

# HUNGARIAN AMERICANS TOGETHER III

## CONFERENCE REPORT

### *Hosted By*

American Hungarian Federation,  
Hungarian Reformed Federation of America,  
Hungarian Civic Association of New Brunswick

### *Co-Chairmen*

Dr. August J. Molnar, President  
American Hungarian Foundation

Dr. Balazs Somogyi, Chairman of the Board  
Hungarian American Coalition  
President, Hungarian Cultural Society of Connecticut

October 10-11, 2008

American Hungarian Foundation

New Brunswick, NJ

## **Background**

On April 18, 2008, the Hungarian American Coalition honored Prof. August J. Molnar, President of the American Hungarian Foundation, at a Gala dinner in Washington DC. When planning for this event the Coalition's Board decided to hold a half-day seminar entitled "Hungarian Americans Together" inviting many other organizations, and asking them to give a brief presentation on their activities, and time permitting, to exchange ideas on the future of Hungarian American organizations. During the seminar, given the number of presentations, there was not enough time to discuss this important issue. Therefore, the participants agreed to hold a follow-up meeting to discuss the future of Hungarian American organizations, which was held in Ligonier, PA, on June 26 and 27, 2008, hosted by the William Penn Association and the Bethlen Communities.

Following the success of the second conference held in Ligonier, PA, the American Hungarian Federation, the Hungarian Reformed Federation of America and the Hungarian Civic Association of New Brunswick, NJ, agreed to organize a follow-up meeting, inviting the participants of the June conference and many other organizations across the United States.

The follow-up meeting was held in New Brunswick, NJ, on October 11 and 12, 2008, at the Museum, Library and Archives facilities of the American Hungarian Foundation. The agenda and schedule of the conference was the following:

## **Agenda**

### **Friday, October 10**

- 9:00 am Breakfast at the American Hungarian Foundation
- 10:00 am Prayer of Invocation
- 10:05 am Welcome to all attendees by co-chairmen: Dr. Balazs Somogyi and Dr. August J. Molnar
- Introduction of conference moderator: Imre Lendvai-Lintner
- 10:15 am Review of the Conference Report from the Ligonier Conference II
- 11:00 am Reports on the status of deliverables discussed at Conference II in Ligonier
- (i) Hungarian Heritage Month (concept for October)
  - (ii) "Pass it On"
  - (iii) Organizational commitments to use and promote the Gulyas Pot site:  
[www.thegulyaspot.com](http://www.thegulyaspot.com)

- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm New considerations:
- (1) Hungarian American participation in the “Year of Hungarian Culture” during 2009;
  - (2) Organize support and strategy for
    - (a) A network of Hungarian American museum and cultural centers in the U.S.;
    - (b) The Hungarian language and cultural schools/programs in U.S. (elementary to university level);
    - (c) The “grass roots” Hungarian clubs and civic associations in U.S., which are most accessible to those who wish to “connect” to their roots and native culture;
    - (d) The dance groups and to other musical groups, which also extend the appreciation of the Hungarian culture here in U.S.
  - (3) Other considerations
- 3:00 pm Arrival of the Choir of the Debrecen Reformed Great Church for a tour of the museum  
Greetings and welcome to Choir and delegates to Conference by Mayor James Cahill of New Brunswick
- 3:30 pm Resume discussion of deliverables
- 5:00 pm Adjourn and leave for Hungarian American Athletic Club (HAAC)
- 5:30 pm Dinner at the HAAC
- 7:30 pm Concert at HAAC by the Choir of the Great Church of Debrecen, Hungary

### **Saturday, October 11**

- 9:00 am Breakfast at the American Hungarian Foundation
- 10:00 am Introduction of guests  
  
Film on the Hungarian Language Museum re: Széphalom, Hungary
- 10:30 am Greetings from Dr. Gusztáv Bölcskei, Bishop, Great Church of Debrecen, Hungary
- 10:45 am Scholarship issues-Quinnipiac University scholarship for Sapientia University students
- 11:00 am Duna TV offer to include the Hungarian American scene in programming
- 11:15 am Process of implementation of programs identified by Conference II

- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 pm Resume discussion of implementation of programs and issues: the Hungarian American landscape, community needs and tools, the “will to pass on”
- 3:00 pm Coffee break
- 3:15 pm Discussion resumes and consider plans for Conference IV
- 5:00 pm Conference adjourns

## Participants

The participants of the conference were the following:

Dr. August J. Molnar, American Hungarian Foundation and Dr. Balazs Somogyi, Chairman of the Board of the Hungarian American Coalition; President of the Hungarian Cultural Society of Connecticut, as co-chairmen; Imre Lendvai-Lintner, Hungarian Scout Association in Exeteris, as moderator; and

Christopher Ball, Ph.D.	Quinnipiac University
Jules Gyula Balogh	American Hungarian Federation (AHF)
Rev. Imre A. Bertalan	Bethlen Communities (BC)
Zsolt Bobis	Hungarian Human Rights Foundation (HHRF)
George Dozsa	Hungarian Reformed Federation of America (HRFA)
Andrew S. Evva	The American Foundation for Hungarian Youth and Culture
Phyllis S. Evva	The American Foundation For Hungarian Youth And Culture
Patricia Fazekas	American Hungarian Foundation (AHF)
Laszlo Hamos	HHRF, HAC, HRFA, New York American-Hungarian Library
Edith K. Lauer	HAC
Andras Ludanyi	Magyar Baráti Közösség (MBK)
Annamaria Ludanyi	MBK, Kalendarium
Koloman K. Ludwig	Bishop
Kalman Magyar	American Hungarian Folklore Centrum
Leslie Laszlo Megyeri	HRFA
Sandor Murray	AHF
Suzan Murray	AHF
Eva Eszter Nagy	HAC
Tibor Purger	Duna TV
Istvan Sohar	Committee of Hungarian Churches and Organizations, New Brunswick
Csilla Somogyi	Hungarian Cultural Society of Connecticut (HCSC)
Maximilian Teleki	HAC
Peter Ujvagi	State Representative, Toledo
Benedek Varsanyi	HAC
Rev. Jozsef Vasarhelyi	Hungarian Reformed Church, Passaic, NJ

William Vasvary	William Penn Association (WPA)
Peter Wendl	HAC
Miklos Zsedely	Trans Art Area
Timea Zsedely	Trans Art Area

## Minutes

Following is a brief summary of the proceedings based on notes taken by Eva Eszter Nagy and Benedek Varsanyi.

### Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

After breakfast at the American Hungarian Foundation the meeting was opened by the co-chairmen, Dr. Balazs Somogyi and Dr. August J. Molnar, who welcomed the guests. Balazs Somogyi in his opening remarks stressed that “the fact that we are here shows that there is more that binds us together than that separates us”.

Imre Lendvai-Lintner was introduced as conference moderator.

The first agenda item was the *Review of the Conference Report from the Ligonier Conference II*.

#### **1. Review of the Conference Report from the Ligonier Conference II.**

Rev. Imre A. Bertalan reviewed the Report from the Hungarian Americans Together Conference II, held in Ligonier on June 26-27, 2008.

First, he briefly reiterated the challenges that the Hungarian American community faced. The major problems identified by Ligonier conference were the following:

- (a) How can we attract the next generation?
- (b) We have to find new ways of communication: speak their language.
- (c) The community, the organizations should always pay attention to the needs of the people for the fulfillment of which they organized them.
- (d) We have to reach out and find the ‘New Hungarians’.
- (e) We need to influence the parents to get the children involved.
- (f) There is no network for the youth, interns who were here, etc.
- (g) Strengthening the communication within the community (network needed!).
- (h) Technology efficiency.
- (i) Certain studies should be developed and carried on, about the Hungarian American community to enable us to identify the domestic needs.
- (j) We always have to observe and review ourselves – whether the needs are still the same since we were founded, or have they changed.

- (k) Lack of Hungarian-culture related studies (and funding) at the American universities.
- (l) We should offer something to the young people to come to our organizations.
- (m) Problem with scholarships: there is no obligation of the recipients (e.g. work somewhere after the program or go home and work there in a company etc.) We should redesign these programs in order to make sure that the scholarships are investments to the community too. For further details see the report of the HAT Conference II.

Rev. Bertalan also summarized the community needs and the tools to handle them, as it was discussed by the participants of the last conference:

- (a) Educational: Youth networking, Scouting, Multi-generational Tools & Programming;
- (b) Cultural: Museums, Language learning, Dance groups, Choirs;
- (c) Social: Hungarian Clubs / Houses, [www.thegulyaspot.com](http://www.thegulyaspot.com);
- (d) Fraternal / Charitable: Maintain institutions, museums, insurance, safety;
- (e) Advocacy;
- (f) Business community: Networking of professionals;
- (g) Language;
- (h) Development: Fundraising needed for development;
- (i) Virtual: Websites, Computer literacy, [www.thegulyaspot.com](http://www.thegulyaspot.com) central site for community – social, historical, educational, etc;
- (j) Archival capabilities: Museums and Archives, Virtual, computerized archival.

Another important issue at the last conference was Lauer Learning's "Pass It On..." white paper presented by Andrea Lauer Rice. Andrea Lauer addressed the problem of precisely identifying the goals and strategy regarding the "passing on" of American Hungarian heritage. An important concept was to reach the youth through technology.

The participants of the conference also decided the further planning of the Hungarian American Heritage Month.

Rev. Bertalan listed the main deliverables (due by end of August, 2008) of the Conference II.:

1. All organizations register at [www.thegulyaspot.com](http://www.thegulyaspot.com) and inform their membership about this tool, and also refresh it regularly;
2. [www.thegulyaspot.com](http://www.thegulyaspot.com) community outreach - Lauer Rice to coordinate with Attila Kocsis, Digital Phenom on podcasts, and with Laszlo Hamos, HHRF, on map functionality;
3. All organizations who have scholarship programs send in information to Gulyas Pot site;

4. Hungarian American Heritage Month (HAHM), Andrea Lauer Rice to poll community leaders to decide on exact month, Max Teleki to research next steps on how to officially designate month to be HAHM by the US government;
5. Set date and venue for next meeting in October (Balazs Somogyi and August Molnar will circulate a proposal as soon as possible);
6. Work to expand list of potential participants and keep as many organizations informed of the “Hungarian Americans Together” meetings and provide them with the reports. Determine those with the greatest need, who would potentially travel from the west coast or other regions to ensure their future participation, as suggested by Zoltan Bagdy. Identify potential funding sources.

**2. Reports on the status of deliverables discussed at Conference II in Ligonier**

*(i) Hungarian Heritage Month (concept for October)*

Max Teleki introduced the plans regarding the Hungarian Heritage Month: a proclamation would be requested from the President and/or parallel a resolution introduced at the US Congress. He said that these drafts were being prepared by HAC staff.

According to the plan, in every year – in October or March – there would be a Hungarian Heritage Month (like Polish, German, etc. heritage months). Discussants agreed that this had no connection with the events organized by the Hungarian Government next year. The Hungarian Heritage Month would provide a framework to the Hungarian American communities to fill it with whatever cultural event they would like to present. This culture period should be a month long to allow communities and organizations more time to organize and promote events and advertize through the Gulyas Pot. The promotion of these events should be done not only within each organization, but it is important to share it with a broader – non Hungarian – community.

Participants agreed that October would be the preferred month.

<b>Deliverables</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
- write a letter and a draft proclamation/ resolution to be sent to the President/ Congress	Max Teleki	
- support the letter and give feedback when the draft letter is distributed	Every organization	

*(ii) “Pass it On”*

Max Teleki, on behalf of Andrea Lauer Rice, presented the concept and the current status of the “Pass It On” project. Max Teleki expressed his appreciation for the work of Andrea Lauer Rice, CEO of Lauer Learning, LLC, who developed and prepared the “Pass It On” program.

The “Pass It On” is a model to reach Hungarian Americans disconnected from their community to help preserve the Hungarian identity in U.S., to strengthen ethnic ties, and to maintain Hungarian ethnicity.

Because “Pass It On” addresses the challenges that the Hungarian American communities face, the organizations can benefit from adopting the "Pass It On" program, advertising and utilizing it for their community.

There is a white paper on this program, which can be downloaded at: [http://www.lauerlearning.com/download/Pass\\_it\\_on\\_WhitePaper.pdf](http://www.lauerlearning.com/download/Pass_it_on_WhitePaper.pdf)

Lauer Learning, LLC ([www.lauerlearning.com](http://www.lauerlearning.com)) is a for profit organization, that creates tools and provides them for the community, such as the “Pass It On” program and the Gulyas Pot site, both tool are free to use.

*(iii) Organizational commitments to use and “populate” the Gulyas Pot site:  
[www.thegulyaspot.com](http://www.thegulyaspot.com)*

Edith Lauer informed the participants of the conference of the status of the Gulyas Pot site. The Gulyas Pot is a tool for all organizations. It could be used as a nationwide gathering webpage, for example communities of D.C. could find communities in L.A. The Gulyas Pot is a community driven program; every organization can upload their events, open to everyone; it is also capable to reenergize programs in their own community. Edith Lauer told that at that time Andrea Lauer was working on the “organizations and churches” section of the site.

Edith Lauer regretted that until the time of the conference the use of the site had not been as broad as it should have had been, and suggested that the pot needed to be filled up with “Gulyas”. She said that Andrea Lauer made the Gulyas Pot website as a gift to the community - if the community filled it up with content, it would be more appealing.

Many participants expressed their appreciation and enthusiasm about the project.

Lauer promoted the “Best Submission” competition of the webpage (deadline: Oct. 23rd), within which photos, videos, audios, and texts can be uploaded.

Answering the question how to find the Gulyas Pot site, Max Teleki said that it has been advertized and promoted it e-mail lists, and that the database was getting larger and larger, however, he stressed the need that communities register and inform their members about the site.

Some participants of the conference urged that the content of the Gulyas Pot site should be monitored by an organization (to avoid dangerous debates among Hungarians on different issues), or organizations should have one representative monitoring what was going on the webpage. The discussants agreed that such a monitoring would be needed later, but at the time of the conference the problem was the lack of content.

(To visit the site: [www.thegulyaspot.com](http://www.thegulyaspot.com))

In connection with the discussions on the Gulyas Pot, Miklos Zsedely presented their website [www.transartarea.com](http://www.transartarea.com). He regretted that the present case was a sad example of Hungarians not cooperating, not sticking together, for two similar initiatives were done totally separately, without knowing about each other. Miklos Zsedely told that Trans Art Area was maintained by a non profit organization and served cultural-educational purposes. He mentioned

that the webpage was both in English and in Hungarian. They had a forum, links to news, programs, and conference events. He also said that they have had about 290,000 hits until then.

<b>Deliverables</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
- register at the Gulyas Pot; fill up information on themselves and on their programs	Every organization, community	
- promote "Best Submission" competition till Oct. 23rd.	Everyone	

*iv. Evaluation of the report on the survey conducted on Hungarian Americans*

Max Teleki informed the participants about a survey made on the Hungarian American communities. The survey was commissioned by the Hungarian Government, sponsored by the Office of Hungarians Abroad, which in the meantime was abolished, and initially conducted by the Teleki László Institute, which subsequently was also abolished. The project was finished by the Hungarian Foreign Institute earlier this year by publishing the report in a book format entitled "*Beszédből világ – Elemzések, adatok amerikai magyarokról*".

The report contains interviews in English with 53 community leaders, it deals with sociological issues, and has great amount of statistical data and other information. Andras Ludanyi, who has read the report, said that he had found it biased at some points. The original report is published as a book in Hungarian language, however, the introduction and the 45-page summary is also available in English.

Imre Lendvai-Lintner and Andras Ludanyi supported Max Teleki's idea that all interested parties should read the report and send the responses to the authors. The interviewees can also be involved in preparing a response.

Some advised that the evaluation of the report and the formulation of a common reply may be one of the basic issues at the next conference, however, the participants finally agreed that the report should be on the agenda, but the focus should be on the tasks and action rather than discussing and criticizing the book.

<b>Deliverables</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
- drafting of individual letters expressing their opinion about the survey	the interviewees and readers of the book	
- inform the interviewees	Emese Latkoczy	
- collect the response letters	HAC	
- write a cover letter to the individual letters	Andras Ludanyi	
- invite the two researchers to the next meeting		
- request DunaTV to cover the event	Tibor Purger	

### **3. New considerations**

#### **a. Hungarian American participation in the “Year of Hungarian Culture” during 2009**

Max Teleki presented the current situation of the Hungarian Year of Culture 2009 to the participants. The Hungarian Year of Culture 2009 - “Extremely Hungary” is an initiative of the Hungarian government under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Education and Culture with a budget of \$4 million. Max Teleki raised a number of concerns regarding the organizing of the “Extremely Hungary” events; the programs are limited to Washington D.C. and New York, although they could be extended to other nearby cities too, with relatively low cost; the Hungarian Cultural Centre in NYC, in charge of organizing the events, - despite the will to cooperate of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry and the verbal support from the Ministry of Education and Culture - neither the Hungarian American organizations, nor the Embassy of Hungary at Washington have been involved in the planning and organizing.

Max Teleki highlighted that 2009 will be a very important year: a new administration will be coming to Washington, the Visa Waiver program will start in January, and the 20th anniversary of the fall of the iron curtain on the Austria-Hungarian border. He stressed that promoting culture was a diplomatic tool too, so there was a great opportunity also from this point of view. He also said that Hungarian President László Sólyom’s visit would be ideal in 2009, mentioning that he was working on the president’s invitation.

Max Teleki said that HAC might probably support a few of the “Extremely Hungary” program elements, but there was a broad consensus among the participants of the conference agreeing with the initiative of Gyula Balogh, Balazs Somogyi and Max Teleki that additional programs should be developed, independently from the “Extremely Hungary” programs. The cultural programs to be organized by the Hungarian American organizations should address a broader American public, not just the Hungarian American communities.

Kalman Magyar named two goals for the Hungarian Year of Culture 2009 programs by the Hungarian American organizations: one, is to arrange high-level events to attract a big audience, two, is to link the events to our institutions to strengthen those institutions and to help preserve the communities. Balazs Somogyi advised that organizations should seek connection with local symphony orchestras and possibly make arrangements between them and visiting Hungarian orchestras to make common performances. He also mentioned Wallingford as a good example. Balazs Somogyi, together with Kalman Magyar stressed the importance of involving local Hungarian churches, and the involvement of non-Hungarian groups and audiences that might be interested. Andras Ludanyi suggested that we linked the cultural aspect with the urgent need to save Hungarian churches in Cleveland.

Upon Csilla Somogyi’s suggestion, the participants agreed to make fundraisers for the Hungarian cultural events, and put that money in a big common fund to decide later which events to support to which extent. Kalman Balogh Gypsy Cimbalom Band’s 2009 USA and Canadian Tour at a cost of approximately \$10,000, the Liszt Ferenc Academy’s choir and Győr National Ballet were among the most important suggestions by the participants. Laszlo Hamos suggested that HRFA could become a co-sponsor of the tour of the Liszt Ferenc Academy’s

choir. The participants agreed to set up a “2009 Year of Hungarian Culture Committee” that would meet time to time to allocate the funds collected.

<b>Deliverables</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
- have at least one fundraising event to sponsor cultural events	Every organization	February, 2009
- make “first-round” donations to sponsor the cultural events (\$500 each); send them to Kalman Magyar (He will provide a bank account number.)	HRFA, BC, WPA, HCSC, HAC, AMSZ	October 31, 2008
- create of a well-designed flyer to promote 2009 Year of Hungarian Culture, with the name of the Hungarian American organizations who made donations	HCSC (Balazs Somogyi)	October 22, 2008
- set up 2009 Year of Hungarian Culture Committee		
- provide information on local events to the Gulyas Pot and encourage local programs by Hungarian American communities	Every organization	
- circulate „Kalman Balogh Gypsy Cimbalom Band: 2009 USA and Canadian Tour” dates by e-mail, upload to the Gulyas Pot site	Kalman Magyar	
- make a list of Hungarian artists living, studying in the U.S., to be able to get them involved when needed	Kalman Magyar	

**b. Organize support and strategy for new initiatives**

The following new initiatives were discussed requiring community participation:

- (1) A network of Hungarian American museum and cultural centers in the U.S.;
- (2) The Hungarian language and cultural schools/programs in U.S. elementary to university level;
- (3) The “grass roots” Hungarian clubs and civic associations in U.S., which are most accessible to those who wish to connect to their roots and native culture;
- (4) Dance and musical groups, which also promote the appreciation of Hungarian culture here in the U.S.

Rev. Imre A. Bertalan opened the topic with describing our once-thriving cultural life which was facing serious problems: clubs, dance groups and other forms social life were closing down, however, there were clubs that were doing well. He raised the question of how we could sustain

our Hungarian heritage, our local clubs (libraries, collections, and cultural institutions) financially.

Sandor Murray remarked that everybody is getting older than usual, pointing to the main problem of the Hungarian American organizations that there were few young people around involved in community life.

Max Teleki presented a database and Excel table listing Hungarian American organizations throughout the U.S. The participants agreed to update the excel database (e-mail address, homepage, phone number, new contacts) and made further commitments to revitalize organizations and communities. Imre Lendvai-Lintner summarized the topic by saying that we should first refresh the data, then make discussions in regional and thematic groups, and third, identify emergency areas, and last but not least, collect money for them.

Peter Ujvagi agreed with those saying that the most important question of this time was to connect to the next generation. To resolve the problem we have to answer other questions: What is key: language, churches (faith), internet communities, clubs? Why do we want to maintain Hungarian American culture? How can we save the culture, organizations and churches? What are the institutions we would like to preserve? What does Hungarian American culture mean? What are the steps we need to take?

Ludwig K. Koloman mentioned good news: Hungarian classes involved 100 children in their town. He also reminded the participants that the Hungarian Americans also had the responsibility to help the whole Hungarian nation preserve its culture, its "soul".

Laszlo Hamos acknowledged two self-aiding organizations, which had survived a long time, the WPA and the HRFA. Max Teleki called for the support of both.

Max Teleki raised the issue of the scholarship offered to Hungarian-American students, mentioning that these students should be followed-up to find out about their contributions to their community.

Andras Ludanyi introduced the situation regarding the Hungarian studies program at the University of Bloomington, Indiana. He said that the Bloomington program, which is based on an agreement between the Hungarian government and the Bloomington University, had the funds to run the academic side of the program, but did not have a scholarship or grant program for students. He mentioned that the academic people to the program were always imported from Hungary, thus they lacked roots in US society going back to Hungary after a few semester, thus could not reach out to the community for scholarship programs. Andras Ludanyi said that \$100,000 was needed to get the program started. He also mentioned other Hungarian-American university exchange programs, such as the ones sponsored by Rutgers University and the Balassi Institute.

Laszlo Hamos encouraged a closer cooperation between Hungarian-American museums and cultural centers in the US, for example sponsoring touring exhibitions.

The Gulyas Pot was suggested as a place for the virtual tours of the museums, or at least for putting online past exhibits, for those who could not attend previous exhibits.

A new website of the American Hungarian Foundation was presented: [www.ahfoundation.org](http://www.ahfoundation.org). It contains a searchable catalog and the digitalization of the archives is under planning.

<b>Deliverables</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
- circulate electronically the H-A excel database	HAC	
- check the contacts listed in the H-A excel database in their respective area if they exist, add new contacts, and send feedback to the HAC in a separate file	Every organization	Dec 30, 2008
- try to organize regional or thematic meetings regarding their area or profile; specific commitments already made	Every organization	
-- make a list of the Hungarian American-related museums and hold a teleconference to discuss their cooperation	Laszlo Hamos	
-- update the list and organize a meeting for the Hungarian American communities and organizations in New Jersey	Kalman Magyar	
-- update the list and organize a meeting for the Hungarian American communities and organizations in Connecticut	Balazs Somogyi	
-- update the list and organize a meeting for the Hungarian American communities and organizations in Pennsylvania	Rev. Imre A. Bertalan	
- look for and highlight Hungarian American-related institutions that are in emergency and needed urgent support	Every organization	for the next HAT conference
- share information regarding scholarships, exchange programs	Every organization	
- make a list of the Universities that have any kind of (complete or partial) program related to Hungarian culture or language	Andras Ludanyi	

**c. Other considerations**

The topic “Presidential campaign 2008 and the next administration” was added to the agenda.

Max Teleki presented the latest achievements with the present administration: the Visa Waiver Program and the decision to set up the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission in the US Congress. Max Teleki also mentioned that HAC informed both presidential campaigns about issues that were important for Hungary and Central-Eastern Europe.

Peter Ujvagi stressed the importance of being present in both presidential campaigns. He encouraged every individual and organization to contact their respective presidential campaign, get familiar with it, and push our issues where possible. He also offered his help to give ideas on whom to contact. Peter Ujvagi noticed that the Irish-, Italian- and Armenian-Americans were doing very effective lobbying and we should learn from them.

Laszlo Hamos reminded everyone of the sad fact that we had lost our great patron, Rep. Tom Lantos, and that George Pataki had retired. He said that in the future we had to work harder and rely more on our own efforts.

In the mid of the discussions, Peter Ujvagi proudly presented presidential candidate Barack Obama's greeting letter to the Hungarian Americans Together Conference, which had just arrived.

The letter is available at  
<http://my.barackobama.com/page/community/post/laurenkunis/gGg2s3>

The Choir of the Debrecen Reformed Great Church, which arrived for a tour of the museum, and Conference participants were greeted and welcomed by Mayor James Cahill of New Brunswick.

After this ceremony there was a short discussion on the deliverables.

After the meeting was adjourned, the participants left for the Hungarian American Athletic Club, where there was a dinner, after which the Choir of the Great Church of Debrecen, Hungary held a concert.

## **Saturday, October 11**

After the breakfast at the American Hungarian Foundation, there was a discussion of the previous day's deliverables.

The guests were introduced and Dr. Gusztáv Bölcskei, Bishop of the Great Church of Debrecen, Hungary, greeted the participants.

Christopher Ball, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Economics at the Quinnipiac University, was also introduced together with his family.

Dr. Bölcskei reminded the participants of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Calvin's birth in 2009 and called for common celebration with the Hungarian American Reformed Churches. Dr. Bölcskei mentioned that the Carpathian Basin Hungarian Reformed Church (CBHRC) had already had a general convent this year in the town of Pápa, Hungary, to prepare a draft constitution for the Church. CBHRC will have another convent in 2009 in Debrecen to adopt the new constitution. Dr. Bölcskei said that he had a vision of the Reformed Churches of Hungarian origin in various countries to be part of one large Reformed Church of Hungarians. He also added that the draft constitution declared that every Hungarian Reformed Church abroad was, by their own right, member of the "universal" Hungarian Reformed Church. He furthermore suggested that those

Reformed communities, which do not yet belong to any Church district, should choose one and join it.

Dr. Bölskei noted that there was going to be a conference for all the Reformed Churches of Hungarian origin in December in Hungary to discuss common problems and find common solutions. He closed his remarks with the motto "Együvé tartozunk, tartozunk együvé."

On this day the following agenda items were discussed:

### **1. Film on the Hungarian Language Museum of Széphalom, Hungary**

Andrew S. Evva, in his opening remarks before a presentation on a film about the Museum of the Hungarian Language in Széphalom, Hungary, recalled the words of his father, Paul Evva, to inspire all of Hungarian origin to continue the struggle for Hungarian values, faith and heritage:

Following the introduction of Andrew Evva and his organization, the American Foundation for Hungarian Youth and Culture, Inc, participants watched a short documentary about the museum.

Andrew Evva said that he wanted to spotlight this remarkable museum, and urged everyone to visit it, and, if possible, support it. He also mentioned that exclusive guided tours were available for Hungarian American groups in Zemplén County, where the museum was located.

### **2. Scholarship issues - Quinnipiac University scholarship for Sapientia University students**

Christopher Ball presented the four Hungarian related activities at the School of Business of Quinnipiac University. The four programs are the following: International Speaker Series, Hungarian American Business Leaders (HABL) Program, Hungarians Beyond the Border Scholarship, and QU MBA International Course in Hungary.

Max Teleki mentioned HAC's scholarship program and suggested cooperation between the two organizations. Edith Lauer added that the Selye Janos University in Komárom, Hungary, had similar programs.

Andras Ludanyi stressed the importance of scholarships for students at universities. If we do not have scholarships, we loose our students, he said that this was the problem in the case of Bloomington University, and suggested that participants make an initial pledge of support for scholarship programs.

Christopher Ball noted that if only five percent of the endowment was the annual cost of the internship and the annual growth was ten percent, the scholarship might not only be sustained but gradually extended.

Andras Ludanyi added that we might institutionalize the scholarships, connecting them to the name of our organizations.

Rev. Imre A. Bertalan made a commitment of \$250 per year for four consecutive years to the Bloomington program on behalf of the Bethlen Communities. He said that a long term, continuing commitment might have had a positive effect on the perception of the University too.

Dr. August Molnar advised that we had to do something, attach our name to it, to have an impact on the future. He also suggested that those common funds to support various activities could also be filled with money coming from inheritances and wills.

### **3. Duna TV's offer to include Hungarian American events in programming**

Tibor Purger made a detailed presentation of his plans for Duna TV, how to include Hungarian American events in Duna TV's regular programming. He regretted that the Hungarian American community had not been covered proportionally in respect to other Hungarian communities. Tibor Purger spoke about Duna TV's mission, achievements in the Carpathian Basin, his plans regarding content and delivery, new formats and genres. Speaking on the road ahead, he highlighted a few alternatives, which requires organizational support and appropriate budget.

Tibor Purger suggested the formulation of a strategy to be able to lobby for funding a variety of sources, including the Ministry of Education and Culture, the city of Debrecen, the National Radio and Television Commission, and the Parliament itself.

Laszlo Hamos described his ideas about facilitating Tibor Purger's plan by sending constructive proposals and suggestions to Duna TV. Tibor Purger confirmed the importance of convincing Duna TV president and board members about this issue. Participants agreed to send a common letter to Duna TV.

Kalman Magyar presented a DVD-sale idea, saying that certain cultural programs and series might of interest for Hungarian Americans.

<b>Deliverables</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
- write a draft letter to Duna TV on behalf of the Hungarian American organizations and circulate it	Tibor Purger	

### **4. Process of implementation of programs identified by Conf. II**

Prior to lunch there was a discussion on issues commented upon on the previous day.

The last topic of discussion was the following:

### **5. Hungarian American landscape, community needs and tools, the "will to pass on"**

As to the "Year of Hungarian Culture 2009", Jules Balogh argued not to support the Hungarian government's activities. Participants reconfirmed that they were not willing to endorse the official programs, but do alternative cultural events. However, Max Teleki warned

that it was not in our interest to publicly attack the government-organized programs, because it could also harm the promotion of the independent programs. He suggested the renaming of the series of events organized by the Hungarian American community to distinguish it from the programs supported by the government.

Károly Nagy introduced the “Amerikai Magyar Kollegium” (AMK), an organization that sponsored workshops to educate ethnic Hungarians living in foreign countries to preserve their identity, heritage and values. Károly Nagy talked about the problems passing on the identity and the will to serve the community, and identified the AMK as an institution that is capable of getting young people interested and involved. Andras Ludanyi, supported by Max Teleki, suggested that the AMK be combined with workshop-like activities. Károly Nagy recognized that this year AMK people were under thirty years and were mainly ethnic Hungarians from Central-Eastern Europe and not Hungarian Americans, but considered their first event as a pilot project and said that the statistics on participation by Hungarian Americans would improve. Christopher Ball noted that newly arrived Hungarians needed totally different programs to attract them. He mentioned business basics and baby sitting instead of human rights and Hungarian language. Imre Lendvai-Lintner agreed that we had to look at our customer base, noticing that it had changed, so we also had to change, modernize our marketing to get them involved.

To the initiative of Peter Ujvagi, participants agreed to bring one person each from the next generation of the Hungarian Americans to the next HAT conference. (So if someone is first generation Hungarian American, should bring a second generation Hungarian American with himself/herself; a second generation Hungarian American who is present at this conference shall bring a third generation Hungarian American; etc.)

Edith Lauer urged help for Hungarian minorities living in Erdély, Felvidék and Kárpátalja; whose cultural institutions, libraries, theaters and schools were endangered. She mentioned the idea of establishing a foundation for this cause, saying that many other ethnic communities had already done that to help their respective minorities in Europe. Laszlo Hamos said it was a priority to get informed about what other Hungarian American organizations did to help Hungarian minorities before setting up a new organization.

<b>Deliverables</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
- draft a position paper to be given to the next director of the Hungarian cultural center in NY to let him/her know the expectations and resources of the Hungarian American communities	Kalman Magyar and Dr. Balazs Somogyi	next HAT meeting
- talk to Bela Tarjan and connect him with Max Teleki to enable them discuss cooperation regarding AMK	Kalman Magyar	
- bring one person from the next generation of the Hungarian Americans	Every individual	next HAT meeting

- make and send out a questionnaire to Hungarian American organizations on supports given to purposes related to Hungarian minorities living in the Carpathian Basin	Laszlo Hamos	
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After a short coffee break the discussion resumed on plans for HAT Conference IV.

Jules Balogh raised the problem of lack of full trust and asked how we would continue to work together. He called for more transparency and the respect of different opinions. Other participants said that the conference exceeded their expectations, there had been a good level of trust and generosity, the meetings had not been over-politicized, and the organizations present had proven to be active participants.

The majority of the participants voted in favor of issuing a press release.

<b>Deliverables</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
- draft a 18-20 sentence press release and circulate it	Jules Balogh	48 hours from the end of the conference
- comment the draft press release	Every participant	48 hours from receiving it
- send out the final, approved press release		
- prepare the draft conference report and circulate it	HAC	In two weeks from the end of the conference
- comments on the draft conference report	Every participant	In a few weeks hours from receiving it

The conference was adjourned at 6 PM.

Prepared by Benedek Varsanyi,  
Eva Eszter Nagy and Peter Wendl.

Oct 23, 2008

## Full list of deliverables sorted by subject

<b><u>Task</u></b>	<b><u>Responsible organization/individual</u></b>	<b><u>Deadline</u></b>
<b>Hungarian Heritage Month</b>		
- write a letter and a draft proclamation/ resolution to be sent to the President/ Congress	Max Teleki	
- support the letter and give feedback when the draft letter is distributed	Every organization	
<b>The Gulyas Pot</b>		
- register at the Gulyas Pot; fill up information on themselves and on their programs	Every organization, community	
- promote "Best Submission" competition till Oct. 23rd.	Everyone	
<b>Survey on Hungarian Americans</b>		
- drafting of individual letters expressing their opinion about the survey	the interviewees and readers of the book	
- inform the interviewees	Emese Latkoczy	
- collect the response letters	HAC	
- write a cover letter to the individual letters	Andras Ludanyi	
- invite the two researchers to the next meeting		
- request DunaTV to cover the event	Tibor Purger	
<b>Year of Hungarian Culture</b>		
- have at least one fundraising event to sponsor cultural events	Every organization	February, 2009
- make "first-round" donations to sponsor the cultural events (\$500 each); send them to Kalman Magyar (He will provide a bank account number.)	HRFA, BC, WPA, HCSC, HAC, AMSZ	October 31, 2008
- create of a well-designed flyer to promote 2009 Year of Hungarian Culture, with the name of the Hungarian American organizations who made donations	HCSC (Balazs Somogyi)	October 22, 2008
- set up 2009 Year of Hungarian Culture Committee		
- provide information on local events to the Gulyas Pot and encourage local programs by Hungarian American communities	Every organization	
- circulate „Kalman Balogh Gypsy Cimbalom Band: 2009 USA and Canadian Tour" dates by e-mail, upload to the Gulyas Pot site	Kalman Magyar	
- make a list of Hungarian artists living, studying in the U.S., to be able to get them involved when needed	Kalman Magyar	
<b>Organize support and strategy for new initiatives</b>		
- circulate electronically the H-A excel database	HAC	
- check the contacts listed in the H-A excel database in their respective area if they exist, add new contacts, and send feedback to the HAC in a separate file	Every organization	Dec 30, 2008
- try to organize regional or thematic meetings regarding their area or profile; specific commitments already made	Every organization	

-- make a list of the Hungarian American-related museums and hold a teleconference to discuss their cooperation	Laszlo Hamos	
-- update the list and organize a meeting for the Hungarian American communities and organizations in New Jersey	Kalman Magyar	
-- update the list and organize a meeting for the Hungarian American communities and organizations in Connecticut	Balazs Somogyi	
-- update the list and organize a meeting for the Hungarian American communities and organizations in Pennsylvania	Rev. Imre A. Bertalan	
- look for and highlight Hungarian American-related institutions that are in emergency and needed urgent support	Every organization	for the next HAT conference
- share information regarding scholarships, exchange programs	Every organization	
- make a list of the Universities that have any kind of (complete or partial) program related to Hungarian culture or language	Andras Ludanyi	
<b>Duna TV</b>		
- write a draft letter to Duna TV on behalf of the Hungarian American organizations and circulate it	Tibor Purger	
<b>Hungarian American landscape</b>		
- draft a position paper to be given to the next director of the Hungarian cultural center in NY to let him/her know the expectations and resources of the Hungarian American communities	Kalman Magyar and Dr. Balazs Somogyi	next HAT meeting
- talk to Bela Tarjan and connect him with Max Teleki to enable them discuss cooperation regarding AMK	Kalman Magyar	
- bring one person from the next generation of the Hungarian Americans	Every individual	next HAT meeting
- make and send out a questionnaire to Hungarian American organizations on supports given to purposes related to Hungarian minorities living in the Carpathian Basin	Laszlo Hamos	
<b>Administrative</b>		
- draft a 18-20 sentence press release and circulate it	Jules Balogh	48 hours from the end of the conference
- comment the draft press release	Every participant	48 hours from receiving it
- send out the final, approved press release		
- prepare the draft conference report and circulate it	HAC	In two weeks from the end of the conference
- comments on the draft conference report	Every participant	In a few weeks hours from receiving it

## Full list of deliverables sorted by responsible organization/individual

<b>EVERYONE</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Hungarian Heritage Month</b>		
- support the letter and give feedback when the draft letter is distributed	Every organization	
<b>The Gulyas Pot</b>		
- register at the Gulyas Pot; fill up information on themselves and on their programs	Every organization, community	
- promote "Best Submission" competition till Oct. 23rd.	Everyone	
<b>Year of Hungarian Culture</b>		
- have at least one fundraising event to sponsor cultural events	Every organization	February, 2009
- provide information on local events to the Gulyas Pot and encourage local programs by Hungarian American communities	Every organization	
<b>Organize support and strategy for new initiatives</b>		
- check the contacts listed in the H-A excel database in their respective area if they exist, add new contacts, and send feedback to the HAC in a separate file	Every organization	Dec 30, 2008
- try to organize regional or thematic meetings regarding their area or profile; specific commitments already made	Every organization	
- look for and highlight Hungarian American-related institutions that are in emergency and needed urgent support	Every organization	for the next HAT conference
- share information regarding scholarships, exchange programs	Every organization	
<b>Hungarian American landscape</b>		
- bring one person from the next generation of the Hungarian Americans	Every individual	next HAT meeting
<b>Administrative</b>		
- comment the draft press release	Every participant	48 hours from receiving it
- comments on the draft conference report	Every participant	In a few weeks hours from receiving it

<b>BALOGH, JULES</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Administrative</b>		
- draft a 18-20 sentence press release and circulate it	Jules Balogh	48 hours from the end of the conference

<b>BERTALAN, A. IMRE, REV</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Organize support and strategy for new initiatives</b>		
-- update the list and organize a meeting for the Hungarian American communities and organizations in Pennsylvania	Rev. Imre A. Bertalan	

<b>HAC</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Survey on Hungarian Americans</b>		
- collect the response letters	HAC	
<b>Organize support and strategy for new initiatives</b>		
- circulate electronically the H-A excel database	HAC	
<b>Administrative</b>		
- prepare the draft conference report and circulate it	HAC	In two weeks from the end of the conference

<b>HAMOS, LASZLO</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Organize support and strategy for new initiatives</b>		
-- make a list of the Hungarian American-related museums and hold a teleconference to discuss their cooperation	Laszlo Hamos	
<b>Hungarian American landscape</b>		
- make and send out a questionnaire to Hungarian American organizations on supports given to purposes related to Hungarian minorities living in the Carpathian Basin	Laszlo Hamos	

<b>LATKOCZY, EMESE</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Survey on Hungarian Americans</b>		
- inform the interviewees	Emese Latkoczy	

<b>LUDANYI, ANDRAS</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Survey on Hungarian Americans</b>		
- write a cover letter to the individual letters	Andras Ludanyi	

<b>Organize support and strategy for new initiatives</b>		
- make a list of the Universities that have any kind of (complete or partial) program related to Hungarian culture or language	Andras Ludanyi	

<b>MAGYAR, KALMAN</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Year of Hungarian Culture</b>		
- circulate „Kalman Balogh Gypsy Cimbalom Band: 2009 USA and Canadian Tour” dates by e-mail, upload to the Gulyas Pot site	Kalman Magyar	
- make a list of Hungarian artists living, studying in the U.S., to be able to get them involved when needed	Kalman Magyar	
<b>Organize support and strategy for new initiatives</b>		
-- update the list and organize a meeting for the Hungarian American communities and organizations in New Jersey	Kalman Magyar	
<b>Hungarian American landscape</b>		
- draft a position paper to be given to the next director of the Hungarian cultural center in NY to let him/her know the expectations and resources of the Hungarian American communities	Kalman Magyar and Dr. Balazs Somogyi	next HAT meeting
- talk to Bela Tarjan and connect him with Max Teleki to enable them discuss cooperation regarding AMK	Kalman Magyar	

<b>PURGER, TIBOR</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Survey on Hungarian Americans</b>		
- request DunaTV to cover the event	Tibor Purger	
<b>Duna TV</b>		
- write a draft letter to Duna TV on behalf of the Hungarian American organizations and circulate it	Tibor Purger	

<b>SOMOGYI, BALAZS</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Year of Hungarian Culture</b>		
- create of a well-designed flyer to promote 2009 Year of Hungarian Culture, with the name of the Hungarian American organizations who made donations	HCSC (Balazs Somogyi)	October 22, 2008
<b>Organize support and strategy for new initiatives</b>		
-- update the list and organize a meeting for the Hungarian American communities and organizations in Connecticut	Balazs Somogyi	

<b>Hungarian American landscape</b>		
- draft a position paper to be given to the next director of the Hungarian cultural center in NY to let him/her know the expectations and resources of the Hungarian American communities	Kalman Magyar and Dr. Balazs Somogyi	next HAT meeting

<b>TELEKI, MAX</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Hungarian Heritage Month</b>		
- write a letter and a draft proclamation/ resolution to be sent to the President/ Congress	Max Teleki	

<b>OTHER</b>		
<b>Task</b>	<b>Responsible organization/individual</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>Survey on Hungarian Americans</b>		
- invite the two researchers to the next meeting		
<b>Year of Hungarian Culture</b>		
- set up 2009 Year of Hungarian Culture Committee		
- make "first-round" donations to sponsor the cultural events (\$500 each); send them to Kalman Magyar (He will provide a bank account number.)	HRFA, BC, WPA, HCSC, HAC, AMSZ	October 31, 2008
<b>Administrative</b>		
- send out the final, approved press release		
<b>Survey on Hungarian Americans</b>		
- drafting of individual letters expressing their opinion about the survey	the interviewees and readers of the book	

## ANNEXES

- Hungarian Language Museum; by Andrew S. Evva
- QU School of Business Central European Activities; by Christopher Ball
- letter from Agnes Fulemle (Hungarian Chair Professor at Indiana University, Bloomington); by Rev Imre Bertalan
- Amerikai Magyar Collegium – “A külföldi küldetéses magyarságszolgálatra képesítés egyik műhelye”; by Karoly Nagy
- Hungarian Alumni Association (Bessenyei György Kör);
- Hungarian American Involvement in the 2008 presidential campaigns;
- DUNA TV power-point presentation; by Tibor Purger