

Summer



## Hungarian-American Club of New Mexico

P.O. Box 3454

Albuquerque, NM 87190

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

### 2012 Upcoming Events:

**1956 October Revolution**  
October 21

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

### 2013 Events:

**1848 Revolution**  
March 10

**Magyar Picnic**  
June to be announced

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

**1956 October Revolution**  
October 27

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

## Greetings from the Vice President

by Frederick Griesbacher

My fellow members of the Hungarian-American Club of New Mexico. Our Spring picnic at the Elena Gallegos Park, located at the base of the cool Sandia Mountains, was a great success. We had a good number of our members join us for good company and good food. I tended the grill until Anna Powless took over, and I was able to rest. I wonder how many of you are aware of the large number of Hungarians who came to America and who contributed so much to our freedom which we enjoy here. Our history in this regard goes back to the War of Independence with the British. The following information will enlighten those of you who are not aware: **Commandant Michael Kovats Medal of Freedom "Fidelissimus ad Mortem" "Faithful unto Death"** The American Hungarian Federation (AHF) established the Colonel Commandant Michael Kovats Medal of Freedom to honor outstanding individuals and recognize their life's achievements, dedication to freedom and democracy, promotion of transat-

lantic relations, and meritorious contribution to society. The award, AHF's highest honor, is open to Hungarians and non-Hungarians alike. Inscribed on the medal is AHF's Motto, "Fidelissimus ad Mortem" or "Faithful Unto Death" (Hiven Mindhalig in Hungarian) representing Hungarian American historical commitment to the United States. The motto was taken from a letter written by former Hussar Officer Michael Kovats to Benjamin Franklin. Kovats, known as the **Founding Father of the US Cavalry**, who offered his sword in service to the United States. On May 11, 1779, Colonel Kovats gave his life in the American War for Independence while leading the Continental Army cavalry he had trained in Hungarian hussar tactics against a British siege of Charleston. The British remarked that Kovats' forces were "the best cavalry the rebels ever had." He is immortalized in the almost life size portrait by Gabriella Koszorus-Varasa.... He is immortalized at the Citadel Military Academy in South Carolina as they honor him and named "Kovats Field" after him. The Hungarian Embassy, too, has a statue in his honor sculptured by Paul Takacs and executed by Attila Dienes.

## **I Remember Tibor Remenyik**

By Joan Shaw

The picture I will always have in my head of my friend Tibor is of him stepping in the door to our house, stopping on the landing of the vestibule, taking my hand and kissing it lightly while telling me in both Hungarian and German that he was kissing my hand. "Csokolom a kisztihandod", he would say. It was the old-fashioned chivalrous gesture of a bygone era which was made with great respect and a flourish.

Whenever Tibor and Janet came to our house, I would fret over the menu. "Nothing from the sea", he would say. I immediately removed the shrimp. "Anything with chocolate is good", he would intone with a kind of glazed look as if he were already tasting the dark, mysterious flavor.

There is so much to say about Tibor. He was a complex person. He had that European reserve, but with a twinkle in his eye. He was ever the gentleman, but he spoke his mind. He was a true scholar, one who did the research for any given project with patience and painstaking detail. He could recite facts and figures at the drop of a hat; A historian who read widely in several languages about the past and about current events; A teacher who relished the interaction of students with himself.

But the glue which held his intellectual and cultural interests together was his Hungarian heritage. He was always a true Magyar at heart, in spite of having lived and worked outside his homeland for

most of his adult life. He traveled often to Hungary to visit relatives, friends, and to see for himself what was happening at home. Tibor never lost ties to that world which provided him with the melancholy poetry of Petofi, Hungary's poet laureate, or the joy of the czardas dance, or, for that matter, the savory taste of a palacsinta, Hungary's version of a crepe. Above all, that world had provided him with an education and intellectual tradition which became ingrained in his nature.

Tibor was an integral part of the Hungarian American Club of New Mexico. He served as president, participated in events, and made presentations, frequently in his elegant Austro-Hungarian uniform.

Those of us who were privileged to be part of the Hungarian History Group enjoyed Tibor's lectures for almost twenty years. He and Janet came to Albuquerque from Las Vegas regularly, making the two and a half hour ride each way, each time. Tibor would hold forth on large topics of Hungarian history, politics, and culture, always in great detail, and often with anecdotes of his own experience.

My personal conversations with Tibor ran the gamut of topics from linguistics to the joys of food. He had his own repertoire of Hungarian specialties which he made himself. He told a great story and he had many of them. We always spoke Hungarian and I seldom went away without expanding my vocabulary or gaining some new insight into an issue.

I will miss Tibor; his warmth, his wit, his charm, his refinement, his erudition. Isten Veled, Tibor.

## **NEWS FROM THE BOTTLE**

by Steve Borbas

Please note that there are 2 invitations in the newsletter, August 12 and October 21..... In June, New Mexico celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of statehood. At the Downtown celebrations, the Hungarians of the State were also represented with Anna, Albert and I. We shared a table with the Irish and Germans to show off our beautiful nation, exhibiting our flag, photo books about Hungary and lovely hand sewn tablecloths, pillow covers and kulacs.....The University of New Mexico had a special discussion about the photography of internationally well known Tamas Dezso. Zane Reeves and I participated and also talked about our country... .. We will discuss a change to the by-laws –

that the leadership be elected for 2 year terms instead of one..... We also would like to revive the Hungarian Cookbook, first done many years ago. Not that the recipes have changed, but we would like to add to them and jazz up the book. If you have a tasty, favorite dish to share please email it, or call me at 265-7088.....Two new Rezler scholars are coming next month to study mediation/arbitration at UNM, Anita Kozak and Hajnalka Breuer. Additionally, the University will have a Fulbright professor in American Studies from Hungary, Judit Kadar. We welcome all of them. ....On October 23, the Hungarian flag will be flown at the NM Veterans Memorial Park on

south Louisiana Blvd. ....And lastly – please notify us (phone #s and emails at back of newsletter) if there is an email, phone number or home address change. Thank you and send me news.

## ANNA POWLESS INTERVIEW

By Steve Borbas

It is Anna's first day conquering a new life. She retired yesterday after 16 years at Intel (and we all wish her a great retirement). But she is shy talking about her past, no doubt because her mind is on all the things to do, achieve, complete in this new chapter. Anna is the President of the New Mexico Hungarian Club, in her second year, and her second go-around. A wonderful leader, communicator, organizer and mediator. Her nickname is Panni.

Lots more traveling to do is high on the list. She has friends all over the world to visit. She goes to Hungary often and travels with one of her friends from there. She has bummed around Europe. Of course she travels with David, hubby of 30 years. And she travels with Crystal, her 29 year old daughter who lives in Washington DC. A few years ago she spent over a year in China, work related, but it offered the chance to see lots more around there. Panni is a people junkie, meeting others on trains, buses, hostels, bed n breakfasts, loves to experiment with unique foods, good wines and enjoys all the great tourist places.

Panni was born in Budapest, came to the US in



1965, finished high school here and went on to college. Her aunt lived in Los Angeles and took her in when she arrived somewhat sick and alone. Her parents visited but stayed in Hungary. Dad was a doctor there. She endured in school, learned English, and went on to the University of California Los Angeles where she studied

some Engineering, Psychology, American Studies, English, and received her teaching certificate. And then a Masters in Education from UNM. This she used for 14 years in Oregon, California, Colorado, and Wisconsin as an elementary and middle school teacher and librarian.

Her passion is beauty, both natural and man-made. Maybe that is the reason for living in New Mexico but traveling and seeing beauty everywhere. She will apply beauty as the Club President. She has long been involved with the Hungarian Club and has provided many good ideas for events – the priority now seems to be to bring in more and more young people to balance the grey hairs and rejuvenate the Club. Yes.

## OLYMPICS – Hungary

By Steve Borbas

As we are reading this newsletter, the Olympics in London will just be starting. So it is appropriate to talk about the Olympics. Our Hungarian heritage at the Olympics is rich – it goes back to the first one in 1896 in Athens. Alfred Hajos won 2 gold medals in swimming, played on the national soccer team, and upon retirement, he became an architect who designed many stadiums, including the one on Margaret Island in Budapest.

Over the last 24 Summer Olympics in which we participated, little Hungary earned 462 medals,

more than a third of them gold. Major sports were fencing (34 golds) swimming (23), rowing (9), wrestling (9), running, gymnastics and water polo which we won in China 4 years ago. Some fascinating results involved a few fencers (epee, foil and saber) who participated and won gold at multiple Olympics – Ilona Elek in 1936, then returned in 1948 and 1952 at age 45; Aladar Gerevich medaled in 7 Olympics and missed 2 because of WW2. His 7 gold medals still stand as a record in fencing. A few gymnasts and rowers also participated in 3 Olympics. Back in 1952, our 42 medals placed us third in the international medal count after the US and Russia. 3rd and 4th final results also happened in 1936, 1948

(London), 1956 and 1968. Over the 27 Olympics, Hungary ranks 8th in medals of all countries. Not bad.

The most newsworthy event was the 1956 Melbourne, Australia Olympics when we beat the Soviets 4-0 in the water polo semifinals (called the Revolution Game where the pool was bloody),

while Hungary was being invaded by the Soviet Army. Many of the team defected.

Our 2012 team of 158 athletes play in 18 sports in London. The largest groups are in swimming, track/field, and water polo, where we are attempting to get the 4th gold in a row and 10th overall. We wish them szerencse!!!

## A Quick Introduction to Reiki Healing

by Rev. Michelle Szabo, RMT

The word "Reiki" comes from two Japanese forms (what we might call characters or letters) - "Rei" (pronounced RAY) means "Spiritual Wisdom," which is present in everything. The second form, "Ki," (pronounced KHEE) is "life force energy". This is the energy that flows in and around us, as well as animals, plants, etc. Therefore, "Reiki" is most often translated to "spiritually guided life force energy."

At its most basic definition, Reiki is a Japanese healing method that helps to balance the body's energy centers (chakras) and fields (auras). Reiki is also used to clear and balance energies in and around spaces.

If a person's life force energy is low, then they are more likely to feel stressed or become dis-eased. If a person's life force energy is high, they are more likely to feel healthy, happy and able to handle life's challenges. Used on the body, it helps to reduce stress and enhance relaxation. This, in turn, promotes healing. Reiki has been shown to improve the effectiveness of other types of therapy and is used increasingly in hospitals to help patients recover faster and more completely.

Reiki can be received by anyone. In-person sessions are generally 45-60 minutes in length, you

are fully clothed, and generally lying on a massage table. There may also be music, incense, aromatherapy or any other number of techniques being used to help make your session as relaxing as possible. Your Reiki Master will scan your chakras and auras with their hands and/or eyes. Then, they may speak with you, they'll remove negative energy and blockages, and focus healing energy where it is needed. This is all done slightly above the body or with a light touch on the body. There are many different ways to perform a Reiki session and not everyone follows the exact same techniques, although many are very similar as they are coming from the same basic teachings.

Reiki can be given by anyone that is trained in its use. Training can vary widely, but there are usually 3 or 4 levels of about 40 hours total instruction. Upon completion of each level, you receive an attunement, which is a simple, but powerful, sacred initiation ceremony during which you accept the responsibility of Reiki practice and receive a 'boost' of Reiki energy through your Master.

About Michelle: My family came to America in 1956 and they settled in Bridgeport, CT. I performed in the documentary film Searching for Wordin Avenue, which documented the Hungarian immigration experience in that area. Connecting with other Hungarians is one way that I hope to pass on some of our culture to my children. Please feel free to contact me via my web site at [www.reikimt.com](http://www.reikimt.com). Sok áldást!

### Jol esnek egy asszony.

Borbas Gyula

Jol esnek egy asszony  
Pajkos mosolygasa,  
Forro olelese,  
Kacago kis szaja  
Mega a .....

En Uram, Teremtom  
Szanj meg ne erts felre!....  
Csak egy ejszakara  
Engedj le a folder,  
Egy kis bunozesre!



St. Stephen's mummified hand "The Holy Right"

Saint Stephen's Basilica Budapest

**Hungarian Owned Businesses in Albuquerque**



[www.nmelite.com](http://www.nmelite.com)



**RE/MAX**

**Masters**

**A. Peter Veres, ABR**

Elite Asset Management Team

**Lisa Veres**

Associate Broker

6705 Academy NE, Suite A

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109

Pete Cell: (505) 362-2005, Lisa Cell: (505) 362-3263

Office: (505) 883-8979, Fax: (505) 883-9244

E-Mail: [EAMT@NMelite.com](mailto:EAMT@NMelite.com)

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated



**DANIELS  
FAMILY**

*Funeral Services*

"Our Family Serving yours"

Istvan "Steve" Simko

[www.DanielsFuneral.com](http://www.DanielsFuneral.com)

**IF YOU WISH TO ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS OR SERVICES IN OUR NEWS LETTER, PLEASE CONTACT Steve Borbas 265-7088 or Albert Gaspar 892-0861**

If you have news, or you need information, please call Steve Borbas 265-7088 or Albert Gáspár 892-0861.

The Newsletter is published three times a year by  
The Hungarian-American Club of New Mexico:  
P.O. Box 3454 Albuquerque, NM 87190-3454

**President**

Anna Powless

[president@hacnm.com](mailto:president@hacnm.com)

**Vice president**

Fred Griesbacher

[vicepresident@hacnm.com](mailto:vicepresident@hacnm.com)

**Secretary**

Betty Townsend

[secretary@hacnm.com](mailto:secretary@hacnm.com)

**Treasurer**

Betty Townsend

[tresurer@hacnm.com](mailto:tresurer@hacnm.com)

The Newsletter staff members are Steve Borbas, Albert Gaspar, Rose Galko, with guest writers and articles.

**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.

**Hungarian Music**

Jack Jones

Thanks for your interest and feedback given me regarding the recommendations for the various music of Hungary. Since the last newsletter I've found a few more musical highlights you find interesting. It is amazing the amount of worldwide musical styles out on the internet. So here are a few more Hungarian delights to savor.....(to play hold Ctrl. and select music).

Katica Illenyi – El Choclo

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tzw8KIYRbBU>

Czardas di Monti con Mandlino e Fisarmonica

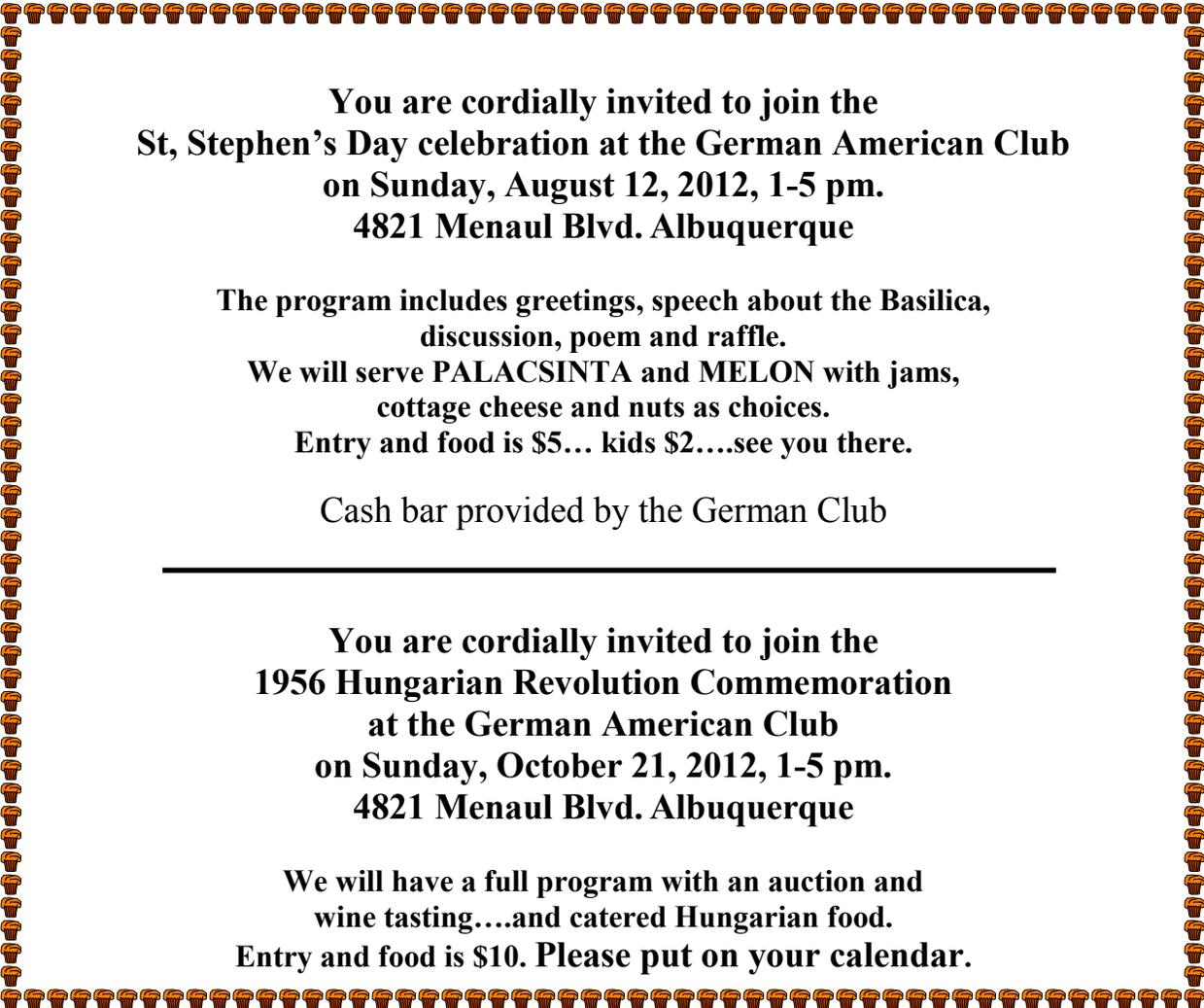
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0bPF10HErs>

Hungarian girls – learn to speak Hungarian sing-along

(the above is an unusual Hungarian language lesson)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjxcWueFw4A>

Maybe more musical goodies the next time.....



**You are cordially invited to join the  
St, Stephen’s Day celebration at the German American Club  
on Sunday, August 12, 2012, 1-5 pm.  
4821 Menaul Blvd. Albuquerque**

**The program includes greetings, speech about the Basilica,  
discussion, poem and raffle.**

**We will serve PALACSINTA and MELON with jams,  
cottage cheese and nuts as choices.**

**Entry and food is \$5... kids \$2....see you there.**

**Cash bar provided by the German Club**

---

**You are cordially invited to join the  
1956 Hungarian Revolution Commemoration  
at the German American Club  
on Sunday, October 21, 2012, 1-5 pm.  
4821 Menaul Blvd. Albuquerque**

**We will have a full program with an auction and  
wine tasting....and catered Hungarian food.**

**Entry and food is \$10. Please put on your calendar.**