

Spring 2012



## Hungarian-American Club of New Mexico

P.O. Box 3454

Albuquerque, NM 87190

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

### 2012 Upcoming Events:

**Magyar Picnic**  
May 20 Double Shelter

**St. Stephen's Day**  
August 12

**1956 October Revolution**  
October 10/28

**End-of-Year Holidays**  
December 12/9

### 2013 Events:

**1848 Revolution**  
March 10

**Magyar Picnic**  
June to be announced

**St. Stephen's Day**  
August 25

**1956 October Revolution**  
October 10/27

**End-of-Year Holidays**  
December 12/1

### **Greetings from the President**

by Anna (Panni) Powless

Greetings fellow Hungarians, szervusztok. Spring is almost here!

We had a couple of fun events this winter. I know everyone enjoyed the home baked goodies and the "Christmas" pizza (we learned how hard it is to make a red and green pizza J!) Once again, Mikulas made an appearance with a bag full of gifts for the children. It was pleasant to have live music; Csaba Szekely played the guitar while we met up with old friends and socialized.

In January about 25 of us got together for a viewing of the movie Torn From the Flag. It was a moving experience to watch this well done documentary about the events of 1956. Although I was in Hungary at the time of the revolution, this gave me a historical perspective from several points of view that was an eye opener. We held the event at the Copper Canyon Restaurant and we were all pleasantly surprised at the good quality of the food and the reasonable prices of the restaurant. We will most likely use this venue again in the future

for other similar events.

Another highlight in January was the Rajko Hungarian Gypsy Orchestra's performance at the Outpost. I think I can safely say that this event was fabulous past all our expectations. This seven member orchestra "blew our socks off" with their showmanship and musical virtuoso. They played many old classics that not only the Hungarian audience was familiar with but it didn't matter if you knew them or not, it was great entertainment. We wished we could have enticed more people from the club but all who were there provided an enthusiastic audience for this group.

I look forward to seeing you at our March event. The food, as usual, will be delicious and catered by Simone and Richard Debbas. We will commemorate March 15 – for many this is a favorite and most patriotic holiday. We will also be introducing something new, a silent auction where Hungarian pottery, textiles, and other items will be available for bidding.

We are already planning our summer picnic at Ellena Gallegos for May 20th and we look forward to a fabulous year with your participation. See you soon!

## **1848 Hungarian Revolution against Austrian rule.**

By F. Griesbacher

In March 1848, revolution erupted in Vienna, forcing Austria's Chancellor Klemens von Metternich to flee the capital. Unrest broke out in Hungary on March 15, when radicals and students stormed the Buda fortress to release political prisoners. A day later, the Diet's liberal-dominated lower house demanded establishment of a national government responsible to an elected parliament, and on March 22 a new national cabinet took power with Count Louis Batthyany as chairman, Kossuth as minister of finance, and Szechenyi as minister of public works. Under duress, the Diet's upper house approved a sweeping reform package, signed by Ferdinand, that altered almost every aspect of Hungary's economic, social, and political life. These so-called April Laws created independent Hungarian ministries of defense and finance, and the new government claimed the right to issue currency through its own central bank. Guilds lost their privileges; the nobles became subject to taxation; entail, tithes, and the corvee were abolished; some peasants became freehold proprietors of the land they worked; freedom of the press and assembly were created; a Hungarian national guard was established; and Transylvania was brought under Hungarian rule.

The non-Magyar ethnic groups in Hungary feared the nationalism of the new Hungarian government, and Transylvanian Germans and Romanians opposed the incorporation of Transylvania into Hungary. The Vienna government enlisted the minorities in the first attempt to overthrow the Hungarian government. Josip Jelacic --a fanatic anti-Hungarian--became governor of Croatia on March 22 and severed relations with the Hungarian government a month later. By summer the revolution's momentum began to wane. The Austrians ordered the Hungarian diet to dissolve, but the order went unheeded. In September Jelacic led an army into Hungary. Batthyany resigned, and a mob lynched the imperial commander in Pest. A committee of national defense under Kossuth took control, authorized the establishment of a Hungarian army,

and issued paper money to fund it. On October 30, 1848, imperial troops entered Vienna and suppressed a workers' uprising, effectively ending the revolution everywhere in the empire except Hungary, where Kossuth's army had overcome Jelacic's forces. In December Ferdinand abdicated in favor of Franz Joseph (1848-1916), who claimed more freedom of action because, unlike Ferdinand, he had given no pledge to respect the April Laws. The Magyars, however, refused to recognize him as their king because he was never crowned.

The imperial army captured Pest early in 1849, but the revolutionary government remained entrenched in Debrecen. In April a "rump" Diet deposed the Habsburg Dynasty in Hungary, proclaimed Hungary a republic, and named Kossuth governor with dictatorial powers. After the declaration, Austrian reinforcements were transferred to Hungary, and in June, at Franz Joseph's request, Russian troops attacked from the east and overwhelmed the Hungarians. The Hungarian army surrendered on August 13, and Kossuth escaped to the Ottoman Empire. A period of harsh repression followed. Batthyany and about 100 others were shot, several society women were publicly whipped, and the government outlawed public gatherings, theater performances, display of the national colors, and wearing of national costumes and Kossuth-style beards.

After the revolution, the emperor revoked Hungary's constitution and assumed absolute control. Franz Joseph divided the country into four distinct territories: Hungary, Transylvania, Croatia-Slavonia, and Vojvodina. German and Bohemian administrators managed the government, and German became the language of administration and higher education. The non-Magyar minorities of Hungary received little for their support of Austria during the turmoil. A Croat reportedly told a Hungarian: "We received as a reward what the Magyars got as a punishment."

Hungarian public opinion split over the country's relations with Austria. Some Hungarians held out hope for full separation from Austria; others wanted an accommodation with the Habsburgs,

provided that they respected Hungary's constitution and laws. Ferencz Deak became the main advocate for accommodation. Deak upheld the legality of the April Laws and argued that their amendment required the Hungarian Diet's consent. He also held that the dethronement of the Habsburgs was invalid. As long as Austria ruled absolutely, Deak argued, Hungarians should do no more than passively resist illegal demands.

The first crack in Franz Joseph's neo-absolutist rule developed in 1859, when the forces of Sardinia and France defeated Austria at Solferno.

The defeat convinced Franz Joseph that national and social opposition to his government was too strong to be managed by decree from Vienna. Gradually he recognized the necessity of concessions toward Hungary, and Austria and Hungary thus moved toward a compromise. In 1866 the Prussians defeated the Austrians, further underscoring the weakness of the Habsburg Empire. Negotiations between the emperor and the Hungarian leaders were intensified and finally resulted in the Compromise of 1867, which created the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary, also known as the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

## NEWS FROM THE BOTTLE

by Steve Borbas

The Hungarian Club sends our sympathies to Ildy Rolfs, the Club's past president, on the death of her mother, Hedda Shishman, at the age of 98. She was a longtime member.....We welcome the new Rezler Scholars from Hungary to Albuquerque, Zsofia Parragh and Zsolt Marencsak, to study mediation and arbitration at the University of New Mexico. They will be here for one semester. You'll meet them in March..... Jack Jones, Joan Shaw's better half – oops – other half, who claims to be a wanna-be-Hungarian has researched Hungarian music and will share his recommendations.....The New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park has again flown the Hungarian flag on October 23 in memory of the revolution.....We will hold elections at the March 11 gathering. Our present executives are willing to

continue and a secretary will be needed. Please volunteer to run for these positions.....A new film at the Berlin Film Festival "Just the Wind" is about the killing of gypsies (Roma), by vigilantes in Hungary 3 years ago. The trials are ongoing in Budapest. (It seems that Hungary's image is being tarnished by discrimination of groups, people who have all lived together for generations before are now in opposition – these are isolated events, but sad nevertheless).....

Dr Zane Rezler's book "Shoes Along the Danube" will be presented in March, and he will discuss and sign his book written about the lives and survival of our longtime members, Julius and Agnes Rezler before and during the war years in Hungary and later in the US.....

## From the BudapestReport.com February 19/2012

Hungary's new Prime Minister Viktor Orban has always voiced that he will be the premier for an estimated 15 million Hungarians worldwide. This has raised eyebrows in neighboring countries and the European Union (of which Hungary has been a member of since May 1, 2004) as they fear the conservative PM may renew old historical Hungarian territorial claims – because most of the 5 million Magyars living outside the borders of modern day Hungary were forced to do so against their will in neighboring countries. The fact that the European Union (EU) may not agree, is irrelevant on the issue of Hungarian reunification as Orban has in the past voiced that "there is life outside the EU."



## About Betsy Townsend

Interview with Steve Borbas

Soumak is a weaving technique from the Middle East, carried by Crusaders to Scandinavia. It is weaving with calligraphy in it. Betsy calls it Woven Words, she designs her own alphabets and has been weaving beautiful pieces for a long time. Even without the alphabets, her weaving is lovely. She claims that her grandmother taught her to weave when she needed to mend socks.

“How are you Hungarian with that last name”, she is often asked. Since her mother was Hungarian, she says that she is half...the best half. Her grandparents with their five kids, including her mother, emigrated from Hungary to the US in 1910. Her grandfather was a master gardener. They kept the Hungarian language at home, and Betsy learned some of it. Their idyllic childhood included Hungarian music, food, traditions, and they were encouraged to create, read, be open-minded, and love nature.

Betsy was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attended the University there. She majored in art – drawing, crafts, weaving, pottery, jewelry, sculpture and calligraphy. She taught art in Wisconsin, went to graduate school, then moved to Albuquerque to teach weaving and design at the University of New Mexico Fine Arts Department. There, she married Neal Townsend, had four daughters, and a ten year break from teaching. But she came back to teach at APS, 30 years at Valley High School. She has lived in the South Valley for some 50 years, weaving, raising her clan, and also raising chickens.

Through the early years, contact with relatives in Hungary was lost. But in 1980 her uncle and aunt found relatives there and in 1992, Betsy and Neal visited Hungary and reconnected with them. She returned there a few years later....she thinks it is time to go again.

Betsy is the Hungarian Club treasurer and a very active participant in all our events. We are very glad for her Hungarian half.

### **Governor George Pataki Speaks Out on Education, Language and Autonomy Rights in Transylvania:**

#### **“It is still Important to fight for the basic human rights of Hungarians in Romania”**

Former New York Governor George Pataki visited Oradea (in Hungarian: Nagyvárad), Romania, on January 15 to meet with Rev. László Tőkés, Vice President of the European Parliament and head of the Transylvanian Hungarian National Council (THNC). Pataki emphasized the importance of education rights for the 1.2 million-strong Hungarian community and the potential benefits of regional autonomy. Accompanied by his daughter Allison Pataki-Levy, the Governor participated in Sunday services followed by a meeting with prominent members of the educational and academic communities. Referring to the 600,000 plus Hungarians who collectively comprise the majority in three administrative counties making up the Székely (Szekler) Region in Transylvania, Pataki underscored that the region is “unique with its own culture, values, distinctive language and history.” He ex-

pressed hope that the Romanian government pays attention to this, adding that in New York State “there are many autonomous regions with their own cultures and ethnic groups existing in harmony with the law.”

Tőkés introduced the former governor as someone “coming from the Free World who has always stood up for the freedom of East Central Europe’s peoples” and recalled Pataki’s last visit to the city in 2006 when he voiced concern over the state’s confiscation of the playgrounds of a local Hungarian-language high school.

Tőkés thanked the three-term Governor for his moral and political support on behalf of Hungarian-language higher education and the cause of regional autonomy, which the Member of the Parliament envisions based on European models, as a developmental euro-region. Tőkés also praised the Governor for his support of the Reconnect Hungary Birthright Program meant to strengthen ties between young Hungarians living in the United States and their country of origin.

**Good Music.**

Since meeting Joan Shaw I've become a 'Hungarian Wannabee' and so I've been searching the Hungarian music scene, the past as well as today's.

Below are a few of the Hungarian artists I've found that are worth listening to...

- (01) Dalriada-Nepdal
- (02) Dalriada-A Nap es Szel Hozza
- (03) Kati Wolf-Magyarország
- (04) Fokatelep-Induly El
- (05) Besh O Drom-Meggyujtom a Pipamat (My favorite)

Check these artists & songs out on 'YouTube', You'll enjoy them...

Jack Jones

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**HUNGARIAN AMERICAN CLUB of NEW MEXICO**

Purpose: To foster Hungarian culture among those residents of new Mexico who are of Hungarian descent, related people of Hungarian descent, or who may have Hungarian affiliation, but who are interested in preservation of ethnic cultures such as Hungarian, which may become lost without organizational effort.

**You are cordially invited to join the  
Hungarian Community for our 1848 Revolution celebration  
at the German American Club  
on Sunday, March 11, 2012, 1-5 pm.  
4821 Menaul Blvd. Albuquerque**

The program includes greetings, food, elections, speech,

Poems, silent auction, book introduction / signing.

The meal is Kolozsvary Kaposzta (Layered Cabbage w/pork, rice), and desert.

Meal and Entry is \$10 adults, \$5 under 12.

Cash bar provided by the German Club.

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The **Hungarian Club Picnic** will be starting at noon,  
**Sunday, May 20** at the Double Shelter...at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Grounds  
to the east of Tramway Blvd. For direction please call Steve at 265-7088.  
Bring food and drinks to share. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be provided by the Club  
between 12:00 and 2:00.

**A few less known famous Hungarians:**

Safety matches were the brain child of Janos Irinyi.

Kalman Kando railroad hauling electrification.

Janos Csonka and Donat Banki car carburetor.

Jozsef Galamb designed the first affordable car, the Ford Model T.

William Fox started out in Hungary and went on to found the film studio 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox.

Laszlo Jozsef Biro invented the ballpoint pen.

Judit Polgar can justly claim to be the greatest female chess player who ever lived.

**Breaded Veal Cutlet (Schnitzel)...**

4 veal steaks or pork cutlets, flour, 1.5 cups bread crumbs, lemon wedges, 1 egg beaten + water, 4 tbs. oil .....beat steaks until thin, sprinkle with salt, pepper, dip into flour, then egg mixture, and bread crumbs..... Fry until brown on both sides. Garnish with lemon wedges.

Eat with mashed potatoes.