

Legyen béke,  
szabadság és  
egyetértés!

# Magyar News Online

www.magyarnews.org

March 2017 Issue 108

## “Let there be Peace, Liberty and Harmony.”

By: EPF

This was the heading of the 12 demands published by the youth of Pest-Buda on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1848, summarizing the essence of what the Hungarian people wanted after centuries of Austrian Habsburg rule (“*Mit kíván a magyar nemzet*”).

They spelled out the details thus:

- 1) A free press with the abolition of Austrian censorship.
- 2) A responsible government administration in Pest-Buda.
- 3) An annual session of parliament at Pest.
- 4) Equality before the law in civil and religious matters.
- 5) A Hungarian national guard.
- 6) Common taxation of all strata of society.
- 7) Abolition of serfdom.
- 8) Common jury and representation based on equality.
- 9) A Hungarian national bank.
- 10) The military to swear allegiance to the Hungarian constitution;  
Hungarian soldiers not to be sent abroad; foreign (Austrian) soldiers to be removed from Hungary.
- 11) Release of political prisoners.
- 12) Union of Hungary with Transylvania.

At the bottom of their poster was added the slogan of the French Revolution: “Equality, liberty, fraternity!”

Members of the “March Youth” read the 12 points and Petőfi recited his “Talpra Magyar!” (*Nemzeti dal*) at several points in Pest-Buda, including the university, where they interrupted the lectures to do so. Finally, they went to the National Museum where, contrary to common belief, Petőfi did not recite his poem, but just gave a short speech to the enthusiastic crowd of some 10,000.

Taking over the printing press of Landerer és Heckenast, they printed up – without censorship! – thousands of copies of the 12 points and of Petőfi’s “Talpra magyar!” which they distributed to the crowds that kept gathering despite a pouring rain.



The 12 points were accepted by the general assembly of the city of Pest, with the populace admitted for the first time in centuries to the assembly halls on the afternoon of March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1848. The general populace was notified of this fact by means of posters.

A Committee of 13 was elected to assure order, and Petőfi was one of its members. The crowd demanded the freeing of Táncsics Mihály, who was held prisoner in Buda for his “radical” political views: he had published a pamphlet entitled “The Word of the People is God’s Word” (a translation of “Vox populi, vox Dei”). The people proceeded to the prison at Buda, and the president of the governor’s council freed him immediately. They put him in a carriage that they drew by hand across to the National Theater in Pest. They wanted to see Táncsics on stage, but realizing his poor physical condition, they gave up the idea.

The highest city and county officials took the lead of the independence movement, giving it national importance. Both sides of the city were brightly lit, and people kept yelling "Long live liberty!" ("Éljen a szabadság!") A crowd of some 20,000 to 25,000 people demanded the immediate establishment of a national guard, and threatened to break into the arsenal. Members of the Committee calmed them by suggesting that each section of the city send 100 people, and patrol the city alternately during the night.

Meanwhile, Kossuth was in Vienna, negotiating with the Austrians. At first, the Emperor Ferdinand V would not agree to the demands, but hearing of the events of Pest-Buda, eventually had to yield. He agreed to sanction the laws of reform passed in April by the last feudal parliament, which made Hungary an independent country and united it with Transylvania.

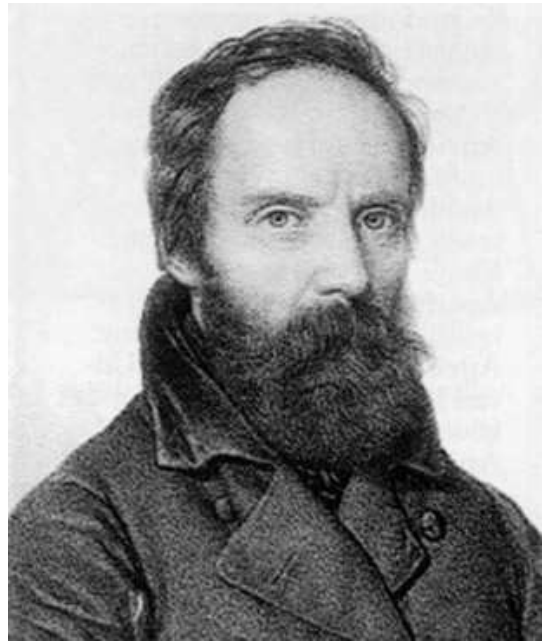
Count Batthyány Lajos was named prime minister, empowered to form a Hungarian government responsible no longer to the king, but to elected representatives of the Hungarian parliament. Elections were held in June, and the first elected parliament opened on July 5<sup>th</sup> in Pest.

Emboldened by the Hungarian successes, the minorities – Slovaks, Serbs, Croats and Romanians – also began demanding recognition as separate nations within Hungary. (Only the Rusyns and Slovenes did not turn against the Hungarians.) In response, the Hungarian leadership declared that, no matter what their language, the minorities were all members of the Hungarian nation. The Serbs and Croats turned to Austria for help, and Austria responded by demanding that unless Hungary withdrew the April laws, there would be military action on their part.

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, Jellasics, the *bán*<sup>[1]</sup> of Croatia crossed the Dráva River, attacking Hungary with 35,000 troops. They were beaten back at Pákozd by Kossuth's hastily gathered national guard (*honvédség*). But they were not able to deal similarly with the Serb and Romanian uprisings.

Jellasics, combined with the Austrian forces, defeated the Hungarian army at Schwechat near Vienna at the end of October.

In the spring, the Hungarian forces rallied, and were able to achieve considerable victories over the foreign forces. (See "Victory is Ours!" in the March 2012 issue of Magyar News Online). Realizing that he would not be able to crush the Hungarian uprising with his own forces alone, Emperor Francis Joseph, who had recently acceded to the throne, wrote to Tsar Nicholas of Russia



for help. He was not disappointed. Although a folk song mentions only 100,000 men<sup>[2]</sup>, a force of 200,000 Russians invaded Hungary, putting an end to the Revolution of 1849.

All because Hungarians wanted free speech and the right to be masters in their own house! (And a little more than a century later, in 1956, history repeated itself.)

<sup>[1]</sup> The *bán* had territorial power with authority to gather an army – in case of danger – without previous royal permission.

<sup>[2]</sup> Megjött a levél fekete pecséttel.  
Megjött a muszka száz ezer emberrel.  
Négy száz ágyúval áll a harc mezején.  
Így hát jó Anyám elmasírozok én.

## 64th Cafe Budapest

*Once again, a student of Hungarian origin received support for his studies, thanks to this annual fund-raiser.*

Sponsored by the Pannonia American-Hungarian Club, the 64th Café Budapest was held at Waterview in Monroe, CT on February 25<sup>th</sup>. The annual fund-raiser helps provide scholarships for students of Hungarian ancestry.

This year's Justin Margitay-Balogh Scholarship was awarded to Peter Mihok, to help further his studies to become a veterinary (like his Dad).

His mother Alíz read Peter's qualifying essay as Claudia Margitay-Balogh made the presentation.

Following welcoming remarks by Marika Horvath, President of the Pannonia Club, and by Christopher Ball, Director of the Central European Institute and the Széchenyi István Chair at Quinnipiac University, and Chairman of the Pannonia Club, Debutantes and their Escorts opened the dance.

A delicious supper of filet mignon and chicken was served by the attentive staff. An ample dessert table rounded off the feast.

A number of baskets with wine, books by prominent Hungarian writers and CD's were raffled off. A large size gobelin created by one of the Board members was the piece de resistance.



Over a hundred guests enjoyed the entertainment provided by Tünde Csonka and danced the evening away. Together with proceeds from the Long Hot Summer dinner dance in July, the Club is also able to offer

assistance to the Hungarian Scout Association in the US, and provides goodies for some 30 to 40 children at the annual Christmas pageant. In addition, they help Fr. Bőjte Csaba in his work with orphaned and poor

children in Transylvania.

Donations are welcome throughout the year. Contact Mrs. Maria Sabla Horváth, President, P.O. Box 1601, Fairfield, CT 06825.

***The 1956 Memorial on Riverside Drive will be dedicated on March 12th.  
All are invited.***

Dr. Kumin Ferenc nagykövet Magyarország New York-i főkonzulja és  
az 1956-os Amerikai Magyar Emlékmű Bizottság  
tisztelettel meghívják Önt és vendégét

**az 1956-os New York-i emlékmű felavatására**

**és az 1848-as forradalom és szabadságharc 169. évfordulója alkalmából tartandó ünnepi megemlékezésre**

**2017. március 12., vasárnap 10:00 órakor**

**1956-os emlékmű avatás és ünnepi koszorúzás a New York-i Kossuth szobornál és az  
1956-os emlékműnél**

**Riverside Drive és West 113th Street, New York**

Ünnepi beszédet mond Szilágy Péter nemzetpolitikáért felelős helyettes államtitkár  
Közreműködnek: a 7. sz. Erős Gusztáv és a 46. sz. Bánffy Kata cserkészcsapatok

**Délután 12:30 órakor**

a Magyar Ház vezetősége és társtulajdonos szervezetei: az Amerikai Magyar Könyvtár és Történelmi Társulat, a Külföldi Magyar Cserkész Szövetség és a Széchenyi István Társaság

**Ünnepi megemlékezést tart a New York-i Magyar Házban**

**Magyar Ház 213 East 82nd Street, New York, 10028**

A megemlékezést állófogadás követi. Kérjük, hogy részvételi szándékát március 8-ig jelezni szíveskedjen!

RSVP: [rsvp.nyf@mfa.gov.hu](mailto:rsvp.nyf@mfa.gov.hu)

## Another "Youth of March": Pálffy Albert

Karolina Tima Szabó

*Everyone knows that the Revolution and Freedom Fight of 1848-49 was sparked by Petőfi Sándor and his recitation of "Talpra, magyar!" But there were a number of other young men in Petőfi's circle (known as the "Youth of March") who, though not as well known, were just as enthusiastic in their patriotism. Here we look at one of them.*

Széchenyi István's reform ideas of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century didn't sit well with Austria. Nationalist consciousness was on the rise, not just among Hungarians, but among the minorities as well. The Habsburgs used this; they favored the Slavs, the Romanians over the Hungarians, and poisoned relations between them. This especially showed when the Hungarians requested that the language of the Diet be Hungarian.

Many great men were imprisoned for their liberal ideas: Kossuth Lajos, Wesselényi Miklós, Lovassy László and more. This intensified hate in the hearts of the Hungarian people toward the Habsburgs.

The Revolution had smoldered for years, not just in Hungary, but all over Europe. On February 28, 1848, the embers burst into flames; revolution erupted in Paris; on March 13<sup>th</sup> in Vienna and Metternich had to run.

News of the Vienna revolution arrived in Budapest on the night of the 14<sup>th</sup> at the Pilvax Kávéház, where Petőfi Sándor and his

friends usually got together. Hearing the news, Petőfi said "...*Tenni kell és mindjárt holnap... hátha holnapután már késő lesz.*" (We have to act, and immediately tomorrow... The day after may be too late.)

The very next day, on March 15<sup>th</sup> in the morning, a small group led by Petőfi, Jókai Mór and Vasváry Pál marched from the Pilvax to the Landerer print shop to publish their 12-point demands, which had been written during the night. They were joined by students, citizens of Buda and Pest, and peasants from the Pest area who came to the Joseph's day fair.



Pálffy Albert was one of the intellectuals who took part in the Revolution. He belonged to Petőfi's circle of friends, and he was the most radical of them. He was born in Gyula on April 20, 1820 to Pálffy Ferenc, and Nyéki Julianna. Pálffy was well educated, attended schools in Debrecen, Nagybánya and Arad, studied theology in Szatmár, but left before being ordained. Then he studied law in Nagyvárad and Pest. He took all the exams, got his law degree, but never practiced law. He worked in a bank, but his passion was literature. He spent his free time in journalism and writing novels. His first novel, *Magyar millionaire* was published in 1846, and *A fekete könyv*

in 1847. These were not very successful.

His writings were published in many papers: Nemzeti Újság, Vasárnapi Újság, Budapesti Hírlap, Szépirodalmi Közlöny, Ország-Világ, etc...Some compared his writings to Jókai Mór, the great storyteller of Hungary, but artistically they were far apart.

He became the member of the *Tízek Társasága* (The Society of Ten – a group of young writers who vowed not to publish their works in any other publication except their own. Intended to be called *Pesti Füzetek*, it was never published. Instead, the group was able to take over the distinguished literary journal, *Életképek*.)

In 1848, Pálffy became the managing editor of the *Márctius Tizenötödike* daily paper, which was the most leftist and radical paper. Basically it was the March Youth's revolutionary newspaper. It consisted of only four pages. Its printing started in the early afternoon, but as news came in of further developments, they were published. It was the first paper in Hungary that was sold by a *rikkancs* (newsboy) on the streets.

In the *Márctius* articles, Pálffy instigated against the Monarchy and published the revolutionaries' demands. Because of that, the government shut the paper down, and he was sent to prison in Szeged. After his release, he hid for years in Belényes (Bihar County), and spent four years at the house of one of his uncles in Szintye (Arad County). On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1853 he went to Pest where he was arrested and court-martialed and sent to internment in the south Czech town of Budweis. This is where he met and married Neweklowsky Fanni.



*Pilvax Café house, Pálffy Albert; Pálffy's tomb in Kerepesi cemetery*

Soon after their marriage, he was allowed to go back to Hungary and he continued his journalism and writing. He wrote for the publication called *Hon* for a while, and also edited *Esti Lap*. He was a member of the Kisfaludy (literary) Társaság and the Petőfi Társaság, and from 1884 of the MTA (Magyar Tudományos Akadémia – the Hungarian Academy of Sciences).

He took a long break from writing; he was in his 60s when he started to write again. As before, his novels were not very successful; they were mostly romantic love stories influenced by French romanticism. The best of them were *Esztike kisasszony professzora*, *Egy mérnök regénye*, *Az atyai ház*, etc...

The chief merit of Pálffy Albert was the part he played in the Revolution. His literary achievements consisted in that he was a great publicist, that he established simple taste and modern style journalism. He was an excellent portrait of the period; it is most interesting the way he describes the Reform period in *A régi Magyarország utolsó éveiben*.

Pálffy Albert died in Budapest on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1897. His resting place is in the Kerepesi úti Cemetery. His manuscripts are at the Magyar Nemzeti Múzeum Manuscript Department.

*Karolina Tima Szabo is a retired Systems Analyst of the Connecticut Post newspaper and Webmaster of Magyar News Online.*



## **Baked Cauliflower/Rakott karfiol**

*By: Éva Wajda*

*This is a very tasty recipe for a light, but at the same time substantial, lunch.*

1 large cauliflower  
1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese  
2 Tbs. flour  
2 egg whites  
1/2 cup dry breadcrumbs  
2 egg yolks, slightly beaten  
2 cups thick sour cream  
1 cup cubed cooked ham (optional)

Lightly grease a 1 1/2-qt. casserole. Remove leaves from cauliflower, cut off all the woody base and trim off any blemishes. Carefully break into flowerets and allow cauliflower to stand in cold, salted water about 30 minutes. Rinse and cook until tender but still firm. Mix bread crumbs and parmesan cheese; set aside. Mix egg yolks with flour in a bowl and add sour cream, mix thoroughly. Beat egg whites until firm, then fold into sour cream mixture. Set sauce aside.

Drain cauliflower; arrange one-half on bottom of casserole. If using ham, spoon it over cauliflower and pour one-half of the sauce over ham. Arrange remaining cauliflower over sauce; then add remaining sauce. Sprinkle crumb mixture on top. Bake at 350 degrees F for 20 - 30 minutes or until top is lightly browned.

Makes 6 - 8 servings.

### **Rakott karfiol**

1 nagy fej karfiol  
1/2 csésze reszelt parmezán sajt  
2 evőkanál liszt  
2 tojásfehérje  
1/2 csésze finom zsemlemorzsa  
2 tojássárgája, enyhén kikeverve  
2 csésze sűrű tejföl  
1 csésze kockára vágalt sonka (izlés szerint)

Vékonyan vajazzunk ki egy 1 1/2 quartos tűzálló tálat. Tisztítsuk meg a karfiolt, óvatosan bontsuk rózsákra. 30 percig sós vízben áztatjuk. Öblítsük le, 20-30 percig főzzük, puha de szilárd legyen. Keverjük össze a zsemlemorzsat a parmezán sajttal. Egy tálban keverjük ki a tojássárgákat a liszttel, ebbe öntsük bele a tejfölt, alaposan elegyítsük. Verjük fel habbá a két tojásfehérjét, majd apránként, óvatosan keverjük a habot a tejfölös elegybe. A kész mártást félretesszük.

Csurgassuk le a karfiolt, felét rendezzük el a tűzálló tál alján. A karfiol rózsákat szórjuk be a sonkával. Erre öntsük a mártás felét. A maradék karfiol a mártás fölé jön, tetejére a maradék mártás, végül az ízesített zsemlemorzsaival szórjuk be az egészet. 350 fokon 20-30 percig sütjük, vagy amíg a teteje világosbarnára nem pirul, 6-8 személyre elegendő.

# Arany János

## Bicentennial

By: Olga Vállay Szokolay

In November, 1956, preparing our escape from Hungary to the West, I had to decide what irreplaceable belongings I must take along. Besides a change of underwear, I packed family photographs and letters, as well as my tiny teddy-bear, Dorka, for good luck. Taking a final look around my room, I grabbed two small books from the table and slid them into my coat pocket: a volume of József Attila poems and a pocket-size version of ballads by Arany János.

As different as those two poets can be, both were my favorites.

This year, on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, we are celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of Arany János. Imagine 200 candles on an enormous cake, size of a dining table... No, the Fire Department would object that! Perhaps we can just light two 100-Watt light bulbs and sparklers, fly balloons, hoping the "Birthday Boy" would not mind the modernization...

Well, he needs no candles...  
Immortals don't...

The biography of Arany is far from being as spectacular as that of his friend, Petőfi. He was born on March 2, 1817, at Nagyszalonta, Hungary, the part of Bihar County that was annexed to Romania by the Trianon pact almost a hundred years ago. His father, Arany György, came from a family that received nobility from Bocskai, during the settling of the Hajdus. Yet, at the time of János' birth, his father and mother (Megyeri Sára), were a simple peasant couple of modest means, and were quite advanced in years. Their oldest daughter was married and all their eight other children, victims of the family's nemesis: TB, were



*The picture is from Erika Papp Faber's book, A Sampler of Hungarian Poetry - Ízelítő a magyar költészetből. Drawing by Csilla Somogyi*

dead. Thus, the parents tried to provide everything in their power to their late-born child who, partly due to his nature, partly as a result of very protective care became overly sensitive and introverted.

János learned to read and write from his parents, at age three or four. The boy learned to write by tracing the letters of the alphabet in the ashes of the hearth. The Bible was his first schoolbook. He first learned the legends of the Hajdus from his father, and that awoke his interest in historic epics. He read a lot and, in his hometown of Nagyszalonta, he was considered a child prodigy.

Due to their advanced age and poverty, his parents soon needed their son's support. Thus, at age 14, János took a job as a teacher's aide, to spare his aging parents the expense of his education. After two years, having saved up enough money, he enrolled in the Collegium at Debrecen, but the expense and the very demanding curriculum made him leave after the first se-

mester. He returned at age 18, following work/study in a smaller town where, at the vast library of the rector, he became acquainted with the classics and the era's modern literature. This time he quickly rose to the top of his class at the Collegium, started to study French and, besides the Latin classics, he also read German poetry.

János played the guitar well and his excellent voice was a welcome addition to the school's choir. He had a hard time sorting out his many talents: one day he wanted to become a painter, then a sculptor, then again, a musician.

To everyone's great surprise, at 19 he ventured into acting, first at the Debrecen theater, then, failing to get serious roles, he joined an actors' troupe. His thespian ambitions waned when he found himself not fitting in among his drunkard companions. After two months of the stage, the turning-point came in an ominous dream: he saw his mother dead. The "prodigal son" walked for seven days to see his dreadful dream coming true: his mother was dying, his father had gone blind.

For a while, János lived with his father while he taught Hungarian and Latin at the local school, then he became a conscientious assistant clerk with the Town, enjoying the benefit of an official residence. In 1840, at age 23, he married his long-time sweetheart, the orphaned Ercsey Julianna. Their first child, Juliska was born a year later, followed by a son, László in 1844.

At the urging of a friend, Arany János took up writing, started to translate Greek classics and learned English. In 1845, the Kisfaludy Társaság literary society sponsored a contest. As a result of a lot of friendly prodding as well as the lure of the prize money, he applied with his first work, under a pseudonym,

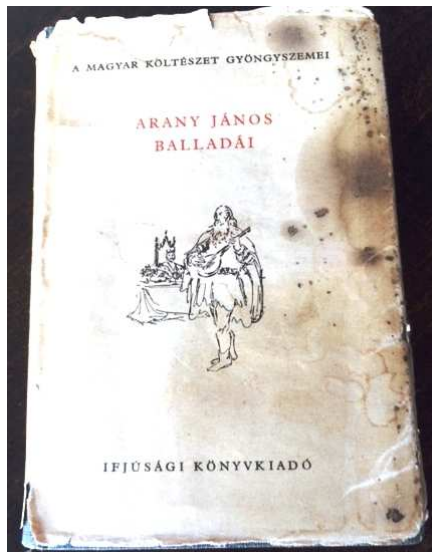
a satire titled "The Lost Constitution" (*"Az elveszett alkotmány"*). Even though one member of the jury (his older fellow poet and later friend) Vörösmarty Mihály found the work's language and verse antiquated, Arany won first place. A year later, he was the winner of the Kisfaludy Prize again with his most famous folk epic, *Toldi*. This time the recognition was unanimous and the jury raised the prize from 15 gold coins to 20!

The success of *Toldi* became a sensation in literary circles, and earned Arany the friendship of the volcanic Petőfi Sándor. Different as they were in temperament and poetic approach, their mutual admiration and friendship became legendary. Both considered themselves folk poets.

During the Revolution of 1848, Arany was still living at Nagyszalonta with his family, while Petőfi fought his memorable freedom fight at Pest. Thus, Arany's role was limited to writing patriotic poetry, and editing a popular newspaper. When Petőfi went to join General Bem's forces, he left his wife and young son first with Vörösmarty, then with Arany. With the crushing of the Revolution by Austria and Russia in 1849, Arany, who was also a militia-man for a while, lost his job as a junior civil servant, his property, and his best friend, Petőfi.

Being a Hungarian patriot, Arany János was devastated by the events. He had been in hiding for a few months before he obtained work as tutor for the Tisza family at their Geszt castle until 1851, when he was invited to teach at the Calvinist high school at Nagykőrös. He moved there with his family. His pupils liked him dearly. His inherent conscientiousness was just as present in his teaching as it had been in public office. During this time, he published "Toldi's Evening" and many ballads. But after nine years, his

isolation and his poor health left him feeling abandoned. In 1860, he finally moved to Pest when he was made Director of the Kisfaludy Society. There he cherished his long daily walks along the Danube and at Margitsziget.



In 1863, his daughter Juliska married the Calvinist pastor Széll Kálmán who was related to (but not the same as) the politician of the same name. In 1864, Arany's epic "Death of Buda" (*"Buda halála"*), part of an intended trilogy, was published and soon he was named Secretary of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the promoter of science and arts and the supreme arbiter of grammar. At long last, János now enjoyed a se-

cure financial life that came with the office.

In July, 1865, Juliska gave birth to a baby girl whom they named Piroska. Tragically, she could not enjoy motherhood for long. In December, she became ill and before year's end she died of TB, at age 24. Her grief-stricken parents inherited the task of raising their charming granddaughter; however, Juliska's death left a never-healing wound in her father's heart. For about a decade he published nothing and was constantly in ill health.

After this long hiatus came a fervent period of writing activity. In 1877, Arany resigned from the Academy. He finally finished "Toldi's Love" (*"Toldi szerelme"*) which became the second part of the trilogy. His profuse poetry now focused more on old age and passing.

Arany János died on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1882, at age 65. Fortunately, he pre-deceased his adored granddaughter, Piroska who, true to the family's awful tradition, fell victim to TB at age 20, in 1885.

Arany's life's work included 40 ballads, translations of Aristophanes, Pushkin, Lermontov, Molière; of three Shakespearean dramas ("A Midsummer Night's Dream", "Hamlet" and "King John"); and numerous pieces of lyric and narrative poetry. His own works, on the other hand, were translated into 50 languages, including English!

Dear Arany János, all of us who have been inspired and entertained by your wit, your patriotism, your ethics and your humor, wish you a very happy 200<sup>th</sup> birthday!

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

# Civilization / Civilisatio

*This brief poem gives a little insight into Arany János' sense of humor. The Hungarian translation is taken from "A Sampler of Hungarian Poetry - Izelítő a magyar költészetből" by Erika Papp Faber.*

## Civilization

Arany János

They didn't follow rules  
When waging war in days gone by.  
The stronger from the weaker took  
All that he could, that pleased his eye.

It's not like that now. The world's ruled  
By conferences apposite,  
And if the stronger plays a trick,  
He confers and - endorses it.

*Translated by Erika Papp Faber*

## Civilisatio

Ezlőtt a háborúban  
Nem követtek semmi elvet,  
Az erősebb a gyengétől  
Amit elvehetett, elvett.

Most nem úgy van. A világot  
Értekezlet igazítja:  
S az erősebb ha mi csínyt tesz,  
Összeül és - helybehagyja.

## Did you know ...

... **that** the Hungarian film "Sing" ("Mindenki") won the Academy Award for Best Short Film Live Action? Previously it had already won international acclaim at the Toronto International Film Festival; at the Short Shorts Film Festival in Tokyo; and at the Chicago International Children's Film Festival. Directed by Deák Kristóf, produced by Udvardy Anna, it is based on a true story and is the first time a Hungarian short film has won an Oscar.

... **that** the Budapest Chain Bridge (*Lánchíd*) was ranked fourth among the top 10 most beautiful bridges in the world by Traveler magazine? (We, of course, would rank it first!)

... **that** Sopron-born, 32nd ranked Babos Tímea won the Hungarian Ladies' Open Tennis Tournament in Budapest at the end of February? Last fall, she was the first Hungarian ever to enter the third round of the US Open Tennis Championship games.

... **that** between 7,000 and 8,000 people crossed the Balaton on foot in January? Frozen solid, Europe's largest warm-water lake provided a first-ever experience for making the 5.2 km (a little over 3 mi.) crossing from Badacsony to Fonyód, watched over by water rescue teams. Some just walked, others used skates, and children were drawn on sleds by their parents. At least one person was observed using a bicycle.



*From Daily News Hungary*

## Magyar News Online

242 Kings Hwy Cut-off  
Fairfield, CT 06824

[www.magyarnews.org](http://www.magyarnews.org)

Editor: Erika Papp Faber  
Founder, Editor and Publisher  
Emeritus: Joseph F. Balogh

Editorial Board:  
Olga Vallay Szokolay, Éva Wajda  
Charles Bálintt, Eliz Kakas,  
Judith Paolini Paul Soos, Joseph  
Ull

Webmaster: Karolina Szabo

Assistant Webmaster:  
Zsuzsa Lengyel

Treasurer : Zita Balogh

# Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation

By: Charles Bálintt Jr.

February 6<sup>th</sup> would have been my grandmother's 127<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was born Maria Olga Feilitzsch, in 1890. Her mother's family was Hungarian and her father's family was German. While remembering her, I also realized that later this year will be the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. And although it may not be overtly obvious, there is a connection between the two.

Beginning with St. Peter, the popes had led the Christian Church. This was quite a difficult task until the Edict of Milan in 313, which ended Christian persecution in Rome. It was issued by Constantine the Great not long after his victory in the Battle of the Milvian Bridge (312 A.D.). It was said that on the night before the battle he had seen a cross in the sky with the words "*in hoc signo vinces*" (in this sign you will conquer).

Because of the great territory of the Roman Empire, Constantine also established a new capital for the Eastern Roman Empire called Constantinople (today's Istanbul). After the fall of Rome to the barbarians in 476, the Eastern Empire continued to flourish as the Byzantine Empire. The Christian leadership in the east continued to fall under the rule of the Pope until the first Great Schism of 1054. This is when the Eastern Orthodox Church separated from the west.

Despite the split between east and west, the authority of the Popes continued to increase. For example, in January of 1077, Henry IV, the Holy Roman Emperor, stood in the snow for three days before the gates of



*Martin Luther*

the castle of Canossa, waiting for the Pope to see him and lift his excommunication from the Church. There were inquisitions (most notably the Spanish Inquisition) and indulgences to be paid to the Church to obtain salvation. With so much power, the Church had strayed from its foundation in the teachings of Jesus.

Martin Luther was born in 1483 and, based on the wishes of his father, was destined to become a lawyer. But apparently, after he began law school, a lightning strike came extremely close to him, and he promised Saint Ann that he would become a monk if his life were spared. He lived and went on to study theology. He in fact received degrees in various areas of study (Master of Arts in grammar, logic, rhetoric and metaphysics; Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Studies and Sentences by Peter Lombard, the main textbook of theology of the times; a PhD in theology). He was ordained a priest in 1507 and, after receiving his doctorate, he taught theology at the University of Wittenberg, becoming the department chair.

It was on October 31, 1517 that he wrote to his bishop, opposing the sale of indulgences and then nailed his 95 Theses, which were also sent to the bishop, on the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg. Although a few others came before him, they did not fare as well: 80 of Peter Waldo's followers, known as Waldensians, were tried and sen-

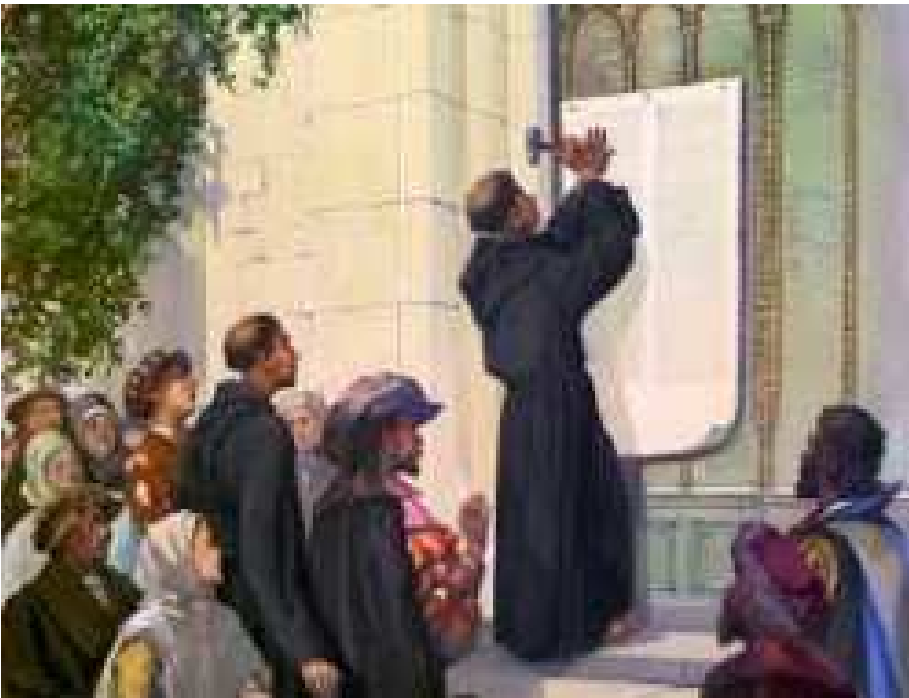
tenced to death in France in the early 1200's; Jan Hus, a Czech, was executed in 1415; and John Wycliffe, who died in England in 1384, was declared a heretic, posthumously excommunicated and his writings were banned by the Council of Constance in 1415. So the official beginning of the Protestant Reformation is assigned to Martin Luther's actions at Wittenberg.

Among Martin Luther's greatest contributions to religion and to society was his translation of the Bible into German, which not only allowed the average person to have access to the Scriptures, but also helped to create a standard German language. He also wrote two Catechisms, one for the priesthood and one for the congregation, thereby giving full instructions on how the new Church should function. In addition to this, he wrote many hymns that were to be sung during Mass.

When he was 41, he married a former nun, Katharina von Bora, and they went on to have 6 children. This began the tradition of allowing Protestant ministers to marry.

He was excommunicated for his teachings and his opposition to certain Church and papal practices. He was also named an outlaw by the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V. In fact, according to Charles V's decree (Edict of Worms on May 25, 1521), anyone providing food or shelter to Martin Luther would be punished, and if anyone killed him that person would not be charged with a crime. Nevertheless, when he died in 1546 at the age of 62, it was due to illness and not at the hands of his enemies.

Martin Luther seemed to stay steady in his belief in faith over reason when it came to religion. But his views on certain other subjects changed over time. When the Turks



## Louis Mark – Artist Distinguished in Hungary AND in America

*By: Erika Papp Faber*

A painter on many levels, Louis Mark created portraits, book illustrations, caricatures and posters in Hungary and in the US. He studied in Budapest, München and Paris. In 1888, the Bavarian state bought his painting of a life-size nude male for 100 marks, five times the usual price.

On his return to Budapest, he signed up for his voluntary military service. He received state assistance for further art studies and took part in a painting course at the famous Nagy-bánya artists' colony.

He first attracted attention with a portrait of the Hungarian explorer Count Teleki Sámuel (in the costume of the Sultan of Zanzibar), at an exhibit in 1889. In November of 1907, he introduced himself to the public with a collection of 137 paintings and 14 caricatures. That led to invitations to show his work in Germany, England and the US. He exhibited regularly in Budapest, and had shows in Pozsony and Belgrade as well. He participated in the Venice Biennale (art festival) numerous times, beginning in 1901.

He invented a technique of painting with a long brush which allows the viewer to see more details the further away one stands from the canvas.

In 1910, the National Arts Club invited him to New York where he was celebrated by representatives of the Austro-Hungarian diplomatic corps and members of American high society, many of whom he painted. Among them were President Wood-

were invading Europe in 1518, he originally was against fighting them, but by 1529 he was encouraging the Emperor to fight the Turks. Beside his personal battle with the Catholic Church, he had some other controversies in his life. Among other things he advised Philip of Hesse that it was all right to take a second wife as long as he kept it secret. When Philip's bigamy was revealed, he told him to lie about it. He also had many writings that were considered anti-Semitic. Most of this stemmed from his anger over the Jews rejecting the divinity of Jesus.

Over the last 10 years of his life Martin Luther suffered from various illnesses. As a result of this he became quite rude and short tempered. His writings also became angrier. His final sermon only three days before he died was devoted to having the Jews driven out of German territory unless they repented and converted to Christianity.

Oh yes, you may still be wondering why my grandmother, who actually belonged to the Reformed (Református) Church, reminded me of Martin Luther and the

500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation? Well, one of the knights who was a close friend and protector of Martin Luther was Philip von Feilitzsch, one of my ancestors on my father's mother's side of the family.

*Charles Bálintt Jr. is a working Customs Broker in Lawrence, NY and a member of the Magyar News Online Editorial*



*Louis Mark -selfportrait*

row Wilson and explorer Commodore Robert E. Peary, who (supposedly) discovered the North Pole. (Frederick Cook also claimed to have done so, but a year earlier.)

This was the first of many trips to the US. Here, in May of 1912, he married the aspiring actress Molnár Rózsa, whose roots were in Győr. (Their son, Louis Mark Jr. would eventually work at the American embassy in Budapest after World War II, and after his retirement would move to Norfolk, CT.)

One of Louis Mark's paintings entitled "Before the Mirror" won a gold medal at the Panama-Pacific International Exhibition in San Francisco in 1915. In recognition of his artistic merits, he was made a life member of the US National Arts Club.

In Hungary, he painted portraits of Emperor Francis Joseph as well as the tragically assassinated Queen Elizabeth and her court. Prominent actresses of the time (Márkus Emilia, Bajor Gizi, etc.) and opera singers (including Jeritza Mária), leading Hungarian politicians and public figures were all subjects of his brush. According to his friend Anthony Geber who, in 1993, wrote a biography of Mark, he was "the first and foremost painter of the Budapest bourgeoisie" at the turn of the 19th century, providing "documentation for a bygone era". It was said of him that he made all the women look beautiful.

Mark illustrated the works of many prominent Hungarian authors. Geber also wrote that "as a caricaturist, he was both admired and feared".

He took an active part in the artistic life of Hungary and was a founding member of several artists' societies, including the Munkácsy Céh, an American branch of which he helped to establish in 1929.

In 1938, Mark came to America with his family to organize a Hungarian exhibit of paintings. But the outbreak of World War II prevented his return to Hungary. He lived in New York until his death of a heart attack on March 18th, 1942.

Some of his works were destroyed during the war. But many were saved, and for a number of years were stored in a trailer in Norfolk, CT. Over one hundred of these canvases were eventually bought by Susan Camille Beckman Roghani, founder of the Camille Beckman Company of specialty personal care items. When a factory was built for her products in Eagle, Idaho in 2000, plans also included a restaurant, an art gallery, a music area,



*Portrait of Queen Elizabeth of Hungary*



*Portrait of his wife and daughter*

public gardens and a peaceful prayer space. All these were combined into one major building with large surrounding gardens. Called Chateau des Fleurs, it is a wedding and event venue. A number of Mark Lajos paintings are displayed in the Chateau, which is modeled on the Chateau of Versailles.

*Erika Papp Faber is Editor of Magyar News Online.*



*Caption: Top row center: Commodore Robert E. Peary. Second row: left: displayed in Chateau des Fleurs; right: "Before the Mirror". Bottom : Lace tablecloth*