



Locsolóversek

EPF

When the young men go around on Easter Monday to sprinkle the girls (locsolás), they will first recite a short poem, which often ends with a request for permission to sprinkle. Here is a selection of three such poems.

The first one refers to the Easter holyday, and mentions the red (painted) Easter eggs that the girls give the boys in return for being sprinkled. Notice the reference to the girl as a flower that needs to be watered so it won't wilt!



Eljött a szép húsvét reggele,
Feltámadásunk édes ünnepe.
Ünneplő ruhába öltöztek a fák,
pattognak a rügyek, s virít a virág.
A harang zúgása hirdet ünnepet,
egy kis madár dalol a zöld rétek felett.
Tündérország rózsái közt
gyöngyharmatot szedtem,
akit azzal meglócsolok,
megáldja az Isten.
Zsebeimbe beleférnek
a piros tojások.

E szép házba nyitottam,
nefelejcsét találtam.
Nem hagyhatom hervadni.
Meg szabad-e locsolni?

Szépen kérem az apját,
de még szebben az anyját:
adja elő a lányát,
hadd locsolom a haját!
Hadd nőjön nagyra,
mint a csikó farka,
még annál is nagyobbra,
mint a Duna hossza.
Szabad-e locsolni?

Written In the Stars?...

On January 13, 2002 two Hungarian amateur astronomers discovered a 1-2 km diameter asteroid (2002 AY179) of 20.5 magnitude, confirming photos taken the preceding two nights. A year later, as well as in 2007, they still identified the "planette"; thus, as per the rules, it could stay a Hungarian discovery. It was named and is now known as (194970) **Márai**, honoring the famous writer **Márai Sándor**.

Before I deal with the lifeline of **Márai Sándor**, one of the greatest Hungarian novelists and playwrights of the 20th century, I find it essential to mention my personal connection to him.

I used to share a bed with him. Now, don't let your imagination run away with you. I never met Márai. It was just that his wife was first cousin of my best friend, Menga's mother, who owned a vacation house at Akarattya by Lake Balaton. I was a frequent guest there and so were the Márais. But, space being limited, I had to wait for the phone call to inform me that "Sanyi bácsi" – that's how Menga called him – left for the City and the bed became vacant. His wife, Lola, and little son, the towhead Janika, usually stayed for weeks and we spent many lovely summer days together.

lured us into investigating ancient lore.

Márai was deeply rooted in the 20th century. He was born **márai** Grosschmid Sándor Károly Henrik, at Kassa (Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, now Košice, Slovakia), on April 11, 1900. His father, Dr. Grosschmid Géza, was a royal notary (a very respected and lucrative profession), president of the bar association as well as Senator of the Christian-Socialist party. For generations, his family served as state officials, jurists and army officers and was guardian of high-middleclass values, raising their children in that cultural milieu. They lived at the classic town of Kassa which remained Márai's lifelong "eternal city", the place for which he yearned forever after, especially in his years of emigration.

As teenagers, having a celebrity "in the family" meant that we read as many of Márai's books as we could put our hands on. We found them fascinating, bordering on magical, and acquired an early taste for quality literature beyond the required reading of the classics. From them we obtained a broad view of contemporary Hungarian society as well as historic fiction of the noblest kind. Márai's language, loaded with esoteric references,



His school years were rather eventful. He had to leave the local Jesuit school because, at age 14, he once ran away from home. His parents then sent him to a boarding school in Budapest where Sándor could not abide by the rigorous, regimental, cruel rules. Thus the following year he studied at Kassa again, then at Eperjes, where he finally graduated in 1917. Although schools typically objected to students publishing their works, the rebellious youngster, fully aware of his "genius", repeatedly sent his writings to various newspaper competitions under pseudonyms, knowing his family would not approve of his artistic endeavors.

Toward the end of WWI, in the fall of 1918, he moved to Budapest. First he enrolled in law school, later switched to the humanities. He had his first book of poems published with great popular success as well as rave professional reviews, including one from the already famous Kosztolányi Dezső. Though technically still a teenager, Sándor lived lavishly in Budapest, was a regular at bars, nightclubs and cabarets, the epitome of a prodigal prodigy. In 1919, he joined the Communists, founded a group of anarchist-Communist writers, and in a whirlwind of activity published innumerable reports and reviews in the paper *Vörös Lobogó* (Red Banner).

In the uncertain times following the fall of the short-lived Hungarian soviet-republic in 1920, the Grosschmid family left the country and Sándor continued his studies in Leipzig, then in Frankfurt am Main. His talent was discovered early, in his homeland as well as abroad. He now regularly wrote in several mainstream newspapers in Berlin, Prague and, at age 21, was commissioned to translate one of Franz Kafka's short stories, followed by several others. He already knew his later wife, Lola, who remained his faithful partner for six decades. But he still had a lot of traveling, reading, discovering to do to collect material and inspiration for his writing.

Yet, in April, 1923 Sándor and Lola (Matzner Ilona, daughter of a well-to-do Jewish merchant from Kassa), married. The newlyweds traveled to Paris for three weeks, a trip that

turned out to last more than five years. They moved back to Budapest in 1928, the year of the publication of his novel *Bébi vagy az első szerelem* (Baby or the First Love). One of his neighbors in the Krisztinaváros section of Buda was Kosztolányi, and the two couples socialized regularly. In his memoirs, Márai reports of the older poet's attraction to Lola, commemorated in a little rhyme: "*Szeretnék szerelmes lenni a Lolába, de attól félek, hogy kilóg a ló lába...*"

Márai's most productive years span 1930 to 1942, reflecting on his past and current experiences. In his book *Zendülők* (Rebels) he introduces the post-war outlook and life of the era's adolescents. In *Idegen emberek* (Aliens) he writes about feeling like an outsider, abroad: "...Years have passed and we still haven't unpacked completely..."

In time, Márai Sándor became one of the most popular and recognized writers of his age, his name becoming known in public life as well. With others he signed the letter to the World Peace Convention in Geneva, was a member of the Hungarian PEN Club, delivered lectures on the radio and was a regular correspondent of the magazine *Nyugat* (West). He became member of the LaFontaine Society, working on the unification of Europe with writers who, in his belief, were the ones destined to amalgamate the 30 countries into one cultural unit. He believed to the end of his days that writers have a cultural mission on Earth.

While Márai was enjoying great success over the years, he was most jubilant over the 1938 re-annexation of Upper Hungary, including Kassa (annexed to Slovakia by the Trianon treaty), to the homeland.

The following year, however, his euphoria changed to despair. Lola bore him a son who died of hemophilia after a few weeks. This drove him into deep depression for months.

But the theatrical world started to notice Márai. At their request, in 1940 he dramatized one of his novels for the stage which, titled *Kaland* (Affair), was a huge success in spite of his fear of

failure and was even awarded a coveted prize.

The brief brush of his youth with Communism had long vanished. In '42, he wrote: "It is the belief of Europe's best minds that Bolshevism cannot be the occidental masses' way of life".

Over the centuries most of world literature and drama picked kings and their courts, or slaves and peasants, as their focus; Márai chose to create most of his novels and plays around the theretofore unsung middle class. In earlier societies, the role and presence of the middle class was less significant. It was the 20th, "Márai's century", when his class, his segment of society grew not only in numbers but gained more importance, more self-awareness, more recognition and respect. He did not glorify the weak-kneed petit-bourgeois listening to the radio (the equivalent of today's beer-guzzler watching TV), cursing taxes and the proletariat, but claimed that "...civil order is one of human co-existence's most valuable, most useful, exquisite products as long as it is creative and heroic."

In 1942, he wrote his probably best-known novel *A gyertyák csonkig égnék* (Embers) that was later dramatized and brilliantly translated into several languages.

Being ultra-considerate for his wife Lola, Márai's extramarital affairs had been so discreet that they became known only years after his death. His novel *Sirály* (Seagull), a dialogue between a man and a woman, originally thought to be fictitious, turned out to be based on his passionate liaison in '41 to the actress Mezey Mária whose posthumously found correspondence with the writer verifies the alleged indiscretion. The other actress publicly confessing to an affair with Márai almost 50 years later was Tolnay Klári. After the end of WWII in '45, his play *Varázs* (Magic) had brought them together.

Márai escapes into lyric poetry to deal with tragedy: he mourns the loss of his newborn son in the poem *Egy kisgyermek halálára* (On the death of a baby), laments life in emigration in

Halotti beszéd (Funeral Oration), and bewails 1956 in *Mennyből az angyal* (a Hungarian Christmas song).

But as a result of the tragedy of the Jews, the moral crisis of the nation as well as the Soviet ideology and oppression under which no real Hungarian literature could exist, he realized in 1948 that he did not believe in the new world, the new order, and thus he no longer belonged. So in August, he left the country with Lola and Janika.

And their migration began, first to Switzerland, then to Posilippo, Italy then, for fear of a third world war in 1952, to New York. From '51, Márai joined Radio Free Europe, broadcasting passages from *Vasárnapi Krónika* (Sunday Chronicle), thus creating a mental bridge to his homeland, where this connection and the "bourgeois" themes of his books made him an "enemy of the people". During the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, he related his thoughts on the airwaves and in early November, in hope that his country would be liberated from the Soviet occupation, he flew to Europe. Unfortunately, by the time he arrived, the fate of the nation had already been doomed. He, along with millions of people, was bitterly disappointed by the West abandoning the helpless heroic nation.

He obtained U.S. citizenship in '57. In '67, he and Lola moved back to Salerno, Italy, where they lived until '79. By then the post-revolutionary Hungarians tried to court him and in '78, wanted to produce his play *A kassai polgárok* (The Citizens of Kassa), but had to cancel shortly before opening due to Márai's denying permission to any of his works being performed there.

In 1980, they moved back to the United States, to San Diego. But the later '80s brought too much tragedy: he lost his sister, his two brothers and even Lola within a couple of years. He considered suicide and bought himself a handgun. Having cancer, he lived like a hermit. Janika – now János (John) – and family regularly visited and helped him, but he writes of those days "...otherwise I live as in a cave where only bats stray..." His physical trials culminated in the mental tribula-

tion caused by János's untimely death in '88.

By now the Hungarian Writers' Association had approached him about granting permission to reprint his works, but he steadfastly refused. Though he was considering returning to Hungary, his doctors advised against it.

Abandoned, he ended it all with a pistol shot on February 21, 1989.

His three granddaughters, living in the U.S. were not taught Hungarian and could never understand their grandfather's *oeuvre*. But the recent nearly quarter century brought Márai Sándor more posthumous domestic and international recognition than he could ever hope for in his life.

And now, he seems to be reaching the stars....

Olga Vállay Szokolay

Olga Vállay Szokolay is an architect and Professor Emerita of Norwalk Community College, after three decades of teaching. She is a member of the Editorial Board of Magyar News Online.



Marai's house and monument in Kassa

March 15th Observance / Március 15.-i emlékműsor Fairfielden

Erika Papp Faber

Vasárnap, március 17.-én került sor a fairfieldi március 15.-i megemlékezésre. Idén is a Szent Imre templom termében tartotta a Pannónia Amerikai Magyar Klub a hagyományos ünnepséget. Mikolai Éva volt a műsorvezető.

Bevezetőül az ujonnan alakult wallingfordi cserkészcsapat tagjai hozták be a zászlókat. Nt. Tóbiás Attila, wallingfordi református lelkész mondta a bevezető imát. Ezt követte az amerikai himnusz, amit a közönség Rozs Ildikó énekművész vezetésével énekelt. Deer Zsuzsanna, a Pannónia Klub Elnöke, köszöntötte a hall-

gatókat. 1848-at a művészeteken keresztül érzékeltette. A new yorki Főkonzul, Dán Károly is megtisztelt üdvözlésével. Horváth Nathyn csellón játszott Brahms 4. Magyar táncát, és egy Saint-Saens darabot; Deer Péter ugyancsak egy Brahms Magyar táncot, az 5.-et, mutatta be hegedűn.

A Nemzeti dalt Ihász Imre szavalta. Petőfi Sándor életéből Dr. Somogyi Balázs olvasott fel, Illyés Gyula „Tűz vagyok” c. művéből. Ebben Petőfi gondolatain keresztül világította meg a márciusi eseményeket. Fehér Irén szavalóművész adta elő Petőfi „Magyar vagyok” c.

versét. Közben Rozs Ildikó szép magyar énekekkel tarkította a programot. Zongorán kísérte Martin Neron kanadai származású zongoraművész. Nt. Tóbiás Attila zárómája és a magyar himnusz fejezte be a műsort. Utána finom házisüteménnyel várta a Klub a szép számmal résztvevő vendégeket. Balogh József a most megjelent önéletrajzát, „American Joe”, dedikálta az érdeklődőknek, Papp Faber Erika pedig a nem rég megjelent angol versfordításait („A Sampler of Hungarian Poetry”) adta közre.

Március 15.-i emlékműsor Fairfielden



Deer Zsuzsanna, Dán Károly Főkonzul, Dr. Somogyi Balázs, Deer Peti, Horváth Nathyn, Rozs Ildikó

Fehér Irén, Ihász Imre és a közönség

60th Café Budapest

Claudia Margitay-Balogh

Few organizations, and even fewer fund-raisers, can boast of such longevity as the Pannonia American-Hungarian Club's Café Budapest of Connecticut. This year's milestone affair was a re-sounding success, as the photos illustrate.

A festive evening was enjoyed by all in attendance at the 60th Café Budapest on Saturday, March 3, 2013 which was held at the Water-view Banquet Hall in Monroe, CT. This annual debutante ball is sponsored by the Pannonia



American-Hungarian Club, an organization which for the last sixty years has promoted Hungarian charitable, literacy, and educational causes.

Incorporated in 1950 as a not-for-profit organization, the Pannonia American-Hungarian Club has always depended on the good will and Hungarian soul of volunteers who donate their time and energy for the success of the Club's mission, which is promoting Hungarian culture and tradition.

This year's event began with a cocktail hour which included a table abundant with all sorts of delicious finger foods to whet and please the appetite.

The opening ceremony occurred in the main dining room. During this ceremony, the president of the Club, Zsuzsanna Deer, welcomed the guests with a speech in English, while the Chairman of the ball, Valéria Miklós, spoke in Hungarian.

Two past presidents of the Club, Mrs. Sára Balogh and Mr. Joseph F. Balogh, were recognized for their dedicated involvement, and each was presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a vase engraved with the Club's emblem. Both recipients spoke briefly, thanking the present officers for their desire to keep the Pannonia American-Hungarian Club alive and flourishing after all these years in existence.

Next on the agenda came the presentation of the Justin Margitay-Balogh Scholarship. This scholarship, given in memory of Joseph F. Balogh's son, was given to Ms. Alexandra Hughes, a student at the University of Connecticut who is majoring in English, and Tarren Horvath who is studying Fire Prevention Engineering at the University of New Haven. Recipients of the scholarship must be Hungarian, in college, and involved in their community, and the scholarship money has to be used for their schooling expenses.

The evening continued with the presentation of seven debutantes and their escorts by the Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Balázs Somogyi. It is always so heart-warming to see the lovely young ladies dressed in their beautiful white ball gowns receive a red rose from their escorts and dance

the first waltz of the evening.

The rest of the evening was spent in dining with fellowship, conversation, and dancing.

The Pannonia Club is able to support its causes, its commemoration of March 15, 1848, and the Hungarian Christmas Pageant through the income generated by two fund-raising events: The Café Budapest and the Long Hot Summer Dinner Dance at Fairfield's Penfield Beach in July. Attendance at these events does make a difference to the young people of Hungarian descent in the Fairfield County area of Connecticut.

Claudia Margitay-Balogh, wife of Joseph F. Balogh and mother of Justin J. Margitay-Balogh is a retired English teacher and spiritual director. She, along with her husband, supports and promotes all events and media that keep the Hungarian culture and traditions alive in America.

60th Café Budapest



Debutantes and their Escorts; Valeria Miklos, Chairmen of the Ball; Zsuzsanna Deer, President; Károly Dán, Consul; Dr. Balázs Somogyi, Master of Ceremonies; Ms. Alexandra Hughes, scholarship recipient: Guests and dancers

AMERICAN JOE

The Autobiography of Joseph F. Balogh
ISBN 978-1-300-57196-4

Reviewed by
Martha Matus Schipul

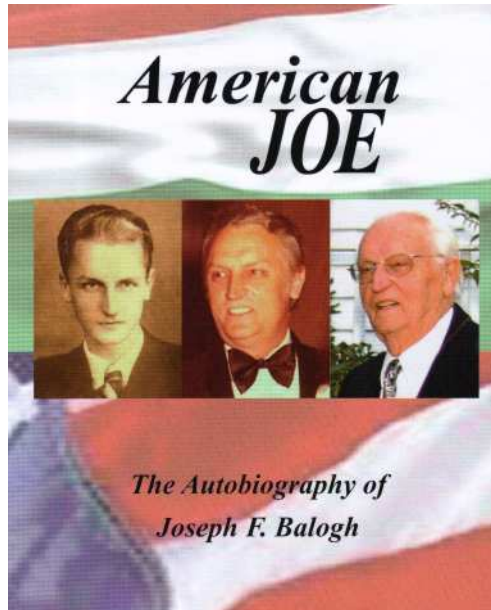
I had known Joe Balogh as the Founding Editor of Magyar News in its print format and as the President of the Hungarian Scholarship Committee for the University of Bridgeport. As a matter of fact, the first time I met Joe was with my parents at a reception for the Hungarian Scholarship Committee in a reception room high atop the Carlson Library Building at U.B. many years ago. However, I never knew what an interesting and sometimes tragic life Joe had experienced until I read his autobiography this week.

I had a chance to talk in depth to Joe and his lovely wife Claudia at their beautiful home in Stratford recently when my husband and I came to obtain a copy of his book. There were so many interesting things to see displayed on the walls: paintings, family pictures, Matyó embroidery panels, a saw belonging to Claudia's grandfather, a restored brass bound trunk brought from Hungary by Claudia's family, even a *hurka* maker! Along with our conversation, the walls were an introduction to Joe's odyssey from Spruce Street in Bridgeport's West End to Zemplénagárd, Hungary, and his epic battle to return to America.

Many of us of Hungarian Americans have had this odd sensation. When we are among our American friends, we feel a little different from mainstream America because of our unique customs and language that our grandmothers spoke; and yet when we visit the Motherland, we realize how different we are from the inhabitants. We feel so very American in the midst

of Budapest. In Joe's case, this amphibious state of affairs was much more dramatic.

Joseph Balogh was born April 27, 1922 in Bridgeport to Hungarian immigrant parents, József and Katalin Falkus Balogh. He lived on Spruce Street, attended St. Stephen's Church, and luckily for him, took Hungarian language lessons at Holy Trinity Greek Catholic Church on Bostwick Avenue. When he was ten years old, and the US was in the depths of the Great Depression, his family decided to return to Hungary to his mother's hometown of Zemplénagárd. When Joseph attended the local elementary school, his classmates made him feel like an outsider by calling him "American Joe."



Joe showed an early aptitude for art, especially sculpture, and even though his father convinced him to go to medical school, he left after a year to pursue his artistic studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest. His studies were interrupted by his conscription into the Hungarian Army during World War II.

He endured many hardships, escaping death many times, of-

ten through the intervention, perhaps Divine, of old friends from school. While in the army, he was imprisoned in Ungvár primarily because he was born in America, which was the enemy of the German/Hungarian alliance. He narrowly escaped being tried by a military tribunal, a certain death sentence, because of the intervention of an officer whom Joseph had befriended.

After being transferred to Esztergom, the site of another military prison, he realized he was in serious trouble with his anti-Nazi remarks. He escaped with the aid of the local monks. Disguised as a wounded soldier, he flagged down a Nazi truck which gave him a ride all the way back to Budapest. He again cheated Mr. Death when his military commander came looking for him in his old college dormitory where he had at first taken refuge. Luckily, he had just stepped out to buy cigarettes and ran and hid when he saw them from a distance down the street.

In Budapest, he led a subterranean existence, hiding out with several Transylvanian students in a basement that was connected by a series of tunnels with several other buildings. They often subsisted on horse meat that they obtained by shooting horses passing on the street. Their hiding place was eventually discovered, but the chief of police had been another school friend of Joe's, Guszti. In a scene reminiscent of the ending of *Casablanca*, Guszti pretended not to see him hiding under a bed sheet.

He even eluded death from drowning in a cesspit in a Russian POW camp. In 1945, he escaped from another Soviet prison camp when he realized that nobody was minding the store. He hopped a train and



Joe with his family

eventually reached Zemplénagárd where his parents were astonished to see that their only son was still alive.

He married Larissza Földi and they had a daughter, Katalin. He became a journalist when the Russians took over and led a relatively comfortable life, although always on the edge of suspicion for his ties to the West and his courageous opinions.

In 1965, after enduring years of Soviet oppression and his wife's death, he decided to escape to the West with his teenaged daughter. They ended up in limbo in London, England for two years because he was considered a man without a country. He had been born a US citizen but had voted in a Hungarian election. With the help of Senator Abe Ribicoff, he finally made it back to Fairfield County, leaving his now married daughter in England.

Because of his artistic and journalistic talent and the recommendation from one of his American cousins, Joe was able to find work with the advertising department of Caldor's. He later formed his own company, JFBart. He again found marital happiness when he married Claudia Margitay and had a handsome son together, Justin. However, Joe's life again took a tragic turn when Justin died suddenly at age 24.

Joseph Balogh's story is a saga of survival against seemingly impossible odds. Throughout all of life's ordeals, this man has continued forward, giving of himself and inspiring others. *American Joe* is a vivid and inspiring narrative, well worth your attention.

You can obtain a copy of *American Joe* for \$20. Copies are available at

www.lulu.com. On the site, look for *Search*, then *book*, and type in "American Joe." Still another method of search is <http://www.lulu.com/shop/joseph-balogh/american-joe/paperback/product-20940892.html>]

Martha Matus Schipul is a graduate of the University of Bridgeport, a writer and a playwright, and member the Editorial Board of Magyar News Online

Mátrabükki sí-nyomok

Áprily Lajos

Két könnyű talp suhogva von
barázda-párt a porhavon.
Húsvéti hó, csalóka is:
tegnap szítálta április.
Bükkök között amerre jársz,
már pinty dalol, kis útitárs,
S hol hóba vésed szűz neved,
ködök mögül a nap nevet.
Kék ablakon holnap lesüt,
megöl nyomot, nevet, betüt.
S aztán sem szél, sem őzszimat,
sem estifény, sem virradat
itt meg nem sejti bájadat.

Ó, mátrabükki sí-nyomok –
dalok sorsára gondolok.
A versem is csak ennyi volt:
már pintyek riadója szólt,
szikrát a nap kacagva szórt –
s leírtam egy pár balga sort.
Tavaszi hóba balga sort.

Az életem csak ennyi volt.



The István Széchenyi Institute at Quinnipiac University

Judit Vasmatics Paolini

Professor Christopher Ball is Director of a program providing an opportunity for MBA students to widen their global horizons through study abroad.

I recently discovered that the István Széchenyi Institute at Quinnipiac University provides MBA students an opportunity to travel to Hungary to study abroad. In addition, MBA students from Hungary have an opportunity to study at Quinnipiac. Wow! This is something new, exciting, and somewhat innovative, for in the past, foreign language students were usually the ones to travel abroad, not those studying business and certainly not to a small country like Hungary. Students coming from Hungary to study here took me by surprise. I decided that the István Széchenyi Institute at Quinnipiac was something I wished to know better.

My brief inquiries led me to an interview with Associate Professor Christo-



Professor Christopher Ball

pher Ball who received a doctorate, Ph.D. in Macroeconomics from Texas A&M University in 2003. He was hired by Quinnipiac University that same year. Today, he is the Director of the Széchenyi Institute and holds the István Széchenyi Chair in International Economics at QU.

A brief glimpse into his background reveals that Professor Ball is not of Hungarian ancestry, but lived in Hungary for four years – 1994-1998. (It was at this time that he met his future wife from Sepsiszentgyörgy.) During his stay, he was a Research Fellow with the Institute of Current World Affairs (1996-1998). His work centered on researching the local development of Hungarians residing in Hungary and Romania — closely observing economic, governmental and societal growth. He submitted written reports periodically which were published by the Institute of Current World Affairs.

During this time, Chris Ball traveled frequently to cities well beyond Budapest, which included Pécs and Mohács. In addition, he traveled extensively to Transylvania. He also spent time in Temesvár and met solely with Romanians. In time, he began visiting Nagyenyed, a city located south of Kolozsvár. His last year overseas included numerous trips to Székelyudvarhely. He often attended meetings with local businesses, Non-Government Organizations, politicians, etc. At these meetings, conversation centered on their concerns and what goals they were striving to attain. Furthermore, he made every effort to gain knowledge of local history from people he met during his travels.

Chris Ball also worked for the Hungarian Atlantic Council in Budapest, Hungary as a Project Director (1995-1996) and as Project Consultant (1996-1998). He shared that he was responsible for coordinating international conferences, fostering relations with foreign NGOs and the business community in Hungary, and editing all English publications.

The professor spoke of his experiences

with such great enthusiasm. What an adventure this must have been! Surely, there were great challenges and a time of wonderful exhilaration. I have to say, I find it very exciting. Furthermore, I believe this experience left him with favorable impressions of Central Europe.

As stated earlier, Associate Professor Christopher Ball is the Director of the István Széchenyi Institute and also holds the István Széchenyi Chair in International Economics. This endowed faculty position was established in 2008 at Quinnipiac University. The donation was made anonymously by a Hungarian. Naming the institution after István Széchenyi is especially noteworthy, since Count István Széchenyi was a distinguished Hungarian statesman (1791-1860) who sought a gradual economical, social, and cultural reform in Hungary.

Essentially, as I understand it, the Institute awards The Hungarian American Business Leaders Scholarship (HABL); provides the MBA Executive Study in Hungary Program; and sponsors a Foreign Lecture Series.

The HABL scholarship is awarded to Hungarian students pursuing an MBA to attend Quinnipiac University. The selection process includes being recommended by the Mathias Corvinus Collegium in Budapest. Professor Ball serves on the committee which makes the final selection and is involved in the interviewing process. Upon graduation, students are provided full time employment in the US for 18 months. Corporations here in Connecticut are among those offering jobs. The first HABL recipient was Blanka Balázs. Once she graduated, Blanka was hired as an intern at UTC Power in South Windsor, CT. She is presently employed at Statoil's headquarters in Stavanger, Norway.

The MBA Executive Study in Hungary Program celebrated its 5th anniversary in 2012. It has grown in the past five years, attracting more students and corporations. This program offers a two week stay in Hungary, during



The group at the Central Market Hall

which students are absorbed in business. Of course, it is very fast-paced for there is so much to accomplish in a very short time. It provides a valuable learning experience where students have a brief view of Hungarian businesses and politics. They have several opportunities to visit numerous global corporations, meet high-ranking Hungarian government officials, and tour the Parliament as well as other points of interest. Last year, corporate visits included, but were not limited to, the Hungarian Central Bank, Citibank, E. ON-Hungaria, and Morgan Stanley. Furthermore, students were received by the senior advisor to the Prime Minister!

Normally, a visit to the *Nagy Vásárcsarnok* (Central Market Hall) is also included. It first opened its doors in 1897. The market hall was designed to allow for indoor commerce where food products could be sold in a healthier environment and sheltered from adverse weather conditions. Having been there myself, I thought the visit was most apropos for these students.

As usual, the trip last year concluded with an Executive Retreat and an Alumni Gathering in Zebegény, Hungary. There was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to network. Professor

Ball was delighted to share that 140 participants attended, representing 70 regional and multinational corpora-

tions. I was glad to learn that 10 businesses from Connecticut were also represented. The keynote speaker was Her Excellency, U.S. Ambassador to Hungary Eleni Kounalakis.

My final thought is that Professor Ball is the catalyst who "started the ball rolling". His perception and enthusiasm for such an institution as noted here was well received and gained the support needed in bringing it to fruition. The success of the István Széchenyi Institute continues enhancing the university's global relations and provides a greater opportunity for international education.

*I'd like to express my appreciation to Professor Christopher Ball for his interview. He generously provided materials which aided my writing—names, dates, and the numerous places noted here.

Judy Vasmatias Paolini is a member of the Magyar News Online editorial board.

Nyári tőzike a 2013 "Év vadvirága"

For the third year, a "Wildflower of the Year" has been chosen in Hungary. This time, the choice fell on the "summer snowflake".

Harmadik éve történik az "Év vadvirága" választása Magyarországon. Előző években a leánykőkörcsin és a tavaszi hericsre esett a szavazás. 2013-ban a nyári tőzike kapta a legtöbb szavazatot.

2012 decemberében lett végleges, hogy a *nyári tőzike* az "Év vadvirága". Aranyos kis fehér virág a tőzike, gyakran összetéveszthető a hóvirággal, holott elég nagy a különbség a kettő között. A nyári tőzike 50-60 cm magasra is megnő, és egy kocsányon 4-5, de még 8 kis virág is lehetséges. A hat fehér szirm végén kis világoszöld folt van.

A hóvirághoz hasonlóan az amaryllis családhoz tartozik; egyszikű, hagymás növény. Április és június között virágzik. Amint a neve is jelzi (tőzike), nedves, mocsaras réteken és artéri erdőkben él. Magyarországon a Dráva,

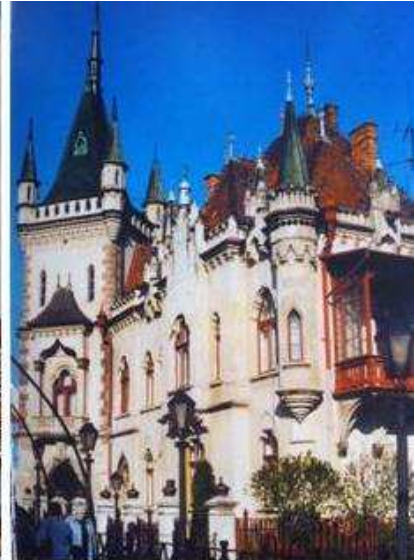
Mura és a Hernád árterületén, az Alföldön, Hanságban és a Nyírségben található. A virág mérgező, az állatok kerülnek; de szép, mutatós virága miatt kirándulók gyakran csokorba szedik. Pedig ma a tőzike védett virág Magyarországon, de más országokban is. A régi szép vadvirágos legelők eltűnnek, a kaszálók bebokrosodnak, fásítottak, vagy kiszáradnak, így az állománya csökkent. A nyári tőzike természetvédelmi eszmei értéke 2,000 – 10, 000 Ft.

Szép és mutatós virág csokorban, ezért kertészeti változatok kapható. Augusztustól októberig kell ültetni, félnagykos, évelő ágyasban. Az "Év vadvirága" célja felhívni a figyelmet az ország természeti értékeire, és a természetes élőhelyek védelmének fontosságára.



Snapshot: Kassa

Kassa has been part of Slovakia since the 1920 Treaty of Trianon and is now called Košice. Together with Marseilles, it has been named „European Capital of Culture 2013”. This title provides a one-year window of opportunity for the city to showcase its cultural and artistic achievements. (Three years previously, Pécs had received the same honor.)



top: St. Elizabeth Cathedral (Andrea Dostal); Urban Tower; Jakab Palace; middle: Main Square (www.magyarorszag/szep.hu); Rákóczi's Rodostó house; bottom: Miklós Prison, now a museum (kitekinto.hu), Rákóczi's tomb in the Cathedral Crypt

Snapshots: Kassa

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Kassa is known not only as the city where Joseph Balogh finished his *gimnázium* years (see a review of his autobiography „American Joe” elsewhere in this issue). Its history reaches back much further, having been first mentioned in documents as early as 1230. By the 16th century, Kassa was the capital of Upper Hungary, and an important center of art. Following the Turkish invasion, its fate was intimately tied to the nation's struggle for independence. Centuries later, with the development of railroad lines in the 19th century, Kassa became an important commercial center.

Among the many notable historic personages connected with the city are the famed troubadour of Turkish times, Tinódi Lantos Sebestyén, who lived here between 1548 and 1554; Déryné Széppataki Róza, the first Hungarian opera singer, who made her home in Kassa between 1828 and 1837; Slachta Margit, foundress of the Sisters of Social Service, was born here in 1884, as was a member of her order, Salkaházi Sára (1899), who was martyred in Budapest by the Nazis in 1944; the writer Márai Sándor (see the article about him elsewhere in this issue) was born here in 1900; and here died Alvinczi Péter (1634), Reformed pastor and polemist, famed for his religious debates with the Jesuit Pázmány Péter.

The oldest surviving building, *Miklós börtön* (prison) was featured on a commemorative stamp issued by the Hungarian postal service in January of this year, on the occasion of the city's being named „European Capital of Culture 2013”. *Miklós börtön* was originally two separate buildings, but they were joined as early as the 15th century for a residence. A century

later it housed a pottery. It was used as a prison between 1618 and 1909, and was named for a cruel executioner by the name of Miklós.

The most noteworthy sight in Kassa is the Cathedral of St. Elizabeth. The original church was built in the 13th century, but was demolished by fire in 1378. Building of another church on the same spot took a long time; it was completed only in 1520. In 1556, another fire caused much damage. It was renovated between 1877 and 1896. Its Gothic winged altarpiece, with 48 panels, is one of the largest in Hungary.

In the crypt of the cathedral are the remains of (among others) II. Rákóczi Ferenc, leader of a freedom fight against Austrian domination (1703-1711). They were returned from Rodostó, Turkey, where Rákóczi spent 22 years of exile after the Austrians had regained control. A replica of his Rodostó house was built in 1906, to mark that event

Other points of interest are the *Orbán torony* (Urban Tower) built after the 1556 fire to house the cathedral's large (almost 8-ton!) bell, because the cathedral's steeple would not support it. It is named for Urban, patron of winegrowers.

Another interesting structure is the *Jakab palota* (Jacob Palace), built in 1903 in honor of King Mátyás by Jakab Árpád, owner of a brick factory.



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Magyar News Online

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He was able to incorporate in his palace stones discarded at the time of the cathedral's renovation.

A legend gave the Beggar's House (*Koldus háza*) its name. According to it, a beggar managed to collect so much money that he was eventually able to build this ornate structure.



During the 1980's Claudia and Joseph Balogh wrote, edited and presented an informative radio series in the Bridgeport, Connecticut area as part of the weekly program featuring Rózsi and László, very well known and respected Hungarian musicians. The Hungarian Mosaic focused on a variety of topics of interest to Hungarian Americans and were pleased to present another of the topics.

Hungarian Bible I

By the time the migrating Hungarian tribes reached the promised land of the Carpathian Basin, they came across and mingled with many different cultures and religions. Beside their own pagan beliefs, maintained by the shamans, they had a taste of Islam from the area of what is now Iran, and from the Turkish people, and Judaism from the converging masses along the southern territories of the present Soviet Union. They also received the Byzantine belief from the Bulgarian area.

As the Hungarians settled in their new and now permanent home, they found themselves on the borderline, facing a Christianity that was interlinked with well-organized political and military forces. Naturally, in this situation, wedged between European and Asian powers, the choice had to be made. It was in favor of Christianity, and the people more or less committed themselves to the new religion. The Hungarian state was established, and representatives of the new religion, from many countries, came to Hungary.

With such a drastic change in ideology, one would think that special efforts would be made to supply the Hungarian people with translations of the Bible and other written religious material.

Strangely enough, centuries passed, with only unorganized, miniscule texts being translated.

In the book of law given by King Stephen, we may read about the punishment of people who grumble and talk during the sermons. These sermons were given in the people's native tongue, but were not written down. The first written Hungarian sermon we know about originated around 1192, and it is called the *Halotti beszéd* – what would be part of a funeral service. Since typesetting wasn't invented until centuries later, everything had to be hand-copied. As a result, whatever there was existed only in a limited amount, or even just as one of a kind. To produce a copy in those days became very expensive, and the small and poor communities could not afford it.

The Turkish and later the Austrian occupation also had an unfavorable effect on written religious matters in the Hungarian language. It was only four centuries later that we find written translations from small segments of the Bible in the native tongue of the people. At that time, the Church was not encouraging the knowledge of the whole Bible either. In the 16th century, we know that Luther was reprimanded in the monastery of Erfurt for studying the Bible.

Many young men, at the beginning of the 15th century, went to Prague to continue their education. There, they came under the influence of the Hussite teachings, and as a result of this, a grandiose work was accomplished: Hungarian priests exiled in Moldavia translated the Bible into Hungarian. Unfortunately, these translations were lost, but there are three codices that contain parts of the Hungarian text. These were considered heresy by the Catholic Church, and were not to be used, even though the need for a Hungarian Bible was evident. Women who were joining Church organizations did not speak Latin. The nuns in the cloisters and the *beginas* (a group of women who did not take vows) were in need of religious books in their own language.

These necessities brought along in the following decades a string of codices containing hymnals and prayers, and even poetry, which left brilliant relics of the Hungarian language for centuries to come.

This is Claudia Margitay-Balogh, placing a biblical chip into the Great Hungarian Mosaic.

There is no indication when this piece was aired.

Did you know...

...that the origins of toilet water are Hungarian? Some 400 years before "cologne" was developed, an early version was made for the Queen Mother.

The "Hungarian Queen's Water" (*Aqua Reginae Hungariae*) was created in 1370 for Elizabeth, mother of King Louis the Great, scented with rosemary.

Legend has it that, after using this scented water, the 70-year old Elizabeth was transformed into such a beautiful woman that the King of Poland fell in love with her and asked for her hand in marriage.

The German "*Eau de cologne*" ("*kölni víz*") was derived from the Hungarian Queen's Water in the 18th century, in the city of Köln, by the Farina family, and contained lavender and citrus oil.

Today's perfumes may contain over 100 different substances as well as artificial scents.

In the Easter custom of *locsolás*, the young men nowadays use mostly "*kölni víz*" – probably never realizing its historic Hungarian origin.

Karolina Szabo

Kicsi a világ! Hungarians Even Above Us!

Eight new asteroids received Hungarian names last December. These are among the over 2,000 asteroids discovered by students, researchers and members of the joint asteroid program established by Szeged University and the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. All recently named eight asteroids were discovered by Sárnecky Krisztián, an amateur astronomer, who scanned the skies sometimes alone, sometimes with other astronomers. An asteroid must be observed for at least a month, to determine its movement and precisely describe its orbit. Then it must be observed for an additional two years, after which the Minor Planet Center of the International Astronomical Union assigns a number to it. For the next ten years, the discoverer has the exclusive right to name the asteroid.

The first of the recently named eight,



Sárnecky Krisztián

discovered by Krisztián in 2002 and identified again in 2007, was named after the famous Hungarian writer Márai Sándor. (See the article on Márai elsewhere in this issue.) Next in line of discovery was the one spotted in April 2003, and named after the Hungarian writer, poet, dramatist, journalist, educator, and honorary member of the Hungarian Academy of Science, Gárdonyi Géza.

The next two were also found in 2003

by Krisztián and Sipőcz Brigitta (now listed as a Research Student at the University of Hertfordshire, UK). They named the first one after Brigitta's birthplace, a small settlement called Fertőszentmiklós; the second, Mecsek, after the southern mountain range. Dr. Lang Jánosné Steiner Zsuzsanna, a Mathematics and Physics professor is memorialized by the next one. She taught in Szeged and Sopron, and died in 2012.

Krisztián first spotted the next named asteroid in April 2005, and rediscovered it in 2006. He named it after the famous actor Kabos Gyula.

First noted by Krisztián and Kuli Zoltán in 2005, rediscovered in 2008, and observed again in 2010 and 2012, this following asteroid was named after the amateur astronomer Keszthelyi Sándor, who was one of the first European discoverers of the Nova Cygni 1975. After naming all these asteroids, Krisztián named the one he discovered in August 2008 „Málna”, after his daughter Sárnecky Szófia Málna.

In addition to being a Board Member of the Hungarian Astronomical Association, Sárnecky Krisztián is also a member of the American Association of Variable Star Observers. He is currently a Researcher and Support Astronomer at Konkoly Observatory, Budapest, and has been the recipient of a number of awards. He is credited with having found over 250 asteroids.

Chicken soup à la Újházy (Újházy tyúkleves)

Adapted from "Hungarian Cookery Book" by Károly Gundel

1 chicken (about 4 lb)
2 heads of celery (celery roots)
1 carrot
1 parsnip
100 g – 4 oz mushrooms
salt
peppercorns
parsley
ginger

Pluck, wash and cut the chicken into joints and boil it in water. Then pour

off the water, wash the meat well in cold water, put it on to boil again in fresh water and let it simmer gently. Remove scum carefully as it rises. Meanwhile take two heads of celery, one carrot, one parsnip and some mushrooms and cut them all into long pieces. When the chicken is half cooked, add these vegetables and some salt. Put parsley, peppercorns and some ginger in a linen bag into the soup. Cook till quite tender. Remove linen bag before serving. Meanwhile make some pasta dough (see recipe below), cut into very fine noodles, drop these into boiling water to which some salt has been added. When they rise to the surface, strain them, and when the meat is quite tender, serve soup together with the meat and noodles.

Noodles for Soup (Főtt tészta)

300 g – 11 oz flour
2 eggs
salt

Make stiff dough with the flour, using somewhat less than 50 ml – 2 fl oz of water, the eggs, and a little salt. Knead well, let it rest a little, and then roll out as thin as desired – usually about the thickness of a penny. Leave it to dry a little, then dredge the rolled out dough with flour, roll up and cut across to make long noodles of required width. Shake the noodles to prevent them from sticking together. Shortly before serving, drop them into boiling water, boil till they rise to the surface, drain and put them into the soup.

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