

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

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

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# Minnesota Hungarians

e-Newsletter

Issue 2

July 2007

## Member Spotlight: Zsuzsanna and Jeffrey Baxter

By *Al Nadosy, Membership Chair*

**This is the first of what we hope will be an ongoing series of feature articles highlighting and honoring members of our Minnesota Hungarian community.** Our very first article honors...Zsuzsanna and Jeffrey Baxter.

Were we to give awards to the Minnesota Hungarian family who routinely travels the farthest—over 200 miles, over four hours, one way—to attend Minnesota Hungarian events, it would have to go to loyal members Jeff and Zsuzsa Baxter of Hibbing, Minnesota.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, Zsuzsa really enjoys baking, especially all those Hungarian specialties we like so much. She trained as a pastry chef in high school, spent two years in England learning

English, and subsequently was a pastry chef in a Budapest bakery before eventually managing a sushi bar in Pest.

Now enters Jeff, born in West Chester, Pennsylvania, in the United States. As an adult, Jeff worked for a time in Japan, where he developed a strong liking for sushi. He then found himself in Hungary for two years, servicing Hungarian paper mills as a sales rep for Hercules Chemical Corporation. Jeff's Hungarian, by the way, is said to be pretty good. Jeff's fondness for sushi took him to Zsuzsa's sushi bar over and over again.

They met in April 2001, became friends and, eventually, fell in love. In 2003 Jeff, who had prior associations in Cloquet, Minnesota, brought Zsuzsa here, as Zsuzsa says, "to check out Minnesota." Minnesota passed the test,



**Zsuzsa and Jeff Baxter**

and they were married, in the U.S., in 2004. The two of them subsequently set up housekeeping in Hibbing.

Today, Jeff works as a representative for AFLAC Insurance; and Susan (Zsuzsa) works at the Sunrise Bakery in Hibbing. And while they make plans to open up their own bakery, and to start their own family, Zsuzsa bakes special order Hungarian goodies in her own kitchen, and works on her Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at Bemidji State University. She'll finish her degree in May 2008.

## Plan Ahead!

Here are our upcoming events:

- **Literary Event by Ildikó Kozsik**—Aug. 3, Zoltai House, 476 Summit Ave., St. 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.



**Hungarian motif by Susan Fiene in Minneapolis**



## Many Cultures of Our Neighborhoods

By Ágnes M. Fülöp

In 1993, artist **Susan Fiene** designed and produced a public art project on the Broadway Street and Central Avenue Bridge in Minneapolis. The project was sponsored by the Minneapolis Art Commission and the Northeast Neighborhood Consortium to correct an esthetic problem of the fence of the bridge in a way that would reflect the diverse ethnicity of the neighborhood. Ethnic groups that have lived in this neighborhood, including Hungarians, selected a geometric design or motif for representation of their ethnicity.

The **Hungarian motif** was made after a plate pattern, provided by **Maria Schweikert**.

During the past 14 years the sculptures started to lose their color and the metal structures needed basic repair.

In 2006, Susan Fiene contacted the Minnesota Hungarian asking our support and modest financial help for executing a project to renovate and renew the original artworks. The board accepted the request and supported it. The renewed Hungarian motif has been relocated at East Side Neighborhood Services at 1700 2<sup>nd</sup> Street North East, Minneapolis.

All the motifs also have a replica at the original place on the Northeast Bridge and Gateway. At the intersection of Broadway Street and Central Avenue a celebration took place on Friday, May 18, 2007, followed by a reception at East Side Neighborhood Services. Upon invitation Ágnes Fülöp, former president of the Minnesota Hungarians and László Fülöp, former secretary attended the event.

## All Are Welcome at Lake Hope “Itt-Ott Találkozó”



The 2007 “Itt-Ott Találkozó” will be held from Aug. 11 to Aug. 18 at Lake Hope State Park in Zaleski, Ohio.

This event is organized by the **Communion of Hungarian Friends** (Magyar Baráti Közösség) and is a great opportunity for individuals and families interested in Hungarian culture and traditions to take part in.

The topic of this year’s conference will be

“literature, nation and self-knowledge” and will feature the renowned Hungarian storyteller, folk singer, and ethnographer, **Berecz András**. The program also offers interesting and entertaining sessions for English speaking family members, who do not speak Hungarian.

For more information about this event, please contact László Fülöp at [laszlofulop@comcast.net](mailto:laszlofulop@comcast.net).



**Ildikó Kozsik**

## Come to Hungarian Poetry Night...

**Ildikó Kozsik** from Marosvásárhely, Transylvania will host a literary night on Friday, August 3, 2007, at 7:00 pm. The event will be held in the Zoltai House, at 476 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, and will be **in Hungarian only**.

Ildikó is a performer, actress, and professor and she is a founding member of the Tamaciszta Társulat, which is built around the idea of poetry theater. Ildikó’s lecture on Aug. 3 will focus on works from contemporary Transylvanian poetry.

## Hungarian American Coalition Gala Dinner

By **Ágnes M. Fülöp**

On May 4, an exclusive Gala Dinner was held at the historical Decatur House in Washington D.C. in honor of **Ambassador George Herbert Walker III**, who served as the U.S. Ambassador to Hungary from 2003 to 2006.

The leadership of the Hungarian American Coalition (HAC) with support of an Honorary Committee expressed their gratitude and high appreciation in honor of Ambassador George Herbert Walker III for his substantive initiatives to improve bilateral relations between the U.S. and Hungary, both at the diplomatic level and in civil society.

The Minnesota Hungarians, Inc. has been a member of the HAC since 1992. The first elected liaison of our organization to the HAC was Paul Rupprecht (1992-96). In 1996, Laszlo Fülöp was elected for this position by the board and since this time he has been working together with the leadership of HAC achieving common goals and fulfilling our relationship.

László Fülöp as Vice President and Executive Committee member of HAC, also liaison of the Minnesota Hungarians to HAC since 1996 attended the Gala Dinner with Ágnes Fülöp former President of the Minnesota Hungarians.



**Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice, Vice President of HAC and Master of Ceremony, Mr. Max Teleki, President of HAC**



**Mr. Max Teleki, President of HAC, Ambassador Walker, and Mrs. Edith Lauer, President Emerita of HAC**



**From left to right: His Excellency Ambassador András Simonyi; László Fülöp, Vice President of HAC; Mrs. Carol Walker; The Honorable George H. Walker, former Ambassador of the US to Hungary; Ágnes Fülöp, President Emerita of the Minnesota Hungarians; Max Teleki, President of Hungarian American Coalition; Mrs. Nada Simonyi**

**A few names from the Honorary Committee:**

**Dr. Ferenc Mádl, former President, Republic of Hungary**

**Mr. János Martonyi**

**Mr. János Horváth, Member of Parliament**

**Dr. Henry A. Kissinger**

**Tom Lantos, Representative, California**



## We Are on the Web!

Visit us at  
<http://minnesota.hungarians.onza.net>



**Ashish Albert Uhlmann**



## News From Our Members: Tell Your Story!

Ralph Gracza is working on an archival issue of a book called "**The Hungarian Diaspora in Minnesota after World War II**". The book will amass many documents, information, data, and references including interviews on how members of the diaspora ended up in this state.

If you are interested in being included in this data and information collection,

please call **Ralph Gracza** at (952) 934-9622.

You may have either a phone or an in-person interview. These interviews are conversational and informal. All participants will have the opportunity to review and edit the draft of their interview.

The final copy included in the collection will be the one approved by the

participant.

The book will have a subject and name index and may be published with pictures. It will be deposited in libraries like the Immigration History Research Center of the University of Minnesota.

## Welcome to Our Newest Members!

**Ashish Albert Uhlmann** was born on March 5, 2007, to proud parents Sapna Sinha & Erik Uhlmann.

**Abby Lynn Nemeth** was born on Dec. 18, 2006, to proud parents George & Jody Nemeth. Abby is Anna Nemeth's 13th grandchild.

**Cooper James Gunderson** was born on April 17, 2007, to proud parents David & Teresa Gunderson. Cooper is Anna Nemeth's 14th grandchild.

## Farewells...

We would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the families of deceased members, **Éva Mandics** and **Ferenc Budaváry**.

They will always be remembered for the wonderful contributions they made to the Minnesota Hungarians. We will cherish their memory.

## Hungarian Language and Folk Dance Classes

Local Hungarian folklorist, **Éva Maria Kish** will begin two series of classes, one in beginning Hungarian language and the other in beginning Hungarian folk dances.

Éva works as an Instructional Designer with the Andersen Corporation and is a nationally recognized Hungarian specialist in Hun-

garian dance and folk culture. She is a resident choreographer with the Ethnic Dance Theatre of Minneapolis and an avid teacher. She welcomes members of the Hungarian community to attend these classes.

If you would like more information about the start dates and location of the classes, contact Éva at

(651) 340-5850 (home) or (651) 264-6266 (cell).

The **language classes** are designed with non-speakers in mind particularly focused on individuals who do not speak any Hungarian (ethnic Hungarians, spouses of Hungarians, or individuals interested in folk arts). The classes will meet weekly for 90 minutes and will cost

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## Festival of Nations Celebrates 75th Anniversary

By Ágnes Mulvihill

As has been a tradition for many years, the Minnesota Hungarians again participated in the Festival of Nations. The Festival, which celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, took place May 3-6 in the Saint Paul River Centre with over 90 ethnic groups. The International Institute of Minnesota had a historic exhibit commemorating the occasion. In the exhibit, there were several mentions of previous Hungarian exhibitions. An old newspaper article recounted **the history of Hungarians in Minnesota:**

*“The miraculous White Stag is the symbol of their origin among the nations of Europe, a beautiful legend which relates how he appeared in times of crisis to guide these nomadic horsemen, led by the brothers Hunor and Magyar, ever westward in their search for the promised land, and led them at last through a wild*

*mountain pass to a great plain “rich in game and green pastures, between two great rivers rich in fish surrounded by mountains.”*

*To the rich land of Minnesota, Hungarians came in the late 1860’s. Two hundred and nine were counted in the 1870 census, a time when the wheat bonanza was attracting European millers. A generation later more than a thousand were in the state, but the peak census years were 1910 with 5,582 and 1920 with 4,277— an obvious correlation with the turbulent political and economic conditions in the homeland as the Austro-Hungarian Empire declined and boundaries were changed by the Treaty of Versailles following the defeat in WWI.*

*Recent Hungarian immigrants have been “freedom fighters” against the contemporary political tyranny of communism, more than two hundred having come to the state since November of 1956.*

*A trio of artists, all Hungarian born American citizens and contemporary personalities, deserve a centennial tribute for their rich contribution to the cultural life of Minnesota. Eugene Ormandy, conductor of the Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra from 1931 to 1936, Antal Dorati, director of Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, Lorand Andahazy dancer, choreographer and ballet master”.*

The Minnesota Hungarians remain active contributors to the Festival of Nations as they carry forward the traditions started by earlier immigrants.

The cultural theme for this year’s Festival was **ethnic toys, games & sports**. The Hungarian exhibit featured the Rubik’s Cube, a mechanical puzzle invented in 1974 by the Hungarian mathematician and professor of architecture Ernő Rubik. It is said to be the world’s best-selling toy, with

*Continues on page 6*



**The miraculous White Stag**



**The current world record for solving the Rubik’s Cube is 10.36 seconds**



## Hungarian Classes...cont’d from page 4

\$15. These are adult classes and are not geared towards children. The location will be determined by the convenience to class members. There will be a 15-minute-cultural-segment in the class to also provide a framework for the language. Minimum class sign-up is 4 sessions.

Starting in September, Éva will also offer beginning **folk**

**dance classes** with a focus on Hungarian folk dances from various regions of Hungary and Transylvania.

These classes are geared toward adults, (minimum age 14) with an emphasis on social interaction and not on performance. There will be an opportunity for regular **Táncház** (dance parties). The class is taught so that

everyone dances with everyone. There will be an attempt to keep the number of men and women even but that may fluctuate from week to week. The class will be 90 minutes and will include learning the lyrics to folk songs of the particular region being studied. Classes will be \$15.

## Festival of Nations...cont'd from page 5



some 300 million Rubik's Cubes and imitations sold worldwide. Clearly, the cube's popularity persists as groups of children surrounded the table throughout the day to try their hand at solving the puzzle.



Thanks to **Sandor Gallo** for this great idea and for all of his hard work designing and creating the display and managing all the exhibit volunteers!



The Hungarian Café was a big hit with kids and adults alike. Kids loved the one-dollar giant pickle, while adults just couldn't get enough of all the Hungarian delicacies.

This year's menu included authentic Hungarian goulash (gulyás leves), mushroom and stewed beef (gomba és marha pörkölt), Dobos Tort (dobos torta) and Hungarian chocolate sponge cake, bet-

ter known as Rigó Jancsi.

The Hungarian Café could not have happened without **Rozy Nemeth's** leadership and dedication! Rozy (and, in fact, her entire extended family) worked tirelessly to make the Café a success.

Thanks to the over 60 volunteers who helped out with this event!

## Got Kids? Join the Kids Club!

To find out about the next **Hungarian Kids Club** event, sign up for the email distribution list by sending an email to Amy Konkoly at [akonkoly@comcast.net](mailto:akonkoly@comcast.net), or by calling (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.



## Check Out the Hungarian Club of Georgia!

We have come across a new Hungarian American organization and wanted to introduce them in the Minnesota Hungarians e-newsletter. If you are moving to Georgia or are going

to be in the area, be sure to check them out!

From the Hungarian Club of Georgia (HCGA): Do you eat Gulyas? Is your grandmother Hungarian? Would

you like to learn more about Hungarian culture? If you answered yes to any of these questions, visit [www.gahungarians.org](http://www.gahungarians.org) and become a founding member of the HCGA.

## Support the Rupprecht Scholarship!

In 2003, the leadership of the Minnesota Hungarians established a scholarship fund to honor the memory of Paul Rupprecht. The Paul Rupprecht Scholarship supports Hungarian and Hungarian-American students during their academic studies.

For many years, Paul Rupprecht was one of the prominent leaders of the Minnesota Hungarians. He worked thoughtfully and tirelessly giving his knowledge to Hungarian-American issues. He was a member of the Communion of Hungarian American Coalition (HAC) and was the first liaison of the Minnesota Hungarians to the HAC. Recognizing his talent, the Governor of Minnesota appointed him to the "Governor's Commission

on Eastern Europe" for special assignment between 1990 and 1992. Paul had assisted Hungarian refugees in 1956 and was a gracious host to many Hungarian students during their stay and studies in the United States.

The Paul Rupprecht Scholarship is given out by competition. Recipients of the Paul Rupprecht scholarship to date have been:

**Tyler Thompson**, Elk River, Minnesota, University of North Dakota, \$500;

**Annamária Török**, Babes-Bolyai University, Kolozsvár, Transylvania, \$500; and

**Jácinta Gábor**, Szeged, Hungary, Global Outreach Program, Chippewa Falls Wisconsin, \$500.

The board of the Minnesota Hungarians gives a report about the state of the scholarship fund yearly at the Annual Membership Meeting.

We want to grow the scholarship and continue providing financial assistance to Hungarian and Hungarian-American students in need. We appreciate your donations in any amount towards the Paul Rupprecht Scholarship. The names of supporters will appear in our yearly report.

Please make your check payable to the Minnesota Hungarians and write "Rupprecht Scholarship" in the memo line. Mail your check to George Bor, treasurer, 7707 20<sup>th</sup> Ave. N., Hugo, MN 55038.



**Mr. Paul Rupprecht**

*"I will put to good use the knowledge I take home with me from my time in the United States and will forever be thankful for my donors for this opportunity!"*  
— Jácinta Gábor

## Jácinta Gábor, Rupprecht Scholarship Recipient

The Minnesota Hungarians, the Communion of Hungarian Friends and several individuals supported **Jácinta Gábor** (originally from Gyimesfelsőlök, Transylvania, Romania and now from Szeged, Hungary) with her tuition in the 2005/06 school year.

Jácinta studied in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, after being accepted by the "Global Outreach" Catholic High

School Program for one academic year and lived with the **Kenneth and Peggy Nehring** family. The Nehrings attended several Minnesota Hungarians events with Jacinta. Jacinta's grades and final evaluations were outstanding. She returned to Szeged in July 2006 to finish her studies there. She has kept in contact with the Minnesota Hungarians via the Fülöps and has sent

news about her life and her achievements periodically.

Jácinta graduated from high school this May. She mailed her official invitation to the graduation ceremony with her graduation picture (see to the right) and a special thanks and gratitude to her generous donors. Jacinta is planning to go to college in Budapest. **Our congratulations and best wishes to her!**



**Jácinta Gábor**

**Jácinta's donors:** Minnesota Hungarians | Communion of Hungarian Friends | Communion of Hungarian Friends, Oregon | Communion of Hungarian Friends, Szeged | Dr. Louis Éltető | István Kovács | Dr. Károly & Kati Nagy | Miklós Csesznegi-Milvani | Ágnes & László Fülöp

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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.

## 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: George Bor, treasurer, 7707 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue N. Hugo, MN 55038.

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.

## Do You Have News to Share?

Send an email to [agnesmulvihill@yahoo.com](mailto:agnesmulvihill@yahoo.com). Your news will be published in our next issue. Your submission may be edited.

## Got an Idea for the Newsletter?

Send an email to [agnesmulvihill@yahoo.com](mailto:agnesmulvihill@yahoo.com). Your suggestions, ideas and articles are welcome in both languages. Submissions may be edited. If you would like to see this newsletter published in Hungarian, consider becoming a volunteer translator.

## Thank you!

Thank you to **Ágnes Fülöp**, **László Fülöp**, and **Al Nadosy** for contributing articles and materials to this issue of the Minnesota Hungarians e-newsletter. Special thanks to **Eszter Sági**, who helped with the artistic design and layout, and **Patrick Mulvihill**, who helped with editing the newsletter.