305.

2007 membership fees are as follows:

- Family \$30
- Individual \$20
- Student \$10
- Retired \$10

Thank you for your continued support. The Minnesota Hungarians can exist only with your help and participation.

Got an Idea for the Newsletter?

Send an email to agnesmulvihill@yahoo.com.

A note about this newsletter: Although you may have picked up a printed copy of this publication, going forward we are planning on providing it only electronically. The electronic newsletter will be available both in English and in Hungarian. If you would like to sign up to receive it, please send an email to the above email address and indicate that you would like to be added to the distribution list.