

Winter 2011



**Hungarian-American Club of
New Mexico
P.O. Box 3454
Albuquerque, NM 87190
www.hacnm.org**

**2012 Upcoming
Events:**

Children of Glory
Movie
January 15

1848 Revolution
March 11

Picnic
to be decided

St. Stephen's Day
August 12

You are cordially invited to join
The *Hungarian* Community for our *MIKULAS*
German-American Club on Sunday
December 4, 2011, 1-5 pm
4821 Menaul Blvd, Albuquerque
Please bring a dessert to share (homemade
appreciated), and we'll serve Hungarian Pizza.
Santa will have treats for kids. We'll have a
short program and socializing. **FREE ENTRY**

"Children of Glory" is a Hungarian movie with subtitles,
which will be shown on January 15.

at the Copper Canyon Restaurant Back Room,
5455 Gibson SE, across from the old Lovelace Hospital complex.

The showing will be at 1:30 pm.

Please come for lunch or desserts at that time or before.

Copper Canyon Restaurant has a great variety of southwestern and
other types of food, very reasonable prices and a nice environment.

Hope to see you there.

Greetings from the President

by Anna (Panni) Powless

Greetings fellow Hungarians, szervusztok. As the weather is turning colder I fondly remember our August event when in spite of the whirling fans we had a hard time keeping cool. There were about 50 of us who were there to commemorate the first king of Hungary, Istvan. We also enjoyed the palacsinta that was made by volunteers for this day.

I want to thank all of you who filled out a short survey about the club. Your responses told us that we are on the right track and should continue as we have been but also has us looking into bringing in some new activities such as travel slide shows and wine/food tasting events. You may like to know that most everyone enjoys coming because of reconnecting with good friends, connecting to their roots, and to enjoy favorite Hungarian dishes. Many people also said that they liked listening to Hungarian poems and stories even when they did not understand it that well.

Our October get-together and remembrance of 1956 revolution was attended by 50+ peo-

ple. It seemed we all had a good time with pleasant conversation and great food, this time a wonderful dish of Transylvanian cabbage. We remembered and saluted all our members who actively participated in the 1956 Revolution. Bea recited a poignant poem. Nancy and Pityu have given a slide show of their trip to Budapest and Pecs, in Hungary. Thanks also to all of you who chipped in to set up and clean up for the event. As many of our members travel all over the world, perhaps we can travel with them with slide shows of other lands.

About 40 people – club members and friends – attended a concert by the Keskeny Ferenc Hungarian gypsy band at the Outpost. We are hoping to schedule other events like this in the future at an earlier time in the afternoon so more of you can attend. Which reminds me that on January 15 we plan to show the movie “Children of Glory” at the Copper Canyon Restaurant. It will be a great opportunity to have lunch or dessert with friends and then watch a movie together. So please come.

The international reputation of Hungary in today's Europe

By Rita Palinkas, Rezler Scholar

In history, Hungary typically has been struggling with a kind of isolation from the other European countries, such as some of the Western and Slavic countries. This small country has always been an island in the middle of Europe, and has had to work hard to maintain its existence in the “sea of the surrounding nations”. But it's certain, that Hungary has gained a good reputation by its magnificent creative minds (like the Nobel-Prize winner Albert Szent-Györgyi and Gyorgy Olah, among many others), and by its delicious gastronomy. Moreover, in the 1990's, the country has been considered as a future leading economic power of the region, thanks to its

positive economic outlook after the regime-change (rendszer váltás).

In the first half of this year, Hungary held the rotating President position of the Council of the European Union. This was an important thing, because a European country gets this 6 month-long possibly in only every 10-15 years, and this has been the first occasion for Hungary. Being in this role has brought a notable spotlight to the country in European politics and media. Europe watched with great interest and also concern, how will our politically divided country handle this meaningful task in the middle of the change of government). But Hungary has performed above expectations. The work of the Hungarian Presidency went smoothly and we have earned an international recognition by introducing one of the strongest programs of the previous years

and also the great achievements in the field of Enlargement politics and European Roma Policy. The well-earned recognition did a great good for Hungary's current reputation among the European Union, even though the country has received much criticism about some of its internal political decisions in the previous year. This was the constitutional amendments, implemented by the new government, especially the new Media Law. This caused a big resonance in the European Parliament, even among the European big brother parties of the Fidesz. The governmental control on all of the media channels, and leaving out the "republic" word from the official name of Hungary in the new Constitution have aroused suspicion for an antidemocratic direction of the Hungarian government. The main British, French and German newspapers have pictured Hungary as being the new rising dictatorship of Europe, ignoring the framework of democracy, and where extremist views are becoming dominant.

Again, it caused no sympathy, how the government handled the international critics, by giving the appearance of being indifferent in the eye of the international media.

Weather the western media is right or not is up for debate. Numerous pros and cons can be brought up on either side, but the strong labels about Hungary are highly questionable. Due to the limited space I could not give a detailed explanation from each side, but wanted to introduce a brief glimpse, of what we could read in the international media about Hungary in the previous year.

By now, the first waves of criticism have been settled after the successful fulfillment of our presidential duties, but new concerns are arising about the instability of our economy and currency. So, we will see how our quickly changing international reputation will look like in the next years. Will it gain its well-deserved position back in the European palette? We truly hope for the best.

The "Tüke" Phenomena.

Molnár Dániel

As Steve Borbás asked me to write something to this newsletter, I started to think about the issues that I'm familiar with. Sadly I found that none of these fits the spirit of Christmas, so I decided to continue the tour that was started by Nancy and Steve at the celebration of October 23rd. I became really happy as I heard them speaking about my chosen hometown. I think that Pécs is worth of a few more sentences, as it has so many things to give for both temporary and permanent inhabitants.

Let's start with the title of this article! The word "tüke" comes from "szőlőtöke" (grapevine), meaning originally those people, who own a press house at the hills of Mecsek and who are residents of Pécs since at least three generations. Nowadays the rules aren't so strict; it's enough to have some connection to the city, and the will to work for it. The term "Tüke Phenomena" was borrowed from a partly-documentary movie, in which notable people are talking about the specialties of Pécs. If you understand spoken Hungarian language, it's worth to watch it. You can

watch the entire movie at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UeO3ZKKhME>

Pécs touches not only filmmakers, but musicians also. Our city gave several artists for the pop industry of today, here are a few of them:

Kispál és a Borz – maybe the most important alternative band of the years after the change of regime. The following song was recorded in Pécs, where they celebrated their 20th birthday. Featuring folk music band is Csík zenekar, who play an important role in bringing back folk tunes to popular culture.

30Y – another important rock band of Pécs that has a singer, who is a colleague at the Faculty of Humanities. This song (Mecseki sétányok – Promenades of the Mecsek) was written for the University of Pécs:

Punnany Massif - a hip-hop group that exists for several years, but became known nationwide only during the last times. This video is worth to watch even if you don't understand the lyrics, you'll find some really nice pictures in it: While the above mentioned cultural elements can

be seen (and maybe enjoyed) from home, there are lots of interesting things in Pécs, which require a personal visit. For example, here is the favorite building of many students: the Tudásközpont (Knowledge Center) is among the best libraries in Hungary, while it has some really thought-provoking architectural components. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ngA2p51LSI> This library was built as result of the Cultural Capital of Europe 2010 title. The other important

building that was created in this period, was voted a few weeks ago to be the Building of Year 2010 in Hungary. It's called Kodály Központ, which is among the best sounding concert halls of the country. <http://bit.ly/uLkvPg>

I hope you enjoyed this short tour. Christmas is also the beginning of creating plans for the next year. I'm sure that several readers come to Hungary in 2012. And if you are there, Pécs is just two hours from Budapest...

Let us meet there!

Papa

Papa is a beautiful, small town in Vesztoprem County, north of Lake Balaton, surrounded by the Bakony Mountains and the Little Hungarian Plain, and near the cities of Győr and Vesztoprem. Of its more than 30,000 residents, many are of German, Polish and Gypsy ethnicity.

The area has been populated since the Stone Age. A cemetery of Celts and Romans was discovered, as well as Avar settlements from the 6th century. Later, the Slovenes lived in the area, calling the settlement Tapolca.

It became a town in 1061, later ruled by the Garai family. The Lords of Hungary convened by King Sigismund met in Papa, and fortified the town. During the Turkish War (1525-1699), Papa became an important border fortress. The Ottomans besieged it many times

over the next 150 years and captured it in 1683.

In the 1700s, Papa joined the Prince Rákóczi Independence War, but fell to the Hapsburg Army, which burnt down the town. In the rebuilding, Karoly Eszterhazy constructed his castle. The town joined into the 1848 Revolution and its leaders were imprisoned afterwards.

The town grew quickly in the 19th and 20th centuries. Because of its airfield, much of it was bombed during WWII. Nearby villages (Borsosgyőr, Kettőnyulak and Tapolcafa) were incorporated into Papa in the late 70s. The Calvinist School graduated many well-known Hungarians, like Mór Jókai and Sándor Petőfi. The main tourist attractions are the baths, new sports center in the Castle Garden and a five star, very large camping facility. The town hosts numerous festivals and markets.

Comments made by police officers.

"If you take your hands off the car, I'll make your birth certificate a worthless document."

"You don't know how fast you were going? I guess that means I can write anything I want to on the ticket?"

"Yes, sir, you can talk to the shift supervisor, but I don't think it will help. Oh, did I mention that I'm the shift supervisor?"

"Warning! You want a warning? O.K, I'm warning you not to do that again or I'll give you another ticket."

"In God we trust; all others we run through NCIC." (National Crime Information Center)

RICE SQUARES. (Rizs Koch)

5 cups of milk

1 cup of heavy cream

1 1/2 cups of long-grain rice, uncooked

1/4 teaspoon of salt

4 egg yolks

1/2 cup of sugar 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract

Grated rind of 1 lemon

6 tablespoons of butter, melted

1/3 cup of sifted confectioner's sugar

1 cup of fruit preserves

Balloon Fiesta Memories

by Joan Shaw

The telephone rang in my office in the language department at the university on a sunny early fall day back in 1982. I answered routinely, "This is Joan." The voice on the other end said, "This is State Senator Tom Rutherford. I need an interpreter for the Hungarian Balloon Team who will be coming next month for the Fiesta. It will be the first time an Iron Curtain country will be represented in the US and it's important that everything go smoothly. Bubbling with enthusiasm, I said, "How about me?" The senator was delighted that his search ended so quickly and I was thrilled to become a part of the unique festivities. The team was sponsored by McDonald's and Coca Cola and put up at the Albuquerque Hilton. Most of their expenses, including the transport of the gondola and all the balloon equipment were paid by the two companies. I was a volunteer. The team would arrive with two pilots, an assistant, and the team manager, Gizella Porazik from Budapest. Several members of the Hungarian Club and I went to the airport to greet them. They were happy to encounter Hungarian speakers right away, especially since none of them spoke much English. We whisked them to their hotel and thus began twelve days of intense euphoric activity. Dinners with local political figures, television appearances, endless photographs, parties at private homes, local shopping trips ("WalMart" was a favorite), and, of course, a big party thrown by the Hungarian Club. The two pilots were rather shy and were slightly unnerved because the weather was so bad the first three days, they were unable to fly. Gizella kept their spirits up with her good humor and charm. She was an accomplished business woman and saw this visit as a golden opportunity to put Hungary on the American commercial map. The young assistant, Misi, did not seem to serve any specific function. According to Gizi, he was the "publicity man". It turned out later he was the accompanying KGB agent to the group. When, at last, it was clear that they would go up, it was necessary to check the balloon to make sure there were no tears or holes. Where could one do this in Albuquerque? I was hard-pressed to come up with an area large enough for all that material. Necessity is the mother of invention, so the night before flight I took everyone to the parking lot on the south side of American Furniture on Carlisle Blvd. and there, at sunset, Gizzy and the boys spread out the balloon on the ground. It took up most of the parking area, which is

huge. Gizzy took out her sewing kit and began mending. Soon the police arrived.

"What's going on here?" we were asked. I answered as authoritatively as I could that this had to be done, it was the Hungarian team, there were international consequences, etc. The officer shook his head and drove off in dismay, a faint smile on his face. It was during that first visit that I learned about ballooning: You braved the traffic to the old Balloon Park at 3am, made sure the pilots understood the briefing every morning about flight rules, restrictions (no flying over military zones, no landing on private property) and, most importantly, weather conditions. When the balloon went up in all its glory, you basked in the beauty and grace of its movement for a few moments. Then you made a mad dash in a truck as part of the chase crew and followed the balloon to whatever part of town it seemed to want to land in. One morning it landed in the North Valley, on an old Hispanic man's ranch. The rancher, who spoke very little English, was furious that it frightened his chickens and he feared they would not lay eggs. It took some major multi-lingual convincing to get out of that sticky situation. In the end, the rancher calmed down, as did the pilots, who were afraid of having broken the rules.

The Hungarians came to the Fiesta every year for five years. Each year, the group grew larger since Gizzy brought more and more merchants with her. One year, the Customs Office at the Albuquerque airport would not release the gondola because it was full of salami which Gizzy had brought to sell. Finally, after three days, Senator Rutherford interceded and the gondola was released with a limited amount of salami which was distributed mostly as gifts. The merchants came with embroidery, leather goods, clothing, souvenir items, and paprika. One year, a cigarette manufacturer came with a crate of Hungarian cigarettes. It was the beginning of the era of no-smoking in the States. The poor fellow became very depressed when he did not sell a single cigarette. The size of the enterprise grew so large that I had to arrange for the rental of store space in the Tinnin Antique Mall on Central Avenue. I have fond memories of those years with the balloonists. My aunt and I traveled to Hungary one year and Gizzy and her husband and family gave us a warm reception and showed us a wonderful time. Just as good as they had when they were in Albuquerque.

TÁTRAI SZÉP NAPOK.

Borbás Gyula

Ó be szép is a nyaralás
S szép a Tátra, Istenem!
Az ernyőmet a kupéból
Elvitte egy idege,

Egy poprádi jó ebédre
Fentük már a fogakat
S szerviroztak pisztráng helyett
Pesti bűdös halakat

Kocsin másztunk Csorbatóra;
Gyönyörű volt az utun!
De mire a hegyre értünk
Ketté tört a derekunk.

Tüdéri szép tájat nézni
Ide jöjjön a magyar!
Bár előlünk pont épp máma
Elverte egy zivatar.

Lomnicra már gyalog mentünk,
Izzadt rajtunk gatyá, ing
S mire lassan odaértünk,
Kiloptak a nyelveink.

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Istvan "Steve" Simko

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

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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.