

Spring 2014



Hungarian-American Club of New Mexico

P.O. Box 3454

Albuquerque, NM 87190

www.hacnm.org

2014 Events:

March 9 - 1848
Revolution

June 8 - Picnic (site
TBD)

August 10 - St
Stephen

Oct 19 - 1956
Revolution

Dec 14 - Year-end
Holidays

2015 Events:

March 8 - 1848
Revolution

June 7 - Hungarian
Picnic (site to be an-
nounced)

August 9—St.
Stephen

October 18 - 1956
Revolution

December TBA -
Year End Holidays

GREETINGS FROM THE BRAINTRUST

by steve borbas

As this is the first newsletter since last summer, I'll try to remember and summarize the last 3 events in the past 6 months (unfortunately, I only remember the future). What especially stands out is that 60+ of you came to each event, a terrific turnout and thank you. At the next gathering, on March 9, we will host the Hungarian Dancers, eat delicious food, have elections, a talk and a poem by the Rezler students Klari and Julia.

> St Stephen's Day: over the years we have discussed the life, deeds and relations of St Istvan, so my topic was our newest revolution, that of 1989, a reminder of the many conflicts we have had with many of our larger neighbors thru history. In 1989, after we have opened the door thru the Iron Curtain, changes hap-

pened very quickly, such as the Berlin Wall came down. Hungary and other Iron Curtain countries were free of the Communist rule..... Our volunteer chefs brought delicious palacsintas and cold cherry soup. Thank you chefs and helpers.

> October 23 Revolution: Attila Csanyi described his experiences during the 1956 Revolution as a student. We ate Szekely Kaposzta, had wine tasting of 2 Tokays, a slide show of Budapest, Bea's recital of a poem and a good raffle.

> Year-end Holidays: searching on a cell phone, we found Santa Clause (Mikulas) - he and his helper brought lots of goodies for the kids. Gusztav Kocsis told holiday stories and traditions, and brought some special foods. He used to own a restaurant. Thank you to all of you who brought delicious appetizers and desserts.

We still had some Hungarian wines, so continued the wine

tasting.

More recipes of Hungarian dishes are needed for the Club's Cookbook. Especially foods you have made, became a special meal in your family and often passed down from Mom and Grandma (or maybe the male family members?). Please bring it with you even in a rough form, we can type it up - or email it to me at

sborb@unm.edu..... At the March gathering, and in this newsletter, we'll ask you to renew your membership: Individuals (\$15), Couples and Families (\$30), Seniors (\$12).....Lastly, we'll hold elections. Deneb Teleki is the OneManElection Committee and can be reached at francesteleki@gmail.com for nominations. Hope to see you at 1pm on March 9, 2014.

NEWS FROM THE BOTTLE

by Steve Borbas

The German Club has informed us that Hungarian Club membership cards have to be with you for all our events, as specified by the laws of the State of NM. Apparently the State inspectors are making the rounds to all the clubs. At the March 9 gathering, we'll issue cards to each paying member, showing that we are Associate Members of the German Club as well.

Remembering Tibor Remenyik and his fantastic History classes, we should discuss somehow continuing history discussions and lectures. Maybe we need to look at a team approach, and quarterly classes? Joan Shaw has suggested that we have a Book Review part in each newsletter - again this needs to have many of you participating.

My usual summer Study Abroad teaching trip to Lugano, Switzerland

with 14 architecture and planning students has come to an end. Complications with lodging and \$ support has made the travel difficult, even though it has been a great advantage to students over the past 13 years.

The raffle money at the December event was matched from the Club treasury (wallet) and sent to the Hungarian Habitat for Humanity. They will send us updates about their works.

We will welcome the 2 new Rezler students, Julia Horvath and Klari Salamon, who will stay until the end of the spring semester and will participate in the March 9 gathering.

Reading the context of the 1848 Revolution is interesting in that the Hapsburg rule was deteriorating, other uprisings in Europe esca-

lated the actions in Hungary, and the decision to free the serfs from the obligation to perform their feudal services was achieved by the liberal groups. Petofi's poem, the gathering of thousands in Pest and the granting of

the 12 Points were followed by legislation to reunite Transylvania and Hungary, political independence within the empire, representative government, and abolition of censorship.

Two Old Soldiers **Corrales Writing Group 2013 Anthology**

My grandfather was a soldier. He fought in World War I, was wounded, and was left with the dead in a field hospital. He had taken some serious shrapnel in his leg, and the doctors told him they would have to amputate. My grandfather said that he would not accept that fate. One kind and nameless Army surgeon stashed him in the morgue, where he was treated on the side.

My grandfather was a soldier. He was proud of his service and often stood at attention to the full extent of his 5' 7", when I visited his small urban apartment in New York. He marched in ranks and shot from the trenches in his living room. His apartment became a parade field and a battlefield, where the manual of arms was executed and combat stories were told, retold, and his wife said, "Shhhh John, no one wants to hear about that."

My grandfather was a soldier. When the war ended he took a boat from Europe to New York where he reunited with his childhood sweetheart, like thousands of other vets, and he married her. He worked with his hands at the Otis Elevator Company and, when he retired, they gave him a gold watch. I now have that watch and his

old meerschaum pipe. He used to smoke that pipe on special occasions, like when I visited him and he told me stories about the war and showed me the shrapnel still in his leg. My grandfather smelled of tobacco and his wife would make him go outside to smoke cigars on the stoop. I would sit with him out there and listen to what had happened on some far off field of honor - and horror.

My grandfather was a soldier. He did his duty to God and Country. He served with distinction and was awarded a medal. I saw an old photograph of him in an Army hospital. His hair was dark brown then, but you could see him clearly wearing a white gown in a large group – all of the young men with medals pinned to their chests. When my grandfather was young, he had a broad dark mustache. His mustache grew smaller and grayed as he grew older – like mine as I grow older.

My grandfather was a soldier. He liked to drink, sing, and dance his wife around the small kitchen. She would say, "John, stop," but she loved being twirled and kissed even though his beard was a stubbly gray. My grandfather used to ask me to come to his neighborhood bar and have a drink with him and the other vets from the war. When he served in World War I, a pilot was considered a modern day knight. Having me

show up at the bar in uniform with my shiny new gold bar and my pilot's wings was his way of showing the world how proud he was of me and my service.

My grandfather was a soldier from August 1914 – November 1918. Forty years later, when he marched around his living room and performed the manual of arms, he shouted: “*Ein, zwei, drei, vier.*” He was so proud that he could remember his drill after so many years of serving in the *Magyar Honvédség*. He had served his King and his Emperor as had every young man from his small village of Bodrogszentes, in what was then Kingdom of Hungary within the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Of the eight

million men mobilized in Hungary, one million died during the war. After the war, the peace gave that part of the kingdom to the new nation of Czechoslovakia. After the cease fire, my grandfather's father went to Austria to look for his son, who the Army had said was dead. His father searched Army hospitals until one day he heard his son singing at mass and recognized the voice. When he rushed inside the chapel and saw his son, my great-grandfather did not ask how my grandfather was doing, nor did he reveal how glad he was to have found him. Instead, he asked why, as a good Protestant, he was singing at a Catholic mass.

by Jim Tritten

Summer of 2013

by Anna Powless

This summer I planned to go home to Budapest as I have done many times since I was able to - in 1978. Going home is always a bittersweet feeling, on one hand I love being there and immerse myself in all things I knew in my childhood (I left at 17,) observe the change, visit the places I love, and absorb the familiar flavors and smells. On the other hand, there, I miss my parents, and I feel strangely belonging and out of place at the same time.

This time, my two brothers rented a house on Lake Balaton in Zamardi, right next to the “strand” (beach) and invited me along on their holiday. Zamardi has been a well-known vacation spot for many years although not as famous as the north shore gems

of Tihany and Balatonfüred. Since Zamardi is on the south shore, the water is much more shallow for quite a distance and thus also warmer. It is a wonderful place to go with small children and the last time I was there I was a small child myself. ☺ We enjoyed a great week of sun and relaxation with 5 children and 6 adults.

On a lovely summer day we took the ferry across to Tihany – have been there several times over the years and it's a place that never disappoints. Despite or maybe because of being a big tourist attraction, Tihany is charming, offers good food, good shopping, buildings of historic significance that have been restored, and breathtaking views of the lake and the south shore. If you are interested in bringing back folkart, they have amazing pottery, embroidery, and even leather goods. The prices and quality rival with

Budapest. The main attraction is the “Tihanyi apatsag”, the Archabbey, with an interesting and well organized museum in the basement.

Balatonfured, only a 10 minute drive from Tihany is the place to walk, meet people, shop, and enjoy a delicious pastry or coffee at one of the fashionable and often pricey cafes. It is also the place of the famous Anna ball which takes place every year on July 26th. It is on my bucket list to finally attend one of these!

Yes, I got to go to Budapest after all to visit my old haunts and discover new ones. I was totally amazed how they made an already beautiful place – the Castle District – even more beautiful by completely restoring the remaining buildings that were still in disrepair. Enjoying the view I noticed for the first time in years that all of the Parliament stood in its white splendor –

without scaffolding – having been recently cleaned and painted. Had a superb meal of pasta and duck liver in an Italian restaurant at Becsi Kapu in the company of old and dear friends. Away from the din and crowded streets of the city it is a delightful place to share with someone.

Taking public transportation and walking is immensely easier than driving in the frequently bogged down traffic and trying to find parking anywhere downtown (belvaros). Still people love their car, especially if you live on the outskirts as my older brother does in Ujpest or you have to cart kids around, like my younger brother does.

All too soon, another summer visit over, I sat at the shiny new terminal of the Liszt Ferenc airport, and decided to spend my last forints to toast my arrival, departure, and the rollercoaster of emotions in between. Until next time!

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO JOIN THE
HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN CLUB'S REMEMBRANCE
OF THE 1848 REVOLUTION**

at the German Club on Sunday, March 9, 1-5 pm
At 4821 Menaul Blvd. ABQ.....505-888-4833

The program includes greetings, gulyas++, the Hungarian Dancers, poem, elections, discussion, raffle and socialization. Meal and entry is \$10.

Cash bar provided by the German Club.

Fresh from the internet:

My teacher pointed at me with her ruler and said that at the end of this ruler is a dumb. I got a detention after asking which end!

How Bedroom smells after marriages:

First 3 months - Perfumes and Flowers!

After 12 months - Baby Powder, Cream, diapers and Lotions!

After 7 Years - Balms, Move and pain killers.

I thing..Fear Factor would have been much scarier if it had just been people in their twenties trying to figure out how to have careers!

Photographer: My secret of success is? 'Think negative'!

Understand the followings ?

- 1 IF MAN EVOLVED FROM MONKEYS AND APES, WHY DO WE STILL HAVE MONKEYS AND APES?
- 2 WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU SEE AN ENDANGERED ANIMAL EATING AN ENDANGERED PLANT?
- 3 IF A TURTLE DOESN'T HAVE A SHELL, IS HE HOMELESS OR NAKED?
- 4 ONE NICE THING ABOUT EGOTISTS: THEY DON'T TALK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE.
- 5 HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE A CIVIL WAR?
- 6 CAN AN ATHEIST GET INSURANCE AGAINST ACTS of GOD
- 7 IF ONE SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMER DROWNS, DO THE REST DROWN TOO?
- 8 WHERE DO FOREST RANGERS GO TO "GET AWAY FROM IT ALL?"

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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.