Hungarian Americans Together (HATOG) VII

Conference on Passing On Our Hungarian Heritage

Final Report

Sponsored by

Hungarian American Coalition
The Hungary Initiatives Foundation

Co-Chairs

Andrea Lauer Rice, Hungarian American Coalition
John Parkerson, Honorary Consul of Hungary
Anne Lynch, Atlanta Hungarian Meetup

September 21-22, 2013
Atlanta, GA
Introduction

The seventh Hungarian Americans Together conference (HATOG VII), held in Atlanta, GA, was the first time such a meeting had taken place in the Southeast. The program was initiated by the Hungarian American Coalition (HAC) with the goal of building an ever more active network of Hungarian Americans through enhanced communication and collaboration. By sharing best practices, the Hungarian American organizations in the U.S. hope to develop more effective strategies for preserving and strengthening our Hungarian heritage and culture. The conference was attended by 64 people, representing 12 different states and Hungary.

The HATOG conference series began in Washington, D.C. (2008), and traveled to Pennsylvania (Ligonier – 2008), New Jersey (New Brunswick – 2008), Ohio (Cleveland – 2009), Illinois (Chicago – 2010), California (San Francisco – 2013) and now Georgia (Atlanta) in 2013. The next conference will likely be held in Boston, MA in 2014.

This report is divided into four parts: Agenda, List of Participants, Minutes of the Conference and Biographical Information of presenters.

Agenda

Friday, September 20
Location: Courtyard by Marriott, Downtown Decatur / Emory
7:00 pm Welcome reception

Saturday, September 21
Location: Emory University, Goizueta Business School, Room W131
8:30 – 9:00 am Registration & Coffee
9:00 – 9:10 am Invocation
Minister: Attila Kulcsár
9:10 – 9:45 am Introduction of participants
9:45 – 10:45 am Welcoming remarks
Introduction of Hungarian American Coalition & HATOG Conferences
Speakers: Edith Lauer, Max Teleki
Introduction of the Hungary Initiatives Foundation
Speaker: Dr. Tamás Fellegi
10:45 – 11:15 am State of the community
State of the Community, Highlights of Discussions with SE Community leaders, Major Challenges, Reaching out to the Next Generation
Speaker: Andrea Lauer Rice
11:15 – 11:30 am Break
11:30 – 1:00 pm

Introduction of regional organizations

*Moderator: John Parkerson*

Florida:
- Noémi Szilágyi, Global Friendship Foundation, Sarasota Scouts, Petőfi Club, Venice
- Ottília Varga, Napraforgók Hungarian Folk Dance Ensemble, INC
- Zsuzsa Csajkás, Hungarian Children’s Club, Ft. Lauderdale
- Anikó Rákóczi, Safety Harbor Néptáncosok
- Dénes Szakács, Hungarian Kossuth Club, Miami

The Carolinas:
- Katalin Beck, Hungarians in the Carolinas
- Melinda Kozó, E-skola - Hungarian Online School, Hungarian Youth Club
- Judit Tamás, Carolinas Hungarian Group
- Julianna Babics, Szivárvány Magyar Ovi-Suli, Durham
- Judit Barcza Benedek, Dr. Eszter Karvazy, Triangle Hungarian Club, Raleigh-Durham-Cary
- Eszter Gagnon, North Carolina Hungarians - Charlotte Community
- Judit Trunkos, Professional Hungarian Athletes

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Working lunch & U.S. premiere of documentary film “Megmaradni / Heritage”

*Q&A with Director, Rêka Pigniczky*

2:30 – 4:30 pm

Introduction of regional organizations

Georgia:
- Anne Lynch, Atlanta Hungarian Meetup

Kentucky:
- Attila Kulcsár, Hungarians Circle of Friends, Louisville, KY

Louisiana:
- Gyula Szita, Hungarians of Louisiana

Texas:
- Louis Ott, Metroplex Magyar Cultural Circle, Hungarians Multicultural Center, Fort Worth Sister Cities International, DFW Meetup
- Richard Graber, Hungarian American Cultural Association of Houston
4:30 – 4:45 pm  Break

4:45 – 6:00 pm  Presentations of special guests  
  
  **Moderator: Edith K. Lauer**

  - Dr. Ágnes Fülemile, Director, Hungarian Cultural Center, NY
  - Dr. Enikő Basa Molnár, American Hungarian Educators Association
  - Dr. Péter Kovalszki, MBK
  - Csilla Grauzer, Minnesota Hungarians

6:00 – 7:00 pm  Panel discussion with Kőrösi Csoma Sándor interns  
  
  **Moderator: Krisztina Vörös**

  Participants: Krisztina Vörös, Kata Dobri, Róbert Velkey, István Hegediüs, Ervin Simon, Dániel Gábor Kurucz, István Csiki, Zsolt Gyombolai, Anna Boldog

7:00- 10:00 pm  Hungarian dinner and music  
  Performance by: Életfa Hungarian Folk Band  
  Location: Goizueta Business School, Emory University

**Sunday, September 22**  
Location: Agnes Scott College

9:00 – 10:00 am  Wrap-up session  
  
  **Moderator: Edith K. Lauer**

  Finish Discussions on previous day topics

  - John Parkerson, Honorary Consul Activities & Meeting
  - Anna (Stumpf) Smith Lacey, Congressional Liaison – Political attaché, Hungarian Embassy, Washington, DC
  - Tamás Marshall, Hungarian Scout Assn.in Exteris
  - Róbert Velkey, ReConnect Hungary
  - László & Ágnes Fülöp, University of Minnesota

10:00 – 11:00 am  Break-out sessions to discuss major topics

11:00 – 12:00 am  Reports from break-out sessions and conclusions  
  
  **Moderator: Max Teleki**

12:00 – 4:00 pm  1st Atlanta Hungarian Festival  
  Featuring: the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Interns and the Életfa Hungarian Folk Band
Participants

American Hungarian Educators Association, Chevy Chase, MD
Dr. Enikő Basa Molnár

Atlanta Hungarian Meetup, Atlanta, GA
Anne Lynch

Balassi Institute Hungarian Cultural Center, New York, NY
Ágnes Fülemile

Carolinas Hungarian Group
Katalin Beck

E-skola
Hungarian Youth Club
Melinda Kozó

Életfa Hungarian Folk Band

Global Friendship Foundation
Petőfi Club, Venice
Sarasota Scouts
Noémi Szilágyi

Honorary Consul, Atlanta, GA
John Parkerson

Hungarian American Coalition, Atlanta, GA
Hungarian Club of Georgia
Andrea Lauer Rice

Hungarian American Coalition, Cleveland, OH
Edith K. Lauer

Hungarian American Coalition, Washington, DC
Maximilian N. Teleki

Hungarian American Cultural Association, Houston, TX
Richard Graber

Hungarian Circle of Friends in Louisville, KY
Attila Kulcsár

Hungarian community in Atlanta, GA
Gabriella Tóth

Hungarian Embassy, Washington, DC
Anna (Stumpf) Lacey Smith

Hungarian Kossuth Club, Miami, FL
Dénes Szakács
Hungarian Scout Association in Exteris
*Tamás Marshall*

The Hungary Initiatives Foundation, Washington DC
*Dr. Tamás Fellegi*

Immigration History Research Center of the University of Minnesota
*László and Agnes Fülöp*

Louisiana Hungarians
*Gyula and Magda Szita*

Magyar Baráti Közösség, Detroit, MI
*Dr. Péter Kovalszki*

The Magyar Club of Raleigh
*Dr. Eszter Karvazy and Judit Barcza Benedek*

Metroplex Magyar Cultural Circle
Hungarians Multicultural Center
Fort Worth Sister Cities International
DFW Meetup
*Louis Ott*

Minnesota Hungarians
*Csilla Grauzer*

Napraforgók Hungarian Folk Dance Ensemble, INC, Sarasota, FL
Hungarian Kossuth Club, Sarasota, FL
*Otttilia Varga*

North Carolina Hungarians – Charlotte Community
*Eszter Gagnon*

Pántlika Néptánc Group, Safety Harbor, FL
*Anikó Rákóczi*

Petőfi Club – Sarasota, FL
*Katalin Szilágyi*

Réka Pigniczky, Orinda, CA

Professional Hungarian Athletes
*Judit Trunkos and István Batházi*

ReConnect Hungary
*Róbert Velkey*

Sarasota Scouts
*László B. Apáthy*

Szivárvány Magyar Ovi-Suli, Durham, NC
*Judit Babics*

South Florida Hungarians Kids Club – Ft. Lauderdale, FL
*Zsuzsa and Ernő Csajkás*
Minutes for Saturday, September 21

Introduction of Hungarian American Coalition
*Speaker: Edith Lauer, Chair Emerita, Hungarian American Coalition*

Edith Lauer greeted the audience and thanked the organizers and co-sponsors of HATOG VII. She spoke about the birth of the Hungarian American Coalition 22 years ago and discussed the main goals and programs of this nationwide umbrella organization. She described the three main areas of programming for the Coalition: 1) Information and advocacy – the Hungarian American Coalition provides information to decision-makers in the U.S. about Hungary and Hungarian minority communities in the Carpathian Basin; 2) Education and culture – support for cultural and scholarship programs, including leadership development programs such as the flagship Congressional Internship Program and White House Internship Program; and 3) Hungarian American Community Affairs – reaching out to the Hungarian American community with the HATOG conference series and the annual White House briefing, Mikulás Dinner and the annual Washington, D.C. Gala dinner.

Introduction of the Hungarian Americans Together Conference (HATOG) Series
*Speaker: Maximilian Teleki, President, Hungarian American Coalition*

Max Teleki introduced the Hungarian Americans Together (HATOG) conference series, a long-term initiative from the Hungarian American Coalition. The goal of the series is to provide an opportunity for regional representatives to meet, share ideas and resources and work together to achieve their common goals. By networking with both regional as well as national organizations, the community can take the next step in collaboration and work together to develop better strategies for preserving and strengthening our Hungarian heritage and culture.

- Max Teleki’s presentation
Introduction of the Hungary Initiatives Foundation
Speaker: Dr. Tamás Fellegi, President of the Hungary Initiatives Foundation
www.Hungaryfoundation.org

Dr. Tamás Fellegi introduced the Hungary Initiatives Foundation (HIF), whose sponsorship supported the participation of many HATOG participants. Founded in 2012 and funded by the Hungarian government, HIF is an independent and non-political U.S.-based foundation. It is not a lobbying organization. Its mission is to build lasting value by reviving and strengthening the cultural, educational and emotional bonds between the United States and Hungary as well as the large and diverse Hungarian American community and its mother nation. It seeks to promote cooperation and understanding between our great nations, thereby fostering democracy, freedom, human rights, and human dignity, values shared by the U.S. and Hungary.

To execute these goals, the HIF plans to strengthen Hungarian American linkages, to help support successful long-term programs and establish strategic partnerships. Dr. Fellegi pointed organizations to the new HIF website to discover how to apply for funding support.

- Dr. Tamás Fellegi’s presentation

STATE OF THE COMMUNITY
Speaker: Andrea Lauer Rice, Vice President, Hungarian American Coalition

As the primary organizer of the conference, Andrea Lauer Rice welcomed the participants and launched into a discussion about the challenges facing the Hungarian diaspora in the United States. She discussed the difficulties of reaching out to the next generation and presented information looking behind the recent Census data, which recorded approximately 1.5 million Hungarian Americans in the U.S. Based on interviews with Hungarian American leaders, as well as qualitative and quantitative data, she divided the census figure into different waves of immigration and provided background information on some of the differences between these communities. By her calculations, some 1 million Hungarian Americans do not speak the language and have no connection to any formal Hungarian organization. She detailed several ways how this “at-risk” community can be reached through new programs and new technology, including the GulyasPot.com website/blog. She shared other ideas to bring the overall community together as well, including building on the success of the Smithsonian Folklife Festival by creating an annual Hungarian Heritage Month so all organizations can work together to celebrate Hungarian culture and share expenses involved in presenting artists and exhibits.

- Andrea Lauer Rice’s presentation

INTRODUCTION OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Moderator: John Parkerson, Honorary Consul

FLORIDA

Noémi Szilágyi represented 3 different organizations: the Hungarian Christian Society/Petőfi Club, the Sarasota/Venice Scouts and the Global Friendship Foundation.

She gave a brief presentation about the activity of the Hungarian Scouts of Sarasota/Venice. The
first official Scouts Meeting was held in November 2012 after a group of friends came together and decided they needed to create a kid’s program where children could get together and nurture their Hungarian language, traditions and culture. Currently 12 children are in the troop but they are actively trying to increase that number.

Founded in 1993, The Hungarian Christian Society/Petőfi Club works to nurture traditions and heritage by offering religious events and cultural events for the community. They currently sponsor the Hungarian Scouts of Sarasota/Venice and are hoping to implement more children’s programs in the future.

Ms. Szilágyi also introduced the Global Friendship Foundation (GFF) and shared a video about the 6th Hungarian Festival, which in 2012 drew approximately 1,800 people over a two-day period. The 7th Hungarian Festival in Sarasota will be held on October 19 - 20, 2013. Founded in 2007, the GFF is dedicated to developing cultural and educational programs to connect different nations to help to build a better community.

- Noémi Szilágyi’s presentation

Ottília Varga presented the Napraforgók Hungarian Folk Dance Ensemble, INC (http://www.sarasotafolkdancecamp.org, www.napraforgok.org) located in Sarasota, FL. The organization was established in 2011 to maintain Hungarian culture, language and heritage. In the first year, they had 30 children. The Ensemble puts on an annual show in Venice, FL and performs at Hungarian festivals and bigger venues across the region as well. The Hungarian Folk Dance and Music Camp takes place every year. The Napraforgók Hungarian Folk Dance Ensemble, INC hosted its 1st week-long Hungarian Folk Dance and Music Camp in March 2013 where they hosted 80 attendees. The ensemble performed at the the 7th Sarasota Hungarian Festival, which is their third time this year.

- Ottília Varga’s presentation
- Ottília Varga’s speech
- Ottília Varga’s video

Zsuzsa Csajkás was inspired to establish the South Florida Hungarian Kid’s Club in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, after her 6-year-old son admitted he was confused about his “homeland.” She decided to bring a “piece of home to our current home” and found ways to teach about Hungarian culture, history and language in their daily life. The Kid’s Club organizes cultural and educational opportunities for 90 local Hungarian families, though there are far more in the region. Ms. Csajkás has organized 300 events over the course of 5 years. Some of her biggest challenges are: to organize affordable events for her membership due to the difficult financial situation in southeast Florida; to reach the large illegal Hungarian population in the area; and to find a location where she can host events and raise funds for their programs. Although this community is currently using a Meetup.com website to organize activities, she is currently creating a new website.

- Zsuzsa Csajkás’s presentation
Anikó Rákóczi described the activities of Pántlika Néptánc Group. Their goal is to bring authentic Hungarian folk dance and traditions to Hungarian children living in the United States. When it was formed in 2011 they started with 13-15 children. This number doubled in two years; and as of today there are 32 members between the age of 2 and 17. The ensemble will return to the 7th Hungarian Festival in Sarasota, Florida this year and will –for the second time – also represent Hungary at the International Folk Fair in St. Petersburg, FL in cooperation with the Global Friendship Foundation.

- Anikó Rákóczi’s presentation

Dénes Szakács presented the Hungarian Kossuth Club in Miami, FL. Founded in 1984 to serve the cultural needs and interests of Americans of Hungarian descent in southwest Florida, the Club’s mission is to promote understanding of Hungarian history and culture through lectures, informative programs and concerts. There are monthly meetings from September through May. Past programs featured music, literature, art exhibits, and a fashion show. Topics of lectures by guest speakers have included history, medicine, music history, archaeology, mineral exploration, and travel. The Education Fund provides scholarships to college-bound seniors of Hungarian descent in Sarasota and Manatee Counties and to Hungarian minority students in Central Europe.

THE CAROLINAS

Katalin Beck presented an overview of the Hungarian community across the Carolinas which consists of a number of programs and organizations who work together to meet the needs of their community. Judit Tamás presented on the Carolinas Hungarian Group, www.meetup.com/The-Carolinas-Hungarian-Group. Formed in 2007, this is a large and growing community of 500 registered members, mostly families. The members are mainly “New Wave Hungarians” (first generation), representing recent immigrants from Hungary and the surrounding region. Its goal is to keep Hungarian language and culture alive in the Carolinas. Their largest events are the annual Fall Camp at Thanksgiving and Easter Camp.

The programs, mainly organized for children, help gather the children and their families to build a strong community. Within the Hungarian Youth Group, there are kindergarten groups for smaller children and opportunities for the older children to create their own leadership groups. Organized through a Meetup website, the organization is the second-largest Hungarian Meetup group in the United States and has a waiting list of applicants. On average, three new members are admitted each week. In addition, this group is quite active and vocal in their support of all the other groups in South and North Carolina.

- Judit Tamás’s presentation
- Katalin Beck’s presentation

Melinda Kozo, E-skola - Hungarian Online School provides children an opportunity to learn about Hungarian history, literature, grammar and math. The Hungarian-language coursework is accessible online at the student’s convenience, and augmented with a weekly teacher-led Skype session every Sunday evening. Based on various achievements, teachers award patches to the students. The on-line school has been in operation for 4 years and has 160 members. However,
to develop and widen the potential of this type of education, the organization would need more access to digital resources that may already exist – for example, they are currently using the Scouts’ reading assessment tool - and assistance in developing their own learning materials.

- **Melinda Kozó’s presentation**

**András Debreczeni** established the Hungarian the Reformed Church in 2007 for the Charlotte area Hungarians. The Charlotte Hungarian Community consists of about 55 families including some regular members from South Carolina. Annually they provide a Community Dinner Party, participate in an International Festival and have just started a Hungarian pre-school. The North Carolina Hungarian Communities are aggregated in the NCHungarian.org static website developed by **Eszter Gagnon**.

- **Eszter Gagnon’s presentation**

**Julianna Babics, Szivárvány Magyar Ovi-Suli, Durham**

This weekend Hungarian-language school is held once a month and is fully supported by the Triangle Hungarian Club and the Hungarian Club of Durham. Founded in January 20912, the mission is to educate children aged 2-10. Two Hungarian teachers lead the classes of 2-7 year old children from about 15 local families. Keeping Hungarian language and traditions alive are emphasized. They hope to develop a teacher exchange and mentoring program in the future.

- **Judit Babics’s presentation**

**Judit Bárcza Benedek, Dr. Eszter Karvazy, The Magyar Club of Raleigh**

The Magyar Club of Raleigh was founded in 1986 and holds monthly meetings from September to May. The main goal is to emphasize the importance of the language, the culture and the history of our nation and provide social opportunities to its members. Currently, the Magyar Club of Raleigh has 80 dues-paying members and more than 150 active members who regularly attend events. According to **Judit Bárcza Benedek** and **Dr. Eszter Karvazy**, the biggest challenge is finding ways to engage the younger generation in activities.

- **Judit Bárcza Benedek & Dr. Eszter Karvazy’s presentation**

**Judit Trunkos, Professional Hungarian Athletes – South Carolina**

**Judit Trunkos**, professional tennis player, provided a new perspective about what it is like to be a Hungarian athlete in the United States. Ms. Trunkos shared her own experience, highlighted by the fact that because athletes are identified by their country, she has often been called on to share Hungarian culture with other athletes, local communities and with her host families. In her experience, professional and student athletes are often invited to speak at high schools, universities, local community events, international festivals and in many ways become defacto ambassadors for their home country. Ms. Trunkos is looking into the possibility of creating an organization to help professional and student athletes from Hungary acclimate to their lives in the United States, plug into a network of other athletes in residence and find ways they can become involved in their local communities.
Her husband, István Batházi, a professional swimmer, also attended the conference.

- Judit Trunkos’s presentation

LUNCH BREAK - U.S. PREMIERE OF DOCUMENTARY FILM “HERITAGE”

*Q&A with Film Director, Réka Pigniczky*

The participants attended the U.S. premiere of “Megmaradni/Heritage,” a new documentary film by Coalition member and award-winning documentary filmmaker, Réka Pigniczky.

“Megmaradni/Heritage” describes the generation of 1956 refugees who escaped Hungary and fled to the United States after the Revolution was defeated. They came with a very deep sense of mission to ensure they kept up ties to their homeland, that the stories of 1956 were never forgotten and that their children grew up in a Hungarian “incubator” within the United States – learning the language and knowing the culture and history of their Mother Country. To accomplish this mission, many of the people interviewed in this film were the founders of Hungarian schools, leaders in Hungarian Scouting, and actively passed on – and continue to pass on - folk dance, religion, history, etc to the next generation. The documentary film contains interviews, archival film footage, and photographs.

The film provided an unique historical perspective about the evolution of the Hungarian American community. It was especially relevant as we went on to discuss how to reach out to the next generation and address some of the difficulties that commonly arise between different waves of immigrants and their needs and motivations.

INTRODUCTION OF REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

GEORGIA

*Anne Lynch, Atlanta Hungarian Meetup*

Anne Lynch created the Atlanta Hungarian Meetup in 2004, to link up with other Hungarian speakers in the Atlanta area. Today, the Meetup site has almost 500 members and is the 3rd largest Hungarian Meetup in the U.S. Its main goal is to build relationships, spread information and help members communicate with one another about Hungarian events as well as listing opportunities such as job openings, apartment rentals etc. The Meetup.com website provides various services to organizations that pay a small monthly subscription fee, such as: discussion forums, news feeds, event calendar, etc.

There are other Meetup clubs in the southern States.

- Alabama - Birmingham Alabama Hungarian Meetup Group
- Carolinas - Hungarian Youth Club and the Carolinas Hungarian Group
- Georgia – Atlanta Hungarian Meetup, and the Savannah, Golden Isles, Jacksonville Hungarians (Brunswick, GA)
- Florida – Happy Hungarian Hour of Miami, The Daytona Beach Area Hungarian Social, and the South Florida Hungarian Kids Club, (aka Mommy Group) (Ft. Lauderdale)
• Texas - DFW Hungarian Social Club and the Dallas Ft. Worth Vizsla Meetup group. Virginia - The Washington Hungarian Language Meetup (Falls Church)

• **Anne Lynch’s presentation**

**KENTUCKY**

**Attila Kulcsár, Hungarian Circle of Friends in Louisville**

Attila Kulcsár founded the *Hungarian Circle of Friends in Louisville* in 2004 with the goal of reaching 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Hungarians. Throughout the year, they organize several events, focusing mainly on the Hungarian holidays. Although there is no formal membership, the HCFL has approximately 60 active participants. Since Mr. Kulcsár has just moved to Florida, he will serve the Hungarian community in and around Venice/Sarasota/North Port as Bible teacher and Pastor. He hopes the HCFL will continue activities.

• **Attila Kulcsár’s presentation**

**LOUISIANA**

**Gyula Szita, Hungarians in Louisiana**

Gyula Szita and his wife, Magda, represented the Hungarian Community in Louisiana and Mississippi. Currently the community has approximately 120 members. Mr. Szita presented photos showing the Settlement at Arpadhon; reportedly the largest rural Hungarian Community in the U.S.

He discussed the The Arpadhon Hungarian Settlement Cultural Association (www.magyars.org), and the Hungarian Settlement Historical Society (HSHS), both associated with Arpadhon. And he introduced the story of the Jackson Barracks, military barracks that were opened to Hungarians escaping the 1956 Revolution in Hungary. Approximately 100 families were invited to stay at the Barracks and were given free lodging and food as they acclimated to their new homeland and found a job. Mr. Szita and his wife Magda were among the Jackson Barracks refugees. In commemoration of the 56th Anniversary of the ’56 Revolution, an Exhibit was organized for the city and people of New Orleans, and for those who stayed at the Barracks.

• **Gyula Szita’s presentation**

**TEXAS**

**Louis Ott**, represented 4 organizations: *Metroplex Magyar Cultural Circle, Hungarian Multicultural Center, Fort Worth Sister Cities International, DFW Hungarians Meetup Group*

The *Metroplex Magyar Cultural Circle* was founded in the late 1970’s for the promotion and preservation of the Hungarian culture, language, and traditions in the north Texas area. Membership consists of about 300 families. In addition to monthly Hungarian language Catholic Mass and Protestant bible study, they offer folk dance classes and annual commemorations of national holidays.
The Hungarian Multicultural Center Inc. (HMC) is a non-profit organization. The goal of the HMC is to promote cultural exchange between the United States and Hungary in the fields of visual and performing arts and to serve as a resource center. The HMC is a tax-exempt, Artistic/Cultural organization.

Fort Worth Sister Cities International manages the Sister Cities program on behalf of Fort Worth and its citizens. The Sister City Relationship is between municipal governments developed to identify and encourage cultural and economic relations between citizens. In 1990, Budapest, Hungary signed as Fort Worth’s fifth sister city that year.

DFW Hungarians Meetup Group has 294 members and regularly organizes Happy Hours for a chance to get together and socialize.

The MMCC, HMC, and Meet Up groups are all actively and jointly searching for a centrally-located and affordable location for a Magyar Ház to hold regularly scheduled events for their organizations.

- Louis Ott’s presentation

Richard Graber, Hungarian American Cultural Association of Houston (HACA)-hacahouston.org

Richard Graber introduced HACA and its new organizational website. The goals of the Association are to build the community and emphasize the importance of the Hungarian culture. HACA hosts 4 major events annually, including a Fall Picnic and the Mikulás Party, in addition to the very popular monthly Hungarian Happy hour (HHH). The biggest challenge is creating a community while overcoming the huge distances between members in the region. Their membership is around 50 paying members but they have about 100 or more active families at the events.

PRESENTATIONS OF SPECIAL GUESTS
Moderator: Edith K. Lauer, Chair Emerita, Hungarian American Coalition

Dr. Ágnes Fülemile, Hungarian Cultural Center, NY

Dr. Ágnes Fülemile provided a post-mortem report on the successful Smithsonian Folklife Festival project. She thanked the Hungarian American Coalition and The Hungary Initiatives Foundation for their tremendous support in helping her raise funds, build networks and basically helping make the Festival such a success. The Festival was very well-received by both American and Hungarian media and reached millions of people with the message about the rich heritage and folklife of Hungary. Dr. Fülemile also talked about her latest project, acquiring, cataloguing and reconstructing an antique Hungarian store from Vintondale PA, which has been purchased and will be moved and re-constructed in the Skanzen Open Air Museum in Szentendre, Hungary. It will be the first American exhibit in the Museum.
Dr. Enikő Basa Molnár, American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA) – ahea.net/

Dr. Enikő Basa Molnár founded the American Hungarian Educators Association in 1974 and established the Hungarian Discussion Group. AHEA provides opportunities for those interested in Hungarian studies and Hungarian heritage to come together and share their ideas. It is open to professors, teachers, researchers, etc. Every fifth year, the annual conference is held in a Hungarian city and is planned in Kolozsvár, Romania for 2015. Their newsletter is issued once a year as a hard copy. In addition, AHEA’s E-Journal is a peer-reviewed electronic journal of scholarship in the humanities and social sciences. Dr. Basa Molnár is Associate Editor of the annual journal. She invited all HATOG participants to look at the AHEA website and submit a paper or attend the next conference.

Dr. Péter Kovalszki, Hungarian Communion of Friends (MBK)

Dr. Péter Kovalszki described the Magyar Baráti Közösség (Hungarian Communion of Friends) and its goals of promoting and supporting charitable, cultural and educational work to preserve Hungarian culture. Their main event is the Itt-Ott summer camp, held annually for one week in August in Ada, OH. Itt-Ott, which just celebrated its 39th anniversary, provides an opportunity each year to Hungarians interested in intellectual programs, lectures, and being together with fellow Hungarians. The MBK is a founding member of the Hungarian American Coalition (HAC), a member of the Hungarian Diaspora Council, and was awarded the Hungarian Heritage award in 2012.

- Dr. Péter Kovalszki’s presentation

Csilla Grauzer, Minnesota Hungarians – www.minnesotahungarians.com

Csilla Grauzer, President of the Minnesota Hungarians, gave a detailed presentation about the organization, with a specific focus on the programs of the Kid’s Club. The Minnesota Hungarians was organized by Hungarian immigrants over 100 years ago and currently has 90 annual memberships and an average of 120-150 attendees at events. Annually, they organize 8-10 programs and 10 Kid’s Club programs. The Bóbita program targets school-aged children with educational and cultural programs. It currently has 25 members, but they are actively recruiting new members. Ms. Grauzer also highlighted additional programs, including a summer camp for children and the Paul Rupprecht Scholarship.

- Csilla Grauzer’s presentation

PANEL DISCUSSION WITH KŐRÖSI CSOMA SÁNDOR INTERNS
Moderator: Krisztina Vörös (GA)
Panelists: Kata Dobri (CT), Róbert Velkey (NY), István Hegedűs (NJ), Ervin Simon (MI), Dániel Gábor Kurucz (MA), István Csiki (FL, TX), Zsolt Gyombolai (OH), Anna Boldog (MN)

The day ended with a roundtable discussion held by nine Kőrösi Csoma Sandor interns who have spent the past 6 months working at Hungarian American organizations across the United States. They related some of their favorite memories, recalled challenges and shared insights gained into Hungarian American communities. Anna Boldog, who was based in Minnesota, seemed to sum
up their experience when she said, "I have never felt this Hungarian before. All I read before I came here to the U.S. became real and turned out to be true."

Minutes for Saturday, September 21

PRESENTATIONS OF SPECIAL GUESTS


John Parkerson was appointed by the Hungarian government in 2004 and represents Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolinas. Among his many duties, Mr. Parkerson has recently organized several Consular Days in Atlanta for local Hungarian Americans to attain their Hungarian citizenship and passports. Currently, there are 135 Honorary Consuls of Hungary, 16 of them are from the U.S., with 5 in the South. Among them, 40% are Hungarian. Mr. Parkerson provided some insights into the Honorary Consul meeting held last month in Budapest, Hungary. The conference is held once every three years.

Tamás Marshall, Hungarian Scout Assoc. in Exteris

Tamás Marshall discussed the Hungarian Scout Association in Exteris and its history and important role in the United States and Hungary. All Hungarian Scout activities and programs are held in Hungarian, so speaking the language is an absolute pre-requisite for membership. The Hungarian Scout Association was founded in 1945, and currently spans some 12 countries on four continents. The association has over 3,000 scouts in about 70 troops worldwide. These troops have a common curriculum and well-developed leadership training methods, which serve as the models for other scouting associations. In addition to teaching young Hungarians around the world the many skills associated with scouting, the organization prides itself on being a bastion of developing a sense of dual national identity in its young scouts, while molding them into quality leaders of society. Mr. Marshall is actively monitoring several communities in the Southeastern region as possible locations for new Scouting activities.

- Tamás Marshall’s presentation

Anna (Stumpf) Smith Lacey, Hungarian Embassy, Washington, DC – washington.kormany.hu/

Anna (Stumpf) Smith Lacey, Congressional liaison at the Hungarian Embassy in Washington, D.C., provided an overview of her activities at the embassy and new programs in reaching out to the Hungarian American community. She presented the new embassy website, which is a source of information on Honorary Consuls, local Consular days, lists of Hungarian American organizations and more. Ms. Smith Lacey encouraged the attendees to use the resources of the embassy, to contact her for information when necessary, and specifically highlighted the financial resources and funding opportunities of The Hungary Initiatives Foundation, also funded by the Hungarian government.

She also announced Congressional Representatives Andy Harris (U.S. Representative for Maryland's 1st congressional district), Marcy Kaptur (U.S. Representative for Ohio's 9th
congressional district) and David Joyce (U.S. Representative for Ohio’s 14th congressional district), who recently reconstituted the Hungarian American Caucus on the Hill.

László and Ágnes Fülöp, Immigration History Research Center of the University of Minnesota (IHRC) - http://www.ihrce.umn.edu/

Mr. Lászlo Fülöp introduced the Immigration History Research Center at the University of Minnesota. Founded in 1965, the IHRC/A promotes research on international migration with a special emphasis on immigrant and refugee life in the U.S. The IHRC sponsors seminars, lectures and workshops that bring a highly specialized and multi-disciplinary group of University of Minnesota researchers into dialogue with their national and international peers, with university and high school students and their teachers, with journalists, photographers and filmmakers, and with communities of immigrants and ethnic Americans.

Róbert Velkey, ReConnect Hungary Program

Róbert Velkey introduced the ReConnect Hungary program, established in 2012, that provides a two-week cultural immersion trip to Hungary for young Hungarian-American adults to help them learn about their heritage and reconnect with Hungary. Hungarian Americans between the ages of 18-26, who can prove their Hungarian ancestry, are invited to apply to the scholarship program. As part of the program, they attend educational lectures, meet Hungarian decision-makers and business leaders as well as visit governmental offices and cultural heritage sites. In the summer of 2013, 12 Hungarian Americans participated in the program to Hungary to rediscover their heritage.

ReConnect Hungary is sponsored by the Kossuth Foundation and The Hungary Initiatives Foundation.

- Róbert Velkey’s presentation

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS TO DISCUSS MAJOR TOPICS

Sunday morning provided an opportunity to break into small groups to further discuss the most critical topics that had been raised thus far: structural organization and generational issues; use of technology / online tools; and children’s programs.

1) Structural Organization / Generation Gap issues
Notes by Nóémi Szilágyi
Participants: Max Teleki, Nóémi Szilágyi, Anna Smith Lacey, Attila Kulcsár, Judit Barcza Benedek, Eszter Gagnon, László and Agnes Fülöp

- How do you get more people involved with your Organization?

- The general concession was, that you have to provide a variety of programs that will attract all age groups. Some ideas included: Scouts, Church programs, ReConnect Hungary program, Children Programs.

- How can people and Organizations find each other throughout the US?
• All parties agreed that a central database, created, hosted and updated by an independent organization (which is not in anyway connected to the Government) would be the best option.

• Max Teleki mentioned that HAC might be able and willing to take this on, possibly by employing an intern to manage the page.

• The challenge of getting the info from organizations was brought up and it was agreed that all organizations should have a designated member, who is responsible for updating information and submitting it to the central database.

• As some organizations have mostly elderly members, it was noted that this central database might not be accessible to everyone, as many elderly do not have computers or don't know how to use it. The idea of computer tutorial session was mentioned and stated that each Organization should have a person acting as liaison, and helping with the elderly.

We did not have the time to move onto the second half of the discussion about Generation Gap issues, but this was also on everyone’s minds – especially in terms of reaching young Hungarian Americans as well as identifying and nurturing the next generation of community leaders.

Recommendations:

• Create a leadership forum for HATOG participants to continue discussions from the conference – (Southern HATOG Leadership Council on Facebook)

• Create a forum to have Southern Hungarian Americans communicate with one another and stay aware of activities and events across the Southern region – (Southern Hungarian Americans on Facebook)

• Look into creating a central database hosted by an independent organizations

2) Online technology
Notes from Kati Beck, Edith K. Lauer
Participants: Melinda Kozó, Zsuzsa Nagy, Steven Csorna, Enikő Molnár Basa, Péter Kovalszki, Laszló Apáthy, Kati Beck

• The South East has many kids’ groups, but very few systematic school programs

• Kids and youth are dispersed, hard to get them together for weekend schools

• Online education would be a great solution

Online Resources Already Available:
• The Carolinas Youth Club has been running a successful online school for 3 years (Online materials + Skype classes)

• KMCSSZ / Scout reading programs

• MOOC (massive open online courses) courses from Stanford and other universities

• MOZA (mozaWeb.hu) – digitális oktatás othoni tanuláshoz / digital education, at home study programs all in Hungarian, 500 textbooks online (including history)

Recommendations:
• Educate SE leaders, teachers and parents about virtual education (E.g.: Coursera)
• Technology training for leaders
• Streamline SE school programs and share resources
• Develop curriculum that would fit the specific needs of Diaspora kids
• Discuss online education at upcoming conference of AHEA
• Collect sources for teachers and families alike, such as the Cserkész olvasóprogram and include all of this in a database to be used by Hungarian American community

3) Children’s education
Notes from Zsuzsa Csajkás, Edith K. Lauer
Participants: Tamás Judit, Julianna Babics, Eszter Karvazy, Ottília Varga, Csilla Grauzer, Tomi Marshall, Katalin Szilágyi, Laszlo Szilágyi

How can we educate parents about the importance of the Hungarian language, cultural education of the kids.
• Parents always seem to be the challenge.
• The Scouts shared their resources where information on this topic can be found, such as their website, some recommended reading material on dual-language development.

How do we reach and teach the kids?
• Hungarian knowledge taught through songs and games do not rely on the language, so this is ideal for younger children as they are learning the language
• Cserkész reading program is a wonderful example of a program already created that others may be able to use
• Visits to Hungary are ideal

Recommendations:
• Set up parallel teaching for children and parents
• Establish portal or database with books and websites for raising a bilingual child
• Create a Dropbox for information sharing purposes.

In the Dropbox, educational information, reference materials and open discussions will be held on these topics with anyone interested. This will allow all educators the ability to share topics/teaching material that really works and saves time on research and development for certain groups. The Dropbox will also allow cooperation across borders and enable groups to work together no matter their geographical location.
Approximately 350 people visited the 1st Atlanta Hungarian Festival. Visitors were treated to Hungarian food and wine, Hungarian arts and craft exhibits (with educational exhibits and information about the Rubik's cube, Christmas and Easter traditions, the Revolution of 1956, the 24th anniversary of the Fall of Communism). The most popular activities were traditional ‘egg painting’, decorating Christmas ornaments and face painting. In addition, several old-fashioned, hand-made wooden toys were on display and kids – both young and old – tried their hands at them. While the Hungarian Folk Music Band, Életfa played, festival participants were able to watch folk dance demonstrations and participate in dance lessons.

In addition to Southern HATOG representatives being involved in festival activities, the nine KCSP interns who attended the conference were active participants in the Festival, manning booths, dancing and leading arts and crafts projects throughout the day.

Dr. Elizabeth Kiss, the President of Agnes Scott College, where the festival was held, welcomed the crowd in both Hungarian and English and spoke of her Hungarian heritage to the crowd. She said she was happy to say that the Atlanta Hungarian Festival was the start of an annual tradition.

The Festival was organized by the Hungarian Club of Georgia (www.gahungarians.com) and the Atlanta Hungarian Meetup had a number of sponsors, among them: The Hungary Initiatives Foundation, Hungarian American Coalition, Magyar Marketing, Inworld Services, Inc., Hemispheres Wines, Pince Studio and the Agnes Scott College International Student Association.

Réka Pigniczky covered the inaugural event for the DunaWorld „Five Continents” Program.