

A DECADE OF IMPACT

2012-2022

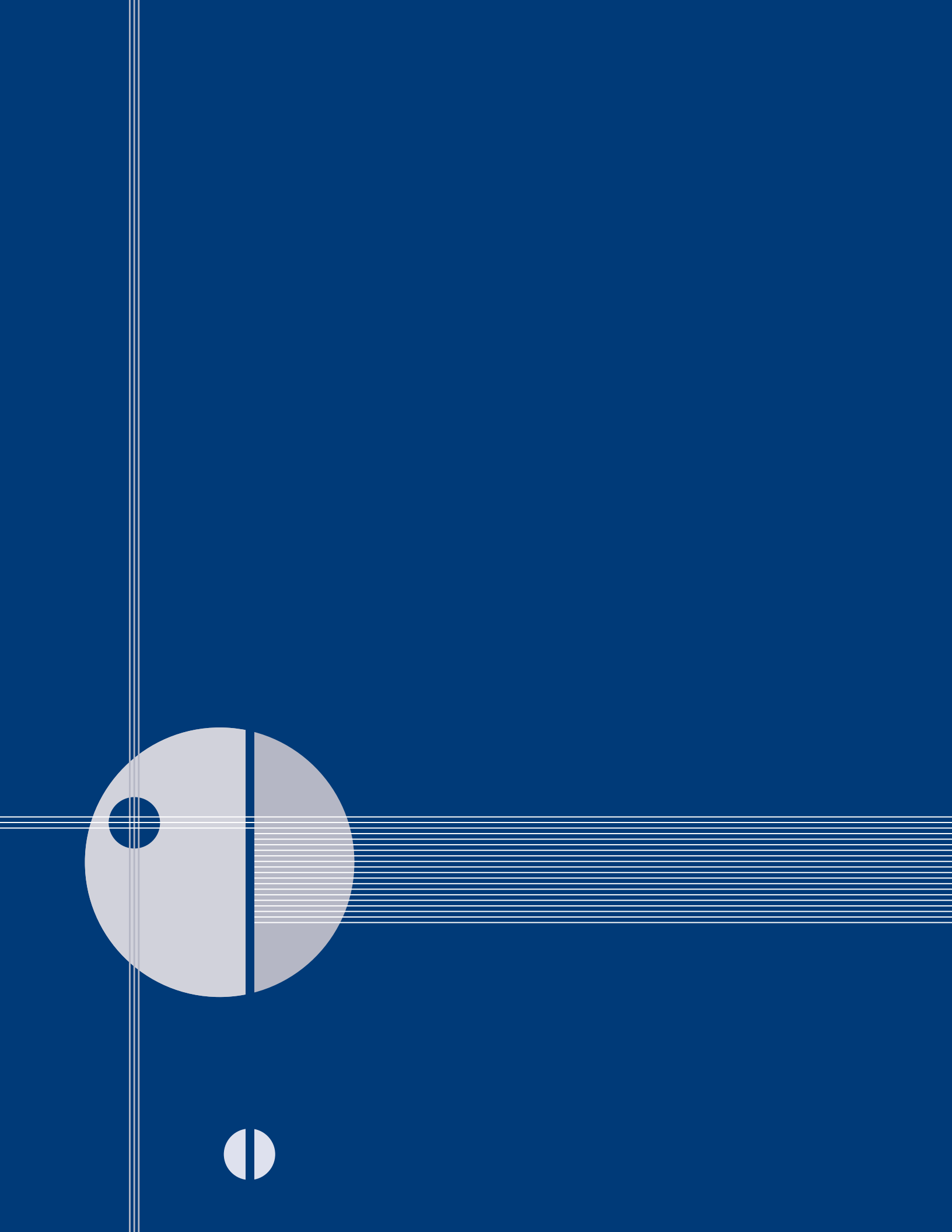


Education ✦ Advocacy ✦ Leadership

The Hungarian American Coalition, since 1991



Hungarian American Coalition



A 2012-2022 DECADE OF IMPACT

Compiled and written by:

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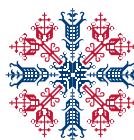
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Hungarian American Coalition

INTRODUCTION



Andrea Lauer Rice, President

Building on Our Founders' Vision A Letter from the President

Dear Coalition Members, Supporters and Friends,

The Hungarian American Coalition has had a profound impact on our community through building bridges and strengthening ties between our two nations over the past 30+ years. In 1991, our 15 founders had an incredible vision that a coalition of dedicated individuals and established organizations could accomplish more when working together than individually.

We are deeply grateful for our generous supporters, partner organizations, committed members and program alumni. It has taken all of our efforts to create the impressive track record of the Coalition. Through three decades of dedicated HAC leadership, I have seen the best of both worlds—the can-do, ever optimistic outlook of Americans coupled with the creative passion, ingenuity and patriotism of Hungarians—come together to impact so many.

After years as a Board Member and serving as Vice President, I have been honored to serve as the Coalition President during several momentous anniversaries over the past several years: These include the 25th and 30th anniversaries of our Founding; the 60th and 65th anniversaries of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution; and the 100th Year of Remembrance of the tragic Treaty of Trianon.

In addition, during the past few years, we have all learned to navigate a global pandemic, which saw a seismic shift in not only what we do, but how we do everything. And now, we are faced with the War in Ukraine raging on the border of Hungary and deepening political divides on both sides of the ocean. It is so important for us to rise above the politics of the moment and maintain our independence and ability to work with all.

Through all of the historic moments, our primary mission of providing a voice to the Hungarian American community has remained central to our purpose.

I have always joked that the greatest challenge for the Coalition is to create a 10-second elevator speech that answers the questions, “What exactly does the

A Decade of Impact

BLUE = World Events

RED = Leaders in U.S. and Hungary

GREEN = HAC Events

Coalition do?” The simple answer is: “Too much to put into an elevator speech.” But, we have created a good framework to discuss the primary areas that we focus on: Education and Culture, Information and Advocacy and Community Outreach. On the following pages you will see a report on the work of the Coalition between the years 2012–2022, showcasing a “Decade of Impact” in each of these areas.

Our impact all comes back to the incredible dedication of our Coalition members, generosity of our sponsors and passion of our program alumni, all of whom are spread across America, the Carpathian Basin and Hungary. And it comes back to our leadership. Over the past 10 years:

Chair Emerita: Edith K. Lauer

Chairmen: Sándor Krémer (2012); Dr. Péter Kovalszki (2013); Dr. Péter Forgách (2014); László Fülöp (2015); Eva Voisin (2016); Dr. Ágnes Virga (2017–19); Csilla Grauzer (2020–21); Dr. Endre Szentkirályi (2022–23)

President: Max Teleki, 2004–2016

Vice Presidents: Dr. Ágnes Virga, Csilla Grauzer, Julius Varalyay, Piros Pazaurek, László Fülöp

Treasurer: Zsolt Szekeres

Secretary: George Pogan

Executive Committee Members: Tibor Purger, Anne Bader, George Pogan, Zsolt Szekeres, Edith K. Lauer, Max Teleki, Dr. Ágnes Virga, Csilla Grauzer

Program Coordinator: Noémi Bánhidi

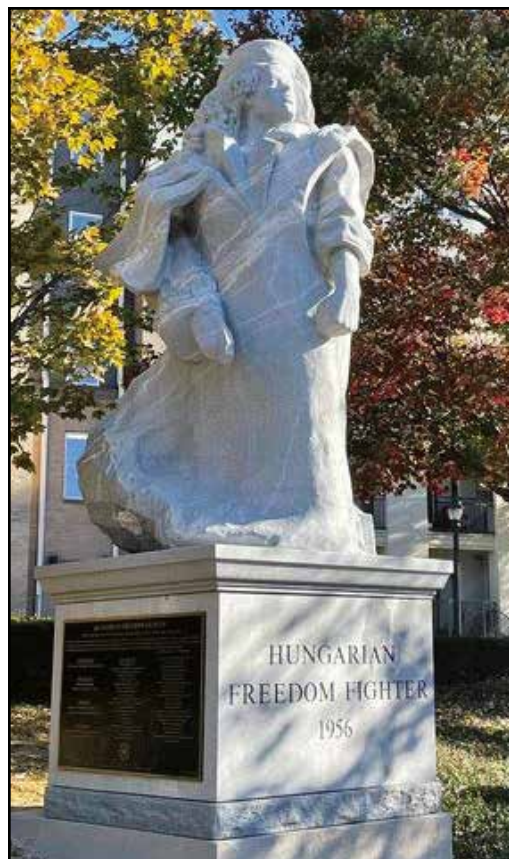
If you are not yet a part of our amazing Coalition of hard-working, passionate Hungarian Americans, now is your moment! We invite you to join us as we continue our work for a fourth Decade of Impact.

In Hungarian American friendship,



Andrea Lauer Rice

Hungarian American Coalition, President



In 2022, the Coalition led a community-wide project to create the 1956 Hungarian Freedom Fighter Statue in Atlanta, GA.

2012

HAC Honors U.S. Ambassador Nancy Brinker at Gala
Raoul Wallenberg Centennial Year
\$2,000 Grant to Hungarian Cultural Center
160th Anniversary of Lajos Kossuth Tour in U.S.
Red Sludge Disaster Relief Fund
Dr. Péter Kovalszki, HAC Chairman

2013

HATOG Conferences in Atlanta, GA and San Francisco, CA
HAC Honors John N. Lauer and HHSC at Gala
Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington D.C. Features Hungary
HAC Donates \$15,000 to Smithsonian Folklife Festival
HAC Honors Dr. Ágnes Fülemile and László Bójtós at Mikulás
Péter Forgách, HAC Chairman

30th Anniversary Remarks Chairman of the Board, Csilla Grauzer

I am thankful to those Hungarian Americans who 30 years ago had the vision and determination to create the Hungarian American Coalition. Its unique programs, work on human rights issues, scholarships, training programs, Hungarian visitors, numerous cultural and educational programs, have truly made a difference in the lives of so many.

I have been fortunate to be part of the Coalition for several years and believe in its commitment to promote the interests of Hungarian Americans in a fair and unbiased way. The COVID-19 pandemic during the past two years brought uncertainty and great challenges. Our personal, professional and community lives all went virtual overnight and we truly entered into a new world of technology. Even in this new confounding environment, the great work of the Coalition went on.

The Coalition continued investing in the future through:

The John N. Lauer Leadership Training Program,
a 4-month internship for young Hungarians in
Washington D.C.;

The Dr. Elemér and Éva Kiss Scholarship Award—
providing stipends at universities in the U.S.;

The Bognár Family Hungarian Scholarship Fund—
providing stipends at universities in Hungary, the
Subcarpathian region in Ukraine, Transylvania and
the Vojvodina region in Serbia;

and presenting the “Hungarian American Coalition
Award” to students at the Bolyai Farkas High School
in Marosvásárhely, Transylvania.

During the pandemic, new platforms and “first ever” events were created, such as: the “Coalition Kávéház,” a zoom series on community related topics; co-sponsorship of the documentary film “Mégis” about the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation (HHRF) and László Hámos; monthly calls with community leaders; numerous online community events, including the ITT-OTT meeting of the Magyar Baráti Közösség; virtual theatre sessions; monthly informal happy hour get-togethers; and many others.

The first ever Hungarian American Community Yearbook was published as a joint project between the Coalition, American Hungarian Foundation and Hungarian Hub, with more than 65 submissions. On December 4, 2020, the Coalition hosted the first ever Virtual Mikulás Gala, with the theme “Preserving our Past, Focusing on the Future,” honoring Dr. Katalin Kádár Lynn.



Csilla Grauzer
Chairman of the Board, 2019-2021

2014

25th Anniversary of Pan-European Picnic

Anniversary of Democracy in Hungary

15th Anniversary of Hungary's NATO Membership

HATOG Conference in Boston, MA

HAC Honors Congressman Tom Lantos, Bishop László Tóké and MBK at Gala

HAC Oversees Bognár Family Hungarian Scholarship Fund

HAC Honors Ambassador György Szapáry and Enikő Molnár Basa

László Fülöp, Minnesota Hungarians, HAC Chairman

Orbán re-elected Prime Minister of Hungary

László Fülöp, Minnesota Hungarians, HAC Chairman

In 2011, the Hungarian government created a number of programs that helped establish closer ties to the motherland and to each other.

The Hungarian Diaspora Council gives global community leaders an opportunity to meet and discuss common goals to preserve cultural heritage, identity and language.

The Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program provides interns to aid diaspora communities with language classes, scouting activities, cultural events and to inspire the younger generation.

Thousands of books and documents were returned to Hungary thru the Mikes Kelemen Program. The Julianus Program is a database that maps Hungarian materials and locations in the U.S.

In 2020, Andrea Lauer Rice, U.S. President of the Diaspora Council, attended the virtual 10th Annual Diaspora Council meeting, delivering a video showcasing the events and activities of the Hungarian American Community in which several other Coalition members participated.

Since its founding the Coalition has worked with the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation (HHRF), to organize educational human rights workshops. In 2021, I was fortunate to attend one such workshop held at the Bercel Castle in Hungary that brought together ethnic Hungarians from Romania, Serbia and Slovakia, students and young professionals active in minority affairs and participants of HHRF's ReConnect Hungary cultural immersion program. Meeting so many bright young people committed to improve the lives of others gave me hope for a better future.

The issue of human rights is very close to my heart. Growing up in Transylvania, Romania during Ceausescu's brutal dictatorial regime, I experienced ethnic discrimination and persecution for simply being Hungarian. Serious human rights violations are still taking place and need to be addressed, so I applaud the work of the Coalition and HHRF for being a voice for those experiencing injustice.

It has been an honor to serve as Chairman of the Board of the Coalition in our 30th anniversary year. I am continuously inspired by so many of our Board members for their resilience and dedication to our common cause and to each other. Let's increase our efforts to reach even more people with our message of working together on our unique programs!



Csilla Grauzer

Hungarian American Coalition, Chairman of the Board



Coalition Chairmen: Dr. Endre Szentkirályi (2021-2023), Edith K. Lauer (Chair Emerita), Dr. Ágnes Virga (2016-2019) and Csilla Grauzer (2019-2021).

2015

HATOG Conference in Sarasota, FL

HAC Donates \$10,000 to Kárpátalja Flood Relief Fund

HAC Honors Joe Adorján and HMEP at Gala

Éva Voisin, Honorary Consul General, HAC Chairman

2016

60th Anniversary of 1956 Hungarian Revolution

25th Anniversary of the Fall of Communism

HAC Honors Dr. János Martonyi at Gala

HAC Honors Max Teleki at Mikulás Dinner

Dr. Ágnes Virga, Hungarian Society of Massachusetts, Chair

Looking Back on Three Decades Chair Emerita, Edith K. Lauer

As I think about the birth of our Hungarian American Coalition 30 years ago, I remember the tremendous excitement we felt then. Not only at the actual founding of the organization, but hearing and reading about the almost unbelievable changes in our homeland. Our beloved Hungary was finally a free country—in 1989, 1990 that seemed a miracle!

The small group of Hungarian American leaders who gathered in the Washington D.C. area to discuss how our community could help Hungary transform into a democratic, free market society, recognized the need for a new organization. Rev. Imre Bertalan, Zsolt and Szabolcs Szekeres, Gyula Várallyay, Sándor Taraszovics, Árpád Kovács, August Molnar, Paul Teleki, Edward Chaszar, Frank Koszorús Jr., Paul Fekete and others: they wanted to build a Coalition of equal partners—hence our name—to pull together under one umbrella as many of the effective, active organizations as possible. We also recognized that building a viable organization must have the support of individual members. Thus, on August 20th, 1991, fifteen organizations and five individuals formally registered the Hungarian American Coalition in Washington D.C.



Edith K. Lauer, Chair Emerita

What were our goals?

to identify and promote the concerns of the Hungarian-American community;

to protect and preserve human and minority rights and cultural heritage of Hungarians;

to support democratic institutions and economic development in Hungary;

to encourage cultural and educational interaction between the people of the U.S. and Hungary;

We established an office of communication in Washington where the Szekeres brothers—Szabolcs, Zsolt and János gave us a room in their offices on Connecticut Avenue, two blocks from the White House, until we raised enough money to pay rent.

Our First Year

Even as a fledgling volunteer organization with little funding, in those first years we undertook many projects: we sponsored a six part Hungary—A Video History; assisted with the multi-city Kolozsvár Kollégium Choir Tour; published a Directory of U.S. university programs where Hungarian students could study; and we started a White House Internship Program and often hosted visitors in Washington from Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and Vojvodina. We worked hand in hand with László Hámos, Emese Latkóczy and Bulcsú Veress of the HHRF in calling

2017

Inauguration of President Trump

Grant from Cultural Foundation for Transylvania

10th HATOG Conference in Washington D.C.

Ambassadors of Future Donate \$15,000 to Bognár Fund

HAC Honors Ambassador April H. Foley at Gala

HAC Honors Ambassador Tom Robertson at Mikulás Dinner

Montenegro Joins NATO

Dr. Ágnes Virga, Hungarian Society of Massachusetts, Chair

2018

HAC Honors Dr. Jeanette Gecsy Grasselli Brown and the Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute

\$45,000 Grant to Korunk Literary Magazine

\$30,000 Grant to Bolyai Society

László Brenzovics Trip to Washington D.C.

Orbán re-elected Prime Minister of Hungary

Dr. Ágnes Virga, Hungarian Society of Massachusetts, Chair



Early Coalition Board Meeting in Cleveland, OH (L to R): László Hámos, Julius Várallyay, Péter Újvági, András Ludányi, László Bójtös, Frank Dobos, Katka Avvakumovits, Zsolt Szekeres, Edith K. Lauer, Frank Koszorús, Jr., George Pogan, Frank Kapitán, Father István Mustos, Géza Kádár, Anne Bader and Paul Varga.

attention to human rights violations of the Hungarian minority communities in these countries. In 1995 we co-sponsored a full-day conference with the Potomac Foundation entitled “Promoting European Security and Integration: The Role of National Minorities.” A comparison of minority rights of the Catalans in Spain and the Rato Romansh of Switzerland with those of Hungarians in Slovakia, Romania, Subcarpathia and Vojvodina offered a stark contrast.

Together with member organizations we held Human Rights Workshops in Cleveland, San Francisco, Hartford, Pittsburgh and elsewhere to inform and train young Hungarian-Americans about human rights in general, and the rights of Hungarians in particular. László Hámos, András Ludányi, Géza Kádár and Frank Koszorús were some of the instructors at these workshops. At the Hartford workshop I met for the first time an outstanding young man, Max Teleki, who would end up serving as President of our Coalition a decade later.

NATO Advocacy—A Milestone for the Coalition

In 1992, we joined a group called Central and Eastern European Coalition (CEEC) that claimed to speak for 20 million U.S. citizens of CEE background. President Clinton and VP Gore’s foreign policy strategy was to assure stability in Europe through a revitalized NATO Alliance with rapid membership for the Visegrád countries.

Between 1994 and 1997, members of our Coalition were invited to five meetings on

2019

30th Anniversary of Democracy in Hungary
 20th Anniversary of Hungary’s NATO Membership
 15th Anniversary Gala: HAC Honors Ambassador Colleen Bell
 HAC Presents 1st Coalition Award at Bolyai High School
 Andrea Lauer Rice Elected U.S. President of Diaspora Council
 Prime Minister Orbán Meets President Trump at White House
 Csilla Grauzer, Minnesota Hungarians, HAC Chair

2020

100th Anniversary of Treaty of Trianon
 Covid-19 Global Pandemic
 Virtual Mikulás / Gala Dinner
 HAC Awards Dr. Katalin Kádár Lynnn at Online Gala
 North Macedonia Joins NATO
 Csilla Grauzer, Minnesota Hungarians, HAC Chair



NATO Conference in 1997: Hungarian Foreign Minister Ferenc Somogyi, Hungarian President Árpád Göncz and HAC President Edith K. Lauer.

NATO expansion with President Clinton and/or Vice President Gore, Sandy Berger, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security and Deputy Secretary of State, Strobe Talbott, and my favorite, Daniel Fried, Director of ECE for the National Security Council. Péter Újvági, a Councilman in Toledo, was instrumental in establishing a close working relationship between the Coalition and the White House.

In 1994, in an especially memorable meeting, Strobe Talbott said to the 20 CEE representatives: “The question is, what kind of Russia will we have in the 21st century? You feel Russia will revert to type and foresee a dangerous scenario; we see Russia more positively and do not want to undercut those forces which are building a benign democratic system.” His comment was greeted by a stunned silence. Then Jan Nowak, the highly respected leader of the Polish American Congress stood up and said: “If you do not accept our opinion, why did you invite us here? And what will happen if WE are right, Mr. Secretary, and YOU are wrong?” Jan is long gone, but his words were prophetic.

In 1997, in order to inform the Hungarian public before a referendum on NATO membership, the Coalition held conferences in three Hungarian cities—Budapest, Debrecen, and Miskolc, entitled “Hungary in an Expanded NATO: Benefits and Responsibilities.” Many experts and officials were invited to speak at the extremely well-attended conferences. Zsolt Szekeres, Anne and Joseph Bader accompanied our small group in each city. In the November referendum 85% of Hungarian voters favored NATO membership. And in 1999, Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic became members of NATO.

Meeting Heroic Hungarians from Across the Region

Although the NATO conferences gave us high visibility, every project we organized affected our thinking. We had the opportunity to meet and work with heroic, outstanding people on their trips to the U.S.: Bishop László Tőkés, Miklós Duray, András Sütő, Sándor Csoóri, László Dobos, Sándor Sára and Imre Pozsgay just to mention a few.

In the spring of 1991 Transylvanian Bishop Kálmán Csiha visited the U.S. He brought first-hand information of the genuine needs of Transylvanian Hungarians whose schools were systematically confiscated by the Romanian government. Together with his niece, Kuni Nádas, they made a plan to establish a system of “Godparents” involving Hungarian Americans as sponsors, to support the education of young Hungarians as well as fund the rebirth of the Hungarian educational system in Romania. This is one of the most successful and long standing programs in our community. I am truly glad to be able to report that in 2000, after a lot of behind-the-scenes work by the Coalition as well as others, the 450 year-old building of the Kolozsvár Reformed Kollégium was returned to its rightful owners.

2021

100th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations Between Hungary and U.S.

Inauguration of President Biden

HAC Celebrates 30th Anniversary

HAC Publishes Hungarian American Community Yearbook

65th Anniversary of 1956 Revolution

Virtual Gala Celebration for 30th Anniversary

Dr. Endre Szentkirályi, United Hungarian Societies of Cleveland, HAC Chair

Through the years our Coalition always tried to develop a good working relationship with both U.S. and Hungarian Ambassadors. Once, we were invited to State and asked by the newly named U.S. Ambassador whom we would recommend for Deputy Chief of Mission. So many people wanted to be posted to Hungary, that he needed our advice. Without hesitation Zsolt Szekeres named the person, and he was soon appointed DCM.

As the Coalition celebrates its 30th anniversary, there are so many friendships and supportive relationships to list. George Pogan and Géza Kádár became fast friends in Budapest in 1989 just as communism fell. They have served as Secretary and

I am sure I am not alone in feeling that our lives have been greatly enriched by serving a common cause greater than ourselves.

Legal Advisor respectively at the Coalition. Many Honorary Consuls joined us, among them Helen Szablya, László Bójtös, Eugene Megyesy Jr., Csilla Grauzer, Éva Voisin, Katalin Pearman and others. The MBK—Hungarian Communion of Friends, the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society, the Hungarian Cultural Society of Connecticut, the Magyar Club of Chicago and others have played integral parts in our projects and development.

I am grateful for the financial support of those who have made our many projects possible: The Hungary Foundation, the Charles and Lisa Simonyi Fund, Dr. Charles Simonyi, the Pannonius Foundation, Centene Charitable Foundation, Ameritech, the Doris Buffet Foundation and our many generous individual donors.

I am sure I am not alone in feeling that our lives have been greatly enriched by serving a common cause greater than ourselves. Together with my husband, John, we traveled often and much to Hungarian-inhabited regions, and were truly inspired by so many of the people we met.

Even after 30 years much work remains to be done. I am deeply grateful for the privilege of being a part of the Coalition, and genuinely proud that my daughter, Andrea continues to build the organization into the future.



Edith K. Lauer

Cleveland, OH—October 8, 2021

2022

Russia Invades Ukraine

HAC Launches Ukraine Fundraiser – \$110,000

Dedication of VOC Museum in D.C.

Friends of Hungary Honors HAC with Award

HATOG Held at HungarianHub in Daytona Beach, FL

HAC Honors Founders at Gala

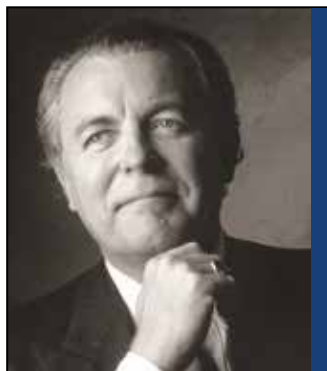
Viktor Orbán re-elected Prime Minister of Hungary

Katalin Novák elected President of Hungary

HAC Unveils Hungarian Freedom Fighwter Statue in Atlanta, GA

Dr. Endre Szentkirályi, United Hungarian Societies of Cleveland, HAC Chair

EDUCATION & CULTURE



John N. Lauer

From 2012 to 2022, the Coalition provided 139 college scholarships to Hungarian students in the Carpathian Basin, 75 scholarships for Hungarian students to attend university in the U.S. and 68 unique, 4-month internships for young Hungarian professionals in Washington D.C. Since our founding in 1991, HAC has a growing network of more than 550 scholarship and internship program alumni.

The John N. Lauer Leadership Training Program

John N. Lauer (1939–2018) was a long-time generous supporter of the Coalition who served on numerous non-profit boards and demonstrated a strong commitment to higher education scholarships. In 1963, he married Edith Kish, an emigrant from Hungary, and gained much first-hand knowledge of his wife's homeland through dozens of visits to the region over the years. For his active support for many Hungarian causes and organizations, he was named an Honorary Hungarian in 1993 by then Hungarian Ambassador Pal Tar. In 2018, the Coalition Internship Program was renamed the "John. N. Lauer Leadership Program" (LTP).

The LTP is a unique internship program that directly links with the vibrant Hungarian American community and matches interns with local D.C.-based mentors. Participants gain hands-on experience in American political culture and civil society, establish valuable contacts in their chosen field, and are motivated to enter public service once they return to their country of origin. For the past several years, the LTP has been primarily funded by the Hungary Foundation and Pannonius Foundation.

Between 2005–2022, 99 students have completed the Coalition's John N. Lauer LTP. The years 2020–2022 were affected due to the pandemic. We are excited to announce Csendike Somogyvári will be our 100th LTP intern working at the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in 2023.

Host institutions have included:

Atlantic Council
Blue Medium Inc., New York, NY
Center for Energy, Natural Resources and Geopolitics (CENRG)
Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)
Center for Open Data Enterprise
Center for Strategic and Intl Studies (CSIS)
Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of U.S. Representatives
Community Wealth Ventures
Design Museum Boston, Boston, MA
Dutko Worldwide (bipartisan Washington lobbying firm)
Experience Corps
First Book and Greater D.C. Cares
Foundation Center
FP1 Strategies

German Marshall Fund (GMF)
Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)
Heritage Foundation
House Committee on Foreign Affairs
Hudson Institute
Hungarian American Coalition (HAC)
Hungarian Human Rights Foundation (HHRF)
Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD)
Intl Center for Democratic Transition
International Cybersecurity Dialogue (ICD)
Intl Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
International Market Analysis
Intl Tax and Investment Center's (ITIC)
Energy Growth and Security (EGS) Program
Johns Hopkins — SAIS Center for Transatlantic Relations

Marymount Univ.
Mercury Public Affairs
Meridian House International
National Civic Art Society
Office of Congressman Andy Harris
Office of Congressman Dennis Kucinich
Office of Congressman Tom Lantos
Office of OH State Representative Péter Újvági
Pinnacle Care Health Advisory, Baltimore, MD
Sustained Dialogue Campus Network and Interages — Jewish Council for the Aging
The European Institute
Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation
William Penn Association
Women for Women International (supports women survivors of wars).



Coalition leaders and LTP alumni at Hungary Foundation's Annual Alumni Summit in Zebegény, Hungary: (L to R): Piros Pazaurek, Liza Borovoj, Sarolta Borzási, Edith K. Lauer, Balázs Kiss, Máté Mátyás, Noémi Bánhidi, László Szerencsés, Andrea Lauer Rice, Márton Aichelburg, Luca Mórocz, and Benedek Varsányi.

2020

Csendike Somogyvári, Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation, 100th LTP Intern
(Deferred her internship to 2023 due to COVID-19)

Károly Barabási, International Tax and Investment Center's (ITIC) Energy Growth and Security (EGS) Program

2019

Borbála Péntek, Meridian Center for Cultural Diplomacy

Balázs Rudinsky, Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)

Flóra Anna Adouki, Atlantic Council

Viktor Weisz, Global Entrepreneurship Network

Márton Zsuráfszky, Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)

Hajnalka Tóth, Meridian Center for Cultural Diplomacy

István Zoltán Bán, Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD)

2018

Orsolya Lőrincz, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)

Viktória Katona, Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)

Tatjana Turányi, Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)

Nikolett Nagy, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)

Annamária Kráncz, Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)

Balázs Kiss, International Tax and Investment Center's (ITIC) Energy Growth and Security (EGS) Program

Liza Borovoj, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)

Konrád Ferenczy, Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD)

2017

Luca Mórocz, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)

Éva Lukonits, Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD)

Orsolya Gazsó, Marymount Univ.; Hungarian American Coalition

Réka Veres, Marymount Univ.

Faye Gillespie, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)

László Szerencsés, Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)

Máté Mátyás, Center for Energy, Natural Resources and Geopolitics (CENRG)

2016

Kitti Scheuring, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)

Fruzsina Tőkés, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)

Dániel Joós, International Cybersecurity Dialogue (ICD)

Károly Gergely, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN); International Cybersecurity Dialogue (ICD)

Tamás Forrai, Blue Medium Inc., New York, NY

Alexandra Tari, Experience Corps

Dorottya Bobák, The European Institute

Sarolta Borzási, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)

Mária Béres, Center for European Policy Analysis

Áron Giró-Szász, The European Institute

2015

Veronika Tóth, International Market Analysis

Zsófia Anna Tábori, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)

Enikő Horváth, Hungarian American Coalition

Anett Matkó, The European Institute

József Rostás, Hungarian American Coalition

Dániel Hámos, Office of Congressman Andy Harris

Ábel Bagdy, Global Entrepreneurship Network

Mária Cservák, International Market Analysis

László Baksay, FPI Strategies

Noémi Dalma Nagy, Pinnacle Care Health Advisory, Baltimore, MD

Lőrinc Thurnay, Center for Open Data Enterprise

Benjámín Babicz, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)

2014

Ágnes Bendsák, Design Museum Boston (Boston, MA)

Zita Mirk, Hungarian American Coalition

Noémi Bánhidi, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)

Eszter Vadas, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN), Hungarian American Coalition

Anita Mustos, Global Entrepreneurship Network

Kinga Turányi, Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (IGSD)

Mátyás Tamási, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN), Hungarian American Coalition

Blanka Bartos, Meridian House International

Adél Ferencz, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)

Eszter Pázmándi, International Market Analysis

Vince Berényi, Office of Congressman Andy Harris

Péter Heltai, Office of Congressman Andy Harris

2013

Martina Bank, Hungarian American Coalition

Sára Font, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)

Bettina Molnár, Global Entrepreneurship Network

Dalma Farkas, Foundation Center

Noémi Szakonyi, Meridian International Center

Nikolett Tevely, International Cybersecurity Dialogue

Dániel András Nagy, Office of Congressman Andy Harris

2012

Boglárka Bata, Foundation Center

Dorottya Igricz, National Civic Art Society, Hungarian American Coalition

Dániel Szabó, Global Entrepreneurship Network (GEN)

Lilla Fördös, German Marshall Fund (GMF)



Dr. and Mrs. Elemér and Éva Kiss

The Dr. Elemér and Éva Kiss Scholarship Fund

Dr. Elemér Kiss (1909–2000) and Mrs. Éva Kiss (1913–2008) left Hungary after the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, settled down in Maryland, and became founding members of the Coalition in 1991. Dr. Kiss held a JD from Pázmány Péter University and a MS in Library Science from Catholic University, while Mrs. Kiss held a degree in pharmacology from Eötvös Loránd University and bravely used her skills as pharmacist in Budapest to help wounded freedom fighters in 1956. Dr. and Mrs. Kiss were strong believers in the importance of higher education, because they had experienced firsthand that their educational background had helped them start over in a new country when they had little else.

In 2008 the Coalition renamed its Scholarship Fund to “The Dr. Elemér and Éva Kiss Scholarship Fund” to honor the legacy of Dr. and Mrs. Kiss’s dedication to education. To date, more than 148 outstanding Hungarian students have benefitted from these scholarships, some across multiple years.

Kiss Scholarship Awardees (Years in parentheses indicate multiple-year scholarships)

2022–2023

Tamás Emri, Univ. of Oregon (Eugene, OR)
Barnabás Novák, California State Univ. (Los Angeles, CA)
Patrik Pördi, Univ. of Maryland (College Park, MD)
Dóra Reizinger, Life Univ. (Marietta, GA)
Kornél Szabó, Webber International Univ. (Babson Park, FL)
Lili Rebeka Tóth, Center for Curatorial Studies Bard (Annandale-On-Hudson, NY)

2021–2022

Ábel Bagdy, Columbia School of International and Public Affairs, New York, NY
Anna Kornis, Berklee College of Music, Boston, MA
Máté József Kószó, American Univ. Kogod School of Business, Washington, D.C.
Viola Kovács, The Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Boston, MA
Csilla Moran, Univ. of Illinois, Champaign, IL
Enikő Samu, Bard College Conservatory of Music, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
Zsófia Tamás, Abilene Christian Univ., Abilene, TX

2020–2021

Lea Bagi, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA (2021–2023)
Enikő Bihaari, Duke Univ., Durham, NC
Dezső Farkas, Babson College, Wellesley, MA (2021)
Zsombor Ferencz, Purdue Univ., Lafayette, IN
Tamás Nagy, Roberts Wesleyan College, Chili, NY
Dániel Necz, Harvard Law School, Harvard, MA
Dániel Rác, Northwestern Univ., Evanston, IL
Alexandra Szabó, Brandeis Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Waltham, MA

2019–2020

Réka Lili Csipán, Univ. of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA
Sándor Fábián, Univ. of Central Florida, Orlando, FL
Csongor Fruhauf, Mansfield Univ. (Mansfield, PA)
Norbert Gogan, Washington State Univ., Pullmann, WA (2020–2021)
Janka Hoffmann, Harvard Business School, Harvard, MA
Gusztáv Nagy, Harvard Law School, Harvard, MA
Judit Navrátil, California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA
Lilla Subert, Marymount Univ., Arlington, VA
Anna Volentics, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, FL

2018–2019

Luca Csanády, Hult International Business School, San Francisco, CA
Zsombor Csuport, Siena Heights Univ. in Adrian, MI
Janka Deli, Stanford Univ., Stanford, CA
Ramóna Györfi, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL
Benedek Kiss, Covenant College, Lookout Mountain, GA
Sarolta Lukovszky, Lindenwood Univ., St. Charles, MO (2019–2020)
Barna Szász, Stanford Univ., Stanford, CA
Mariann Varga, Stanford Univ., Stanford, CA (2019–2020)
Máté Vincze, New York Univ., New York, NY

2017–2018

Anna Biczó, Fordham Univ.—The School of Law, New York, NY
Kinga Enikő Bíró, Saddleback College, Mission Viejo, CA
Máté Bögi, New York Univ. Tisch School of the Arts, New York, NY
Anikó Gál, Univ. of the District of Columbia, Washington, D.C.
Vivien Kocsis, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Attila Lendek, Purdue Univ. Northwest, Hammond/Westville, IN (2019–2020)
Attila Dávid Melegh, Syracuse Univ., Syracuse, NY
Veronika Zsófia Németh, Saint Joseph’s Univ., Philadelphia, PA
Nino Obanor, Univ. of Missouri St. Louis, St. Louis, MO (2018–2019)
Dorottya Pedryc, Notre Dame Law School, Notre Dame, IN
Krisztina Sárközi, Dordt College, Sioux Center, IA
Tímea Sipos, Univ. of Nevada, Las Vegas, NV
Noémi Szabó, Medaille College, Buffalo, NY
Enikő Tóth, Los Angeles City College in Los Angeles, CA (2017–2019)
Anikó Viktória Varga, Bowling Green State Univ., Bowling Green, OH (2017–2020)

2016–2017

Roberta Gréta Ilcsik, Univ. of Houston, Houston, TX
Krisztina Kiss, Mannes College the New School for Music, New York, NY
Valentina Magyar, Pennsylvania State Univ., Old Main, State College, PA
Noémi Sáros, American Academy of Dramatic Arts, New York, NY



LTP Program Alumni: Csendi Somogyvári, Orsolya Lőrincz, Balázs Rudinszky, Luca Mórocz, Máté Mátyás, Károly Gergely, Noémi Bánhidi, Balázs Kiss, Lőrinc Thurnay, Benjámin Babicz, Hajnalka Tóth, Faye Gillespie, István Bán and Márton Zsuráfszky.

2015–2016

Zsófia Raskó, Univ. of Houston, Houston, TX

2014–2015

Vince András Berényi, Emory Univ. Goizueta Business School, Atlanta, GA

Gergely Horváth, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), Rochester, NY

Jennifer Mezei, Coker College, Hartsville, SC (2016–2017)

Sabine Topolánszky, The George Washington Univ.'s Elliott School of International Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Kitty Veress, Georgetown Univ., Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Washington, D.C.



Lilla Fördös, Johns Hopkins University (SAIS), Washington, D.C.

2013–2014

Zoltán Csikós, Columbus State Univ., Columbus, GA; Univ. of North Texas School of Music in Denton, TX (2013; 2017–2019)

Dorottya Demszky, Princeton Univ., Princeton, NJ; Stanford Univ., Stanford, CA

(2013–2017)

Lilla Fördös, Johns Hopkins Univ. (SAIS), Washington, D.C. (2014–2015)

Ágnes Katona, Middlebury College, Monterey, CA (2015–2016)

Zalán Markó, Nazareth College, Rochester, NY

János Perczel, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA (2013–2018)

Júlia Standovár, School of Visual Arts (SVA), New York, NY (2014–2015)

Domonkos Vámosy, Whitworth Univ., Spokane, WA; Univ. of Pittsburg, Pittsburg, PA (2013–2019)

2012–2013

Tünde Cserpes, Univ. of Illinois in Chicago, Chicago, IL (2012–2015)

Petra Kövér, Webber International Univ., Babson Park, FL

Bettina Varga, Hult International Business School, San Francisco, CA



Gusztáv Nagy, Harvard Law School, Harvard, MA



Dr. Béla Bognár

The Bognár Family Hungarian Scholarship Fund

Professor Dr. Béla Bognár (1931–2019) was born in Pakod, Hungary. From October 23 to November 9, 1956, he was part of a small group that fought against the Russians on the streets of Budapest. On November 11, he left Hungary, and headed for Belgium to start a new life. There, he graduated magna cum laude with a BS from Ecole Social de Louvain. After immigrating to the U.S., he obtained MS and Ph.D. degrees in gerontology, health and mental health policies from the University of Wisconsin. Over the next few decades, Dr. Bognár would teach, publish and serve as an advisor in the fields of social work and aging and receive numerous awards, including the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit.

Remember, my little Béla, what I repeated to you throughout these years: “what you do for others, gives meaning to your life.”



Attila Béres, Vice President and CFO and Dr. Susan Pekarovics, Director of Annual Giving at the Ambassadors of the Future with Dr. Ágnes Virga, Coalition Vice President at the Bognár Family Scholarship award presentation at the AF Gala on December 14, 2021.

When honored for his life-long work in supporting Hungarian students in need in 2017, Dr. Bognár recalled inspirational words said to him by his grandmother when he left Hungary in 1956: “Remember, my little Béla, what I repeated to you throughout these years: what you do for others, gives meaning to your life.”

Dr. Béla and April Bognár established the Hungarian Scholarship Fund (HSF) in 1999, to help outstanding Hungarian students finish their education in either their home countries, and to remain in or return to their home countries to provide leadership in their communities. In the spring of 2014, the Bognárs requested the Coalition to become the administrator of their HSF fund as part of the Coalition’s comprehensive educational portfolio. The HSF was renamed “The Bognár Family Hungarian Scholarship Fund” (BFHSF).

Since its inception, the fund has awarded more than \$700,000 to 271 Hungarian students in the U.S. and the Carpathian Basin raised from members of the Hungarian American community, churches, organizations, the Sunshine Lady Foundation, and most recently by the Ambassadors of the Future.

Support from the Ambassadors of the Future

Since 2017, the Ambassadors of the Future (AF) launched an inaugural fundraising Gala. Since then, they have awarded \$40,000 to the BFHSF.

The AF was founded in Los Angeles, CA, in 2017 by Adam Beres; his parents, Zsuzsa Pekarovics, MD, and Attila Beres, Ph.D., and many other community members. The organization is committed to two goals: to raise funds for the international education of intellectually gifted but financially challenged students and to raise funds for socioeconomically disadvantaged children coping with diabetes and obesity.



László Szabó, University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureș, Romania



Edit Dukai, University of Pécs, Pécs, Hungary

Bognár Scholarship Awardees 2014–2022 (Years in parentheses indicate multiple-year scholarships)

2022–2023

Ukraine

Krisztián Váradi, Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian College of Higher Education, Berehove

2021–2022

Ukraine

Erik Maruszics, Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian College of Higher Education, Berehove (2022)

Romania

Henrietta Kajtár, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2022)

2020–2021

Hungary

Zsófia Dorgay, National Univ. of Public Service, Budapest

Ákos Óbis, Univ. of Debrecen (2021)

Genovéva Svingola, Univ. of Debrecen

Romania

Zsuzsanna Bajnóczki, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2021–2022)

Laura Béres, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca (2021)

Orsolya Dani, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Tibor Laczkó, Sapientia—Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Târgu Mureş (2021)

Ádám Pál-Jakab, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş

Tünde Renáta Székely, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca (2021)

Ukraine

Vivien Bence, National Univ. of Uzhhorod

Ingrid Lőrincz, National Univ. of Uzhhorod and Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian College of Higher Education, Berehove (2021–2022)

Viktor Makusin, National Univ. of Uzhhorod, Uzhhorod (2022)

József Orbán, Munkachevo State Univ., Munkachevo

2019–2020

Serbia

Tímea Palkovics, Medical College of Applied Sciences, Zemun (2020)

Romania

Brigitta Béni, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Eszter Boróka Kiss, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Zsombor Attila Fazakas, Transilvania Univ. of Brasov

Kinga János, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca (2020)

Tamás Komsa, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş

Edina Kolozsi, Sapientia—Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Târgu Mureş

Szidónia Kolozsi, Sapientia—Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Târgu Mureş

Csilla Márton, Lucian Blaga Univ. of Sibiu (2020)

Noémi Szilvia Miklós, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2020–2021)

Levente Nagy, Technical Univ. of Cluj Napoca (2020)

Janka Simon, Gheorghe Dima Music Academy (2020)

Norbert Székely, Transilvania Univ. of Brasov

Sára Szikszai, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş

Sándor Tar, Sapientia—Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Târgu Mureş

Ukraine

Norbert Bence, National Univ. of Uzhhorod (2020–2022)

2018–2019

Serbia

Dániel Csíkos, Univ. of Novi Sad, Novi Sad

Mária Palkovics, Univ. of Novi Sad, Novi Sad (2019)

Romania

Lóránd Hegyi, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş

Tünde János, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2019)

Emese Csenge Kiss, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2019)

Dóra Krányák, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş

Tünde Mária Laczkó, Sapientia—Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Târgu Mureş (2019)

Tihamér Máté, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş

Roland Nagy, Sapientia—Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Târgu Mureş (2019, 2021)

Nóra Pap, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş

Ukraine

Ádám Daróci, National Univ. of Uzhhorod, Uzhhorod

2017–2018

USA

Anita Balázs, Yale School of Music, New Haven, CT

Hungary

Orsolya Joó, Univ. of Debrecen (2018)

Bernadett Birta, Eötvös Loránd Univ., Budapest (2017–2022)

Anikó Skultéti, Univ. of Szeged, Szeged

Romania

Dóra Sarolta Bálint, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2017–2020)

Andrea Csíky, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2017–2020)

Ágota Fazakas, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2017–2021)

Andrea Edina Fábián, Sapientia Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Cluj Napoca (2018)

Laura Éva Fazakas, Sapientia Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Cluj Napoca (2018)

Noémi Izsák, Lucian Blaga Univ. of Sibiu, Sibiu (2016–2018)

Rozália Jakab, Reformed College of Assistant Training, Târgu Mureş

Katalin Kövecsi, Sapientia Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Cluj Napoca (2018)

Norbert Nyegre, Sapientia Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Cluj Napoca

Eszter Antónia Orbán, Univ. of Medicine and

Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2018)

Klára Krisztina Simon, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Csilla Melinda Szócs, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Mária Izabella Szövérfi, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca (2018)

Kálmán Takács, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Tímea Kinga Vajda, Sapientia Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Cluj Napoca

Belgium

Sára Benkő, Univ. of Leuven, Belgium

2016–2017

USA

Erzsi Boeke, The Univ. of Tennessee at Martin, Martin, TN

Bálint Erkel, Syracuse Univ., Syracuse, NY

Attila Meleg, Syracuse Univ., Syracuse, NY

István Van Vianen, Yale Univ. School of Architecture, New Haven, CT

Hungary

Edit Dukai, Univ. of Pécs (2016–2019)

Barbara Király, Univ. of Debrecen

Katalin Szócska, Semmelweis Univ., Budapest

Romania

András Szabolcs Barabási, Sapientia Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Cluj Napoca (2016–2019)

Irma Tímea Császár, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca (2016–2020)

Andrea Izsák, Sapientia Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Cluj Napoca (2016–2019)

Krisztina Kapás, Sapientia Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Cluj Napoca (2016–2018)

Orsolya Kapás, Sapientia Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Cluj Napoca (2016–2018)

Norbert László, Sapientia Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Cluj Napoca (2016–2020)

Norbert Loránd Kovács, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca (2017)

Emőke Meleg, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Béla Olasz, Alba Iulia Roman Catholic Theological College and Seminary, Alba Iulia (2016–2021)

Klára Krisztina Simon, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

László Szabó, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2016–2019)

Kálmán Takács, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Ákos Vladár, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Ukraine

Tamás Sándor Héder, National Univ. of Uzhhorod, Uzhhorod (2017)

István Pataki, National Univ. of Uzhhorod (2016–2018)

Hajnalka Vaskeba, Transcarpathian Hungarian College, Berehove

Bognár Scholarship Awardees continued

2015–2016

Hungary

Dávid Bárdos, Semmelweis Univ., Budapest (2015–2017)

Annamária Király, Univ. of Debrecen, Debrecen (2015–2018)

Romania

Richárd Bálint, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca (2015–2017)

Klaudia Barabás, Bod Péter Diaconical Center, Târgu Mureş

Mildred Beatrix Izsák, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2015–2020)

Anikó Kopacz, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Csenge Kovács, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca; Sapientia Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Cluj Napoca (2015–2018)

Annamária Nyárádi, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş

Tímea Papdán, Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy, Univ. of Oradea (2015–2017)

Csenge Simon, Gheorghe Dima Music Academy, Cluj Napoca (2016)

Teréz Simon, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Ukraine

Izabella Olcsvári, National Univ. of Uzhhorod (2016)

Szilveszter Pohilecz, Transcarpathian Hungarian College, Berehove

Zsanett Tóth, Transcarpathian Hungarian College, Berehove (2015–2018)

2014–2015

USA

Tom Bakoczy, Florida Gulf Coast Univ., Fort Myers, FL

Barbara Cseh, Grand Canyon Univ., Phoenix, AZ (2015)

Krisztina Fabo, George Washington Univ., Washington, D.C. (2015)

Lilla Fördős, Johns Hopkins Univ., Washington, D.C.

Elizabeth Juhász, Kent State Univ., Kent, OH

Raymond Kanyó, Univ. of Richmond, Richmond, VA (2015)

Dorottya Miketa, New York Univ., New York, NY

Lilla Porubek, Kansas State Univ., Manhattan, KS

Lilla Székely, Lesley Univ., Cambridge MA (2014–2017)

Hungary

Lilla Balázs, Pázmány Péter Catholic Univ., Budapest

Biborka Kelemen, Eötvös Loránd Univ., Budapest

Krisztián Kovács, Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music, Budapest

Leonard István László, Budapest Univ. of Technology and Economics

Máté Molodih, Szent István Univ., Gödöllő (2015)

Ilona Ozsvári, Pázmány Péter Catholic Univ., Budapest

Gábor Pekker, Semmelweis Univ., Budapest

Orsolya Süli, Semmelweis Univ., Budapest (2014–2017)

Serbia

Márta Nagy, Faculty of Economics, Subotica

Nikoletta Nagy, Prirodna-Faculty of Science, Novi Sad

Laura Paracki, Teacher's College of Subotica; Univ. of Novi Sad (2014–2016)

Romania

Antal Balla, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2014–2016)

Tibor Zsolt Barabási, Sapientia Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Cluj Napoca

Örs Birton, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2014–2016)

Imola Kapás, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2014–2016)

Zoltán Kapás, Sapientia Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Cluj Napoca

Gellért Szabolcs Kovács, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2015)

Katalin Kövecsi, Sapientia Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Cluj Napoca

Zita Majlát, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Lenke Molnus, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş

Alíz Nagy, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca (2015)

Bernadett Nagy, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Sarolta Pap, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Arnold Béla Péterfi, Univ. of Arts Târgu-Mureş

Noémi Portik, Univ. of Art and Design, Cluj Napoca

Tamara-Henrietta Ravasz, Univ. of Medicine and Pharmacy, Târgu Mureş (2014, 2017, 2018, 2020)

Beáta Éva Simon, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Barna Sütő-Alpár, Sapientia Hungarian Univ. of Transylvania, Cluj Napoca

Zsuzsanna Szabó, Babeş-Bolyai Univ., Cluj Napoca

Ukraine

Zsuzsa Héder, Uzhhorod National Univ., Uzhhorod (2015)



Éva Konkoly, Director, AF Board, Éva E. Voisin, Esq. Hon. Consul and Board Member of the Coalition and Ádám Béres, President, AF at the BFHSF presentation at the AF Gala on November 30, 2019.

INTERN IMPACT



Coalition interns Máté Mátyás, Faye Gillespie and László Szerencsés at the Coalition's Annual Mikulás Dinner in 2017.



LTP interns István Zoltán Bán, Hajnalka Tóth, Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice, Flóra Anna Adouki and Márton Zsuráfszky at the 1956 Commemoration at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C.



Coalition interns Noémi Bánhidi, Zita Mirk and Anita Mustos with Coalition Treasurer Zsolt Szekeres at the Coalition's 10th Annual Gala.



LTP interns Balázs Rudinszky, Ambassador Colleen Bell, Bori Péntek and Flóra Anna Adouki at a conference organized by the Atlantic Council and Globsec.

"When I arrived to Washington D.C. more than ten years ago, I was pretty sure why I went there. I wanted to learn the logic, that magical mixture of dreaming big, while always staying on track, being aspirational without losing my head."

—**Gergely Böszörményi-Nagy**, LTP 2009, founder of Brain Bar, Europe's largest festival on the future. He is also head of the innovation agency Design Terminal and President of the Foundation for the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design.

"The months I was fortunate enough to spend in Washington gave me a better understanding of how American decision-making works, as I visited many institutions from all sides of the political spectrum. The unique structure of the internship gave me an insight into the everyday life in the U.S., working with locals and getting to know the day-to-day operation of their society. I formed lifelong relationships with my American colleagues; it is a special gift that I am able to reach out to partners across the ocean at any time. And as an alumna, I've become part of a Hungarian American community that I can continue to rely on in my professional and personal life."

—**Sarolta Borzási**, LTP 2016, is currently Second Secretary for foreign policy and domestic affairs at the Embassy of Hungary in London. She is originally from Cluj Napoca (Kolozsvár), Romania.

"I was at the right place at the right time in many aspects. I was delighted that I had the chance to have a better understanding on U.S. elections and its impacts. I was also excited that I could gain experience in how an American work environment really looks like. But I was interested the most in getting to know how the famous networking works at the capital city of the United States."

—**Luca Mórocz** just completed a two-year assignment as Working Group Liaison Officer for the Coalition to Defeat ISIS as part of the Transatlantic Diplomatic Fellow Program at the U.S. Department of State in Washington D.C.

"My expectations were greatly exceeded, and I tried to get up as early as possible and go to bed as late as possible to extend my days. Competition is very intense in the U.S., as everyone needs to constantly prove that he or she is the best for that position, and because everyone does this I felt constant motivation. While I was in the U.S., this momentum stuck to me, and now it drives me even more in my work at home."

—**Orsolya Gazsó**, LTP 2017, from Bačka Topola (Topolya), Serbia is a freelance journalist and award-winning documentary filmmaker.

Hungarian American Coalition Award at Bolyai Farkas High School

In 2017, the Coalition signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Cultural Foundation for Transylvania (CFT), to implement cultural projects in Transylvania based on decisions made by the boards of both organizations. The Coalition began disbursing grants for cultural and educational purposes that year, and established the “Hungarian American Coalition Award” at the Bolyai Farkas High School. In 2019, the inaugural award was presented to three students for their outstanding academic achievements and community service.

Past recipients include: Daniel Ferencz, Matyas Horvath-Kovacs, Anita Kiss, Etele Jakab, Gáspár Incze, Botond Szilágyi, Sándor Zsolt Szilágyi, Attila Nagy, László Szepessy, Dávid Székely, Bernát Kristóf Vescán-Bakcsy and Ábel Újfalusi.



Coalition Treasurer Zsolt Szekeres presents the Coalition Award to László Szepessy at the graduation ceremony on June 2, 2021. Behind Mr. Szepessy are fellow recipients Attila Nagy and Sándor Zsolt Szilágyi.

Support for Educational Institutions

The Coalition has helped support various educational institutions.

Dévai Szent Ferenc Alapítvány

In 2016 the Coalition approved institutional support for father Csaba Bőjte's Dévai Szent Ferenc Alapítvány, a Hungary-based foundation supporting Father Csaba's orphanages in Romania.

Bethlen Gábor College of Nagyenyed (Aiud, Romania)

Also in 2016 the Coalition approved institutional support for Fűzfa Egyesület, an association in Romania whose goal is to establish an endowment fund to support the Hungarian-language Bethlen Gábor College (BGK) of Nagyenyed (Aiud), Romania, through donations and sponsorships. Many students from the surrounding region opt for a local Romanian school for financial reasons. Educational expenses put a heavy financial burden on most families, because living in the diaspora usually also means a life of financial hardship. Students facing such hardship can attend Bethlen Gábor College only if they receive some form of subsidy, and the Bethlen Gábor Fund regularly grants such scholarships to poor children.

Funding Renovations at Semmelweis University

In 2013 the Coalition funded the reconstruction of the Department of Hematology at the First Department of Medicine of the Semmelweis University in Budapest with a grant of \$180,000 from the Charles Simonyi Foundation for the Arts and Sciences.

Publications and Books

The Coalition often features books authored by Coalition members. Here are some highlights from the last 10 years:

Being Hungarian in Cleveland: Maintaining Language, Culture and Traditions (2021) by Dr Endre Szentkirályi,

From Refugee to Consul: An American Adventure (2021) by Helen M. Szablya,

Digitized Version of 56 Stories: Personal Collections of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, A Hungarian American Perspective, (2016)

An Anti-Nazi at Hitler's Table (2015) by Eszter Odescalchi,

Cold War to Warm Cooperation (2014) by Dr. Endre Szentkirályi,

From Danube to the Mississippi (2013) by László G. Fülöp,

Vanished by the Danube (2013) Charles Farkas,

My Only Choice: 1942-1956 Hungary (2013) by Helen M. Szablya,

The First 20 Years: Dedicated Advocacy and Community Leadership, (2012) written by Andrea Lauer Rice, Edith K. Lauer, and Katika Avvakumovits. The book tells the story of the Coalition's history.

Hungarian Review

The Coalition has helped distribute "Hungarian Review," the English-language affiliate of the bi-monthly journal Magyar Szemle, edited by Gyula Kodolányi, from 2012–2021. There are 6 issues annually.

Commemorating the 1956 Revolution

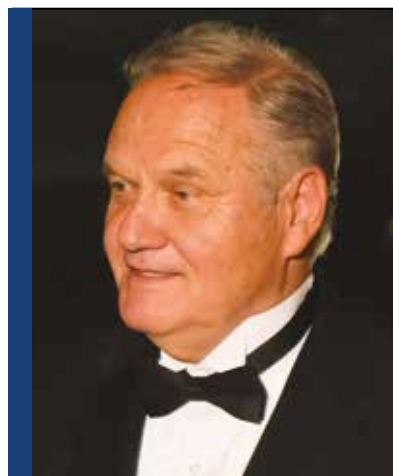
Over the past 10 years, Hungarians everywhere have commemorated both the 60th and 65th anniversaries of the 1956 Revolution in Hungary. Since so many Coalition founders and leaders participated in the Revolution and later emigrated to the U.S., this is an important national holiday to both celebrate and commemorate and of course, pass on to the next generation.

65th anniversary

To commemorate the 65th anniversary of 1956, the Coalition unveiled a new "Hungarian Freedom Fighter" statue in Atlanta, GA, partnering with the Honorary Hungarian Consulate of Georgia and the Millennium Gate Museum. Over two years, the Coalition raised more than \$150,000 from across the community to fund the initiative. Major donors included: The Catherine and Charles B. Rice Foundation, John and Edith K. Lauer, the Hungary Foundation, Barton and Andrea Rice, the Embassy of Hungary and Leslie L. Megyeri.

In 2021, the initial studio unveiling occurred at sculptor Stan Mullin's art studio in Athens, GA, where the 15-ton granite statue was created. The studio unveiling and 1956 exhibit was attended by more than 250 people, including 10 freedom fighters and their families, Hungarian Ambassador Szabolcs Takacs, Rodney Mims Cook Jr, President of the Millennium Gate Museum and Naomi King, Martin Luther King's sister-in-law.

On October 23, 2022, the statue was placed in its final location at the Millennium Gate Museum and Park in Midtown Atlanta, GA. More than 200 people attended the ceremony, including 15 freedom fighters and their families and Ambassador Andrew Bremberg of the Victim's of Communism Memorial Foundation. An accompanying exhibit and website were also created. The "Hungarian Freedom Fighter" will serve as a permanent reminder of the unsung heroes who waged a battle against communism and the Soviet Union.



Dr. Péter Kovalszki, HAC Chairman, 2013

Served as President of Hungarian Communion of Friends (MBK).
Awarded the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of Hungary.



Sculptor Stan Mullins works to create the 1956 Hungarian Freedom Fighter Statue.

60th anniversary

In October 2016, the Hungarian American community commemorated the 60th anniversary of 1956 with events organized across the U.S. to pay homage to and remind the world of the hope, courage and sacrifice of Hungarian freedom fighters.



János Szekeres, Áron Giró-Szász, Dorottya Bobák, Max Teleki, Alexandra Tari, Mária Béres, Andrea Lauer Rice and Sarolta Borzási at the statue unveiling in Washington D.C.

On October 16, 2016, Coalition leaders, including President Max Teleki, Chair Emerita Edith Lauer and VP Andrea Lauer Rice, attended a ceremony organized by the Embassy of Hungary in Washington, D.C., to unveil the statue of the “Budapest Lad” (Pesti Srác), a life-size bronze statue depicting a Hungarian student from 1956 holding the flag of the Revolution.

The next day the Embassy of Hungary and various Hungarian American organizations together opened a commemorative exhibition on 1956 at the U.S. Capitol. Speakers at the opening included Ambassador of Hungary Dr. Réka Szemerkényi; Chairman of the Board of the American Hungarian Federation Ferenc Koszorús; President of American Hungarian Heritage House Stefan Fedor; President of the Coalition Maximilian Teleki, the Honorable Miklós Seszták, the Honorable Dr. János Horváth, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister of Hungary and 56er Dr. Jenő Megyesy, President of the Danube Institute John O’Sullivan, and Executive Director of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation Marion Smith.

Digitizing 56 Stories:

Personal Recollections of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution

Also in 2016, the Coalition digitized the English version of the book *56 Stories: Personal Recollections of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, A Hungarian American Perspective*, a collection of 65 stories consisting of personal testimonials of witnesses to the revolution and recollections from relatives of ‘56ers. Originally published in 2006, the book serves to ensure that not only the personal stories, but also the spirit of 1956 is passed on to future generations.



Hungarian Freedom Fighter Statue unveiling in Atlanta, GA on October 23, 2022.



HAC Chair Emerita and '56er Edith K. Lauer welcomes the crowd to Millenium Gate Park.

HISTORIC IMPACT

On October 23, 2022, the Coalition dedicated the Hungarian Freedom Fighter statue at Midtown Atlanta's Millennium Gate Park to the Freedom Fighters of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. A crowd of 250, including 15 freedom fighters and their families witnessed the unveiling of the nine-foot statue, made of keyblue granite from Elberton, GA.

Rodney Mims Cook Jr., the founder of Millennium Gate Museum and Park, said the Park narrative highlights the virtues of peace, justice and freedom and the world-class sculpture demonstrates just that. The Hungarian Freedom Fighter statue will be an important historical addition to the park narrative and ensemble on 17th Street

"She not only reflects the courage and freedom of the Hungarian nation but is a beauty in her own right," Cook said. "The Hungarian gift will add to the urban landscape of our community and draw even more visitors to Millennium Gate Park."

"That was an emotional moment, the unveiling of the statue, because so many Hungarian Americans here have memories of either being there in 1956 and experiencing that revolution, or being the children of parents who experienced it and came to the United States as refugees, so it is equally emotional to me to see this unveiling. I know many in this community and there were some tears in their eyes that made me feel the same way"

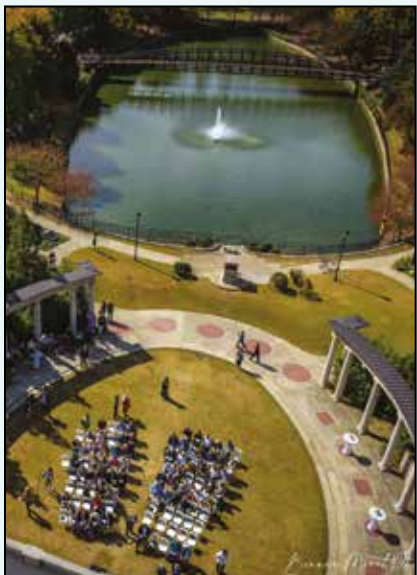
– John E. Parkerson, Jr., Honorary Consul General of Hungary in Georgia



Andrea Lauer Rice presents statue maquette to Hungarian President Katalin Novák.



Artist Stan Mullins with Rodney Mins Cook Jr., President of the National Monuments Foundation.



Birds-eye-view of Millenium Gate Park.



Freedom Fighter József Árpád Éder and his family were avid supporters of the statue project.

Memory Project Visual History Archive

The Memory Project, a Hungarian American visual history archive, is a community-wide initiative aimed at helping to document and record the personal stories of Hungarians who emigrated to the U.S. after the 1956 Hungarian Revolution or as displaced persons after World War II. More recently, they have expanded their outreach to include Hungarian Americans with fascinating stories about their upbringing and other unique interviews with Hungarians across the world.

The Memory Project was co-founded in 2015 by Andrea Lauer Rice and award-winning documentary filmmaker and Coalition member Réka Pigniczky, both daughters of '56ers. A year after its founding, the Coalition granted the initiative \$1,000 to support the Memory Project and has remained an enthusiastic supporter. Over the past several years, the Archive has provided materials and inspiration for a number of documentary films: "Cold Warriors" (Lövészek) in 2017 and "The Memory Project: 1956/2021" in 2021.

The Memory Project was presented with the Friends of Hungary Award in 2018.



George Sarló survived the Holocaust and the 1956 Revolution. Here he is among artifacts from that time.



Lauer Rice and Pigniczky interview Edith K. Lauer for Memory Project in 2016.



The Memory Project duo with Dr. Katalin Kádár Lynn and Freedom Fighter Louis Kapcsándy.



Pigniczky and Lauer Rice with Freedom Fighter Julius Várallyay.

Special Projects

Árpád Kallós Collection Donated to Coalition

In 2021, the Coalition accepted a donation of artworks by Árpád Kallós, a Hungarian portrait painter who lived and worked in the United States between 1921 and 1960. The collection of eight oil paintings and six drawings was donated to the Coalition by Brian R. Fahs, great-great grandson of the painter. The Coalition agreed to transfer the artwork to Hungary for donation to a suitable museum or other cultural institution.

Mégis (And Yet) documentary

In 2020, the Coalition co-sponsored the production of *Mégis (And Yet)*, a documentary film about the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation (HHRF) and László Hámos directed by acclaimed director János Domokos. The film documents the heartfelt goodbyes of the Hungarian communities in New York and Budapest from László. HHRF's first actions are remembered by witnesses, archive pictures and video recordings.

Coalition Kávéház

In 2020, the Coalition established Coalition Kávéház, a Zoom series on community-inspired topics. Lecturers included Coalition Vice President and Head of the Neurology Department at Emerson Hospital, Dr. Ágnes Virga; Founder of International Cybersecurity Dialogue and Coalition Board member Anne C. Bader; John N. Lauer Leadership Training Program intern Károly Barabási; Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice; Coalition member Elizabeth Vos of Magyar Marketing; 56er and Coalition Chair Emerita Edith K. Lauer; and 56er and former President of MEFESZ in Emigration, Gyula Várallyay.

Annual Chagrin Documentary Film Festival

The Chagrin Documentary Film Festival is dedicated to educating audiences and empowering talented filmmakers to tell their stories. The festival is a five-day celebration of the art of documentary film, at venues in and around the century village of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. This inspiring event draws audiences from all over the world to experience documentary films and the compelling art and culture they highlight.

Every year the festival features a special Hungarian Night organized by Coalition board member George Pogan of Chagrin Falls, OH, to celebrate the Northeast Ohio Hungarian American community. The Coalition has long been a proud sponsor of Hungarian Night festivities. Two documentary movies from Memory Project have been featured: *Cold Warriors* and *The Memory Project: 1956/2021*.

GENIUS Olympiad

With a grant of \$3,200, the Coalition supported the participation of two students in the 2017 GENIUS Olympiad, an international high school project competition that focuses on environmental issues. Organized by Terra Science and Education and hosted by the Rochester Institute of Technology, GENIUS Olympiad promotes a global understanding of environmental issues and the achievement of sustainability through basic science, arts, creative writing, engineering, design, and business development. It provides challenges and opportunities for high school students to instill in them the skills and knowledge needed to be the citizens, leaders, scientists, artists, writers, engineers, and policy makers of the future—agents who will promote and contribute to greater environmental sustainability throughout their lives.



Hungarian Night at the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival with George Pogan interviewing Directors Andrea Lauer Rice and Réka Pigniczky as they discuss "The Memory Project: 1956/2021."



George Pogan, Film Director Réka Pigniczky, András Ludányi, one of the original Cold Warriors, Marika Ludányi and co-creator Andrea Lauer Rice at the Premiere of *Cold Warriors (Lövészek)* in 2017.

ArtStart4u

In 2017, the Coalition supported the ArtStart4u talent center, an initiative headed by opera singer Levente Molnár, for the purpose of developing a “talent center” for Hungarian youth, with special attention to Hungarian children from the Carpathian Basin. The initiative has also organized classical music masterclasses in Hungary and Transylvania.

Cultural Foundation for Transylvania

The Cultural Foundation for Transylvania (CFT) was established in 1989 in Washington, D.C., by Ilona Györffy, András Ábrahám and András Hanák. The foundation’s purpose is to support Transylvanian cultural projects, such as art exhibits and performances, book and periodical publishing, and other forms of art, as well as to provide fellowships to support cultural endeavors in Transylvania.

After Mrs. Györffy death in 2017, the Coalition signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with CFT, accepted the balance of their funds as a grant (\$114,000) and began disbursing the money in the form of grants for cultural and educational purposes in Transylvania.

Since then, the Coalition has helped fund several projects, including the relocation of an extensive library of materials related to the Holocaust in Transylvania and

Michael Neidorff: Donor Impact

(November 19, 1942–April 7, 2022)



Neidorff served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Centene Corporation, a government services managed care company based in St. Louis, MO, for more than 25 years. He was elected Chairman of the Board in May 2004. His leadership is credited with one of the most successful HMO turnarounds in the health-care industry. Named to Forbes Magazine’s list of America’s Best Big Companies, Centene has expanded to eleven states and has become a publicly traded corporation that manages the healthcare of hundreds of thousands of individuals.

Neidorff was actively involved in community and civic affairs. He served as Emeritus Trustee of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts serving as the Co-Chair of the International Committee on the Arts and also on the Boards of Directors of several arts and cultural organizations such as St. Louis Symphony, Boy Scouts of America and Grand Center, Webster University, the Opera Theatre of St. Louis, the St. Louis Science Center, Trinity University in San Antonio, TX, and the National Children’s Cancer Society.

His wife, Noémi Neidorff, is of Hungarian origin and is an active supporter of higher education initiatives, including the Hungary-Missouri Educational Partnership, a Coalition member organization. She also supports the George Kárpáti Lectureship at Drew University (NJ), which honors her father, the late George Kárpáti.

“I have a wonderful relationship with the Coalition and appreciate the work they do. I also have great affection for Hungary and central Europe, and it starts with their best export, my wife Noémi, and the people of Hungary who have suffered so much oppression and are still resilient.”

—Michael Neidorff

Michael Neidorff and the Centene Foundation were longtime generous supporters of the Coalition for many years. Sadly, Neidorff passed away in 2022.

In an interview with St. Louis Commerce Magazine, Mr. Neidorff advised readers: “Do the right thing for the right reason, regardless of the personal consequences... Doing this may not always seem like the most expeditious thing at the time, but you’ll win in the long term.”

other parts of Europe to Kolozsvár (Cluj) as well as the website and infrastructural revamping of Korunk [a well-known Hungarian literary magazine in Cluj Napoca (Kolozsvár)], and the Bolyai Society (Bolyai Társaság), Babeş-Bolyai University's foundation in Cluj Napoca (Kolozsvár), Romania.

University of Pécs Medical School (UPMS) research trip

In 2014, the Coalition assisted members of the University of Pécs Medical School (UPMS) staff to participate in a 10-day research trip sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Budapest and the Department of State's U.S. Voluntary Visitors Program. The team from Pécs investigated how migration health is integrated into the U.S. public health and social care systems.

Cultural Programs

Andrea Rost Concert

On May 29, 2014, the Coalition sponsored a concert by world famous soprano Andrea Rost at the Warner Theatre to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Iron Curtain and the proclamation of Hungary as a free, democratic republic. The program included arias from well-known operas as well as Hungarian folk songs. Ms. Rost was accompanied by Hungarian Canadian pianist Gergely Szokolay; solo pieces by Bartók, Debussy, Rachmaninoff and R. Strauss.

The concert and gala dinner that followed were made possible by generous donations from The Hungary Initiatives Foundation, Centene Corporation, John and Edith K. Lauer and the Charles Simonyi Foundation for the Arts and Sciences.

Former Coalition member Bulcsu Veress' Jazz Music Collection and Publications

The late Bulcsú Veress (1941–2012) was a Hungarian-American political scientist and long-time Coalition supporter. In 2013, the Coalition managed the donation of Bulcsu Veress' estate, from which one of Hungary's largest jazz music recordings and publications was donated to the Liszt Ferenc University of Music, and an 800-book collection of political science books was donated to the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation.



Dr. Péter Forgách, HAC Chairman, 2014

Honorary Consul of Hungary in Buffalo, NY. Founded the Calasactius Scholarship Foundation in Budapest. Awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of the Merit of the Republic of Hungary.



World-famous soprano Andrea Rost sings at Warner Theatre in 2014.



The marquee sign at Warner Theatre.

CULTURAL IMPACT



The Puli Statue.

Smithsonian Folk Life Festival

Since 1967, the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival has a storied tradition of presenting international folk traditions on the Mall in Washington, D.C. In 2013, the festival featured "Hungarian Heritage: Roots to Revival." More than 100 folk musicians, dancers, artists and craftspeople from Hungary and ethnic Hungarian communities in the surrounding countries traveled to Washington D.C. to display their skills. Everyday, 50,000 to 150,000 visitors immersed themselves in rich and vibrant Hungarian folk heritage.

In 2013, the festival was funded in large part by a Hungarian government allocation of almost \$1 million. The Coalition raised an additional \$165,000, including an inaugural \$150,000 grant from the Hungary Initiatives Foundation (HIF). The Coalition worked closely with festival organizers (the Budapest-based Balassi Institute and its Director Pál Hatos; the Hungarian Cultural Center in New York City and its Director Dr. Ágnes Fülemile; and the Hungarian Embassy in Washington D.C.) to help maximize the event's reach and create a memorable experience for visitors. In addition to the organizations and their staffs, countless volunteers from throughout the Hungarian American community contributed to the festival's success.



The view of the National Mall and the Hungarian Food Court Area.



Folk dancing lessons at the Festival.



Singers, musicians, dancers, artists and craftspeople came together to share their heritage with the audience.

Commemorations and Exhibits

1956 Exhibit at Millennium Gate Museum in Atlanta, GA

In October 2022, in addition to the “Hungarian Freedom Fighter” statue unveiling (on page 22–23), the Coalition created a 1956 multimedia exhibit that was displayed at the Millennium Gate Museum in Atlanta, GA. The exhibit included photographs, newspapers, artifacts and a short video from Memory Project. It was so successful in telling the story of communism that the Coalition was approached by MGM to expand the exhibit to include images from Prague Spring and the Solidarity Movement in Poland. It also highlighted the friendship between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Pope John Paul II, which many experts credit with leading to the eventual fall of the Iron Curtain. The exhibit was captured digitally and is available at the www.HungarianFreedomFighter.com website.

Holocaust in Hungary exhibit

The “Holocaust in Hungary” traveling exhibit documented the tragic events that took the lives of 550,000 Jews in Hungary during the Holocaust. In January 2014, the Coalition co-sponsored its showing at the United Nations Headquarters in New York along with the Carl Lutz Foundation, Budapest; the Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice and the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations. The exhibit was made possible by a grant from The Hungary Foundation.

In May 2014, the exhibit opened at the U.S. Congress in the Rayburn House Office Building, with additional support from the Embassy of Hungary in Washington, D.C.

Hungarian Cultural Center to relocate a collection of unique objects and photos from Vintondale, PA

In 2012 the Coalition provided a \$2,000 grant to the Hungarian Cultural Center to relocate a collection of unique objects and photos from Vintondale, PA, to the Hungarian Open Air Museum in Szentendre. The collection are on permanent display there, giving the most-detailed and authentic anthropological exhibit on the lives of first generation Hungarian Americans.

160th anniversary of Lajos Kossuth’s 1851–1852 tour of the United States

In 2012 the Coalition supported the presentation of “Kossuth’s Message” with \$500, commemorating the 160th anniversary of Lajos Kossuth’s 1851–1852 tour of the United States.



Ambassador April Foley and then Coalition President Max Teleki at the Holocaust in Hungary Exhibit on January 23, 2014 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, NY.



Holocaust in Hungary Exhibit opening at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, NY on January 23, 2014.



Multimedia exhibit on 1956 at the Millennium Gate Museum in Atlanta, GA.

INFORMATION & ADVOCACY

The Coalition launched a community-wide fundraiser and provided more than \$120,000 in humanitarian assistance to organizations on the ground in Hungary and Ukraine. The Coalition has raised awareness of human rights issues by organizing numerous trips to the region and to D.C. and operating an Office of Information in both Budapest and Washington D.C.

Preserving Human Rights

In the Hungarian American context, “human rights” issues have come to mean, first and foremost, the human rights of Hungarian historic national minorities that became national minorities in Romania, Czechoslovakia, Ukraine, and Yugoslavia as a result of the 1920 Treaty of Trianon. The Hungarian Human Rights Foundation (HHRF) was founded in 1976 by young Hungarian Americans in New York to give voice to their plight. The Coalition’s leaders and members cooperate with and complement the HHRF’s efforts to ensure that the continuing human rights concerns of Hungarian minorities remain at the forefront of international diplomacy concerning the countries of East Central Europe.

The Coalition’s human rights advocacy is rooted in support for the legitimate, democratically expressed aspirations of the Hungarian minority communities themselves. To this end, the Coalition sponsors visits and conferences to enable minority leaders to explain their situation directly to U.S.-based officials, diplomats and experts; provides up-to-date, credible information to U.S. officials, diplomats and non-governmental organizations; maintains active ties with the leaders and activists in these communities; and meets with visiting officials and civil representatives from the region.

Since 2010 the Hungarian government’s diaspora policies have undergone an unprecedented period of change and strengthening. One important step was the creation of the Hungarian Diaspora Council, which provides a forum of dialogue for representatives of the diaspora and representatives of the Hungarian government.



Mrs. Edith K. Lauer, Chair Emerita and Mr. Zsolt Szekeres, Treasurer of the Hungarian American Coalition with Ambassador Colleen Bell at the U.S. Embassy Budapest on March 17, 2015.

The creation of the Hungarian Diaspora Council was soon followed by the initiation of different programs tailored to engage Hungarian diaspora communities worldwide, such as the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Internship Program and the Mikes Kelemen Program. Hungarian diaspora policy also supports birthright programs such as the ReConnect Hungary and Diaspora Camp.

Information & Advocacy Efforts

Since its founding, a primary goal of the HAC has been to provide Washington decision-makers with credible and timely information about important issues to its members. This includes monitoring human rights issues affecting the Hungarian communities of the region—primarily in Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and Ukraine. Activities include:

Operating an Information Office in Washington D.C. and Budapest, Hungary.

Staying in frequent contact with Hungarian community leaders in Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and Ukraine about events affecting the Hungarian communities of each region.

Coordinating activities and information with member organizations to stay abreast of human right issues and/or violations in Romania, Slovakia and Serbia.

Monitoring news and media reports on matters of interest to Hungarian Americans to share and exchange with the community.

Organizing a December White House Briefing to acquaint members with officials of the Administration, the State Department and the National Security Council.

In addition to keeping U.S. politicians abreast of human rights issues affecting the Hungarian communities of the region, the Coalition has worked closely with leaders from Washington both in Hungary and in the U.S. Here are some highlights from the past few years:

On October 27, 2020, the Government of Hungary inaugurated a statue of President George H. W. Bush at Liberty Square in Budapest. Coalition Treasurer Szekeres was present at the event and met with U.S. Ambassador to Hungary David Cornstein and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán. Also in 2020, Andrea Lauer Rice gave interviews that appeared on Hajónapló, the Magyar Living Podcast and the Hungarian television news channel HírTV.

To commemorate the 63rd anniversary of the '56 Revolution and Freedom Fight and the 30th anniversary of the restoration of democracy in Hungary, the Embassy of Hungary in Washington D.C. held a National Day Reception at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Skylight Pavilion in October 2019. The event was attended by President Rice and other Coalition members.

At the Presidential Inauguration of President Donald Trump in January 2017, Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice attended several events in the nation's capital including the "Salute to Freedom" Inaugural Brunch with other Coalition Board members at the new building of the Embassy of Hungary in Washington D.C. Later that year, Mr. Teleki met with officials at the State Department, the National Security Council and Congressional offices, as well as with Hungarian Ambassador László Szabó. Members of the Coalition also attended the official inauguration ceremony of the new building of the Embassy of Hungary in Washington, D.C. with Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó and Ambassador Dr. Réka Szemerkényi.



Gabriella Kereszty, Senior Advisor at the Office of the President of the Republic and Zsolt Szekeres, Coalition Treasurer and President of HHRF at the unveiling of a statue in honor of George H. W. Bush, 41st President of the United States during a ceremony in Liberty Square in Budapest in October 2020.



Coalition VP Stefan Fedor, Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice, Ambassador Réka Szemerkényi, Dr. Péter Forgách, Coalition Chairman Dr. Ágnes Virga, Mrs. Erika Fedor and HHRF President László Hámos at The Inaugural Brunch in Washington D.C. on January 21, 2017.



Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice and Chair Emerita Edith K. Lauer, who serves on the VOCMF Board, at the Dedication Reception of the Victims of Communism Museum in Washington D.C. on June 8, 2022.



Coalition interns Éva Lukonits and Luca Mórocz with Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice at the 10th Annual Roll Call of Nations Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Victims of Communism Memorial in Washington D.C. on June 9, 2017.

In 2011, members of the Coalition Board participated in a series of events in Budapest, when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and Congressman Tom Lantos visited Hungary. The next year, Coalition President Max Teleki met with staff from the Democratic National Committee, the Republican National Committee, and the Romney and Obama campaign teams. Mr. Teleki also participated in the Tom Lantos Institute's Executive Committee meeting and in the International Centre for Democratic Transition project and funding meetings, and he spoke at an event titled "Visions of America: The State of US Presidential Politics."

NATO Expansion

In the early 1990s, the Coalition led efforts in the Hungarian American community to promote the expansion of NATO, and to include Hungary in the first group of Central and East European countries asked to join the Atlantic alliance. HAC was an active participant in the Central East European Coalition's (CEEC) efforts in support of NATO expansion.

In 2014, the Coalition supported a letter to Secretary of State John Kerry, signed by 40 Members of Congress, supporting the expansion of NATO to include Macedonia and Montenegro. The letter was sent just prior to the 2014 NATO Summit hosted by the United Kingdom. Since then, NATO has expanded to include Montenegro in 2017 and North Macedonia in 2020.

Advocacy for Security in Central and Eastern Europe

NATO continues to play a crucial role in the region's security, especially in light of Russia's illegal invasion and annexation of Crimea and Eastern Ukraine in 2014, and again in 2022. These events have rallied the Central European Diaspora in the U.S. and the Coalition, as we continue to work on areas of security in the region with the CEEC. Together, we will continue to express our strong disapproval at Russia's expansionist policies and its disregard for international law in Ukraine and beyond.

Despite the current challenges between Hungary and the United States, we have far more that binds us together than separates us. The American and Hungarian people share an unwavering commitment to freedom and a shared vision of a free, sovereign, and united Europe at peace.

—Max Teleki, 2022

Anti-Communism Legislation

In a new advocacy initiative, the Coalition is working with the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation on exhibits that educate on the history of communist ideology. As one example, HAC is cooperating with VOCMF to pass state legislation in Georgia to designate November 7th as Victims of Communism Day and to compel public schools to teach the next generation about the realities of communism.

White House Briefings

A highlight of the Coalition's traditional December weekend has been the annual White House Briefing, where Coalition members have a chance to meet Administration, National Security Council and State Department officials. This provides a unique opportunity to learn about the Administration's policies and to share with them Coalition members' concerns. Below are details about the briefings since 2012 and those who were present.

2019 — 25 Coalition Board members

Corina Rebegea, Director, U.S.- Romania Initiative and Fellow-in-Residence, Center for European Policy Analysis (CEPA)

Donald Jensen, Editor in Chief and Senior Fellow, CEPA

Brian Whitmore, Senior Fellow and Director of Russia Program, CEPA

Briefing topics: current issues in Central and Eastern Europe; the Russian invasion and ongoing aggression in Ukraine; and the importance of NATO's role in Central and Eastern Europe.

2018 — 20 Coalition Board Members

A. Wess Mitchell, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs

Matthew Boyce, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs

Sarah K. Becker, Hungary Desk Officer

Danielle Stoebe, Executive Assistant to Assistant Secretary Mitchell

Briefing topics: U.S. bilateral relations with Hungary; pressing issues in Central and Eastern Europe; the Russian invasion and ongoing aggression in Ukraine; and the U.S. policies on human and minorities rights in the Carpathian Basin.

2016 — 40 Coalition Board Members

Asher Mayerson, Staff Assistant, White House Office of Public Engagement

Brian Johnson, Director for Central and Northern Europe, National Security Council

Martin McDowell, Deputy Director of the Office of Central European Affairs, State Department

Chip Glass, Director for Russia, National Security Council;

Kyle Lierman, Senior Associate Director and Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Public Engagement.

Briefing topics: U.S. foreign policy in Central and Eastern Europe; fighting ISIS and ongoing cooperation, current reset of U.S.- Russia relations and the Affordable Care Act and its effects.



László G. Fülöp, HAC Chairman 2015

Served as President of Minnesota Hungarians and Hungarian Communion of Friends (MBK). Awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of the Merit of the Republic of Hungary.



Coalition board members and guests at the Coalition's Annual White House Briefing on December 2, 2016.



Éva Voisin, HAC Chairman 2016

Honorary Consul of Hungary in the San Francisco Bay Area since 1989. Founded the Hungarian American Chamber of Commerce in 1990. Awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of the Merit of the Republic of Hungary.

2015 — 36 Coalition Board Members

Mr. Asher Mayerson, Staff Asst., White House Office of Public Engagement

Ivan Weinstein, Hungary Desk Officer, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, State Department

Dr. Jeffrey Zavadil, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor State Dept.

Scott Dullea, Director for Russia Policy, National Security Council.

Briefing topics: bilateral relations between the U.S. and Hungary; continued Russian aggression or aggressive actions towards NATO and now Syria; the ongoing migration crisis in Europe; and how the relationship between Russia and Ukraine affects Hungary and the U.S.

2014 — 37 Coalition Board Members

Ivan Weinstein, Hungary Desk Officer, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, State Department

Dr. Jeffrey Zavadil, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, State Department

Nathaniel P. Dean, Director for Central and Northern European Affairs, National Security Council

Matt Nosanchuk, Director for Outreach, National Security Council.

Briefing topics: U.S.-Hungarian relations and current tensions in the bilateral relationship; the remarks made by the late Senator John McCain (R-AZ) regarding Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orbán; and U.S. policy towards Central-Eastern Europe.

2013 — 30 Coalition Board Members

Kyle Lierman, White House Office of Public Engagement, Dir. of Ethnic Outreach

Sigrid Emrich, Deputy Director, European Bureau, Office of Central European Affairs, State Department

Richard C. Hinman, Hungary Desk Officer, State Department

Gregory Naarden, Serbia Desk Officer, State Department

Marie Blanchard, Romania Desk Officer, State Department

Briefing topics: U.S.-Hungarian relations; U.S. Policy towards Central-Eastern Europe, concerns about the human rights of Hungarian minority communities.

2012 — 20 Coalition Board Members

John Winant, Director Central-East European Affairs of the White House National Security Council (NSC)

Brent Hartley, Deputy Asst Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs

Mr. Mike Morrow, Director, European and Eurasian Affairs, State Department

Dr. Jeffrey Zavadil, Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, State Dept.

Matthew Singer, Desk Officer for Hungary and Slovakia, State Dept.

Briefing topics: US-Hungarian relations, the issue of dual-citizenship in Slovakia and the reversal of property restitution cases in Romania.



Coalition board members, LTP interns and guests at the Coalition's Annual White House Briefing on December 4, 2015.

Conferences

Central to the Hungarian American Coalition's information and advocacy efforts is to offer Hungarians real-world opportunities to understand the United States and American policy. This is partly achieved by attending and sponsoring conferences.

Co-sponsored conferences from the past 10 years include:

2018 Carl Lutz: Righteous Among the Nations Conference, held by George Washington Univ.'s Elliott School of International Affairs and named after Carl Lutz, a Swiss diplomat who rescued 62,000 Jewish people in Hungary during 1944–45;

10th CEPA Forum, the leading annual transatlantic security conference, which was held in 2018 with the theme "Winning the 21st Century–Allied Strength and Solidarity";

Immigrant Heritage Month events in 2015 and 2016 that aimed to gather and share inspirational stories of immigration in America;

25th Anniversary of the historic "Pan-European Picnic," held in Sopron, Hungary and a series of events in December 2014 commemorating the 25th anniversary of the anti-Communist uprising in Timisoara (Temesvár), Romania;

2011 panel discussion on the Draft Hungarian Constitution.



Dr. Ágnes Cziné, Judge of the Constitutional Court of Hungary, Kinga Gál, Member of European Parliament, Christopher Ball, Director, Central European Institute, Quinnipiac University, Edith K Lauer, Coalition Chair Emerita, Andrea Lauer Rice, Coalition President, Dr. Peter Rada, Congressional Liaison Officer, Hungarian Embassy and Anikó Gaál Schott, CEPA Trustee at 2019 CEPA Forum in Washington D.C. on September 23, 2019.

Special Visitors

From time to time the Coalition facilitates the visiting of prominent Hungarian community leaders from the Carpathian Basin to the USA to meet with Hungarian diaspora community leaders and also U.S. political leaders to discuss issues important to both the Hungarian diaspora community in the U.S. and the greater U.S.–Hungary relationship. Moreover, the Coalition also supports the sending of its leaders to visit Hungary and its surrounding regions to meet with community leaders and politicians there.

Hungarians traveling to the United States (some highlights):

In both 2018 and 2019, in Washington D.C., the Coalition hosted Dr. László Brenzovics, the sole ethnic Hungarian deputy in the Parliament of Ukraine. Dr. Brenzovics, who is President of the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Transcarpathia, met with U.S. officials, policymakers and academic leaders and provided first-hand information on recent legislative measures that violate the rights of the Hungarian national minority in Ukraine.

In 2014, the Coalition arranged for Bishop László Tőkés' visit to Washington D.C. during which he met with U.S. officials and the leadership of the Coalition and the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation. He also gave interviews to Cleveland's Bocskai Radio and Magyar Távirati Iroda (MTI).

In 2011, the Coalition assisted in organizing the Cleveland visit of President of Hungary Dr. Pál Schmitt. Several Coalition leaders, including Coalition Chair Emerita Edith Lauer, Honorary Consul László Böjtös, and Ted Horvath, took active roles in organizing various events for Dr. Schmitt on his first U.S. visit as president. His itinerary included visits to St. Erzsébet Catholic Church, several Hungarian statues and the Hungarian Cultural Garden, a swearing-in ceremony for new Hungarian citizens hosted by Coalition members, the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society, and a festive President's Luncheon involving 160 people.



Dr. László Brenzovics, Zsolt Szekeres, Governor George Pataki, Andrea Lauer Rice and György Kota in Washington D.C.



Coalition interns Zsófia Tábori, Coalition President Max Teleki, Enikő Horváth and Anett Matkó at the "White House Ethnic Day" at the White House's Eisenhower Executive Office Building on June 2, 2015.

Regional Trips and Meetings

Coalition Leaders Visit Hungary and the Surrounding Region

An important part of the HAC President's job has been to gather first-hand, dependable information about the situation of Hungarian minority communities in the countries surrounding Hungary. To that end, HAC leaders have travelled on fact-finding trips to Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and Ukraine at regular intervals, sometimes multiple times a year, and have held meetings with leaders of the historic minority communities in these countries.

In 2019, several visits were made to the regions surrounding Hungary. In March, Coalition leaders Max Teleki and Zsolt Szekeres accompanied former Governor of New York George Pataki on a visit to Beregszász (Berehove), Ukraine.



Dr. László Brenzovics, György Kota, Gov. George Pataki, Zsolt Szekeres and Maximilian Teleki in front of the recently restored head office of the Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Sub-Carpathia (KMKSZ) in downtown Ungvár (Uzhgorod) on March 10, 2019.

Later that year, President Andrea Lauer Rice and Treasurer Zsolt Szekeres travelled to the Transylvanian region of Romania where they met with community leaders, including Bishop of the Transylvanian district of the Reformed Church in Romania Béla Kató; President of the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen; Executive Director of RMDSZ Bálint Porcsalmi; and former deputy mayor of Kolozsvár Anna Horváth. They also met with members of Kolozsvár's Hungarian Human Rights Foundation's (HHRF) office. They gave live interviews on Radio Kolozsvár and on the television program Erdélyi Figyelő, and Lauer Rice later spoke in Hungarian at the graduation ceremony of the Bolyai Farkas High School in Marosvásárhely, presenting the "Hungarian American Coalition Award" to three students recognized for their outstanding academic achievement and community service.

In July, Zsolt Szekeres participated in a roundtable discussion again on Hungarian national policy at the 27th Transcarpathian Summer Open University (XXVII. Kárpátaljai Nyári Szabadegyetem) in Szinevirszka Poljana (Felsőszinevér), Ukraine. He also travelled to the 30th Bálványos Summer University and Student Camp held in Băile Tușnad (Tusnádfürdő), Romania (Transylvania), to attend a roundtable discussion on diaspora affairs.

Between 2017 and 2019, Andrea Lauer Rice met with Chargé d'Affairs of the U.S. Embassy Budapest David Kostelancik; Political Attache Erin Webster-Main; Ambassador David Cornstein and his staff; Minister of the Prime Minister's Office Gergely Gulyás; President of the Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs Zsolt Németh; President of the National Assembly of Hungary László Kövér; Director of the North American Department at the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Eszter Sándorfi; Ambassador Ferenc Kumin; Director of the North American Department at the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Ms. Zita Bencsik; Secretary of State for National Policy János Árpád Potápi; Ministerial Commissioner responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Péter Szilágyi; Head of Department at the State Secretariat of National Policy Judit Pirityiné Szabó and other government officials.

In July 2018, Zsolt Szekeres participated in a roundtable discussion on Hungarian national policy at the 26th Transcarpathian Summer Open University (XXVI. Kárpátaljai Nyári Szabadegyetem) in Szinevirszka Poljana (Felsőszinevér), Ukraine.

In November 2017, Andrea Lauer Rice spent two days in Berehove (Beregszász) and Uzhhorod (Ungvár) to learn more on the situation of the Hungarian minority in Ukraine. She met with President of Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Sub-Carpathia (KMKSZ) and former Member of the Ukrainian Parliament László Brenzovics; Rector of the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute Ildikó Orosz; and Government Commissioner István Grezsa.



Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and Dr. László Brenzovics at the U.S. Capitol on April 26, 2018 in Washington, D.C.

In October 2015, a memorial was held for Hungarian writer and politician László Dobos in Királyhelmec, Slovakia. A statue of Dobos was unveiled by Coalition Chair Emerita Edith Lauer among others. On behalf of the Coalition, Zsolt Szekeres, Edith Lauer, Katica Avvakumovits and John Lauer paid their respects and laid wreaths at László Dobos' statue.

Over the last 10 years, Coalition Presidents Max Teleki and Andrea Lauer Rice have made several annual visits to Hungary and the region to meet with government officials, members of parliament, opposition leaders, civic groups and the media. They also gave interviews and participated in events and meetings with Hungarian leaders in the surrounding countries. During their visits, they also took time to meet with Coalition's John N. Lauer Leadership Training alumni.

Between 2012 and 2016, President Teleki met with the Board of the Tom Lantos Institute; U.S. Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis and her staff; U.S. Ambassador Colleen Bell and her staff; President of the Hungarian Parliament László Kövér; Minister of Foreign Affairs János Martonyi; leaders of the Foundation for a Civic Hungary and the Antall József Knowledge Center; Vice President of the Hungarian Parliament Gergely Gulyás, President of the Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs Zsolt Németh; Director, Foreign Affairs, Office of President János Áder László Szőke; Personal Assistant of President Áder Károly Szadai, Judge of Hungary's Constitutional Court Dr. István Stumpf; Minister of State for Economic Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Levente Magyar; Deputy Minister, Ministry of Human Capacities Bence Rétvári; and other government officials. Lectures were organized at the Antall József Knowledge Center, the Széll Kálmán Foundation and the Central European University on current political developments in Hungary and the United States. Meetings were also held with U.S. embassy officials, leaders of Hungary's business and academic community, and the Federation of Jewish Communities.



Zsolt Szekeres, President of HHRF and Andrea Lauer Rice interviewed on Erdélyi Figyelő.



Mr. Atilla Kohut, Dr. László Brenzovics, Andrea Lauer Rice, Ildikó Orosz, Zsolt Szekeres and Mr. Gyula Fodor at a tour to Transcarpathia in November 2017.

Overview of Publications

Statements and Position Papers

When matters of special significance arise, the Coalition issues official statements to keep members and public opinion apprised of the organization's official position and perspective:

In February 2022 the Coalition issued a statement condemning in the strongest possible terms the Russian invasion of a free and democratic Ukraine.

In June 2020, the Coalition published an English-language video statement with Hungarian subtitles on the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Trianon.

In May 2015, Coalition President Maximilian N. Teleki issued a statement to present the Coalition's position on U.S.–Hungary relations and to clarify any misunderstandings stated in the press about what kind of organization the Coalition is and how it operates as a fully independent advocate for a positive U.S.–Hungary relationship.

In 2012, the Coalition issued a statement expressing a strong objection to the politically motivated decision made in Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe), Romania, to renationalize the Székely Mikó Reformed High School. The decision reversed the historically proven ownership of a Hungarian institution; it unjustly sentenced two Hungarians: Attila Markó and Tamás Marosán to prison sentences for carrying out their duty; and it represented a major step backward in the long-overdue process of church property restitution in Romania.

In February 2012, the Coalition issued a statement titled "Give Hungary a Chance," in which Coalition members voiced their concerns over the harsh criticism in the mainstream U.S. and European media towards the Hungarian government.



Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice with Gergely Gulyás, Leader of the Fidesz Parliamentary Fraction in Budapest in the fall of 2017.



Prof András Ludányi and Zsolt Szekeres speaking at a roundtable discussion at the 27th Transcarpathian Summer Open University in Szinerviszka Poljana (Felsőszinevér), Ukraine in July 2019.

Humanitarian Assistance

The HAC has played a major role in humanitarian assistance projects in Hungary. Below are some highlights:

Devecser Music School

The HAC also approved five grants to assist in the rebuilding efforts near Devecser, which was greatly affected by disaster. The grants went towards the following: purchasing new musical instruments for the Devecser Music School; co-financing the rehabilitation of the school's roof; employing a school psychologist for two years to attend to the schoolchildren; employing a full-time Roma social worker to help the school teachers with mentoring and providing support services; and funding the cost of a full-time internship program for two years, which placed bilingual Hungarian-American volunteers to help the mayor's office network with potential investors, assist with development programs, and provide administrative support.

Kárpátalja Aid Initiative of the Hungarian Maltese Charity Service

In 2015, the HAC donated \$10,000 to the Kárpátalja Aid Initiative of the Hungarian Maltese Charity Service, spearheaded by its President Imre Kozma, Hungary's First Lady Anita Herczegh, and the Hungarian Scout Association of Sub-Carpathia. The initiative assists the civilian population in Sub-Carpathia (Western Ukraine).

Hungary Foundation: Donor Impact



Founded in 2013, the Hungary Foundation (Hungary Initiatives Foundation) creates lasting value by reviving and strengthening the cultural and educational bonds between the U.S. and Hungary.

HF and the Coalition have partnered on many projects:

- In 2013, as one of its initial projects, HF worked with the Coalition to provide a large contribution to the Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington D.C. to present Hungarian arts and culture.
- In 2014, HF helped sponsor the "Holocaust in Hungary" traveling exhibit. It was shown at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and the Rayburn House Office Building at the U.S. Congress.

"The traumas of Hungary's 20th century drove countless Hungarians to flee their homeland in fear and desperation. Many found a safe haven in America.... However, they left a part of their souls in Hungary. They longed to be reconnected to and reconciled with their homeland. The Hungary Foundation collaborated enthusiastically with the Hungarian-American Coalition to keep the flame of Hungary alive in the hearts of Hungarian-Americans through culture and to foster greater Transatlantic understanding."

-Ambassador April H. Foley

- For the past nine years, the Foundation was the primary sponsor for the Coalition Internship Program (CIP). In 2018, CIP was renamed the John N. Lauer Leadership Training Program (LTP). The current HF Executive Director, Anna Lacey Smith, is an alumna of the CIP.
- HF was a sponsor of several HATOG (Hungarian Americans Together) Conferences attended by dozens of Hungarian American leaders in Atlanta, GA, Boston, MA, Sarasota, FL and Washington D.C.
- HF also provided grants to Memory Project: Visual History Archive, an important community project the Coalition actively supports.
- In 2022, HF became a "Patron of the Arts" sponsor of the 1956 Hungarian Freedom Fighter statue unveiled in Atlanta, GA.

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT



HHRF Office Manager Viktor Ivicsics, Coalition Treasurer Zsolt Szekeres and Continest CEO Vidor Kis-Márton at Continest's headquarters in Székesfehérvár, Hungary.



László Katona, Coalition Program Coordinator Noémi Bánhidi, and Father Ábel Halmos at the St. Maurice Monastery in Bakonybél, Hungary. The monastery guest house hosted refugees from Ukraine.



Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice at Hungarian Interchurch Aid's warehouse in Biatorbágy, Hungary in September 2022.

Ukraine Relief Fund

On February 25, 2022 the **Hungarian American Coalition** joined the international community in condemning the Russian invasion in Ukraine and immediately started fundraising efforts to assist Hungarian and Ukrainian refugees escaping war-torn Ukraine. With the generous support of individuals and organizations, the Coalition has raised more than **\$115,000** since February 25 and supported the following projects and initiatives:

- **\$10,000** in immediate aid to refugees to the **Hungarian Maltese Charity Service** (Magyar Máltai Szeretetszolgálat).
- **\$5,000** in immediate aid to refugees to the **Hungarian Interchurch Aid** (Magyar Ökumenikus Segélyszervezet).
- **\$5,500** in aid of local relief efforts to a **consortium of mayors** in Hungarian villages bordering Ukraine.
- **\$5,500** to facilitate the further delivery of donations and goods by the **Carpathian Foundation** (Kárpátok Alapítvány) in cooperation with its sister organizations in Slovakia and Ukraine and **\$14,250** to purchase and deliver an ambulance to Uzghorod, Ukraine.
- **\$20,500** in partnership with the **Hungarian (Magyar) Club of Chicago** to the **local government of Bakonybél** to house and care for refugee families.
- A mobile pediatric inpatient unit donated to the **Odesa Rehabilitation Hospital** manufactured by a Hungarian company, **Continest** that cost **\$44,000** with shipment to Odesa made possible by a \$32,000 grant from the **Hungarian Human Rights Foundation** (HHRF) and other generous donors of the Coalition, facilitated by the **Carpathian Foundation**.
- **\$4,000** to cover the shipment cost of medical supplies donated by the **Creative Cultural Exchange, Inc.** (1690 boxes of products worth \$200,000) from the U.S. to Hungary that will be distributed by the **Hungarian Interchurch Aid**.
- **Cultural Alliance of Hungarians in Sub-Carpathia** (Kárpátaljai Magyarok Kulturális Szövetsége—KMKSZ)—**\$5,000** to assist with a program delivering medications and medical care to local Hungarians who are severely ill or disabled.



An ambulance purchased by the Carpathian Foundation as humanitarian aid to Ukraine. Photo credit: Carpathian Foundation.

HUNGARIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

The Coalition has hosted 16 annual Galas and 28 annual Mikulás Dinners that have become a Washington tradition for leaders seeking to make a difference in Hungarian American relations. The Coalition has spearheaded 10 regional conferences, enabling the community to connect and collaborate.

Annual Mikulás Dinners

Since its founding in 1991, every December in the spirit of the Hungarian Mikulás tradition, the HAC has thanked its supporters by organizing a Mikulás Dinner. In total, nine different Hungarian Ambassadors have hosted the events, which have featured a number of prestigious speakers, including the Hungarian President and Prime Minister on separate occasions. The evening also honors the HAC's friends and members and has featured countless musical performances and the long-time tradition of ending the evening with the singing of Christmas carols.

Some highlights from recent years include:

2022

Keynote Speaker: Ambassador Andrew Bremberg, President of the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation

Ambassador Bremberg reflected on the importance of preserving and protecting freedom. He described that Europe and the West is *"falling into a sense of nihilism losing a sense of belief in ourselves, in our own goodness, in our shared values and in the importance of freedom."*

2021

30th Anniversary of the Coalition

Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice Receives the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of Hungary

Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Zsolt Németh, Chairman of the Hungarian Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs

In his keynote address, Mr. Németh reflected on three milestones: the 100th anniversary of U.S.–Hungary diplomatic relations, the 65th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution, and the 30th anniversary of the Hungarian American Coalition's founding. Ambassador Kurt Volker added by reminiscing about his experiences as a diplomat in Budapest in the 1990s and providing insight into current challenges in Hungarian–American relations. Later in the evening, HAC President Andrea Lauer Rice was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of Hungary (Magyar Köztársasági Érdemrend tisztikeresztje) by Ambassador Szabolcs Takács and the Hon. Zsolt Németh on behalf of President of Hungary János Áder.



Ambassador Andrew Bremberg, President of Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

2020

Virtual Mikulás Gala

Dr. Katalin Kádár Lynn receives the Gala Coalition Award

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Coalition held its first-ever virtual Mikulás Gala and Online Auction honoring Dr. Katalin Kádár Lynn, historian and founder of Helena History Press. With the theme “Preserving our Past, Focusing on the Future!,” the online event combined the scope and the spirit of the two annual HAC events: the Gala and Mikulás Dinners. President of Hungary János Áder was the event’s Honorary Chairman, and remarks were given by Ambassador Szabolcs Takács, HAC President Andrea Lauer Rice, Governor George Pataki, and Former Executive Director of the Charles and Lisa Simonyi Fund for the Arts and Sciences Susan Hutchinson, and award-winning folk music group Kaláka gave a special performance. At the end of the evening, all auction proceeds were given to support the HAC’s educational programs: the Dr. Elemér and Éva Kiss Scholarship, the Bognár Family Hungarian Scholarship and the John N. Lauer Leadership Training Program.



Hon. Zsolt Németh

We must be champions for our civilization’s understanding of freedom, and as we look for inspiration from those who have successfully fought for it and defended in the past, we must reach out in support to those fighting for freedom today. I hope that their persistence and courage in the face of such danger and oppression will serve as a catalyst for renewal here in the West.

2019

Plaque dedication ceremony at the Kossuth House

Keynote Speaker: Hon. Zsolt Németh, Chairman of the Hungarian Parliament’s Committee on Foreign Affairs

On the night before the dinner, the Kossuth Foundation and Embassy of Hungary organized a plaque dedication ceremony at the Kossuth House, to celebrate 30 years of freedom in Hungary. After speeches from HAC board member and Chairman and Executive Director of the Kossuth House Gabe Rozsa; Ambassador Dr. László Szabó; and Chairman of the Hungarian Parliament’s Committee on Foreign Affairs Zsolt Németh, a flag flown over the Hungarian Parliament was presented, along with a letter from the Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly László Kövér.

The next day at the Mikulás Dinner, Mr. Németh mentioned the upcoming 100th anniversary of the Trianon Peace Treaty and the importance of national cohesion, which transcends borders. He expressed admiration for how the late Hungarian Human Rights Foundation (HHRF) President László Hámos, current HHRF President Zsolt Szekeres, members of the Hungarian American Coalition and the Kossuth House, and all Hungarian organizations in the U.S. work and live for the idea of uniting the nation across borders. He later recalled the efforts of the United States, Max Teleki and everyone who worked hard to make Hungary membership to NATO possible.



Dr. Barna Pál Zsigmond, Zsolt Szekeres, Andrea Lauer Rice and Hon. Zsolt Németh at the plaque dedication ceremony at the Kossuth House on December 6, 2019.



1) Ambassador Andrew Bremberg, Ambassador Szabolcs Takács, Ambassador Kurt Volker **2)** 2016 Fall Coalition Interns (from left to right): Mr. Tamás Forrai, Ms. Dorottya Bobák, Ms. Mária Béres, Ms. Alexandra Tari, Ms. Sarolta Borzási, Mr. Áron Giró-Szász **3)** Dr. Ágnes Fülemile receives Coalition Award from Mr. Max Teleki **4)** Ms. Zsófia Koncz, Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice, Ambassador Dr. László Szabó, Dr. Ivonn Szeverényi, Mr. Péter Gyombolai, Ms. Zita Bencsik, Ms. Zsófia Parragh, Dr. Endre Szentkirályi **5)** Dr. Péter Forgách, Mrs. Edith K. Lauer, Ambassador Szabolcs Takács, Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice, Ms. Emese Gaál, Dr. Ágnes Virga **6)** Former LTP interns with their all-time mentor Mr. Zsolt Szekeres: Mr. Dániel Szabó, Ms. Lilla Fördös, Mr. Márton Aichelburg, Ms. Enikő Horváth, Ms. Noémi Bánhidi, Mrs. Réka Veres Lenox, and Ms. Zita Mirk **7)** Governor George Pataki delivering a toast **8)** Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice and Ambassador Dr. Réka Szemerkényi **9)** Mr. Zsolt Németh, Mrs. Anikó Gaál-Schott **10)** Mr. Max Teleki, Mrs. Wendy Teleki, Mr. Zsolt Szekeres, Mrs. Edith K. Lauer **11)** Dr. Péter Forgách, Ambassador György Szapáry, Mr. Max Teleki, Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice **12)** A group of Coalition members and friends (from the top and left to right): Mr. Zsolt Szekeres, Mr. István Dobozsi, Mr. Andy Hutchison, Mrs. Ágnes Fülöp, Mrs. Erika Bokor, Mr. József Megyeri, Mr. István Fedor, Ambassador April H. Foley, Mrs. Susan Hutchison, Dr. Péter Kovalszki, Governor George Pataki, Mrs. Csilla Grauzer, Mr. Max Teleki, Mrs. Edith Lauer, Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice, Mr. Julius Várallyay, Mrs. Georgianna Bójtós

13) Mrs. Eva Voisin, Mrs. Enikő Molnár Basa, Coalition President Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice, Ms. Csila Grauzer, Coalition Chairman Dr. Ágnes Virga **14)** Mr. Max Teleki, Mrs. Wendy Teleki, Mr. Zsolt Szekeres, Mrs. Edith K. Lauer **15)** Lt. General Nicholas Kehoe, Mrs. Edith K. Lauer, Ambassador April H. Foley, Mrs. Susan Hutchison, Mr. Andy Hutchison, Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice **16)** Mr. Zsolt Szekeres, Mrs. Kriszta Nagy, Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice, Mrs. Nóra Szabó, Mrs. Susan Hutchison, Mrs. Edith K. Lauer, Mr. Szabolcs Szekeres, Ms. Melinda Szekeres **17)** Ambassador Dr. László Szabó, Mrs. Susan Hutchison, Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice, Mr. Max Teleki and Ambassador April H. Foley **18)** Ms. Marietta Walter, Ms. Noémi Bánhidi, LTP alumna Mrs. Réka Veres Lenox, Mr. Isaac Lenox, Ms. Petra Kovács, Mr. Patrik Pördi **19)** Mrs. Anna Smith Lacey and Ambassador April H. Foley **20)** Mrs. Katka Avvakumovits, Dr. Katalin Kádár Lynn, Ms. Melissa Katkó Pepin **21)** Award ceremony: Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice receives the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of Hungary **22)** Ms. Evelin Szabó, Ms. Zita Mirk, Mrs. Renáta Patai-Szabó, Ms. Szilvia Mészáros, Ms. Zsuzsanna Seres, Ms. Sara Vajda, Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice, Ms. Emese Latkóczy, Ms. Anna Löffler, Ms. Piros Pazaurek **23)** Edith K. Lauer, Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice, Ambassador Thomas Robertson **24)** Dr. Árpád Szűrgyi, Ambassador Thomas Robertson, Mrs. Antoinette Robertson, Mrs. Elizabeth Szűrgyi, Mrs. Edith K. Lauer





The Honorable Damon Wilson



Ambassador Kurt Volker



The Honorable Dennis Ross

2018

Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Damon Wilson, Executive Vice President of the Atlantic Council

In his remarks, Mr. Wilson expressed his dissatisfaction with the current state of the alliance between the United States and Hungary, and talked about the reasons why he identifies with a strong sense of identity and spirit of the Hungarian-American community. Mr. Wilson then laid out several guiding principles and possible solutions on how to bolster the U.S.-Hungarian alliance, including deepening the understanding between the two nations, and forging a strategic partnership based on common values and goals. He added, "Hungary has made it clear that it is part of the West not just by culture, but by choice—in 1848, 1956, and 1990."

2017

Keynote Speaker: Ambassador Kurt Volker, U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations

Ambassador Volker began his address by remembering his time in Hungary during the preparation for NATO membership and the Bosnian War, during which Hungary was a reliable partner of the U.S.. Next, he listed some challenges that the entire transatlantic community faces today, both domestic and foreign. To address these challenges, he said that we need to know who we are, take a stand, recognize that not all who do not belong to us are our enemies, hold our leaders accountable, and finally be patient. As Hungary and the U.S. are friends, to deal with the challenges, they have to face the real enemies and not those whom we perceive to be.

In a surprise award ceremony, HAC Chair Emerita Edith K. Lauer recognized former Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Budapest and Ambassador Thomas Robertson on behalf of the Board of Directors of the HAC "for representing the best traditions of American diplomacy during Hungary's historic transition and beyond."

2016

Keynote Speaker: The Honorable Dennis Ross, U.S. Representative (R-FL)

U.S. Representative Dennis Ross delivered his address praising the Hungarian Ambassador's intellect and passion for freedom, which strengthen the bond with Hungary. He added, "the future now is brighter than it has ever been for American-Hungarian relations." Representative Ross also expressed the importance of Hungary's strategic role for the U.S. as he sees Hungary as a leading country in Europe acknowledging its immigration policy. He concluded his remarks by highlighting the significance of educating younger generations about their heritage and encouraged the community to celebrate together and to never forget their homeland or origins.

After the keynote remarks, former Coalition Presidents Edith Lauer and Zsolt Szekeres presented an award to Max Teleki, in which the Board conferred him the title of President Emeritus in recognition of his outstanding contributions as HAC president for the last 12 years.

2015

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Zsolt Németh, Chairman of the Hungarian Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs

In his address Mr. Németh said he felt the Hungarian American question has become overshadowed by security concerns. He stressed the importance of preventing a power vacuum in the world through a strong U.S. presence in and relationship with Europe and credited Russian President Putin with strengthening NATO's resolve. Later, Mr. Németh highlighted the importance of the upcoming 60th anniversary of 1956, for which Hungarians can express their gratitude to the freedom fighters and also to all the nations who showed solidarity and provided a new home to Hungarians. Referring to the current state of the relationship between the two nations, Mr. Németh declared that "the love of freedom is what brought this marriage together."

2014

Keynote Speaker: Dr. György Schöpflin, Member of the European Parliament and the European People's Party

Ambassador György Szapáry and Mrs. Enikő Molnár Basa Receive Coalition Awards

In his keynote address, Dr. Schöpflin acknowledged that the current bilateral relationship between the U.S. and Hungary has serious problems, which are based partly on concrete issues, but are also a matter of perception. He also pointed out that all democratic countries are different, including Hungary, which means that it will never practice democracy in the exactly the same way as does the U.S.. According to Dr. Schöpflin, "the world has its Hungarian version [of democracy]. and it is not worse than anyone else's."

At the dinner HAC President Maximilian Teleki presented two special awards: the first honored outgoing Ambassador Szapáry for his devoted service in advancing the friendship between the peoples of Hungary and the United States in the spirit of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution, and the second recognized Mrs. Enikő Molnár Basa for her many contributions to the success of the HAC's Congressional Internship Program, in her role as the interns' "guardian angel."



Dr. György Schöpflin

2013

Keynote Speaker: Gergely Pröhle, Deputy State Secretary

Mr. László Bójtös and Dr. Ágnes Fülemile Receive Coalition Awards

The evening's keynote speaker, Deputy State Secretary of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Gergely Pröhle, reaffirmed Hungary's admiration for American values both cultural and political, stating "We believe in a strong America." At the dinner HAC President Maximilian Teleki presented two special awards. The first honored László Bójtös for five decades of committed service and inspired leadership of the Hungarian American Community and the HAC. Next, Dr. Ágnes Fülemile was honored for her outstanding efforts that assured the success of the 2013 Smithsonian Folk Life Festival, titled "Hungarian Heritage—Roots to Revival," and her remarkable tenure as Director of the Hungarian Cultural Center in New York.



Gergely Pröhle

2012

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Tamás Fellegi, Former Minister of National Development of Hungary, President and CEO of the Hungary Initiatives Foundation

Coalition receives Abraham Lincoln Award from American Hungarian Foundation

In his keynote address, Dr. Fellegi stressed the importance of the Transatlantic Alliance and specifically the unwavering commitment of Hungary to the relationship with the U.S. and its people. He also announced the creation of a U.S.-based foundation whose mission will be to strengthen ties between Hungary and Hungarian-American communities. Specifically, its goal will be to establish a framework of cooperation, in effect, creating a kind of "outreach program" that would extend to the Hungarians of North America. Dr. Fellegi underscored that for the first time since the fall of communism, a Hungarian government is making an earnest effort to engage Hungarians worldwide.



Dr. Tamás Fellegi



Dr. Katalin Kádár Lynn



Ambassador Colleen Bell



Dr. Jeanette Gecsy Grasselli Brown



Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute Award accepted by Dr. László Brenzovics

Annual Gala Dinners

In 2005, the HAC began hosting an annual Gala Dinner to formally honor outstanding Hungarian Americans and friends of Hungary, as well as to expand community outreach and raise funds for the Elemér and Éva Kiss Scholarship Fund, the Bognár Family Hungarian Scholarship Fund, and the John N. Lauer Leadership Training Program (LTP). The Gala Dinners have been held at such elegant venues as the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, the National Museum of Women in the Arts, the Decatur House, the Cosmos Club and the House of Sweden, all in Washington, D.C.

LIST OF GALA DINNER HONOREES

2022: Special 30th Anniversary Celebration

Honorary Chairman: Dr. Charles Simonyi

Co-chairs: Ambassador György Habsburg, Governor George Pataki, Mrs. Edith K. Lauer

Held at the Cosmos Club, Washington, D.C., on October 26, 2022

2021 Honorees:

The Coalition's founding individual and organizational members

30th Anniversary Virtual Gala

Honorary Chairman: President of Hungary János Áder

Performances by opera singer Levente Molnár and the Béla Bartók Choir and Chamber Orchestra

Live gathering hosted by the Cleveland Hungarian Museum; other regional gatherings hosted by Coalition members in: Boston, MA and San Francisco, CA.

2020 Honoree: Dr. Katalin Kádár Lynn, founder of Helena History Press

Virtual Mikulas Gala

Honorary Chairman: President of Hungary János Áder

Performance by Kaláka

2019 Honoree: Ambassador Colleen Bell, former U.S. Ambassador to Hungary (2014–2017)

Honorary Chairman: President of Hungary János Áder

Co-chairs: Ambassador György Habsburg, Governor George Pataki, Mrs. Edith K. Lauer

Held at the House of Sweden, Washington, D.C., on May 2, 2019

2018 Honoree: Dr. Jeanette Gecsy Grasselli Brown and the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute, headed by Dr. Ildiko Orosz

Honorary Chairman: President of Hungary János Áder

Co-chairs: Ambassador György Habsburg, Governor George Pataki, Mrs. Edith K. Lauer

Held at the House of Sweden, Washington, D.C., on April 25, 2018

2017 Honoree: Ambassador April H. Foley, U.S. Ambassador to Hungary (2006–2009) and Chair of the Board of Trustees of The Hungary Initiatives Foundation (HIF)

Honorary Chairman: President of Hungary János Áder

Co-chairs: Governor George Pataki, Mrs. Edith K. Lauer, Mr. John N. Lauer

Held at the House of Sweden, Washington, D.C., on May 19, 2017

**2016 Honoree: János Martonyi,
Former Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs**

Honorary Chairman: President of Hungary János Áder

Co-chairs: Governor George Pataki, Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, Ambassador Richard Swett, Ambassador George H. Walker III

Held at the House of Sweden, Washington, D.C., on May 3, 2016

**2015 Honoree: J. Joe Adorjan, Honorary Consul General of Missouri and
Founder of the Hungarian-Missouri Educational Partnership (HMEP)**

Honorary Chairman: President of Hungary János Áder

Co-chairs: Ambassador George Herbert Walker III, Mr. Michael F. Neidorff

Held at the House of Sweden, Washington, D.C., on September 29, 2015

**2014 Honorees: Congressman Tom Lantos, Bishop László Tőkés and the
Hungarian Communion of Friends (Magyar Baráti Közösség)**

Gala Event began with Lyric Soprano Andrea Rost Concert at the Warner Theatre, Washington, D.C.

Honorary Chairman: President of Hungary János Áder

Co-chairs: Governor George E. Pataki, Ambassador George Herbert Walker III

Held at the House of Sweden, Washington, D.C., on May 29, 2014

**2013 Honorees: John N. Lauer and the Cleveland Hungarian
Heritage Society**

Co-chairs: Ambassador April H. Foley, Gov. George E. Pataki, Ambassador George H. Walker III, under the patronage of Dr. Tibor Navracsics, Deputy Prime Minister of Hungary

Held at the House of Sweden, Washington, D.C., on May 8, 2013

**2012 Honorees: Ambassador Nancy Brinker, former U.S. Ambassador to
Hungary (2001-2003) and the Hungarian Scout Association in Exteris
(KMCSSZ)**

Co-chairs: Ambassador George H. Walker III, Ambassador April Foley, Michael F. Neidorff

Held at the House of Sweden, Washington D.C., on May 8, 2012



János Martonyi



J. Joe Adorjan



Ambassador Nancy Brinker



John N. Lauer



Bishop László Tőkés



1) Mr. Tibor Purger, Ambassador Colleen Bell, Mrs. Csilla Grauzer and Mr. Max Teleki **2)** Ambassador Tibor P. Nagy, Ambassador April H. Foley and Mrs. Anna Smith Lacey **3)** Mrs. Zsuzsa Kárász Lipsky and Mr. John Lipsky **4)** University of Maryland Marching Band **5)** Ms. Luca Mórocz, Ms. Éva Lukonits, Ms. Noémi Bánhidi, Mrs. Dorottya Martonffy-Nagy, Mrs. Csilla Grauzer, Dr. Ágnes Virga, Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice and Mrs. Anna Smith Lacey **6)** Mr. Max Teleki, Ambassador Dr. Réka Szemerkényi, Ambassador April H. Foley, Ambassador Colleen Bell and Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice **7)** Mr. Ted Horvath, Dr. Jeanette Gecsy Grasselli Brown, Mr. George Pogan, Mrs. Sandy Pogan and Dr. Anne C. Bader **8)** Ambassador George H. Walker III, Mrs. Edith K. Lauer, Mrs. Gabriella Nádas, Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice, Mr. Max Teleki and Ambassador April H. Foley **9)** Mrs. Edith K. Lauer, Mrs. Georgianna Bőjtös, Mr. László Bőjtös, Mrs. Erika Bokor, Mr. Max Teleki, Dr. Péter Kovalszki, Dr. Péter Forgách and Dr. Marika Kovalszki **10)** Mrs. Anikó Gaál-Schott, Mr. István Teleki, Mrs. Beatriz Teleki **11)** Lauer Family: Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice, Mr. Charles Barton Rice Jr., Mr. John N. Lauer, Mrs. Edith K. Lauer, Mr. Robert Nagy and Mrs. Kriszta Lauer Nagy **12)** Ms. Sarolta Borzási, Ms. Flóra Bánhidi, Ms. Viktória Katona, Ms. Orsolya Lőrincz, Ms. Noémi Bánhidi and Ms. Melinda Szekeres

13) Mrs. Annette Tillemann-Dick, Mr. Max Teleki, Ambassador George H. Walker III, Mrs. Annette Lantos, Mr. László Hámos and Mrs. Katrina Lantos-Swett **14)** Mr. László Baksay, Ms. Zsófia Parragh, Ms. Éva Lukonits, Ambassador Dr. Réka Szemerényi, Ms. Borbála Péntek, Mr. Péter Gyombolai, Mrs. Eszter Gyombolai, Ms. Piros Pazaurek and Mr. Max Teleki **15)** Ambassador Nancy Brinker and Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice **16)** Mr. Csaba Gondola, Mr. Béla Gedeon, Dr. Mónika Varga, Ms. Piros Pazaurek, Ms. Emese Asztalos, Mr. Zsolt Szekeres, Mrs. Eszter Gyombolai and Mr. Péter Gyombolai **17)** Mr. László Fülöp, Governor George Pataki, Ambassador George H. Walker III, Ambassador April H. Foley, Ms. Éva Szabó, Mr. Max Teleki, Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice, Mr. Otto Friedrich, Representative Marcy Kaptur **18)** Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice, Mr. Zsolt Molnár, Mrs. Sandy Pogan, Mr. George Pogan, Mrs. Andrea Mészáros, Mr. Elemér Mészáros, Mr. János Szigeti, Mrs. Barb Szigeti, Mrs. Edith K. Lauer, Dr. Endre Szentkirályi and Mrs. Éva Szabó **19)** Mr. Zsolt Szekeres, Ambassador György Szapáry and Ambassador János Csák **20)** Ms. Mary Mochary, Bishop László Tőkés, Ms. Gabriella Lonkai and Mrs. Anikó Gaál-Schott **21)** Dr. Péter Forgách, Mrs. Susan Hutchison, Ambassador April H. Foley, Ambassador Colleen Bell, Mrs. Kathleen Forgách, Dr. Ivonn Szeverényi and Ambassador Dr. László Szabó **22)** Mr. Zsolt Szekeres, Dr. Jeanette Gecsy Grasselli Brown, Mrs. Susan Hutchison and Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice **23)** Governor George Pataki, Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice, Mrs. Susan Hutchison, Mr. Andy Hutchison and Mrs. Katica Avvakumovits **24)** Mrs. Edith K. Lauer, Dr. Rozália Rábai, Dr. János Martonyi and Mrs. Andrea Lauer Rice



HAC Community Initiatives

The Coalition is dedicated to supporting initiatives that further promote the interests of Hungarian Americans. These initiatives help to preserve Hungarian traditions and reinvigorate the diaspora by bringing together leaders from both the Hungarian American community and the Carpathian Basin.

Hungarian American Community Yearbook on 2020

In 2020, the HAC proudly announced the publication of an English-language Hungarian American Community Yearbook. This new initiative was a collaboration between the HAC and two of its member organizations: the American Hungarian Foundation and HungarianHub. The yearbook summarizes the unprecedented challenges of 2020 and how the Hungarian American community as a whole responded with new and innovative community activities and resources.

Overall, the book is divided into seven sections (Churches, Schools, Organizations, Community Houses, Cultural Initiatives and Honorary Consuls), and comprises reports from 72 organizations. The initiative was publicized for many months across the community in an attempt to reach as many people as possible, and submissions were open to anyone interested.

Saint Stephen of Hungary Pilgrimage

From 2016 to 2019, the HAC attended and co-sponsored a short pilgrimage to the Our Lady of Hungary Chapel around the Day of Saint Stephen, August 20th, in Washington D.C., which is followed by a traditional Hungarian picnic. In 2016, the pilgrimage was attended by Father Csaba Bőjte, a Franciscan monk and founder of the Children of Saint Francis Foundation of Déva (Romania).

Hungarian Picnic

The semi-annual Hungarian Picnic in Rock Creek Park in Washington D.C., is co-organized by HAC Board Member Enikő Molnár Basa. The goal of this event is to bring together Hungarian American residents, Hungarian students and young professionals in the Washington D.C., area twice a year for an afternoon of fun, food, music and networking. Leaders and interns of the Coalition, including Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice in 2019, have sponsored and attended this event multiple times to show their support.

Hungarian Charity Ball in the Washington D.C. Area

With close cooperation between the American Hungarian Federation (AHF), the American Hungarian Heritage House and the Hungarian Scouts of Washington, a Hungarian Charity Ball has been held yearly since 2005 in the U.S. capital to support educational and charitable programs both in the United States and throughout the Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin. Coalition leaders and interns have sponsored and attended this event multiple times to show their support.



Coalition interns attended Saint Stephen of Hungary Annual Charity Pilgrimage organized by the American Hungarian Heritage House on August 20, 2018.



Coalition intern Fruzsina Tőkés, Coalition President Emeritus Max Teleki, and Coalition Program Coordinator Noémi Bánhidi at the annual Hungarian Charity Ball on May 20, 2016.



Coalition VP Stefan Fedor, Coalition Program Coordinator Noémi Bánhidi, Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice and Coalition Board member Erika Fedor at the annual Hungarian Charity Ball, 2018.

Dedication of the Hungarian Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C.

HAC Chair Emerita Edith Lauer and Program Coordinator János Szekeres attended the dedication of the Hungarian Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in August 2015. The chapel was consecrated by Archbishop of Esztergom Cardinal Péter Erdő and Archbishop of Washington Cardinal Donald Wuerl in the presence of Speaker of the Hungarian National Assembly Dr. László Kövér and his delegation.

Re-opening of St. Emeric Catholic Church, Cleveland, OH

In 2012, the HAC joined the celebration of the Hungarian American community in Cleveland on the occasion of the St. Emeric Church's re-opening, after it had been closed since 2010 due to the decision of Bishop Lennon. In addition to the tireless efforts of Miklós and Ildikó Peller, HAC Treasurer Zsolt Szekeres and Ambassador György Habsburg liaised with the Vatican and worked towards preserving St. Emeric Church. A mass was celebrated on November 4, 2012, where HAC leaders and Cleveland-area community leaders and parishioners were all present.



Dedication ceremony of the Hungarian Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

The Hungarian Americans Together (HATOG) Conferences

The goal of the HATOG conferences has been to build a network of communication and collaboration among Hungarian organizations in the U.S. and to develop a strategy for saving and strengthening Hungarian institutions to promote Hungarian heritage, culture and mutual interests. Bringing organizational representatives together in various locations across the U.S. has proven to be an effective way to build good working relationships and help organizations and individuals within the Hungarian American community learn about each other's needs and programs and find ways to collaborate. HAC leaders have attended all of the workshops, and several HAC interns have facilitated the arrangements, presentations and follow-up reports.

Here are some highlights from past conferences between 2012–2022:

Daytona Beach, FL–Hungarian Summit

In May 2022, the Coalition partnered with HungarianHub to lead the community track at the Inaugural Hungarian Summit held in Daytona Beach, FL. The 3-day conference was an unprecedented gathering of Hungarian and American leaders in business, culture, sports, art, community and education. The Summit was created by Piros Pazaurek, founder of HungarianHub and Coalition Board member. The community track, led by Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice, was in many ways a continuation of the HATOG (Hungarian Americans TOgether) conference series, organized by the Coalition over the past 15 years.

Washington D.C.

The Hungarian Americans Together Conference X took place in the Washington D.C., area in May 2017. There were more than 60 attendees, representing 16 states and Hungary. The conference was co-organized by the American Hungarian Heritage House (AHHH), the Coalition, and The Hungary Initiatives Foundation (HIF), which provided funding for the conference. Members of the organizing committee included HAC President Andrea Lauer Rice, Founders of the American Hungarian Heritage House Stefan and Erika Fedor, and HIF Executive Director Anna Smith Lacey.



Sándor Krémer, HAC Chairman, 2012
Served as President of the Hungarian (Magyar) Club of Chicago and Hungarian Americans for Human Rights in Délvidék (HAHRD).



Participants of HATOG X at a lecture by Mrs. Anna Smith Lacey.



Dr. Ágnes Virga and Mrs. Edith K. Lauer at HATOG IX in Sarasota, FL.



HATOG VII draws representatives from 12 Southern states. Judith Trunkos (Professional Hungarian Athletes, South Carolina) presents at the Emory University Goizueta Business School (Atlanta, GA).

Sarasota & Venice, FL

In May 2015, the Hungarian Americans Together Conference IX was held in Sarasota and Venice, FL. Participants included more than 60 attendees from 10 states and Hungary. The conference was organized by the Hungarian Christian Society (HCS)/Petofi Club, and funding for the conference was provided by a generous grant from The Hungary Initiatives Foundation. Members of the organizing committee included President of the Global Friendship Foundation Erika Klatyik, Coalition Vice President Andrea Lauer Rice, Hungarian Christian Society President Noemi Szilagyi, Leader of the Napraforgok Folk Dance Music Camp Ottilia Varga, and Kossuth Club of Sarasota Leader Eva Kisvarsanyi.

Boston, MA

The Hungarian Americans Together Conference VIII was held in late September 2014 in Boston, MA. The conference, which was organized by the Hungarian Society of Massachusetts and the Honorary Consulate General of Hungary in Boston, with support from The Hungary Initiatives Foundation and the HAC, included more than 70 participants, representing 17 states and Hungary. Funding for the conference was provided by a generous grant from The Hungary Initiatives Foundation, and members of the organizing committee included Dr. Agnes Virga, Honorary Consul Gabor Garai and HAC Vice President Andrea Lauer Rice.

Atlanta, GA

In September of the same year, Southeastern members of the Coalition under the leadership of Vice President Andrea Lauer Rice organized the Hungarian Americans Together Conference VII in Atlanta, GA. The 60 participants represented 36 organizations, 12 states, and Hungary. The conference was cosponsored by the Hungary Initiatives Foundation, and participating local organizations included the Atlanta Hungarian Meetup and Honorary Consul John Parkerson.

San Francisco, CA

In early March 2013, West Coast members of the Coalition in concert with the Honorary Consulate General of Hungary in San Francisco organized the Hungarian Americans Together Conference VI. The 73 attendees represented 29 organizations, six states, and Hungary. Among the participating organizations were the Hungarian Catholic Mission, Woodside Priory and the Free Magyar Reformed Church of San Francisco and Vicinity, and the organizing committee included Honorary Consul Eva Voisin, Katalin Voros, Geza Kadar and Helen Szablya.



HATOG VIII participants at Boston, MA .

Dr. Charles Simonyi: Donor Impact



Technology pioneer, successful entrepreneur, dedicated philanthropist and astronaut are all terms which characterize the highly accomplished and multi-faceted Dr. Charles Simonyi.

Born in Budapest, Hungary in 1948, Simonyi's interest in computers began in high school, when he assisted an engineer working on one of only five computers in Hungary, a Russian-made Ural II. In 1967, he moved to the U.S. to study at the University of California at Berkeley, where he received his B.S. in engineering mathematics in 1972. In 1977, he completed his doctorate in computer science from Stanford University.

From 1972 to 1980, Simonyi worked at Xerox Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), the flagship research division of the Xerox Corporation, a hotbed of outstanding minds in the 1970s and incubator of many elements of modern computing. At Xerox PARC, he created the first WYSIWYG (what-you-see-is-what-you-get) text editor called Bravo.

In 1981, Simonyi joined Microsoft Corporation where he held the titles of Director of Application Development, Chief Architect and Distinguished Engineer. He oversaw the development of what became the company's most profitable products, Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel, and introduced techniques and methods developed at PARC, including "Hungarian notation" naming conventions memorable by the strings of unpronounceable consonants that resemble his consonant-rich native tongue. Simonyi was a key player at Microsoft during its meteoric rise in the software industry, becoming one of its highest-ranking developers. He left Microsoft in August 2002 to found Intentional Software Corporation, a software engineering company, with fellow Hungarian Gregor Kiczales.

"We have been gratified to fund the Hungarian American Coalition's Congressional Internship program, which brings outstanding young people—Hungary's future leaders—to learn and study American policy in Washington D.C. The Coalition has provided expert advisory and management services and thorough oversight for our philanthropic grants to Hungarian institutions... the Coalition's thorough knowledge of how things work in Hungary has been invaluable in helping us deliver successful projects."

—Dr. Charles Simonyi

In 2003, he established the Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences, led by Executive Director Susan Hutchison, to support arts organizations, science programs and educational institutions. Through this fund, Dr. Simonyi has partnered with the Coalition on a number of projects. Since its inception in 2005–2012, he funded the Congressional Internship Program. Dr. Simonyi worked with the Coalition to award research scholarships, and annual awards for excellence in physical sciences and technical education in Hungary from 2000–2009. Several grants to the Coalition have funded special projects, such as the rebuilding of the Town Hall of Vámosújfalú in 2001, the restoration of the 100-year-old lecture hall at Semmelweis University in Budapest in 2010. The organization was later renamed the Charles and Lisa Simonyi Fund for the Arts and Sciences.

In 2007, Simonyi became the fifth private individual to travel into space to the International Space Station. In 2009, he made a second trip.



Dr. Ágnes Virga, HAC Chairman, 2017-2019

Served as President of the Hungarian Society of Massachusetts. Vice President of the Hungarian Medical Association of America (HMAA). Awarded the Golden Cross of Merit of the Republic of Hungary.

Hungarian Diaspora Council and Hungarian Standing Conference

Since 2010 the Hungarian government's diaspora policies have undergone an unprecedented period of change and strengthening. One important step was the creation of the Hungarian Diaspora Council in 2011, which provides a forum of dialogue for representatives of the diaspora and representatives of the Hungarian government. The Hungarian Standing Conference (MÁÉRT) is a forum for regular consultations with the leaders of the Hungarian minorities within the Carpathian basin that began in 1999. Their major objective is to provide leaders from Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin and Hungarian diaspora organizations an opportunity to communicate and share experiences with each other and the Hungarian government.

Lauer Rice Elected U.S. President of the Hungarian Diaspora Council

In 2019, Andrea Lauer Rice, President of the Coalition, was elected U.S. President of the Hungarian Diaspora Council by her peers at the Hungarian Diaspora Council meeting in Budapest. She is the second U.S. President, succeeding László Hámos, President of the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation, who served as U.S. President from its inception in 2011 until his untimely death in 2018.

It has been a true honor to represent our diverse and talented Hungarian American community to Hungary. In many ways, it is an extension of my work with the Coalition, finding ways to highlight, strengthen and support projects within the Hungarian American community and build bridges to Hungary and the Carpathian Basin.



Dr. László Brenzovics and Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice at the Hungarian Standing Conference (MÁÉRT) on November 15, 2019.

In 2020, in her first year as the U.S. President of the Hungarian Diaspora Council, Lauer Rice developed a number of new approaches to address changes in community work as everyone battled the pandemic. She hosted monthly community update calls in both English and Hungarian with more than 50 community leaders to keep everyone informed and unified. She gave welcoming remarks at many virtual events: the first virtual American Hungarian Schools Association (AMIT) conference; the Hungarian (Magyar) Club of Chicago's Gala Ball; the Minnesota Hungarians' 1956 Commemoration; the Hungarian Heritage Foundation of Southern California's 100th Trianon Remembrance program; the Hungarian American Cultural Association's (HACA) Monthly Happy Hour; the Hungarian Communion of Friend's Itt Ott; the American Hungarian Foundation's 1956 Commemoration; virtual theatre sessions organized by member organizations HungarianHub and the Hungarian House of New York; and a three-part series on Trianon organized by the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society.



Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Zsolt Semjén, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, Secretary of State for National Policy Árpád János Potápi, and Ministerial Commissioner responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Péter Szilágyi at the 9th Annual Diaspora Council meeting on November 14, 2019.

Below are some highlights of the Coalition's Involvement:

2022 The annual Diaspora Council meeting was decreased in size from approximately 100 global representatives to allowing only one representative per country, while the other representatives joined online. As representative for the Hungarian American community, Andrea Lauer Rice prepared a 6-minute compilation video of activities from across the U.S. and presented it to those in person and online.

2020 Attended the virtual 10th Annual Diaspora Council meeting on November 26, 2020. The Coalition was represented by U.S. President of the Diaspora Council and HAC President Andrea Lauer Rice, who delivered a five-minute speech about the Hungarian-American community's past year. Several other Coalition members were present: Zsolt Szekeres, Hungarian Human Rights Foundation; Eva Beluska, Metroplex Hungarian Cultural Circle; Endre Szentkirályi, United Hungarian Societies in Cleveland; Hajnal Minger, Hungarian Communion of Friends; Ildikó Nagy, Hungarian House of New York; Csilla Grauzer, Minnesota Hungarians; Livia Rác, Hungarian Society of Massachusetts; and Stefan Fedor, American Hungarian Heritage House. Earlier the same day, Lauer Rice and the other regional presidents were invited to attend the virtual Hungarian Standing Conference (MÁÉRT) to meet Hungarians from all over the world and representatives of Hungarian political parties.

2019 Attended the 9th Annual Diaspora Council meeting on November 14, 2019, in Budapest at the Hungarian Castle Gardens. More than 90 leaders and representatives of organizations from 32 countries participated, including 18 Hungarian American attendees, many of which were Coalition members.

Andrea Lauer Rice, President of the Coalition, was elected U.S. President of the Diaspora Council for a two-year term. The day after the Diaspora Council meeting, on November 15, 2019, Andrea Lauer Rice and the other regional presidents attended the Hungarian Standing Conference (MÁÉRT) to meet Hungarians from all over the world and representatives of all Hungarian political parties.

2018 Attended the 8th Annual Diaspora Council meeting on November 15, 2018, in Budapest at the Hungarian Castle Gardens. More than 70 leaders and representatives of organizations from around the world participated, including over 20 Hungarian American attendees, many of which were Coalition members. The Coalition was represented by Andrea Lauer Rice.

2017 Attended the 7th Annual Diaspora Council meeting on November 9, 2017, in Budapest at the Hungarian Castle Gardens. More than 70 leaders and representatives of organizations from around the world participated, including over 25 Hungarian American attendees, many of which were Coalition members. The Coalition was represented by President Andrea Lauer Rice.

2016 Attended the 6th Annual Diaspora Council meeting on November 30, 2016, in Budapest at the Hungarian Castle Gardens. More than 70 leaders and representatives of organizations from around the world participated, including over 25 Hungarian American attendees, many of which were HAC members. HAC was represented by HAC Chairman of the Board Éva E. Voisin.

2015 Attended the 5th Annual Diaspora Council meeting on December 2, 2015, in Budapest at the Hungarian Castle Gardens. More than 70 leaders and representatives of organizations from around the world participated, including over 25 Hungarian American attendees, many of which were Coalition members. The Coalition was represented by Coalition Board Member Péter Kovalszki.

2014 Attended the 4th Annual Diaspora Council meeting on November 19, 2014, at the Hungarian Parliament. The Coalition was represented by Chair Emerita Edith Lauer.

2013 Attended the 3rd annual Diaspora Council meeting on November 6, 2013, at the Hungarian Parliament.

2012 Attended the 2nd annual Diaspora Council meeting at the Hungarian Parliament.



Dr. Endre Szentkirályi, HAC Chairman, 2022-2023
President of the United Hungarian Societies, Cleveland-based umbrella organization. Avid Scout leader, Hungarian teacher at Cleveland State University and author of many books. Awarded Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary.



Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice with President János Áder at the Hungarian Standing Conference (MÁÉRT) on November 15, 2019.



Csilla Grauzer, HAC Chairman, 2020-2021

President of Minnesota Hungarians. Honorary Consul of Hungary in Minneapolis, MN. Founder and CEO of Creative Cultural Exchange and the award-winning WeCARE project. Awarded Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary.



Ms. Dorottya Mártonffy-Nagy, Mr. Péter Gyombolai, Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice and Dr. Katalin Szili at the Fourth Regional Diaspora Meeting at the Embassy of Hungary in Washington, D.C. on March 16, 2019

2011 Participated in the founding meeting of the Hungarian Diaspora Council organized by the Hungarian government in Budapest. HHRF President László Hámos was elected President U.S. President of the Diaspora Council.

2011 Participated in the Eleventh Hungarian Standing Conference (MÁÉRT), held in the Hungarian Parliament, and the Sub-Committee of the Diaspora Committee of the Hungarian Standing Conference (MÁÉRT), organized by the Ministry of Public Administration and Justice of Hungary, in Budapest. Zsolt Szekeres was requested to write a draft strategy for harnessing the potential of Hungarians living in the diaspora to develop Hungary's economic relations world-wide. The document was circulated among the members of the Sub-Committee.

Regional Diaspora Meetings

Since 2016, Regional Diaspora Meetings have been held in different Consular Districts across the U.S., organized by the Hungarian Embassy and Consulates. Hungarian American organizations participate in day-long discussions on projects, challenges and shaping the future of the Hungarian diaspora in the U.S. Here are some highlights from past meetings in which HAC members participated:

2019 Attended Regional Diaspora Meetings in both Washington D.C., and Cleveland, OH, in March 2019. In D.C., Special Commissioner to the Prime Minister of Hungary Katalin Szili spoke about the importance of autonomy for Hungarians living in minority in the Carpathian Basin, as well as the critical link between Hungarians living in the diaspora and those living as ethnic minorities. Approximately 40 Hungarian American community leaders attended the conference, including HAC President Andrea Lauer Rice, Vice President Stefan Fedor, and other HAC members. Károly Pánczél, member of the National Assembly (MP) for Ráckeve (Pest County Constituency XIII), attended the Cleveland meeting with about 25 leaders from across Ohio, including HAC Chair Emerita Edith K Lauer and then Vice President Endre Szentkirályi.

2018 Attended the Third Regional Diaspora Meeting on May 19, 2018, hosted by Ambassador Dr. László Szabó at the Embassy of Hungary in Washington D.C. Approximately 40 Hungarian American community leaders attended the conference, representing organizations based in the South and the Washington D.C., area. After the meeting, HAC President Andrea Lauer Rice attended the annual Hungarian Charity Ball, organized by the American Hungarian Heritage House, a Coalition member organization.

2017 Attended the Second Regional Diaspora Meeting on March 11, 2017, hosted by Ambassador Réka Szemerkényi at the Embassy of Hungary in Washington D.C. Approximately 40 Hungarian-American community leaders attended the conference, representing organizations based in the South and the Washington D.C., area.

2016 Attended the First Regional Diaspora Meeting on November 4, 2016, hosted by Ambassador Réka Szemerkényi at the Embassy of Hungary in Washington D.C. This meeting was convened for Hungarian Diaspora organizations that belong to the Washington D.C., consular district.



Participants of the Third Regional Diaspora Meeting in front of the Embassy of Hungary and the 1956 'Budapest Lad' (Pesti Srác) statue on May 19, 2018.

John N. & Edith K. Lauer: Donor Impact

(† John N. Lauer—February 19, 1942–February 21, 2018)



Edith K. Lauer fled Hungary with her family in 1956 after she witnessed the Hungarian Revolution and settled in Silver Spring, MD. John N. Lauer grew up in Hyattsville, MD. They met at University of Maryland and married soon after. John received a B.S. degree in chemical engineering from the University of Maryland, College Park, and an MBA from Texas A&M University, Kingsville, TX. Edith earned B.S. and M.A. degrees in English and Spanish from Texas A&M. Together, they had two daughters, Kriszta and Andrea and two grandsons, Miklos and Janoska.

John had a long and distinguished business career. From 2005–2013, he served as non-executive Chairman of the Board for Diebold, Inc. He is former Chairman, President and CEO of Oglebay Norton Company, Cleveland, OH. Prior to Oglebay, Lauer served as President and COO of the B.F. Goodrich Company. He began his career at Celanese Corp. and was a top executive in 1987 when it was bought by the German Hoechst Company.

John and Edith were first introduced to the Hungarian American community in the mid-1980s, when they worked with László Hámos and Zsolt Szekeres to create a historically successful fundraiser with Barron Thyssen Bornemissza for the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation. In 1991, after the Iron Curtain fell and democracy returned to her homeland, Edith helped found the Hungarian American Coalition. From its inception, they were avid supporters. Over the years, Edith served as President, Chairman and eventually Chair Emerita, spearheading many major Coalition initiatives: such as NATO Advocacy, human rights advocacy programs across the Carpathian Basin and the Coalition's scholarship and internship programs.

"Since the Coalition's founding, I have been an avid and enthusiastic supporter of the mission and many of the excellent projects of this organization. With interest and pride, I have encouraged the efforts of my wife Edith and daughter Andrea as they have actively participated in HAC's many accomplishments, which have positively changed numerous lives in the Carpathian Basin, in the Hungarian American community, and, on occasion, have been able to inform government policies and direction. The Coalition's success has been the best possible return on investment!"

—John N. Lauer

The Lauer Family's Pannonius Foundation was created and supported such projects as the "Godparents' Program" for the Reformed Kollégium of Kolozsvár, Madách Posonium Publishers and the Posonium Literary Awards in Slovakia, which they presented for 10 years.

John accompanied Edith on dozens of trips throughout the region, especially to Transylvania, Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca). Through the "Godchildren" program, the Lauers sponsored dozens of students and even provided partial university scholarships to help them complete their degrees. They also traveled often to Pozsony (Bratislava), Slovakia, to visit Laszlo and Eva Dobos and Madách Publishers, where they awarded for ten years, the annual Posonium Literary Awards to Hungarian authors.

John was recognized in 2014 with the Hungarian American Coalition Award. Edith has been presented with multiple awards for her work over the years in the Hungarian community, including the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit from the Republic of Hungary. The Lauers have been some of the most active and generous supporters of the Coalition since its founding in 1991. Sadly, John passed away in 2018, but Edith's generous support of the Coalition and scholarship programs continues. She also serves on the Boards of the Hungary Foundation and Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation.

Honors & Awards Presented to Coalition and Members

The Coalition is proud to honor its members who have received awards from the Hungarian government:



Ambassador Szabolcs Takács, Mr. Gabe Rozsa, Mrs. Éva Galvácsy Kovács, Mrs. Enikő Molnár Basa and Matthew G. Boyse, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs on March 8, 2021 at the Kossuth House in Washington D.C.

2021 HAC President Andrea Lauer Rice and Board member Imre Lendvai-Lintner, President of the Hungarian Scout Association in Exeter were awarded by the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit (Magyar Köztársasági Érdemrend tisztikeresztje), while Dr. Péter Kovalszki, President of the Hungarian Communion of Friends was honored with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit (Magyar Köztársasági Érdemrend lovagkeresztje). HAC Vice President Dr. Ágnes Virga, Head of the Neurology Department at Emerson Hospital Concord and former President of the Hungarian Society of Massachusetts was awarded the Golden Cross of the Order of Merit (Magyar Arany Érdemkereszt) in recognition of her outstanding service to the Hungarian-American community. Lauer Rice was presented her award by Ambassador Szabolcs Takács and the Hon. Zsolt Németh on behalf of President of Hungary János Áder at the HAC's 30th Annual Mikulás Dinner.

2020 Mrs. Enikő Molnár Basa, Coalition Board member, Hungarian American literary historian, Executive Director of the American Hungarian Educators Association (AHEA), and external member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences was honored with a Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit (Magyar Érdemrend Lovagkeresztje). Mrs. Éva Galvácsy Kovács, leader and representative of HAC member organization St. Stephen of Hungary Catholic Community Washington, D.C., and Vicinity was honored with a Golden Cross of Merit (Magyar Arany Érdemkereszt). Their awards were presented at the Kossuth House in Washington, D.C., by Ambassador Szabolcs Takács on behalf of President of Hungary János Áder.

Dr. Erika Bokor and Mr. József Megyeri, HAC board members, were honored with a Silver Cross of Merit and Golden Cross of Merit (Magyar Ezüst Érdemkereszt; Magyar Arany Érdemkereszt), respectively, for their life-long commitment to sharing Hungarian culture.

2019 Katalin Pearman, Coalition Board member and Honorary Consul of Hungary for Washington, Oregon and Idaho was honored with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit (Magyar Érdemrend Lovagkeresztje) in recognition of her decades of dedicated service for the Hungarian community in Seattle. The award was presented by Consul General of Hungary from Los Angeles Tamás Széles on behalf of President of Hungary János Áder at the Honorary Consulate of Hungary in Seattle, WA.

2017 Mr. and Mrs. Stefan and Erika Fedor, HAC board members and founders of the American Hungarian Heritage House, were honored with the Gold Cross Merit of Hungary (Magyar Arany Érdemkereszt). The award was presented by Ambassador of Hungary to the United States Dr. László Szabó on behalf of President of Hungary Dr. János Áder at the new building of the Embassy of Hungary in Washington, D.C., in recognition of their selfless support for educational, cultural, and personal bonds underpinning Hungarian communities across the U.S.

2016 Dr. Balázs Somogyi, HAC board member and founder of the Hungarian Cultural Society of Connecticut, was honored with the Middle Cross of the Order of Merit.



Erika Bokor and József Megyeri receiving their Hungarian Government Awards from Dr. Zita Bencsik, Consul General of Chicago. Photo courtesy: Hungarian (Magyar) Club of Chicago.

Ms. Csilla Grauzer, HAC board member and Honorary Consul of Hungary in Minnesota, was honored with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit. The award was presented by Consul General of Chicago Dr. Ferenc Szabényi on behalf of President of Hungary Dr. János Áder at the first MIDWEST Regional Diaspora Meeting held at the Consulate General of Hungary in Chicago. Csilla Grauzer was honored in recognition of her outstanding service to Hungarian culture, the preservation of Hungarian identity throughout Minnesota, and her dedication to various humanitarian initiatives.

Coalition Receives Friends of Hungary Award

The Coalition received the "Friends of Hungary Award" at the 8th annual conference of the Friends of Hungary Foundation, held September 16–18 in Budapest. On behalf of the Coalition, President Andrea Lauer Rice accepted the award during the Gala at Pesti Vigadó, held Friday, September 16. The Friend of Hungary Award recognizes the outstanding work of individuals and organizations in the worldwide Hungarian community. Recipients have invested significant time and effort in strengthening Hungarian diaspora communities and improving Hungary's ties to its diaspora.

Other recipients of this year's award were Dr. Zsuzsa Papp Aykler, President of the Rákóczi Foundation of Canada (also a Coalition member), and the late János Miska who was recognized posthumously for his achievements as Founder of the Canadian Hungarian Literary Archive and the János Miska Foundation. Several Coalition members were in attendance: Piros Pazaurek, Réka Pigniczky, Dr Katalin Kádár Lynn, Zsolt Szekeres and Katica Avvakumovits. Lauer Rice also presented Hungarian President Katalin Novák with a maquette of the 1956 Freedom Fighter Statue to be unveiled in Atlanta, GA.

Coalition Receives Abraham Lincoln Award from American Hungarian Foundation

Executive Director of the American Hungarian Foundation Gergely Hajdu-Németh presented the prestigious Abraham Lincoln Award to the HAC in recognition of its two decades of work on behalf of Hungarian–American relations in the areas of culture, education and support to minority communities in the Carpathian basin.



Dr. Ferenc Szabényi, Consul General of Chicago and Ms. Csilla Grauzer at the first MIDWEST Regional Diaspora Meeting (Chicago, IL) on October 1, 2016. Photo Courtesy: Bocskai Rádió



Gergely Hajdu Nemeth, President of American Hungarian Foundation presents Coalition leaders with the Abraham Lincoln Award.



Coalition members with Foundation President Dr. Sylvester Vizi E. and Coalition President Andrea Lauer Rice (holding the Friend of Hungary award).

THE COALITION IN FACTS & FIGURES

Over the past decade, the Hungarian America Coalition has raised more than \$3.8 million to run impactful program, provide scholarships, disburse humanitarian assistance and help achieve our objectives across Education & Culture, Information & Advocacy and Hungarian American Community Affairs.

Coalition Board Members

On the preceding pages, we introduced short profiles of our current Board officers as well as our rotating Chairman. In 2002, the Coalition made the decision to introduce Rotating Chairs, to provide leaders of our organizational members the opportunity to Chair the Coalition for a year and bring their insights to the organization's leadership.

The following is a list of our current Individual Board Members, followed by our Organizational; Board Members.

Current Individual Board Members

Anne C. Bader (1995—present)

Founder, CEO, The International Cybersecurity Dialogue, Visiting Program Director at Wilton Park Conference Centre, Principal at Bader Resources, LLC.

Dr. Péter W. Forgách (2008—present)

See Chairman profile on page 27

Csilla Grauzer, Vice President (2013—present)

See Chairman profile on page 56

Geza Kadar, Jr., Legal Counsel (1991—present)

Legal Counsel, founding Member of Coalition.

Dr. Péter Kovalszki (2000—present)

See Chairman profile on page 21

Edith K. Lauer, Chair Emerita (1991—present)

See Donor Profile on page 57

Andrea Lauer Rice, President (2003—present)

Co-founder of award-winning Memory Project, author of books and multimedia exhibits about 1956 Hungarian Revolution, U.S. President of Hungarian Diaspora Council, Board member of Kossuth Foundation, received the Officer's Cross of the Order of the Merit of Hungary.

Leslie L. Megyeri (2007—present)

Board Member of Central and East European Coalition, American Hungarian Foundation Award recipient, 1956 Freedom Fighter. Received the Officer's Cross of the Order of the Merit of Hungary.

Enikő Molnár Basa (2016—present)

Founder of the American Hungarian Educators Association, Awarded the Arany János Medal from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, and the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary.

George J. Pogan, Secretary (1995—present)

Established Cleveland-Miskolc Sister City relationship, Board and Executive Committee of the Bethlen Communities in Ligonier, PA. Coordinator of Hungarian Night at the Chagrin Documentary Film Fest.

Tibor Purger (2010—present)

Director of Information Technology at Rutgers Univ. For 16 years, he worked as a Washington-based producer and correspondent of Duna TV, Radion Free Europe and Magyar Szo daily in Vojvodina, Serbia.

Zsolt Szekeres, Treasurer (1991—present)

President of the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation (HHRF), Board Member at Kossuth Foundation, the Carpathian Foundation based in Eger, Hungary and Pro Ruris Egyesület, Mezőmadaras, Romania. Received the Officer's Cross of the Order of the Merit of Hungary.

Dr. Endre Szentkirályi, Chairman (2013—present)

See Chairman profile on page 55

Maximilian N. Teleki, President Emeritus (2001—present)

Served as Coalition President from 2004 to 2016. Received the Officer's Cross of the Order of the Merit of the Republic of Hungary. Graduate of HAC's White House Internship Program.

Julius Várallyay, Vice President (2000—present)

1956 Student Association in Cambridge, MA, formed National Student Association to hold conferences to raise awareness about the revolution, President of Union of Free Hungarian Students, working in Geneva, author of several books.

Ms. Emese Varga (2022—present)

Co-founded Béla Bartok Hungarian School of Boston (Boskola), leader of Hungarian Society of Massachusetts, organizes annual Boston Hungarian Heritage Day.

Dr. Ágnes Virga, Vice President (2011—present)

See Chairman profile on page 54

Dr. Eva Voisin (2001—present)

See Chairman profile on page 34

Organizations

American Hungarian Catholic Clergy Association—Apostolate to Hungarians (Fr. Barnabás G. Kiss, OFM)

The American Hungarian Catholic Clergy Association, established in 1974, provides its members with the opportunity for fellowship and cooperation, while identifying the goals of Hungarian pastoral work and enabling the Hungarian clergy in the U.S. to remain faithful to their language and religious traditions. (1991-present)

American Hungarian Foundation (Melissa Katkó Pepin) Founded in 1954, the American Hungarian Foundation is devoted to furthering the understanding and appreciation of the Hungarian cultural and historical heritage in the United States. The Foundation serves as a bridge between Hungarian and American cultural traditions in an effort to enhance a better understanding of the contributions of each. Its extensive Museum and Library are housed in a redesigned bakery in New Brunswick. Its exhibits and frequent programs provide an insight into the finest traditions of Hungarian culture and art. (1991–93, 2006–present)

Calvin Synod of the United Church of Christ (Rev. Dr. Csaba Krasznai) Organized in 1939 as a Synod of the Evangelical and Reformed Church the Calvin Synod contains 41 congregations that constitute 4 classes (Eastern, Central, Lakeside and Western). The Eastern Classis was organized in 1896 and is considered to be the oldest Hungarian Reformed Church entity outside of Hungary. In addition to serving its parishioners' spiritual needs, the Synod provides extensive financial assistance to churches and educational institutions in Hungary and the Carpathian Basin. (1991-present)

Civic Enterprises, Budapest (Márton Aichelburg) The first programs established by Civic Enterprises are their Senior Mentor Programs in Hungary and Slovakia. They match volunteers age 55 and over to tutor and mentor elementary school students struggling to learn to read. These programs boost student academic performance, help schools become more successful and establish close bonds between tutors and students. (2014-present)

Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society (Eva Suzanne Szabo) Founded in 1985, the mission of the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society is to preserve Hungarian culture and the history of Hungarians in Northeast Ohio, so that present and future generations can draw upon its collection for education, inspiration and enrichment. Its Museum in downtown Cleveland houses both permanent and temporary exhibits. It provides educational programs and the opportunity for research in its excellent library, and it operates a Gift Shop filled with Hungarian books, collectibles and gift items. (2001-present)

Hungarian (Magyar) Club of Chicago (Andrea Stetz) Established 100 years ago, the Hungarian Club of Chicago is one of the strongest Hungarian American organizations in the Midwest. The Club promotes Hungarian traditions and culture; it celebrates Hungarian national holidays; participates in and supports Hungarian churches and other organizations in Chicago. One of the most important permanent charitable activities of the Club is its own Scholarship Program, which is the only financial support organization for educational purposes aimed at American Hungarian undergraduate and graduate students in the entire Midwest region. (1994-present)

Hungarian Communion of Friends (Dr. Erika Bokor) Established in 1967, the Hungarian Communion of Friends (Magyar Baráti Közösség) is the organization known for its annual, week-long conference, Itt Ott (Here and There), held at Lake Hope State Park in Ohio. Before 1990, it provided a much-needed forum for famous writers and opposition politicians from Hungary and the neighboring countries. Its annual publication, entitled Itt-Ott, provides a public forum for various topics, including the content of the year's conference and questions related to Hungarians living outside the borders of Hungary. The organization has also funded scholarships and various projects in Hungarian inhabited areas of Romania and the neighboring countries. (1991-present)



Hungarian (Magyar) Club of Chicago



Hungarian Scout Association in Exteris

HungarianHub (Piros Pazaurek) HungarianHub founder Piros Pazaurek's mission is to maintain the unity of the Hungarian community and to preserve strong intellectual values. She believes in the power of quality events that strengthen not only the Hungarian community's identity, but also helps to deepen the positive image of Hungarians at a local level. HungarianHub.com is a resource to further the collaboration and investment between Hungary and the U.S., and it aims to promote cultural appreciation and economic growth. (2019-present)

Hungarian Human Rights Foundation (Emese Latkóczy) Since 1976, the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation (HHRF) has been monitoring the human rights condition of the nearly three million Hungarians who live as minorities in the countries surrounding Hungary. In accordance with its purpose, HHRF regularly collects, translates, analyzes and disseminates reliable reports on the human rights conditions of these Hungarian minority communities. HHRF has an extensive internship program and has offices in Brussels, Budapest and Kolozsvár (Cluj-Napoca), Romania. (1991-present)

Hungarian Scout Association in Exteris (Irén Dala) The Hungarian Scouts trace their origins to 1946, when a few dedicated scout leaders, refugees from war-torn Hungary, formed the first exile troops among the children in European refugee camps. With the ensuing emigration, the movement spread overseas and today counts a total of 5,049 members (boys, girls and adults) registered in 81 active troops in Western Europe, North and South America, and Australia. The goal of the Association has been to preserve and pass on to the scouts Hungarian culture and language while practicing the historically high standards of Hungarian scouting, and to represent Hungary in world scouting. (1991-present)

Hungarian Society of Massachusetts (János Perge) Founded in 1964, the Hungarian Society of Massachusetts, Inc. is a non-profit, cultural organization that disassociates itself from partisan politics. Membership is open to individuals of all ideologies, religions and ethnic backgrounds who abide by the Society's by-laws, and who desire to foster the Hungarian language and culture. In the mid-1960's the Society established a weekend school where volunteers taught 20–30 Hungarian children to read and write in Hungarian. In 2000, the school was reestablished as the Béla Bartók Hungarian School of Boston (Boskola), who are often also members of the Society's sizeable Scout troop. (2011-present)

Kossuth Foundation (Dr. Sándor Végh) The mission of the Foundation is to, "foster diversity in American society and honor the presence of Hungarian Americans in it by maintaining and encouraging the language, heritage, religious traditions, and historical culture of Hungarians in America and the appreciation thereof." (2012-present)

Minnesota Hungarians (Csilla Grauzer) The mission of Minnesota Hungarians is to nurture the Hungarian cultural heritage of its members; to represent it in American society and academia; to participate in the activities of other Hungarian-American organizations; and to organize Hungarian cultural and social programs. The group often welcomes Hungarian visitors and newcomers to Minnesota and assists them with local information and services. They also help Hungarian groups and individuals with their needs, and facilitate exchange programs of professionals with Hungary. Their charitable programs include scholarships and other assistance to Hungarian students in the Carpathian Basin. (1992-present)

Seattle-Pécs Sister Cities Association/Hungarian American Association of Washington (Dániel Takács) The Seattle-Pécs Sister Cities Association was founded in 1991, and is composed of individuals and organizations interested in promoting close ties between the people of Seattle, Washington State, and Pécs, Hungary. Its goals are to advance educational, cultural and commercial relations between both cities, and inform and educate the public about their sister city. The Hungarian American Association of Washington is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving Hungarian heritage and to creating

better understanding and appreciation of the Hungarian culture in the community. Founded in 1984, the Association serves people of Hungarian descent and those interested in Hungarian culture with educational and social events. (1996-present)

The Bethlen Communities The Bethlen Communities in Ligonier, Pennsylvania, is one of the oldest Hungarian organizations to have joined the Hungarian American Coalition. Founded in 1921 as a residence for orphans, it evolved into a home for the aged, with a capacity of over 100 beds and twenty retirement cottages. The Bethlen Home is a church-related, nonprofit subsidiary of the Hungarian Reformed Federation of America. (1991-present)

William Penn Association (Richard E. Sarosi) WPA, founded 125 years ago, is a Hungarian-American Fraternal Benefit Society serving the Hungarian American community. The Association operates on a non-profit basis providing life insurance and annuities to its members. The Association conducts fraternal and charitable activities for the benefit of their membership, including awarding a large number of Univ. scholarships to the children of policyholders. WPA has a distinguished record of promoting Hungarian cultural heritage in the U.S. by assisting Hungarian American organizations with their various projects and programs. (2006-present)

The Coalition's current organizational members who are not members of the Board:

American Hungarian Library and Historical Society The American Hungarian Library and Historical Society, established in 1955 is one of the oldest Hungarian cultural institutions and one of the owners of the Hungarian House in New York City. The mission of the American Hungarian Library and Historical Society is to promote interest in and knowledge of Hungary, to gather and preserve books and material with historical value and make them available to the public. We also strive to be a center of Hungarian cultural programs, specifically art and literature, in New York City. (2023-present)

Béla Bartók Hungarian School of Boston (Boskola) The Béla Bartók Hungarian School of Boston (Boskola) was established in 2000 by enthusiastic parents from the Boston area. Its mission is to enrich Hungarian language skills and cultural appreciation of children between the ages of 3 and 18. Parents and Scout leaders volunteer as Boskola teachers and staff. Since its founding, the number of Boskola classes and students have grown consistently. In recent years, between 50 and 60 families with 80–90 students have regularly attended the sessions, studying in different groups according to their age and language level. (2010-present)

Carpathian Foundation—Hungary The mission of the Carpathian Foundation—Hungary is to improve the quality of life of people living in the Carpathian Euro-region, and to preserve the social, ethnic, cultural and environmental values and sustainable development of the region. The Foundation acts as a cross-border regional community foundation and primarily provides financial and technical assistance to NGOs and LSGs (local-self-governments) operating in the Hungarian part of the Carpathian Euroregion (Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén, Hajdú-Bihar, Heves, Jász-Nagykun-Szolnok, and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg counties). (2014-present)

Creative Cultural Exchange Inc. Creative Cultural Exchange, Inc. (CCE) a 501(c) organization committed to promoting innovative cross-cultural dialogue, collaboration and development between the United States, Hungary and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe. CCE's goal is to foster a deeper understanding of our diverse cultures while highlighting our shared humanity. (2018-present)

Hungarian Association This cultural organization, founded in 1952, has held its traditional Congress in Cleveland, OH each November since 1961. The 4-day meeting provides a forum for lectures by invited speakers in the U.S. and the Carpathian Basin on educational, historic, literary, and artistic issues that impact Hungarian Americans. The Association publishes its annual Chronicle while the Árpád Academy honors outstanding Hungarian Americans. (2010-present)



Hungarian Society of Massachusetts



Creative Cultural Exchange Inc. – WeCare

Hungarian Culture Club The Hungarian Club was incorporated in May of 1935 as a Social Club for members of Hungarian descent. They are located in a 1-square mile town called Fairport Harbor, on the banks of Lake Erie. Many of the residents of their town immigrated here from Hungary in the 1930's in search of work and settled here with their families. The town currently has about 3,500 residents, with the majority of them being of Hungarian and Finnish descent. The Hungarian Culture Club sits on the banks of the Grand River near the mouth of Lake Erie. (2023–present)

Hungarian Cultural Center of Northeastern Ohio The Geauga Magyar Cultural Society and St. Stephens Magyar Drama Club, both of which promoted Hungarian culture and customs in Ohio, merged to create the Hungarian Cultural Center of Northeastern Ohio (HCC-NEO). The organization holds picnics, celebrations and a Harvest Festival on its 40 acre property in Hiram. They co-sponsor and coordinate their programs with other Hungarian organizations in Cleveland. In 2006 they built a lovely traditional Székely kapu (wooden carved gate from Transylvania). (2019–present)

Metroplex Magyar Cultural Circle The Metroplex Magyar Cultural Circle was founded for the promotion and preservation of the Hungarian culture, language, and traditions in the north Texas area. There is also the long term goal of establishing a “Magyar Ház”, or Hungarian Club House in the North Texas Metroplex for celebrations, Hungarian cooking and housing their film, book, and music library. (2016–present)

St. Stephen of Hungary Catholic Community The Hungarian community of the Washington Metropolitan Area, because of its proximity to the Capital, holds a historically significant position in Hungarian immigration for its ability to represent Hungary's interests. In August, 2015 a Hungarian National Chapel was consecrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where their monthly masses are held. This much anticipated new milestone presents a new spiritual home to Hungarian Catholics in the region as well as all over the world. (2018 –present)

Széll Kálmán Foundation, Budapest Founded in 2003, as a membership of almost 300 economic and corporate leaders and intellectuals who share a values-based commitment to Hungarian society. The Foundation's goals include the continuous monitoring of the state of the Hungarian economy, the organizing of lectures on the economic and social situation of the world and the European Union in particular, as well as on the effects of these on the Hungarian economy, and the organizing of events, professional forums and discussions to improve the economic situation of Hungary and Hungarian enterprises. (2010–present)

In Memoriam

We recognize the major contributions and treasure the memory of our Board members and supporters who passed on between 2012–2022. May their memory continue to inspire us:

- † William Béla Aykler
- † Rev. Imre Bertalan Jr.
- † Dr. Béla Bognár
- † László Böjtös
- † Doris Buffett
- † László Dobos
- † Robert Gabor
- † László Hámos
- † Dr. János Horváth
- † Alex “Sándor” Kremer
- † John N. Lauer
- † Dr. August J. Molnar
- † Michael Neidorff
- † Árvéd Teleki
- † Dr. Bulcsu Veress
- † Ambassador George Herbert Walker III

The Coalition in Numbers

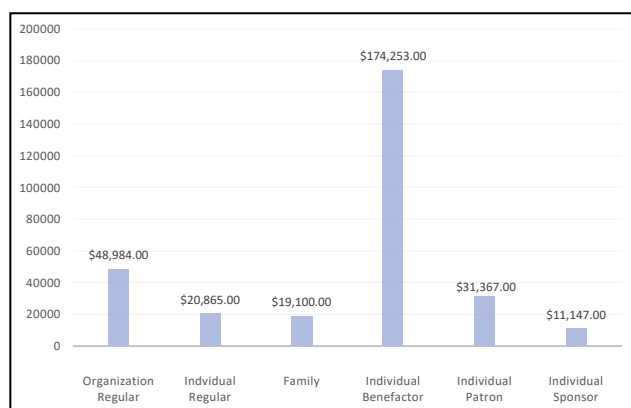
Following is an overview of the Coalition's most significant financial information of the last decade. The statement of income and expenses, graph and pie chart cover the period from 2012-2022.

Income and Expense Statement

Income	2012-2022
Membership & Donation Income	\$1,271,999
Project Income	\$2,311,646
Investments, Advances & Fund Balances	\$305,891
Total Income	\$3,889,536
Expenses	
Staffing & Administration Expenses	\$427,820
Office Expenses	\$397,089
Communications Expense	\$69,347
Project Expenditure	\$2,983,313
Total Expense	\$3,877,569
Total Income Less Expenses	\$11,967

Income

The Coalition derives its income from four major sources: membership dues, donations, revenue from fundraising events and administration fees from projects. Income from Membership Dues represents approximately 10% of our annual income. From 2012–2022, the Coalition received \$3,889,536 in total income.

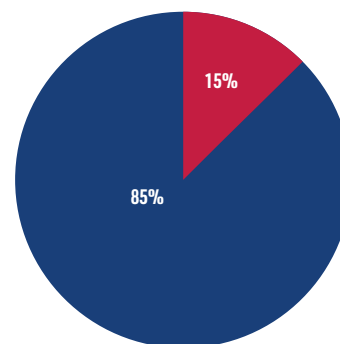


Major Donors

The Coalition is an event and project-driven organization, and as a result, the majority of our donors are corporate in nature. Expenses are kept to a minimum since most Coalition work is completed by volunteers and officers of the Coalition, who do not receive financial compensation for their work.

Major Donors 2012-2022

■ Corporate ■ Individual



Donors (2012–2022)

The Hungarian American Coalition is grateful for the successful partnerships sustained by the generous support of the Hungary Foundation, Dr. Andras Abraham, Centene Charitable Foundation, John and Edith K. Lauer and the Pannonius Foundation, and the Charles and Lisa Simonyi Fund for the Arts and Sciences. We are thankful to all our major donors whose contributions have enabled the Coalition to fulfill its mission through implementing many worthwhile projects.

The following list includes donations of membership fees, support for projects and proceeds of our annual Gala Dinners. The Coalition sincerely thanks all members and supporters for donations large and small. Thank you for investing in our organization, projects and our community!

TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED: \$3,841,281

\$1,000,000 and above

Hungary Foundation (Hungary Initiatives Foundation)

\$250,000 and above

Dr. András Ábrahám
Centene Charitable Foundation
John N. and Edith K. Lauer—Pannonius Foundation
Charles and Lisa Simonyi Fund for the Arts and Sciences

\$100,000 and above

Cultural Foundation for Transylvania
The Sunshine Lady Foundation, Inc.

\$50,000 and above

Bethlen Gábor Fund
Magyar Foundation of North America

\$25,000 and above

Ambassadors of the Future
Charles and Catherine B. Rice Foundation
Colleen and Bradley Bell Charitable Fund
Ambassador April H. Foley
Hungarian Human Rights Foundation
Network for Good
Barton and Andrea Lauer Rice

\$10,000 and above

J. Joe Adorjan
Barbara Occhiogrosso Family Foundation
Dr. Béla J. Bognár
Drs. Jeanette Gecky Grasselli Brown and Glenn Brown
Diebold Corporation
Dr. Péter Forgách
Foundation for a Civic Hungary
Ilona Hooper
John Lipsky
Leslie L. Megyeri
Blaise and Anikó Pásztory
Barbara C. Quinn
Ted Sarandos and Nicole Avant

Christian Sauska
Dr. Charles Simonyi
Zsolt Szekeres
Max Teleki
Dr. Ágnes Virga
Ambassador George H. Walker III

\$5,000 and above

American Hungarian Friends of Scouting
American Hungarian Heritage House
Anne C. Bader
Ambassador Colleen Bell
Ambassador Nancy Brinker
Ferenc Darvas
Sandra Froman
László and Ágnes Fülöp
Anikó Gaál Schott
Eleanor Goodman
Hungarian American Cultural Association
Hungarian Scouts Association in Exeter
Hungarian Society of Massachusetts
Hungarian (Magyar) Club of Chicago
Géza Kádár, Jr.
Dr. Katalin Kádár Lynn
Peter J. Kurz
Mary V. Mochary
Robert and Kriszta Lauer Nagy
George J. Pogan
Árpád A. Szűrgyi

\$2,500 and above

Béla Aykler and Susan Papp Aykler
Jill and Laszlo Birinyi
Bronfman Hauptman Foundation
Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society
Larry and Dana Creel
Janet S. Crown
Steve and Nancy Crown
Gerald and Carla Dumonair
John and Kimberley Emerson
Charles R. Farkas
Stefan J. Fedor

Tom Foley
Csilla Grauer
Hungarian Christian Society
Thomas and Judit Jackovits
Beth and Kenneth Karmin
Dr. Péter Kovalszki
Dr. Katalin Kővári
László and Ildikó Latkóczy
Imre Lendvai-Lintner
Minnesota Hungarians
NCHS, Inc.
PG Penske Foundation
Nóra Szabó
János Szekeres
Szabolcs Szekeres
The Sketch Foundation
Steven and Christine Udvar-Hazy
Charles M. Vamossy
Julius Varallyay
Katalin Vörös

\$1,000 and above

Amelie Jamos Charitable Fund
American Hungarian Catholic Clergy Association
Zoltán Bagdy
Balassi Institute Hungary
Csilla Banyay
Hanna H. Bartlett
Enikő Molnár Basa
William Bero
Bethlen Communities
Robert and Janice Billingsley
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U.S. Ambassadors to Hungary since 2012:

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We apologize for any inadvertent errors in facts, dates, events or names of persons mentioned or omitted.



Hungarian American Coalition

Note from the Designer

I'd like to thank the Hungarian American Coalition for being such caring, strong, creative and outspoken humans. The values that you write about in this book can be found in your action and the results.

When I set out to find a concept for the design of this book, I started by reading the text. In the introduction section, I found inspiration from how this organization is tackling modern issues with traditional values; education, advocacy and community. You are harnessing the best of the American culture with the best of the Hungarian culture and you are truly making an impact.

In that spirit, the design of this book is an homage to László Moholy-Nagy, the great Hungarian-American artist. Moholy-Nagy was an innovator, a thinker and an educator, as well as an artist. He brought his passion to the U.S. and was influential in how my profession of graphic design has evolved.

Moholy-Nagy's abstract paintings used basic shapes, lines, shading and color to explore light. Those paintings were my inspiration as I designed this book.

Lorelei Grazier Danilchick



"As an American of Hungarian descent, I am proud of the role the Hungarian American Coalition has played in cultivating proactive relationships with political and cultural contacts in Washington D.C. and throughout Central Europe. They continue to serve as a strong force in the community and an important bridge between the U.S. and Hungary to promote our shared values. I'm especially proud of their effort in leading the call to raise humanitarian funds across the community to help war-torn Ukraine. The Hungarian American Coalition continues to do amazing work and I'm proud to support their mission."

- Governor George E. Pataki
Governor of New York (1995-2006)



"The traumas of Hungary's 20th century drove countless Hungarians to flee their homeland in fear and desperation. Many found a safe haven in America and created new lives for themselves. However, they left a part of their souls in Hungary. They longed to be reconnected to and reconciled with their homeland. The Hungary Foundation collaborated enthusiastically with the Hungarian American Coalition to keep the flame of Hungary alive in the hearts of Hungarian Americans through culture and to foster greater Transatlantic understanding."

- Ambassador April H. Foley
U.S. Ambassador to Hungary (2006-2009)



"Over the past decade, the Hungarian American Coalition has been an unwavering partner in our journey to uphold the rights of national minorities, preserve our cultural heritage, and secure quality education for our youth in the Carpathian Basin. With their support, we continue to strive for a brighter future for every Hungarian minority."

- Dr. Ildikó Orosz
President, Ferenc Rákóczi II,
Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute (Ukraine)



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