

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!

Minnesota Hungarians

e-Newsletter

Issue 3

November 2007

Member Spotlight: Lajos and Marika Mihó

by Al Nadosy

This is the second feature article honoring members of the Minnesota Hungarian Community.

Louie (Lajos) Mihó likes to cook. His heavenly goulash, freshly prepared on site, has been a regular highlight of the Minnesota Hungarian annual picnic for many years now. Most of you already know Louie—and his goulash. Or maybe you just think you do. Did you know, for example, that at the age of 17, he spent four brutal weeks of torture in the notorious AVO (Hungarian Secret Police) prison for being a freedom fighter in the 1956 Revolution?

Born just east of the Danube, in Sükösd, in south central Hungary, Lajos was raised and educated in Ujmajor. At the age of 14, he attended trade school to become a machinist and blacksmith.

When the '56 Revolution began, Louie became a part of it. For this he was jailed and tortured. After his release from the AVO prison, he escaped across the border to Yugoslavia, where he met up with his parents. Together, in August 30, 1957, they immigrated to the United States.

In New York City, Louie graduated from a technical high school in auto body repair. He married and, 30 years later, divorced. Visiting Hungary in the early 1990s, Lajos met Marika. And a lucky meeting it was: Louie brought Marika back to the U.S. with him, and they married five months later, in April 1992.

Marika was born and lived in Budapest until she met Lajos. As an adult in Budapest, she was a bookkeeper for Globusz Nyomda, a printing business. In Minnesota, Marika is a program counselor for a group home.



Lajos serving his delicious babgulyás...

She and Lajos have five children between them, all married.

Louie worked in the auto body repair business—his own and others—from 1963 until his retirement at age 62. Since then he has spent much of his time doing volunteer work.

We can only hope his volunteering includes feeding the crowds, hungry for his delectable goulash, at Minnesota Hungarian picnics for many more years to come. Thanks, Louie!

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Get Cooking!

The Minnesota Hungarians is pleased to announce its first Hungarian cookbook project.

We cordially invite you to contribute your favorite Hungarian recipes to be published in our cookbook. Our goal is to collect, promote, and spread, in Minnesota and in the United States, our favorite Hungarian

recipes and the delicacies of Hungarian cuisine. All recipes, whether traditional and non-traditional, (soups, pastries, main courses, desserts) are welcome!

Send your recipe before March 31, 2008, to the following e-mail address: mnhu@freemail.hu. Put "cookbook project" in the

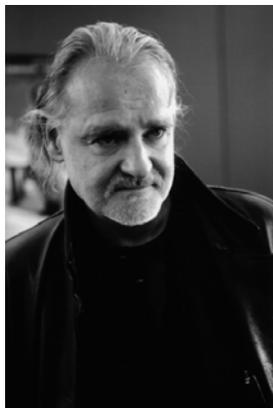
subject line. For complete instructions and guidelines for submission, please visit our website at: minnesotahungarians.onza.net.

A friendly reminder: The Minnesota Hungarians reserves the right to edit, publish, or delete submitted recipes.



Dohány Street synagogue in Budapest

**Hungarian
cultural
happenings
in and around
the
Twin Cities**



Béla Tarr visited Minneapolis in September

Jewish Humor and Popular Culture in Budapest

The twenty-third annual **Robert A. Kann Memorial Lecture** was held on Thursday, Sept. 20, at the University of Minnesota. Professor Mary Gluck's lecture examined the role of humor by and about Jews in Hungarian popular culture around 1900, including cabaret and humor magazines. It illustrated the sharp contrasts between the satire and social commentary permitted in popular culture and the strict limits and taboos of high culture. It also highlighted the creative tensions between the

official identities of rational citizenship, which liberal Jewish elites articulated, and the other, unofficial identities forged in the realm of urban popular culture.

Prof. Gluck was educated at the University of Toronto and Columbia University. She is a professor of history and comparative literature at Brown University. She has authored the books, *George Lukács and His Generation 1900—1918* (Harvard Univ. Press, 1985) and *Popular Bohemia: Modernism*

and *Urban Culture in Nineteenth Century Paris* (Harvard Univ. Press, 1995), as well as numerous articles and essays.

The lecture was sponsored by the University of Minnesota Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. Additional sponsors included the Center for Jewish Studies, the College of Liberal Arts, the Department of Cultural Studies and Comparative Literature, the Institute for Advanced Study, and the **Minnesota Hungarians**.

Hungarian Poetry Night

by **Csilla Grauzer**

It was a pleasure to welcome **Ildikó Kozsik**, poet and performer, to Minnesota earlier this August.

A major part of our mission as an organization is to maintain our Hungarian heritage, culture, and language, so it was a treat to listen to Ildiko's moving performance of contemporary Transylvanian poetry with

her beautiful and impressive use of our language.

Ildikó and her husband, József, have been traveling the world for the last ten years, performing with their puppetry art and poetry theater. They are tirelessly spreading Hungarian culture, Hungarian language, and Hungarian talent around the world, and we are deeply thankful for that.

We would also like to thank **Olga Zoltai** for her generosity in offering her Summit Avenue home for this memorable event.

Béla Tarr at the Walker

Award-winning Hungarian filmmaker and director **Béla Tarr** appeared in person at the Walker Art Center on Sept. 14, followed by a series of his films. Critics have characterized Tarr's work as remarkable and mesmerizing.

A self-proclaimed realist, Tarr makes films that capture the lives of working people in Hungary, showing both their struggles and their fundamental dignity.

His movies are known to most from art screenings and film festivals only. Perhaps that is because his movies break all Hollywood conventions—many of his films are black and white and one is over seven hours long.

His latest film, *The Man from London* (only 132 minutes), was shown in Minneapolis fresh from its screenings at the Cannes and Toronto film festivals. This film features Tilda

Swinton and is an adaptation of a Georges Simenon mystery about a man whose life changes after he witnesses a murder.

Other Tarr movies shown at the Walker were: *Family Nest* (*Családi tűzfészek*), *The Outside* (*Szabadgyalog*), *The Prefab People* (*Panelkapcsolat*), *Almanac of Fall* (*Őszi almanach*), *Damnation* (*Kárhozat*), *Werckmeister Harmonies* (*Werckmeister harmóniák*), *Machbet*, and *Satan-tango* (*Sátántangó*).

Don't miss Hungarian artist Bela Petheo's exhibit

by **Ágnes M. Fülöp**

The Great River Art Association's (GRAA) latest exhibit features the work of Hungarian artist **Bela Petheo** from 1954 through 2007.

This impressive display of paintings, drawings, prints and sketchbooks is a tribute to the artist's lifetime of achievement, showcasing Petheo's work through the various stages of his artistic development.

The exhibit is open until Dec. 29. The GRAA Arts Center Gallery is located at 122 1st Street SE, Little Falls,

Minnesota (320) 632-0960. Bela Petheo was born in 1934 in Budapest, Hungary, where he earned a master's degree in art history from Eotvos Lorant University followed by an assistantship at the Museum of Fine Arts under Andrew Pigler.

In 1957 he escaped the brutal Soviet occupation. While in Vienna, Austria, he was awarded a Rockefeller scholarship to study simultaneously at Karl Lueger University and the Academy of Fine Arts under Albert Paris Gutersloh. He also had brief contact with Oskar Kokoschka's "School of Seeing" at Salzburg.

In 1959 he immigrated to the United States with just \$32 to his name.

In 1963 he received his M.F.A. degree from the University of Chicago, where he studied under Joshua C. Taylor and Max Kahn. In 1966, after teaching in Chicago and Cedar Falls, Iowa, he joined the Art Department of St. John's University at Collegeville, Minnesota, where he retired in 1997 as Professor Emeritus.

Bela Petheo and his wife Kathy live in St. Cloud. Both are active members of the Minnesota Hungarians.



Bela Petheo's exhibit is open until Dec. 29 in Little Falls, Minnesota

Bela Petheo

"This impressive display of paintings, drawings, prints and sketchbooks is a tribute to the artist's lifetime of achievement"



MBK Conference at Lake Hope

by **Ágnes M. Fülöp**

The Minnesota Hungarians joined the Magyar Baráti Közösség (MBK)—Hungarian Communion of Friends—in 1990. As a member organization, the Minnesota Hungarians have worked with the MBK on several worthy projects during the past 17 years.

The MBK's annual gathering is held at Zaleski State Park, in Lake Hope, Ohio. This is a week-long conference and vacation. For many years, the Minnesota Hungarians have invited and hosted MBK guest lecturers and performers in the Twin Cities, who travel the U.S. following the MBK's annual conference.

Our guests whose performances are held mostly at the Zoltai mansion (generously offered by the Zoltais) have

been:

- **Dénes Csegey**, Parliamentarian, Budapest, Hungary, 1990.
- **Sándor Csoóri**, writer and poet, and **Dr. Julia Balogh**, historian, Budapest, Hungary, 1991.
- **Kinga Illyés** actress and reciter of literature, and **Jozsef Heincz** musician, Kolozsvár, Transylvania, Romania, 1992.
- **Lajos Kántor**, writer, Transylvania, Romania, 1993. **Sándor Gaál**, poet, writer, Kassa, Slovakia, 1994.
- **László Marácz**, writer, historian, professor, Amsterdam, Holland, 1995.
- **Gábor Tarján**, researcher and professor of Hungarian Folk Customs and History, Budapest/New York, 1996.
- **Ferenc Mózsi**, poet, Chicago, and **István Pálincás**, poet, Budapest, Hungary, 1999.

- **Sándor Milován**, politician, vice president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Sub-Carpathian, Beregszász, Ukraine, 2001.
- **József Jankovics**, historian of Hungarian literature, member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 2002.
- **Idikó Kozsik** actress, reciter of literature, Marosvásárhely, Transylvania, Romania, 2007.

The one-week MBK program includes lectures and presentations in Hungarian during the morning sessions. At the same time, for English-speaking participants, there are a variety of thought-provoking presentations in English on topics ranging from Hungarian culture to global relations.

The youth group also has horseback riding, canoeing and

...continues on page 4



Ferenc Mózsi
(1947-2007)

In Memoriam...

by **Ágnes M. Fülöp**

It was with sorrow that we received the news that on Nov. 6, 2007, the poet **Ferenc Mózsi** passed away in Budapest, Hungary. He was 60 years old.

Feri, as everyone called him, founded and edited the Hungarian literary magazine and

artistic review *Szivárvány* (*Rainbow*). He published more than 10 volumes of poetry during his lifetime. At the 1984 World Congress of Poetry in Marrakech, Morocco, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Poetry.

Beside his literary work, he was head of Sebok Travel Services in Chicago and worked as an

active member of the Magyar Baráti Közösség (Hungarian Communion of Friends). Ferenc Mózsi visited the Minnesota Hungarians in 1999 as a keynote speaker for our annual commemoration of Oct. 23, 1956.

We will remember him as a good friend, a talented writer and loyal Hungarian-American.

News From Our Members

Hungarian-Canadian Professor **Nandor F. Dreisziger** will soon be publishing a volume of his biographical and historical essays entitled *Hungarians: from Ancient Times to 1956* (Ottawa: Legas Books, 2007). Also in the works is a volume of essays (by others) about 1956 in Hungary.

Volunteering Pays Off...

Longtime board member, **Rozy Nemeth**, gave the Minnesota Hungarians 144 hours of her time this year. Rozy's company, General Casualty, donated \$1 for every hour Rozy volunteered and sent us a check for \$144. Thanks, Rozy!



MBK Conference—cont'd from page 3

dancing programs. For the younger kids, there is Hungarian daycare all morning, a service that includes programs for children to learn Hungarian songs, games, and poems.

The afternoons are free. Attendees can visit the beautiful Lake Hope beach, go hiking, watch movies, or just relax and chat with friends.

In the evenings there is always entertainment. Wednesday evenings are reserved for a picnic with bonfire, cooking in a kettle, barbeque, roast on the spit, and an impromptu program with joke-telling and singing.

Ágnes M. Fülöp (MBK Council Member and Minnesota Hungarians liaison to MBK) and **László Fülöp** (former president of MBK) have been attending this annual event since 1990. They always warmly invite members of the Minnesota Hungarians to join them.

This year **George Bor** accompanied the Fülöps on the long drive to Ohio. Every mile of the journey proved worth it, as he participated in every program and made numerous new friends.

One year **Dezső and Ella Ács**, and **László and Katalin Mezei** and their children,

Betty Belanger and **Judith Oberfrank**, visited the Lake Hope gathering.

Rezső Gracza, as an individual member of MBK, has also regularly attended the conference in recent years and has become a respected member of the group of friends. **Paul Rupprecht** was also an active MBK member and frequent attendee of this event.

For more information, visit the website of the Hungarian Communion of Friends at www.mbk.org



Pictures from the MBK Conference at Lake Hope, Aug. 11–18, 2007

Minnesota Partnership with Hungary in Infection Control

By Barbara Bor

In 1995, the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) Minnesota became aware of a small group of infection control professionals (ICPs) from Hungary who were interested in establishing themselves in the field of infection prevention and control.

This discovery was the result of a little serendipity: on a long business flight a Minnesota ICP just happened to be seated next to a Hungarian quality-assurance expert who hoped to start a professional organization in the infection control field. By 1999, the two had worked together to form the Magyar Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology. In that same year, **APIC Minnesota** began the formal Sister Chapter relationship with Hungary.

This relationship has centered on activities that increase global cooperation in epidemiology and management of diseases and infections. As we have identified opportunities for cooperative work and visited each other's countries, mem-

bers have become motivated and empowered to share beyond themselves. We have learned that even though our countries can be very different, our day-to-day issues are much the same.

Most years it is typical for delegates to attend conferences hosted by a sister chapter or spend time working collaboratively in the other's facilities.

The Minnesota APIC has also shared its Basic Infection Control course content with the Hungarian sister chapter, which was adopted there after adjustments were first made for the Hungarian hospital environment. This was the first infection control course to be offered for nurses, microbiologists, and hospital hygiene specialists anywhere in Eastern Europe. When our Hungarian colleagues came to Minnesota for training, **Gayle Gilmore, BSN, MS (Duluth)** and I helped teach them the three-day course on developments and best practices in the field. Attendees gave excellent evaluation ratings on this course, which is now self-sustaining in Hungary.



Minnesota APIC members in Budapest

“We learned that our countries can be very different, but our day-to-day issues are much the same”

Hungary Hosts Infection Control Congress

8th Congress of the International Federation of Infection Control

By Barbara Bor



Budapest, Hungary
18 - 21 October 2007

The Eighth Congress of the **International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC)**, held in Budapest between October 18 and 21, 2007, is now a wonderful memory. Budapest was a particularly fitting venue for this conference, as it was

the home of Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis, a pioneer in the field of infection control who was known as the “Father of Handwashing” and the “Savior of Mother and Children”.

It was such a thrill to have APIC Minnesota members spend time with their Hungarian counterparts, who have become dear friends during previous exchanges. Also attending were the National APIC President, International Chair and Chief Executive Officer, and several well-known speakers

from the United States. The scientific sessions at this conference were excellent. Many parts of the world are doing excellent interventions to improve the infection control in their communities. The social programming of the conference was also fantastic, from József Balog, pianist playing the Hungarian Rhapsody at the Opening Ceremony to the Gala Dinner Cruise on the Danube River—including an orchestra, and a magician. To our Hungarian colleagues we say, “Köszönöm szépen!” and best wishes on your continued success!

The **Minnesota Hungarians’** generous contribution allowed 45 nurses and hygienists to attend the Congress by covering their conference fee. The conference fee would not have been affordable to these Hungarian nurses and hygienists otherwise. Funds from the Minnesota Hungarians were also used to provide the nurses with a translator device so the lectures and presentations could be translated to Hungarian live during the conference.



Rozy Nemeth (middle) and Anna Nemeth (right) volunteered at the 2007 IFIC Conference in Budapest



Ágnes and László Fülöp were each recognized with the President's Award

The President's Award goes to...

By Agnes Mulvihill

Every year at our Annual Members' Meeting, it is tradition for the president of the Minnesota Hungarians to recognize one or two special members or friends of the Minnesota Hungarians community with the President's Award.

The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the Minnesota Hungarians or to the broader Hungarian heritage and culture. The award was initiated in 1996 by **Tibor Zoltai**, then president. Recent past recipients included Professor Albert Tezla, Dr. Géza

Simon, and the Vidéki Dancers.

This year at our November annual meeting, current president, **Csilla Grauzer**, presented the President's Award to **Ágnes M. Fülöp** and **László Fülöp** for their generous and tireless work on behalf and for the Minnesota Hungarians over many, many years.

The contributions of the **Fülöps** have been many—too many to list here in their entirety; however, chief among them were building relationships with other Hungarian American organizations, expanding the public relations of

the Minnesota Hungarians, enhancing relations between the United States and Hungary, promoting the NATO alliance, carrying on our cultural traditions, including the Hungarian exhibit at the Festival of Nations, and generously and consistently participating in our fundraising and cultural activities.

Both have served in leadership roles of the Minnesota Hungarians for decades—most recently, Ágnes as president and László as secretary. We owe our gratitude to these two outstanding individuals for performing exemplary work for our organization.



Tamás Szinyei has been an active board member since 2004

Board Member Spotlight: Tamás Szinyei

By Al Nadosy

You elect them. But do you really know them—the officers and board members who give freely of their time and resources, who work hard to provide a community framework for those of us of Hungarian ancestry in Minnesota? With this issue, we are introducing a column highlighting leaders of the Minnesota Hungarians. Our very first spotlight honors our webmaster, Tamás Szinyei.

Tamás Szinyei, scientist and man of many interests, likes challenges: besides accepting the daunting task of reorganizing and maintaining our Minnesota Hungarian website, he seldom shies away from controversy, lending his rational, often unique, insight to many of our board meeting discussions.

Born in Budapest, Tamás, grew up in Mátramindszent (on the north side of the Mátra Moun-

tains, about two hours drive northeast of Budapest) and Hatvan (about 60 km east of Budapest).

Interested in aeronautics (among many other things), Tamás became a certified airplane mechanic and worked at Budapest's Ferihegy International Airport before earning a four year biology and chemistry teaching degree at Eötvös Loránt Science University. He came to the U.S. first in 1998 as a college exchange student and later returned to travel extensively throughout the country.

The Minnesota Agricultural Student Trainee program brought Tamás to the University of Minnesota's Plant Pathology Department in 2002. The department hired him as a junior scientist in 2003. He became part of a research team, looking for wild barley varieties that, through cross breeding, can be used to impart fungal disease resistance to

domesticated varieties, that would otherwise be decimated by those diseases. Programs, such as the one Tamás is involved with, are immensely important, because fungal diseases change rapidly from season to season. Left unchecked, these diseases would be disastrous for all the communities that depend upon the grains they infect.

Tamás loves airplanes. He flew gliders in Hungary, and one of his hobbies is building and flying remote control aircraft. He loves to build and repair computers. He obviously knows something about building and maintaining websites too, because he offered to revive our nearly dormant website in 2004 and he's been our webmaster ever since. But he still prefers spending his time outdoors, traveling, biking, hiking, jogging, wind surfing, and skiing in all its forms. I did say Tamás was a man of many interests, didn't I!

Visit us at
<http://minnesotahungarians.onza.net>

Christmas is almost here...

It is rumored that Télapó (also known as Mikulás) will be coming to the Twin Cities and will visit us at the Hungarian Christmas Party on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 3 p.m. at Warrandale Presbyterian Church. If you have a child that would like to participate in the **Christmas Program** by singing a song, playing an instrument, or reciting a poem, please call Agnes Mulvihill (Ági) at (651) 228-1810, or email her at agnesmulvihill@yahoo.com.



Got Kids? Join the Kids' Club!

To find out about the next **Hungarian Kids' Club** event, sign up for the email distribution list by contacting 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 a Hungarian map "treasure hunt", circle time and Hungarian language class, the making of kerchiefs with a Hungarian motif, a summer pool party and a visit to the historical Oliver H. Kelley farm. Every get-together starts with the Hungarian National Anthem. Social time and snacks are also part of the meetings.



Summer pool party and lángos sütés (flatbread frying) at Ágnes and Kamesh Aysola's house

Fall Fundraising Dinner a Great Success!

Our annual Fall Fundraising Dinner was held on Saturday, Nov. 17, at Unity Unitarian Church in Saint Paul. More than 120 members and non-members participated in the event. The menu included Transylvanian goulash, mushroom paprikash, Hungarian sausage, potatoes with parsley butter, and delicious Hungarian and American desserts. Many thanks to **Csilla Grauzer** (chief chef and organizer) and all the volunteers for helping with this event! Funds raised at the dinner will support our various charitable activities this year and in 2008.

Vidéki Hungarian Dancers

The International Folk Cabaret will feature the **Vidéki Hungarian Dancers** as one of six folk dancing groups at Patrick's Cabaret, on Friday, Dec. 7 and on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Reservations at tickets@patrickscabaret.org. Everyone is welcome!

Plan Ahead!

Here are our upcoming events:

- **Hungarian Christmas** – Sunday, **Dec. 9**, Warrendale Presbyterian Church, St. Paul
- **Táncház** (Hungarian Dance Party) – Saturday, **Jan. 12**, 2008, Unity Unitarian Church, St. Paul
- **Soon-to-be Spring Dinner** – Saturday, **Feb. 23**, 2008, Unity Unitarian Church, St. Paul

Congratulations
to our new
board members
Lisa Torvik,
Timea Takács,
Éva Kish,

to our new
Youth Coordinator,
Rachel Bryant,

and to our
new officers,
Marika Vincze
Kubányi,
vice president

and
Erzsi Nemeth,
treasurer!

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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, educational and health-related endeavors, to promote American and Hungarian exchange programs in education and in commerce, to assist Hungarian visitors to the United States, to observe Hungarian holidays, and to celebrate special events.

Become a Member!

Your membership fees are tax deductible. Only dues-paying members enjoy the right to vote in elections and financial matters. 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 20th 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. 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. 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 **Al Nadosy, Barbara Bor, Tamás Szinyei, Ágnes Fülöp, László Fülöp,** and **Csilla Grauzer** 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.

Your Friendly Editor,
Agnes Mulvihill