



*With Thanksgiving on the way, this poem reminds us of all the blessings for which we should be grateful, while also remembering the veterans whom we commemorate on the 11<sup>th</sup>. It was obviously written after the Apollo space mission.*

## Thank You, God

Margaret Fekete Csovanynos

Thank You, God, for our earthly life,  
Its joys and sorrows and daily strife;  
Thank You, God, for the day and night,  
And all that grows in the bright sunlight.

Thank You, God, that we're not alone,  
Through family and friends you presence shown;\*  
Thank You, God, for the love we know,  
Without it life would be full of woe.

Thank You, God, for the work we do,  
For in it somehow we see You;  
Thank You, God, that peace is not a myth,  
As man has always longed for it.

Thank You, God, for our soldiers brave,  
Who proudly fought so our flag may wave;  
Thank You, God, for our Apollo Men,  
For the Faith and Courage You have given them.

Thank You, God, for the Universe,  
Which astronauts do now traverse;  
Thank You, God, for every blessing.  
Fill our hearts with deep Thanksgiving.

1969

\*It would seem that this line should read ..."Your presence shown..." However, this is the way it is printed in "A Varied Bouquet of Flowers".

*With Thanksgiving on the way, this poem reminds us of all the blessings for which we should be grateful, while also remembering the veterans whom we commemorate on the 11<sup>th</sup>. It was obviously written after the Apollo space mission.*

## Köszönöm

*Ismeretlen szerző verse*

Köszönöm Neked, Istenem,  
Köszönöm szereteted,  
Köszönöm, mit adott nékem,  
Köszönöm az életet.  
Köszönöm rövid időm itt,  
Amely oly gyorsan szalad.  
Köszönöm a hervadó őszt,  
Köszönöm a szép tavaszt.

Köszönöm a nyíló rózsát,  
A szúró töviseket,  
Köszönöm a keskeny utat,  
Rajta a göröngyöket.  
Köszönöm a bánatfelhőt  
Ha befedi egemet.  
Köszönöm a titkon hulló  
Sok-sok fájó könnyeket.

Köszönöm a Szent Igédet,  
Köszönöm a Bibliát,  
Köszönöm nagy Kegyelmedet,  
Köszönöm a Golgotát,  
Köszönöm a kískeresztet.  
Köszönöm a drága vért.  
Köszönöm, hogy Szent Fiadat  
Áldozád az Üdvömért.

Köszönöm, hogy gondod van rám.  
Köszönöm jószágodat,  
Köszönöm a kedves otthont.  
Köszönöm hajlékodat.  
Köszönöm, hogy imádkhatlak,  
Köszönöm az éneket,  
Köszönöm az öröklétet,  
Köszönök mindent Neked!

*This Hungarian poem by an unknown author is also appropriate for Thanksgiving.*

## October 23rd Observance in Fairfield

*Hungarians of the Fairfield area gathered at the plaque behind the town hall on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, to commemorate the Hungarian Freedom Fight of 1956*



*Rev. Havadtoy, Zsuzsa Lengyel, president of Magyar Studies of America and Joseph Czentnar*

# October 23rd Observance in Fairfield



*Some of the participants of the Commemoration at the Fairfield Plaque.*



*Oliver Valu*



*Olga Vallay Szokolay*



*Tünde Csonka*

*Photos by Debbie Soos*

## October 23rd Observance in Fairfield

As they have since 2003, the Hungarians of the Fairfield area gathered at the plaque behind the town hall on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, to commemorate the Hungarian Freedom Fight of 1956. Erected at the initiative of the late Gyula Egervári, the plaque was set up by Magyar Studies of America as a reminder of the heroic stand of the Hungarian people against the oppressive tyranny of the Soviet Union.

This year, the invocation was given by the Rev. Alexander Havadtoy, both in English and in Hungarian, following the national anthem. After placing a basket of red and white flowers, the assembled participants walked over to the Fairfield Museum just behind town hall, to continue with a program that included songs presented by Tünde Csonka and Oliver Valu. A poem addressed to the Hungarians and published on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1956 in Budapest was read by Erika Papp Faber. Olga Vallay Szokolay related her personal experience of October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1956, which moved everyone in the audience. A closing poem by Tibor Tolas was followed by refreshments provided by several ladies of the Hungarian community.

We thank the directors of the Fairfield Museum for graciously allowing us to hold our observance in their lovely new facility.

*Hálás köszönet érte!*

## Hungarian Archive to be Created

Robert Kranyik

*Plans are being drawn up for the Fairfield, CT Museum to preserve the memory of the area's Hungarian origins. Many of our own Magyar News Online members are active on the Committee.*

The Fairfield, Connecticut Museum and History center is planning to develop an archive to contain the history of the Hungarian community in the Southwest Connecticut area. The archive will preserve the story of the several groups of Hungarians who settled here beginning in the 1880's and at various other times up to the present, and who have made a notable and positive impact on our communities in the region.

Providing expert leadership for the project is Dr. Elisabeth Rose, Professional Archivist at the Museum, who is working with a Steering Committee which is meeting regularly to help implement the project. Members of the Committee include the following:

**Claudia Margitay-Balogh**, retired English teacher, Fairfield Public Schools, who has been active in many Hungarian projects and activities over the years.

**Joseph Balogh**, distinguished Hungarian journalist, and founder and publisher emeritus of the Magyar News, now reaching its readers through Magyar News Online

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

**Victor Berecz**, Hungarian genealogy specialist.

**Stephen Jakab**, retired vice-president, Fairfield University.

**Robert Kranyik**, retired professor and dean, University of Bridgeport, and member, Editorial Board, Magyar News Online.

**Peter Penczer**, Fairfield businessman and supporter of Hungarian activities.

**Frank Polke**, Fairfield Funeral Director, whose family has served the Hungarian Community here through five generations.

**Karolina Szabo**, webmaster, Magyar News Online, retired staff member at the Connecticut Post, who is active in various Hungarian activities in the region.

**John (Jack) Szepessy**, retired teacher, Fairfield Public Schools, also active in various Hungarian organizations and projects.

**Joseph Ull**, retired engineer, Trustee of Saint Emery's Church, member of the committee for Magyar News Online.

The Hungarian Archive will preserve key materials which help tell the story of the several migrations of Hungarians to the area, including documents, photographs, art work, books, and other materials. When completed, the archive will be available on a controlled basis to scholars and others who wish to learn about the life and times of our hard working and dynamic ancestors.

Our Committee members look forward to our monthly meetings, held in the conference room at the Museum. From that conference room, we look out on the Fairfield Town Green, one of the most beautiful greens in New England, and one which was laid out in 1639. On the green, framed by the conference room picture window is the "Sun Tavern", a Revolutionary War era inn, where George Washington is said to have stayed. And that is fine with the Committee, especially since there is evidence that among George Washington's ancestors were some Hungarians!

[Link to the Museum's website \(http://www.fairfieldhistory.org\)](http://www.fairfieldhistory.org)

*Robert Kranyik is a retired professor and dean of the University of Bridgeport, and a member of the Editorial Board of Magyar News Online.*



*"Celebrating Our Cultural Legacies: Fairfield's Hungarian Community" at the Fairfield Museum & History Center in 2009*

# The Budapest Zoo and Arboretum 145 years old

*Karolina Szabo*

*One of the world oldest and most beautiful zoos has just celebrated its 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Located on the Pest side of the capital, it welcomes over a million visitors every year*

Between August 8 and 10, 2011 The Budapest Zoo and Arboretum, Hungary's first, celebrated its 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Although, King *Nagy Lajos* (Louis the Great) and *Mátyás Király* (King Matthias) owned lions and bears in their garden in *Alcsut*, an actual zoo did not exist in Hungary until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The idea to establish a zoo in Budapest was first raised in the late 1700's. But due to the political situations in the country, the idea could be realized only much later – to be precise, on Thursday, August 8, 1866.

The founders were *Szabó József*, *Xantus János*, *Kubinyi Ágoston* and *Gampert Alajos*. One of the visitors during the opening was "Sisi", *Erzsébet királyné* (Queen Elizabeth), who loved animals. At that time the zoo had close to 500 animals: monkeys, foxes, wolves, deer, moose and many exotics, as well as Hungary's native birds. The most famous of them all was *Kristóf*, the brown bear.

Around 1896, the Budapest Zoo went bankrupt, and the city took over running the zoo. The renewed zoo was damaged again during WWI and WWII. After the wars, the zoo was built up to European standards again. Now, it has thousands of species of animals and plants. The buildings are modernized to provide safe environments for the animals.

The 145<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration lasted for 3 days. On the reopening, the original opening day was commemorated by reenactments; present



*Zoo entrance in 1895*



*Giraffes in the West Africa House*

were "*Erzsébet királyné*, *Rottenbiller Lipót*, *mayor of Pest*, *Klotild szász hercegnő* (Saxon), *Deák Ferenc* and *Xantus János*".

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, the zoo was open for the night. Visitors were able to observe the animals that are more active then. Open were the Palm House, the Aquarium, the Elephant House and the West Africa House.

An interesting aspect of the opening celebration was that anyone under 145 cm in height had free admission; over 145 cm, the fee was 145 HUF. It

was the same for extra services, the pony ride, the Palm House entrance fee. During the celebration that included many programs and attractions, *Dr. Persényi Miklós*, president of the Budapest Zoo and Botanical Gardens, led a walk to the *Varázshegy* (Magic Mountain), under the title "*Egy száz éves álom valóra vált*" (A hundred year old dream has become a reality).

For a virtual visit go to <http://zoomy.zoobudapest.com/> *Karolina Szabo is Webmaster of Magyar News Online*

# Snapshots: The Proud City of Eger

Erika Papp Faber

*This spring, Zsuzsa Lengyel, President of Magyar Studies of America, and I went to Hungary for an extended visit. Included in our plans was a 9-day bus tour of Transylvania. The trip was wonderful – csodálatos! – and so we decided to bring you some random glimpses over the next few months, under the heading “Snapshots”. You will see not only the usual and expected tourist spots, but also a few of the more off-the-beaten-track places. Our first “Snapshots” are of the city of Eger, in northern Hungary.*



On my recent trip to Hungary, this city in Heves County, northeast of Budapest was high on my must-see list. Its fortress was one of the few that were able to withstand the original Turkish onslaught of 1552, thanks in great part to the valiant women of Eger. The story of the siege – 80,000 Turks against 2,500 defenders! – is detailed in a historical novel “Egri csillagok” by Gárdonyi Géza. It used to be required reading in school. (Its English title is “Eclipse of the Crescent Moon”.) Horváth Zoltán (publisher of my book “Égi Édesanyánk könnyei - tizenkét könnyező Mária-kép a Kárpát-medencében”), drove me to Eger. We arrived in the city around noon. We had brought our lunch, and ate our sandwiches sitting on some steps behind the basilica. Its story is the story of Hungary in miniature.

In the Middle Ages, Eger cathedral was located in the fortress. At the time of

the Reformation, it was being rebuilt in the Gothic style. Before the Turkish siege, Dobó István, the captain of Eger fortress, took stones from the half-completed new cathedral and incorporated them into the defensive wall. In 1581, Protestant soldiers drove the priests from the church. It served as a mosque from 1596, when the Turks finally did occupy the city, to 1687, when it was retaken by the Christians. A minaret in town is one of three remaining in Hungary as relics of Turkish times.

The current basilica, now located downtown, was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, after Eger had been raised to an archbishopric. Construction was completed in a remarkably short five years, and the basilica was consecrated in 1837. The baroque interior is graced by four cupolas, decorated with frescoes.

Even though partially in ruins, the fortress has been restored, and still dominates the city. Black thunderclouds were approaching as I drank in the panoramic view of Eger from the ramparts. I could imagine the diminishing defenders desperately battling the Turkish soldiers with sword, improvised bombs and “infernal machines”, while the women poured boiling water, oil and tar on the attackers who were scaling the walls. This scene is memorialized in a bronze plaque at the entrance gate, and was crucial in finally driving the Turks back.

The following folksong subtly references the brave women of Eger as the ancestors of the girls today:

*Az egri ménes mind szürke.  
Az egri kislány mind büszke,  
Ha büszke, büszke,  
van néki mire.  
Az egri ménes mind szürke.*

*Every Eger stud horse is gray.  
Every girl of Eger is proud.  
If she's proud, she's proud,  
she has reason to be.  
Every Eger stud horse is gray.*

If you go to Hungary, I suggest you make time to visit this charming city with its historic fortress. It will definitely be worth your while.



*View of Eger from the fortress - note the minaret*



*Part of the thick walls that withstood the Turkish onslaught*



*Plaque commemorating the defense of the fortress with the help of the women*



*Old cannon reminds us of the siege*

## America is Named after St. Emery

*His feast day is November 5<sup>th</sup>, and so it is appropriate to recall St. Imre (Emery), who gave his name to this continent (and to the one south of us too).*

Most people, young and old, know that America is named after Italian cartographer Amerigo Vespucci. But after whom was Vespucci named? According to research by Msgr. George Papp of Hamilton, Canada (no relation!), there is a painting in a chapel outside of Florence, where Vespucci was born, with the inscription "Amerigo D'Ungheria" (Imre, Emery of Hungary), dated 1391. He is shown with a typically Hungarian mustache and beard, and wearing royal robes. It is St. Emery, son of King St. Stephen. Born in 1007, Emery was groomed to be the successor to St. Stephen's throne. His tutor was also a saint, the Italian Benedictine Gellért (Gerard), who probably inspired St. Stephen to write his "Admonitions" – instructions to Emery on how to be a good Catholic ruler.

Emery was a pious youth, and he and his wife decided to live as brother and sister. But he was also fond of the hunt, and he died in a hunting accident in 1031. (Some people have questioned this "accident", assuming instead that the pagan elements that were still strong in the country at the time had engineered Emery's death.) At any rate, St. Stephen was left without a male heir, which is why he offered his crown to the Virgin Mary. Emery was canonized at the same time as his father Stephen and his tutor, Gellért, in 1083.

During the Middle Ages, St. Emery was considered the patron saint of Europe's youth. As evidenced by the painting mentioned above, he was obviously well known in the area of Florence by the time Vespucci was born in 1451. His feast day is observed in Hungary on November 5<sup>th</sup>.

The late John Cardinal O'Connor of New York urged the Hungarian parishes and other places dedicated to this saint to promote devotion to St. Emery, for the purpose of eventually declaring him patron saint of all youth, and officially recognizing him as the one who gave America its name.

EPF



*Statue in Saint Emery Church,  
Fairfield, CT*

## **HUNGARIAN HERMIT OF THE HIMALAYA: The Life of Sándor Kőrösi Csoma**

By Dr. János Kubassek

*Martha Matus Schipul reviews a biography of Kőrösi Csoma, the outstanding Transylvanian scholar of the 18th-19th century who walked to Tibet in search of Hungarian roots. The author himself retraced Csoma's adventurous and demanding route*

Hungarian Ancient History Research and Publishing Company, Budapest 1999

Dr. Kubassek has arduously traced the route taken by the amazing Sándor

Kőrösi Csoma in order to write this exciting account of a Transylvanian scholar who wrote the definitive dictionary of the Tibetan language in the course of his efforts to find the origins of the Hungarian people.

Many of us of Hungarian descent have heard the theory that the origin of the Magyar people was in the vast Himalayas, but not many of us, I wager, have heard of the Transylvanian scholar and adventurer, Sándor Kőrösi Csoma, born in Kőrös, Háromszék, in 1784. We have no exact birthdate, but his christening was on April 4 of that year. In his improvident youth he showed much promise as a scholar, but just as important, he had an ability to walk for miles without getting tired.

His family made many sacrifices for him to attend the Calvinist Bethlen College in Nagyenyed. It was there that he was introduced to several texts that theorized that the Magyar tribes had migrated west from Asia. He furthered his education at the prestigious University of Goettingen in Germany, on scholarship.

After turning down several employment opportunities, he set out on foot, by boat, and occasionally wagon for the Himalayan capital of Lhasa. Although he never attained his goal of finding Hungarian origins, he spent many years composing a dictionary of the Tibetan language. He was hoping for clues in their ancient literature to origins of the Magyars, and the creation of dictionary was secondary to this prime goal. Ironically, it is this dictionary for which he is revered in scholarly circles.

Csoma was known for his asceticism. To undertake the incredible hardship of this long journey with limited funds and mostly on foot, to endure burning desert and the unimaginable cold of the mountains in winter seems almost incomprehensible to the modern reader. Indeed, he composed much of his dictionary in small unheated rooms in two monasteries high in the Indian Himalayas, on very little food. It was his refusal of treatment for malaria until it was too late that caused his untimely death in Darjeeling, India, on his journey to the heartland of Tibet. At times, I was reminded of the young

Buddha's travails in search of spiritual enlightenment in Herman Hesse's Siddhartha. Incidentally, though Csoma immersed himself deeply in the Buddhist culture, he never forsook his Calvinist religion. At other times I was reminded of Halliburton's adventures in Tibet in The Royal Road to Romance, or T.E. Lawrence's (Lawrence of Arabia) sojourn in the Middle East in The Seven Pillars of Wisdom, or more recently the now somewhat discredited Three Cups of Tea which takes place in the high mountains of Afghanistan. There is something about the pure high mountain air of the Himalayas in Dr. Kubassek's account that is so exhilarating. The numerous illustrations and photos make the narrative come alive. My only criticism is that Dr. Kubassek could have eliminated some of the

more amateurly-drawn portraits of Csoma's contemporaries. As a portrait artist myself, I cringed at some of these crude attempts. They did nothing to enhance the amazing narrative of Csoma's valiant struggles.

What is also amazing is Dr. Kubassek's own journey to retrace the footsteps of Csoma. He also endured tremendous hardship to make us see the journey through modern eyes. This uplifting account of the triumph of the human spirit over adversity is well worth reading.

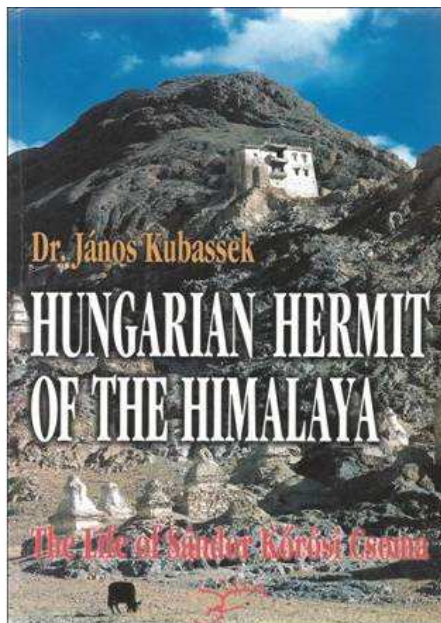
The book is available at Amazon and Google Books.

*Martha Matus Schipul is a graduate of the University of Bridgeport, a writer and a playwright, and member of the Editorial Board of Magyar News Online.*



Grave of Sándor Kőrösi Csoma in Darjeeling, India

Route taken by Csoma on his way from Transylvania to Tibet.



## Kapros tökfőzelék

- 1 zöld tök, vagy cukkini - kb 2 lbs.
- 1 ek zsír, vaj vagy olaj 2 ek liszt
- 2 ek ecet
- ½ pohár tejfel
- 1 nagy fej vöröshagyma
- 1 ek kapor zöld
- 1 szelet zöld paprika
- 1 kk pirospaprika
- 1 kk só
- fél pohár víz

A tököt legyaluljuk és besózzuk. 10-15 percig állni hagyjuk, kicsavarjuk. Az apróra vágott hagymát zsíron megdinszteljük. A tűzről levéve hozzáadjuk a paprikát, összekeverjük és hozzáadjuk a reszelt tököt, és az apróra vágott kapor és zöld paprikát. Tűzön kicsit mefuttatjuk, hozzáadunk 1-2 dl vizet és az ecetet (hogy a tök szét ne főjjon).

Fedő alatt puhára pároljuk, vigyázva, hogy a tök szálás maradjon.

A lisztet símára keverjük a tejjel, hozzáadunk egy csipetnyi sót, és a tökre öntjük és felfőzzük. Izlés szerint ízesíthetjük. Hagymás sült karajjal vagy fasírozottal tálaljuk.



## Pumpkin chowder with dill green

- 1 green pumpkin or zucchini – about 2 lbs
- 1 Tbsp lard, butter or oil
- 2 Tbsp flour
- 2 Tbsp vinegar
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1 large onion
- 1 Tbsp dill green
- 1 slice green pepper
- 1 tsp paprika
- 1 tsp salt
- ½ cup water

Julienne pumpkin, add salt, mix and let it stand 10 – 15 minutes. Squeeze out liquid. Chop up onion and simmer on lard for a few minutes. Take off burner, add paprika, mix, add pumpkin, chopped dill and pepper. Mix and simmer on stove for a few minutes. Add water and vinegar. Cover, simmer on low so pumpkin does not get overcooked. Mix flour with sour cream until smooth. Add a bit of salt. Pour over pumpkin. Bring to a boil.

Serve with pork chops or meatloaf. See our recipe for Hungarian meatballs in the July-August, 2008 issue of Magyar News Online.

## Kicsi a világ! It's a Small World!

My wife and I go to Niagara Falls, Canada every summer. We love the great falls itself plus the surrounding attractions and the locale. Our favorite hotel is centrally located and provides us with wonderful accommodations and convenience.



When we were checking out at the end of our stay this year, the front desk manager was completing our exit paperwork. She was a pretty woman of apparently Asian descent. When she finished the paperwork, I said to her "I'll bet you're married to a Hungarian!" With a sparkle in her eye, she responded, "How did you know?" "Your name tag says "Kovacs," I answered. We both laughed and exchanged some small talk and as I turned to leave, she said "Köszönöm." Without hesitation, I came back with "Szívesen."

The people around us were wondering what was going on, but we knew— "Kicsi a világ!"

*Paul Soos is Assistant Webmaster of Magyar News Online, a former U.S. Air Force Officer, student at the Magyar Studies Hungarian School in Fairfield .*



*The excavation site*

### Did you know...

...that what may be the oldest church foundations in the Carpathian Basin have recently been uncovered by archeologists at Gyulafehérvár?

Located in the immediate vicinity of the cathedral (which itself has a thousand-year history), the newly discovered foundations seem to show that the church had a Byzantine cross ground plan that was typical of tenth century church architecture, and may have been built by Byzantine missionaries. According to archeologist Daniela Marcu-Istrate, it is probably the oldest church in Transylvania, even in the area of the Hungarian kingdom, which has been unearthed, and may have been founded by Gyula, St. Stephen's grandfather on his mother's side, in the 950's.

The foundations of a semi-circular apse and of the four central columns supporting a cupola, as well as remains of the northern, western and southern walls have been brought to

light. The church, it is surmised, may have been the seat of Bishop Hierotheus.

If, however, further excavations and studies conclude that the ruins date to the eleventh century, then they could be tied to the rule of St. Stephen himself, said Istrate.

Other archeologists, however, have questioned Istrate's findings, stating that there is not enough evidence to support her conclusions.

#### **Magyar News Online**

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