



MAGYAR STUDIES OF AMERICA  
**MAGYAR NEWS**  
ONLINE  
January 2008

**BOLDOG ÚJ ÉVET! HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

**Pohár Köszöntő**

Palócz Endre

Nem is volnánk magyarok, ha nem vennénk lírába,  
Mikor szónkat fordítjuk az elhagyott hazára.  
No, hogy én is magyar vagyok, meghalljátok rögtön,  
Mert biz én a mai estén ily szókkal köszöntöm:

Idegenben isszuk mi a magyar földnek véréit.  
Bárcsak inkább dolgozhatnánk jó magyar kenyérért!  
No, de ha már másként történt, s ránk szállott a bánat,  
Igyunk boldog jövőjére édes, szép hazánknak!

**"PRAISE THE LORD, O MY SOUL"**

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF

**Rt. Rev. JOHN BUTOSI, Pastor and Bishop Emeritus**  
**United Church of Christ, Bridgeport, CT**  
AN INTRODUCTION

The writing of this autobiography was originally undertaken at the request of my family. They wanted to know more about me in *English*. Unfortunately they do not read and understand Hungarian. Knowing well that our life and character are largely shaped and formed by the hereditary factors – in addition to environment, learning and the grace of God – in 2005 I obeyed the request of my loved ones. Thus this is strictly personal writing in scope. It is not an attempt to write history from a church or Diaspora viewpoint, but rather an attempt to trace God's wonderful work in my life and ministry.

This is why the title is a quotation from Psalm 103, which so

drastically changed my life: "Praise the Lord, O my soul!" Originally I planned to use the first few verses of this Psalm in three separate volumes (I. Forget not all his benefits, II. "Renewed like the eagles," III. Crowning with love), however other factors changed my mind, as I will explain.

I think that some explanation is needed in regard to the photographs. Originally

we did not want to use them on account of financial consideration. But when we learned that properly

prepared photographs (what we can do) would not add significant expenses, we gladly took advantage of the opportunity of making the autobiography "illustrated". However, we emphasize that policy remains the same as with the text: only those photographs are used which has *personal* significance to the author.

*John Butosi*

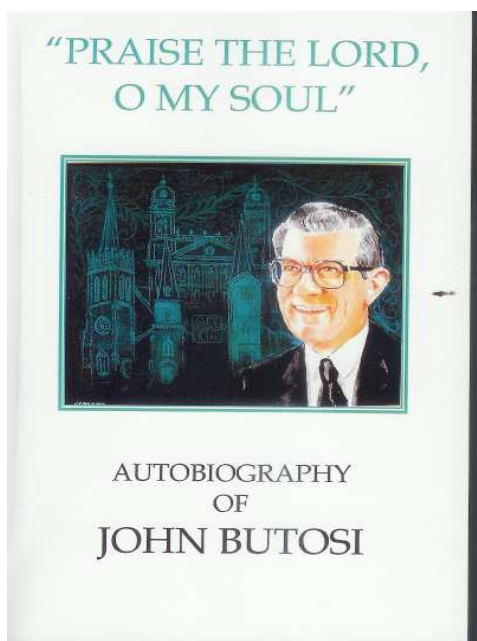
*In future issues of MNO we will include excerpts of reverend Butosi's autobiography*

**A Picnic at Huntington**

By Robert Kranyik

The December issue of Magyar News Online carried the heartwarming story of the 2007 Rockefeller Center Christmas tree, which was planted by Hungarian-Americans and harvested and donated to Rockefeller Center by other Hungarian Americans. The tree grew in the village of Huntington, a part of the town of Shelton, Connecticut, and its story was conveyed by Mr. Joseph Rivnyak and by our Editor-in-Chief, Mr. Joseph Balogh.

Huntington, and the Town of Shelton in which it is located, were home to other Hungarian-American farmers as well. In the first half of the





*Beginning with the top row, the man directly to the right of man with the hat was Frank ("Feri") Balint, my wife's great uncle. The last woman on the right in the second row, her hands folded in her lap, was Katherine (Katalin) Serilla Balint, my wife's*

twentieth century, farmland in Connecticut was still affordable, and so some of our forebears moved from places like Bridgeport, Connecticut and Western Pennsylvania to the rocky, partly forested farm country of Shelton, Trumbull, Easton, and Fairfield.

On our dining room walls, Louise and I have hanging a collection of very special ancestral photographs. Each time our family gets together around the table they are surrounded by images of past generations of mostly Hungarian-Americans to whom we owe so much.

One of my favorite photographs is a very idyllic picnic scene which

shows a group of people posing in a rural setting. It looks like they had been having a great time relaxing, eating, drinking and dancing. Apparently, the photographer called them together and had them assemble in rows to have their picture taken. The expressions, the perspective, the clothes and the musical instruments all contribute to the very special quality of this photo.

The photo was taken in the early part of the twentieth century by Mr. Kovacs, the owner of the Kovacs Studio, 376 Pine Street, in the West End of Bridgeport, Connecticut. This accounts for its quality, composition, and professionalism. Perhaps one reason he took the photo was that his daughter was in it. The

woman in the center of the middle row, with the upswept hair was the photographer's daughter.

The young man at left, with the violin in hand (and how can you have a Hungarian picnic without a violin?) was Gus Zavory. The young lady at the top right was also named Zavory. The man with beer bottle in hand, wearing a plumed hat stands out, but unfortunately, we do not know his name. The same is true of several others in the photograph, there are still others whose names I do know, and whom I knew in real life.

## A Hungarian Contribution to Youth Music

Joseph F. Balogh



To be honest, I am pretty much lost when it comes to today's youth music, and to the electronic instruments and gadgets that are used to find and listen to that music. I have recently learned that Hungarians have had something to do with it. They have figured out the "ice>Link Plus" process that makes it now possible to set up the Apple iPod in a car.

A Hungarian company, Dension Audio Systems Kft., developed the system and is manufacturing it. The kit contains components, including cables and software, and it can be integrated into the original sound system of the car. It also makes it possible to use all of the functions of either the Dension System or the original car system. On the display window, one can see the name of the performer, the title of the piece, and the length of the selection. The radio controls in the car can be used to manage the system. One just has to push this button or the other, or to push it once or twice, who knows what! It is handy no matter whether you are driving an Alfa Romeo, a Volkswagen, or something ready for the junk heap. In appearance, it blends with the Apple iPod styling.

The advantage of the new system is that one does not have to deal with extra buttons, making for safer driving. On the other hand, we will probably hear more blasting music from now on, probably affecting the safety of driving. I am sure that the youth will grab onto it as they do most new gadgets, but will probably forget the connection to Hungarians.

## The Peacock Revisited: Centennial of Domján József's Birth

by Erika Papp Faber

This year marks the centennial of the birth of the artist Domján József, who achieved fame not so much for his modernistic paintings, as for his colored woodcuts. Best known are his large-scale variations on the peacock, a bird that figures prominently in Hungarian folklore.

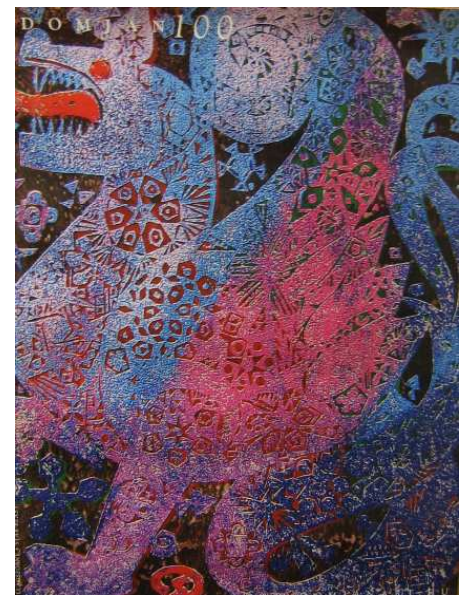


*The Peacock*

Born in 1907, he obtained his degree at the Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest. He received several prizes for his works, including China's prestigious "Master of Colored Woodcuts" prize, presented only once every hundred years! He presented a number of one-man shows in various countries, on four continents. Today, his works are included in the permanent collections of hundreds of museums around the world.

Domján left Hungary with his wife, Evelyn – an artist in her own right – and their three children after the Freedom Fight of 1956, and eventually settled in Tuxedo Park, NY, where he established his atelier. He died in 1992. Evelyn, now in her 80's, is very buoyant and cheerful, eager to talk about her husband's work, and of their life together. She has kept his paints and workbench as he had them, and many of his and Evelyn's paintings are hung in the spacious rooms. One door is composed entirely of wood blocks he had used for making prints. The home is not open to the public.

In the early 1960's, he illustrated his book "Hungarian Heroes and Legends" with black-and-white woodcuts. (That book provides an excellent compendium of Hungarian history, art and culture, and presents a less-well-known facet of Domján's artistry.)



*The Dragon*



Evelyn Domjan April 2007  
Passaic, NJ exhibit

In connection with the centennial, exhibits have been mounted in Budapest and Sárospatak, to introduce Domján József's art in Hungary, where he is not as well known as in the West, or in China and Japan. Exhibits were also held at the Cleveland (OH) Hungarian Heritage Museum and the American Hungarian Museum in Passaic, NJ. The exhibit at the Museum of the American Hungarian Foundation in New Brunswick, NJ runs through March 1, 2008.

## Roasted lemon chicken breast

recipe from Eliz

4 chicken breast, skinned, boned, and split in half

1 clove garlic, pressed

1 cup Italian flavored bread crumbs (or plain)

¼ cup butter

¼ cup freshly squeezed lemon juice

Melt butter in 8 inch baking dish. Add pressed garlic. Flatten chicken breasts, and roll in bread crumbs. Place chicken in baking dish and bake on 350° for 30minutes, basting occasionally. Sprinkle with lemon juice and bake an additional 15 minutes.

Serve with cooked rice.

## Locker Room Linguistics

*By Robert Kranyik*

Mrs. Kranyik and I regularly work out at the University of Bridgeport Recreation Center, with its array of exercise machines and sparkling twenty-five meter swimming pool. Part of the fun is meeting young people from all over the world, students who are pursuing undergraduate or graduate studies. One can learn a lot from such a diverse and youthful group. Recently I was in the locker room and met a young man who was obviously Oriental. I asked him what his country of origin was. He told me he was from Korea.

We continued the conversation. I asked him if Korean was related to Chinese.

He said, "No, it is actually a member of the Altaic family of lan-

guages, which originated in northern Asia and includes Manchu, Mongol, Turkic, Finnish and Hungarian.

Hungarian??? I checked further, and, apparently he is right. Well, you never know.

## Did you know ... ?

that there were stained glass windows depicting King Louis II (II. Lajos) and his wife Mária of Austria in the Empire State Building?

In the 1940's, a Jacobean room, originally located in Rugeley Manor, Staffordshire,

England, was imported by the Schenley Distillery Company to be used in an executive dining room at their headquarters on the 37<sup>th</sup> floor of the Empire State Building. The stained glass window identified the king as Ludovico (Latin for Louis), and bore the date 1522. He was killed in the fateful Battle of Mohács, 1526, which marked the beginning of 160 years of Turkish rule in Hungary.

Since then, Schenley has been taken over by Barton Brands. The current whereabouts of the stained glass windows could not be traced.



*Domjan's studio in Tuxedo Park*



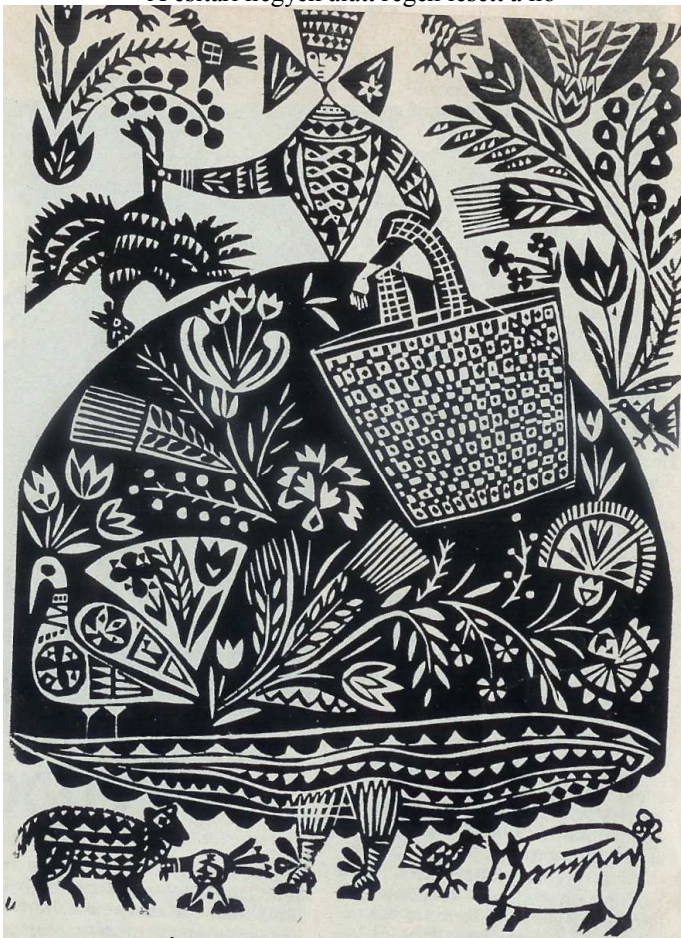
DOMJÁN JÓZSEF : VARIÁCIOK KODÁLY—TÉMÁKRA



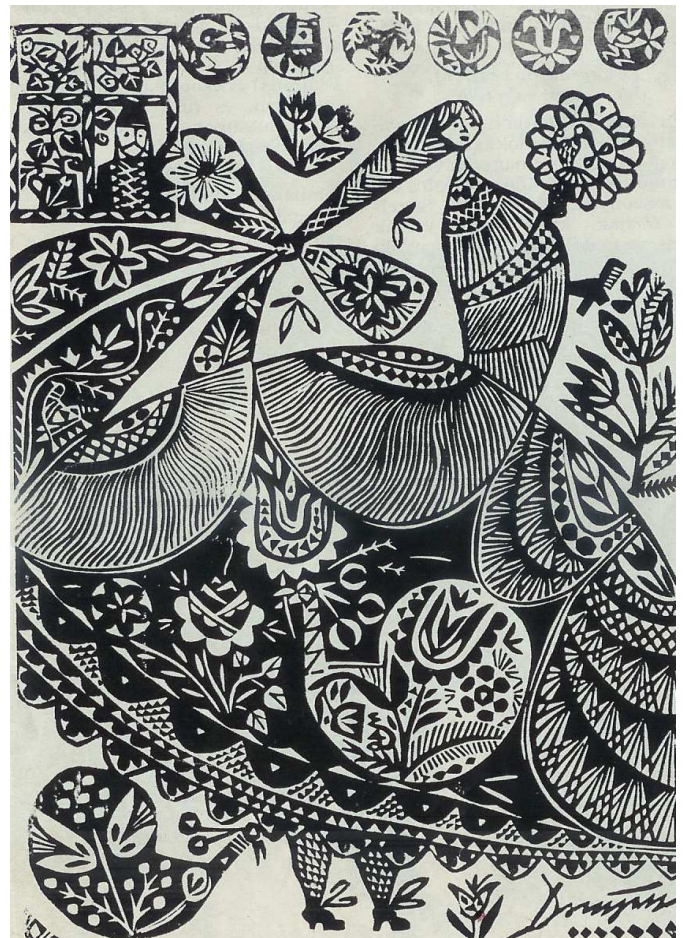
A csitári hegyek alatt régen lesett a hó



Aki nekem recefályolt venne



Én elmentem a vásárba félpénzzel



Nincs szebb, élet mint a lányé

# Farmers' Almanac, Hungarian Style

by Erika Papp Faber

From observation and experience of recurring weather patterns, Hungarian farmers developed their own way of forecasting for certain times of the year. Based on saints' days in the calendar, these sayings, mostly in rhyme, were rarely written down. And as often as not, they seemed to prove true. Here is a sampling:

## **January:**

*"If Vincent spills over, the (wine) cellar will be full" – "Ha megcsordul a Vince, tele lesz a pince."*

If it rains on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, St. Vincent's day, there will be a good vintage.

*"If Paul turns with fog, man will perish with beasts" (or: ... perish with pestilence) -- "Ha Pál fordul köddel, ember pusztul döggel."*

When January 25<sup>th</sup>, feast of the conversion (turning) of St. Paul, is foggy, an epidemic will devastate the population.

## **February:** *"If Dorothy tightens, Julie loosens" – "Ha Dorottya szorítja, Juliska tágítja."*

If February 6<sup>th</sup> is cold, February 16<sup>th</sup> will be mild.

*"If he doesn't find any ice, Mátyás will bring plenty. But if he finds plenty, he'll take away all the ice." – "Hogyha nem talál jeget, majd hoz Mátyás eleget. De ha talál eleget, mind elviszi a jeget."*

That is why February 24<sup>th</sup> is known as the feast of "Mátyás the Icebreaker" – "Jégtörő Mátyás".

## **March:** *"Gregory will still shake his beard." – "Megrázza még szakállát Gergely."*

Cold and snow may still be expected for March 12<sup>th</sup>.

*"Alexander, Joseph, Benedict bring heat in a sack." – "Sándor, József, Benedek, zsákban hozzák a meleget."*

The weather usually gets warmer with March 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **April:** *"After St. George's day, you couldn't beat the grass back even with a hammer." – "Szent György nap után kalapáccsal se lehetne visszaverni a füvet."*

Everything sprouts after April 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **May:** May 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, Pancratius, Servatius and Boniface (*Pongrác, Szervác, Bonifác*) usually bring colder weather. For that reason, they are known as the "Ice Saints" (*"Fagyos szentek"*). Orbán, the last of them, often brings a final cold blast on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

## **June:** *"The stem of wheat breaks by St. John's." – "Szent Jánosra szakad meg a búza töve."*

The wheat is harvested after June 24<sup>th</sup>.

**August:** *“Lawrence is in the melon.” – “Lőrinc van a dinnyében.”* (There is also a less polite version of this saying!)  
Melons and cantaloupes are no good after St. Lawrence’s day, August 10<sup>th</sup>.

**September:** *“No matter from which direction the wind blows after St. Michael’s, it’s cold.” – “Szent Mihály nap után akár merről fúj a szél, hideg az.”*  
St. Michael’s day is September 29<sup>th</sup>.

**October:** *“Simon and Jude have arrived, woe to you who wear a shirt and linen trousers.” – “Megérkezett Simon, Júdás, jaj teneked, inges, gatyás.”*  
It’s generally so cold by October 28<sup>th</sup>, that it’s not advisable to dress lightly.

**November:** *“If Catherine knocks, Christmas will splash.” – “Ha Katalin kopog, karácsony locsog.”*  
If it freezes on November 25<sup>th</sup>, it will rain on Christmas day. The reverse is also held.  
*“Snow on Andrew’s day is no good for sown crops.” – “András-napi hó vetésnek nem jó.”*  
Said of November 30<sup>th</sup>.

**December:** Although this last one is not a forecast, it casts a light on a bit of Folklore.  
*“He works as if on Lucy’s chair.” – “Úgy dolgozik, mint a Luca székén.”* According to folk custom, unmarried girls would start carving a small stool on St. Lucy’s day, December 13<sup>th</sup>. They would have to work on it a little every day until December 24<sup>th</sup>, so they were in no rush to finish it quickly. On Christmas Eve, they would take it to church with them for Midnight Mass. They believed that if they stood on their stool during the service, the first man they would see would become their husband!

With all these gems of folk wisdom, who needed a Farmers’ Almanac?

*MAGYAR ISKOLA KARACSONYI PARTY—more photo in the Photo Gallery—by Robert Kranyik*

