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AHF Top Headlines, Year End / December 2006 *Happy New Year 2007!*

AHF NATIONAL NEWS



12/18/2006 - STATEMENT: **The American Hungarian Federation Condemns Latest Minority Rights Violations By Romania: Sanctions Against Hungarian Professors At**

Babes-Bolyai University For Promoting Bilingualism. AHF's statement reads, "Although Romania joined NATO and will be accepted into the EU, the irrefutable record demonstrates that its laws and practices fail to conform to European and Western standards relating to human and minority rights. A few examples of Romania's less than exemplary record will suffice..." [\[read more\]](#) [\[tovább magyarul\]](#)

12/1/2006 - STATEMENT - **Budapest Needs to Support Legitimate Aspirations of Hungarian Minorities, Not Eliminate Institutions.** The American Hungarian Federation issued a statement out of concern that revised policies by Hungary may not be sufficient to protect the Hungarian minorities living in the Carpathian Basin. The Federation hopes that other organizations and individuals, especially those who address minority rights issues, will join the Federation in its expression of concern. The full text of the Federation's statement, in English and Hungarian can be viewed below.

- AHF Statement (English) [\[read more\]](#)
- AMSz Nyilatkozat (Hungarian/Magyarul) [\[tovább\]](#)



11/17/2006 - **AHF Co-President,**

It's time to work together.

[JOIN AHF](#) and donate online before 12/31/2006!



or download the [AHF Membership Registration Form](#)

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1956 - 2006 in Review: AHF Chapters and Members at Work ensuring 1956 is not forgotten!

1956 REMEMBER HUNGARY
Commemorations were a tremendous success! AHF worked with local chapters and member organizations across the country to plan numerous events in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. In addition to the major events, 1956 proclamations and resolutions were passed in many states.



1956 - 2006

See the stories below about AHF members at work from Carnegie Hall



Imre Toth attends Washington Premiere of Andrew Vajna's stirring film, "Freedom's Fury."

The Hungarian Embassy hosted the premier of the documentary film "Freedom's

Fury," the story of the 1956 olympic water polo match between a "free" Hungary (the match took place during the revolution) and the Soviet Union which led to blood in the water. Imre Toth, a filmmaker himself, was asked to present technical questions from the production crew of Colin Gray and Megan Aarons (the Sibs.) Imre reports "It was a fantastic experience. This will be a collector's item for Hungarians for the next 50 years to come."

The Hungarian Ambassador's residency was the site of the post-premiere reception. Guests included Congressman Tom Lantos and his wife, Congressman Dennis Kucinich, and Admiral Giambastiani, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Other guests there were Randall Kroszner, of the Federal Reserve Board and Gabe Rozsa, of Government Relations Worldwide.

"Since I'm a film maker I had long discussions with the producers, the director of photography, the editor. Thor Halvorssen from Venezuela, who is with the Moving Picture Institute, was very inspired and said that hopefully when Venezuela will be free again, they will adopt the hole in the flag as a symbol of freedom achieved."



11/16/2006 - Federation Leaders Meet with White House Official. On November 16, members of the American Hungarian Federation's

leadership, including its President, Istvan Fedor, and several members of the Federation's Executive Committee Zoltan Bagdy, Bryan Dawson, Atilla Kocsis, and Frank Koszorus, Jr. met with Adam Sterling, the newly appointed Director of Central and Eastern European Affairs of the National Security Council. The meeting took place in the Executive Office of the White House.

[\[read more\]](#)



11/5/2006 - American Hungarian

in New York City, the Cosmos Club in Washington D.C.; St. Thomas University and the Houston Hungarians; Miami, Naples, Venice, and Sarasota in Florida; Boston, Mass; Lorain Ohio; Budapest and Vienna, and read how we all honored the memory of our heroes:

New York:

10/15/2006 - 1956 Anniversary Gala Concert at Carnegie Hall. New York City's Carnegie Hall hosted a Gala Memorial Concert commemorating the



50th Anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution organized by the Coordinating Committee for the Commemoration of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. The American Hungarian Federation initiated the effort working with the Hungarian Freedom Fighters Federation to establish the **Coordinating Committee for the Commemoration of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.** Numerous

AHF members, local organizations and individuals joined the effort leading to this tremendous success. AHF seeded the fundraising effort with it's first \$5000.00 and later provided accounting and good offices, enabling contributions of almost \$250,000.00! The long-term plan is to finance, through donations, a permanent Memorial to the 1956 Hungarian Revolution to be located in New York City. Support this worthy cause

[\[read more and donate!\]](#)

Washington, D.C. I:

10/20/2006 - Commemorating the 50th





Federation Criticized for Speaking out in Favor of Democracy... The article, "[Az Amerikai Magyar Szövetség botrányos nyilatkozata](#),"

published in the November 5, 2006 edition of *Amerikai Magyar Nepszava Szabadság* ("Népszava") is punctuated with inaccurate, unsubstantiated and malevolent assertions. Népszava criticized the Federation for expressing its concern over reports of alleged police brutality directed against peaceful demonstrators on October 23, 2006 and for supporting an impartial investigation of those allegations. [[read more](#)]

Az Amerikai Magyar Népszava Szabadság (mostantól Népszava) 2006. november 5-én Az Amerikai Magyar Szövetség botrányos nyilatkozata címmel pontatlan, megalapozatlan és rosszindulatú kifejezésekkel terhelt cikket közölt, bírálni próbálva a Szövetséget, amiért az aggodalmát fejezte ki az 2006. október 23-án, a békés tüntetőkkel szemben fogantatosított, állítólagos rendori eroszakról érkező jelentések kapcsán, és egyúttal támogatta az állítások részrehajlás nélküli kivizsgálását. [[tovább](#)]

11/2/2006 - STATEMENT - **American Hungarian Federation Expresses Concern Over Excessive Use of Force.** On October 31, 2006 the American Hungarian Federation issued a statement concerning the recent developments relating to demonstrations against the government of Hungary. The Federation expresses its concern over the excessive use of force against the demonstrators, and questions the official inaction concerning the events; it also calls for a thorough and timely investigation of the police actions. The full text of the statement, in English and in Hungarian, can be viewed below.

- AHF Statement (English) [[read more](#)]
- AMSz Nyilatkozat (Hungarian/Magyarul) [[tovább](#)]



10/18/2006 - **President Bush issues a proclamation honoring the 1956 Hungarian Revolution...** "The story of Hungarian democracy represents the triumph of liberty over tyranny. In

Anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution at the prestigious Cosmos Club. The American



Hungarian Federation honored the memory of the heroes of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 at a gala dinner at the prestigious Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C., on October 20th. Close to 150 Federation members, American Hungarians, their American friends and relatives attended the dinner. Seven American Hungarians received the



Federation's "Col. Commandant Michael Kovats Medal of Freedom Award" in recognition of their efforts on behalf of Hungarian causes. [[read more](#)]

Washington, D.C. II

10/14/2006 - **Eisenhower, Khrushchev, and AHF's own Imre Toth participate in**



"Cold War Conversations: The Uprisings and Revolutions of 1956." The American Hungarian Federation is proud to have co-hosted the event. The Cold War Museum convened panels of diplomats, officials and historians to discuss the 1956 Polish and Hungarian uprisings against the Soviets and Communism. [[read more](#)]

Washington, D.C. III

The Hungarian Reformed Federation of America, chartered by the United



the fall of 1956, the Hungarian people demanded change, and tens of thousands of students, workers, and other citizens bravely marched through the streets to call for freedom. Though Soviet tanks brutally crushed the Hungarian uprising, the thirst for freedom lived on, and in 1989 Hungary became the first communist nation in Europe to make the transition to democracy." [[download the resolution](#)]

10/25/2006 - **AHF President Istvan Fedor Expresses Thanks to President Bush for His Proclamation About the 1956 Revolution.** On this page below, President Bush's October 18 Proclamation honoring the 1956 Revolution is printed. On October 25, AHF President Istvan Fedor thanked President Bush for his Proclamation and for his personal involvement in the events commemorating 1956, such as his address at the Capitol in March of this year, and his visit to Hungary in June. Read more of Istvan Fedor's letter to President Bush. [[read more](#)]



10/16/2006 - **AHF Co-President Imre Toth guest speaker at the Goethe Institute during 1956 film screenings.** As part of the 50th Anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution commemorations, the Goethe-Institut presented films where each evening's screenings were followed by a discussion with an expert. The event screened films by AHF members Klaudia Kovacs ("Torn from the Flag"), Jake Borritt (Budapest to Gettysburg), Reka Pigniczky ("Journey Home"), Arthur Rasco ("No Greater Love"), and Steven Fischer ("Freedom Dance"). Other films included "Szerelem" by renowned director Károly Makk and BBC documentary footage. [[download the press release](#)]

10/8/2006 - **AHF Co-President, Imre L. Toth, featured in US News and World Report on 1956.** "Revolution! The Hungarian uprising 50 years later; how it changed the Cold War" by Alex Kingsbury is the Special Report in the latest issue of U.S. News and World Report magazine. This story appears in the October 16, 2006 print edition



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States Congress celebrated the heroes of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution at the HRFA Kossuth House, its home office. HRFA placed a large banner declaring "Hungary: Initiated the Fall of Communism." The Kossuth House's strategic location in Dupont Circle in downtown Washington ensured wide viewing.



The celebration included a solemn invocation, moving folk songs sung by a young Hungarian American, the recital of the Szozat and the Nemzeti Dal. HRFA President and AHF Vice Chairman, Jules (Gyula) Balogh gave a personal account of current events in Hungary from his visit to Budapest a week before this celebration.

Texas Chapter:

10/22 - 10/29/2006 - **Texas AHF Chapter Grows with successful commemorations of the 50th Anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian**



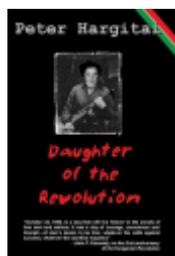
Revolution. The University of St. Thomas hosts symposium and photo exhibit and the Hungarian American Cultural Association hosts commemoration in Houston where



Dr. Robert Ivany (seen here) is awarded the Col. Commandant Michael Kovats Medal of Freedom, AHF's highest honor. The same photo exhibit

displayed in the state Capitol in Austin. Dallas Hungarians dedicate the "emlékoszlopok" ("memorial

of U.S. News & World Report. [[see the article](#)]



9/20/2006 - **Professor Peter Hargitai and the American Hungarian Federation publish novel about child freedom-fighter, "Daughter of the Revolution."** For 12 days, countless Hungarian teenagers fought in the bloody Hungarian Revolution

against Communist tyranny and overwhelming Soviet armor. They set up tank barricades, tossed Molotov cocktails, and with their confiscated Russian submachine guns made a stand on the streets of Budapest, hoping to hold out until help arrived from the West. But there was no help. Nobody came to their aid. This is the story of one such brave freedom fighter—a 14 year-old girl.

Professor Hargitai is a 2006 recipient of the [Col. Commandant Michael Kovats Medal of Freedom](#).

[[Read More](#)] or Buy it now on [amazon.com](#)



Continuing News: **AHF continues call for support of a 1956 Statue for the Nation's Capital...**AHF's 1956 Commemoration Committee is seeking your help to erect a statue in Washington, D.C. devoted to the heroes of the Hungarian Revolution. The

AHF plan calls for an actual-size statue to be placed prominently in Washington while we raise funds for its bronze replacement. Seen here with his prototype design is renowned sculptor Gyuri Hollosy, who was responsible for the Boston Liberty Square memorial. At the recent Capitol Reception honoring 1848, Congressman Tom Lantos mentioned his intent to place a 1956 memorial in Washington. We must ensure this remarkable design is selected! Contact [Bryan Dawson-Szilagyi](#)

Continuing news - **How did you commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution? Tell the world on AHF's 1956 Portal (www.hungary1956.com)** .Contact the

poles" are traditional Transylvanian carved wooden monuments) in honor of the 1956 Revolution and the 50th year of the Cistercian Abbey.

[[read more](#)]

Boston, Massachusetts

10/21/2006 -



Commemorations began at 2pm at Boston's Liberty Square site of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution Memorial (seen here) by AHF's Gyuri Hollosy whose design is behind the AHF's 1956 National Memorial effort.

Commemoration speeches featured Gabor Garai, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Hungary in Boston, Karoly Balogh, President, [Hungarian Society of Massachusetts](#), followed by a poem by Gyula Illyes' "A Sentence About Tyranny" by Judy Van de Geer. Organizers layed a wreath in Memory of the Heroes as participants sung the Hungarian National Anthem and then listened to Taps.

At 3pm, famed Faneuil Hall was the site for a large commemorative event. Participants were greeted by Gabor Garai and Dr. Karoly Balogh followed by the Commemorative Speech given by John Lukacs (Professor, Chestnut Hill College) [[read more](#)]

Southwest Florida

10/21 - 12/3/2006 - **Andy Evva of the**





American Hungarian Federation... we are here to help coordinate and assist member organizations across the country.

The 1956 Portal serves as a central information resource for 1956 activities as our community prepares for the 50th Anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution. The Portal also includes **Audio and Video files!** If you have additional photos or have plans you would like to promote, contact us! Write to bryandawson@americanhungarianfederation.org

[See www.hungary1956.com]

Featured Videos



Note: You will need the free RealAudio Player to see these videos. Click [\[here\]](#) to download.

"Five Days of Freedom in Budapest" - "Budapest is in revolt. With uncontrolled fury, crowds set fire to Russian flags... The impossible has happened. A handful of heroes has shaken the communist world to its foundations." (5.2 Mb)



New Video posted to the 1956 Portal! "News Magazine of the Screen" presented "Flight from Hungary" in early 1957 featuring video taken after the

brutal Soviet re-occupation. "This is battered Budapest under the brutal Russian boot, Soviet tanks roam the streets under the ruins they laid as communist secret police hunt down heroic Freedom Fighters. 25,000 Hungarians are dead." A fascinating video, it also includes news about the Suez Crisis and more glimpses into life during this time.

A new book by Rebecca McEldowney and an article by Attila Ürményházi in Tasmania were also added to the publications section.

[See www.hungary1956.com]

American Foundation for Hungarian Youth and Culture (AFHYC) working with Frank Dobos of Hungarian Club



of Southwest Florida and local leaders dedicate "Talpra Magyar" memorial to 1956.

The Collier County Board of County Commissioners named the Main Government Complex as "Freedom Memorial Park" and approved the "Talpra Magyar" 50th Anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution Commemorative Sculpture unveiled on December 3, 2006. AHF is proud to have been a "Patriot of Freedom" sponsor and extends its congratulations to all those who cooperated on the important project to ensure that 1956 is not forgotten.

[\[read more\]](#)

10/22/2006 - The Hungarian Christian Society / Venice Hungarian Club



commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. Speakers were Tibor Helcz, Chairman of the Hungarian Ex-political Prisoners Organization, and v. Endre Tamaska (at 93) representing the Hungarian Freedom Fighters Federation. AHF Vice President, Dr. Paul J. Szilagy, greeted the commemorative gatherings in the name of AHF. Kalman Nagy, seen above with Dr. Paul Szilagy, had earlier kicked off the year for AHF with the unveiling of the its 1956 memorial. AHF's

Continuing news - **A Centennial Celebration! The American Hungarian Federation turned 100 - Join and help us represent the interests of our community!** The American Hungarian Federation



(AHF), was founded in 1906 in Cleveland, Ohio. Among the oldest ethnic organizations in the US, AHF was established as an association of Hungarian societies, institutions and churches to "defend the

interest of Americans of Hungarian origin in the United States." The American Hungarian Federation strives to unite the American Hungarian community through work that supports common goals. AHF is a national, non-partisan, independent umbrella organization representing the interests of the Hungarian American community. **Members are reminded to send dues before March 31st.** [\[more about us\]](#)

AHF Bookstore on amazon.com

AHF features books and articles written by AHF members on both our [main site](#) and our [1956 Portal](#) for publications devoted to 1956.

The latest member books added:

- Professor Peter Hargitai's [Daughter of the Revolution: A Novel](#) (2006 - A story of a brave freedom fighter - a 14 year-old girl) Buy it now on 
- Rebecca McEldowney's "Soul of Flesh: A Novel of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution" [\[read more\]](#)
- Dr. Katalin Kadar Lynn's "Tibor Eckhard in His Own Words: An Autobiography" [\[read more\]](#)



Buy all your products through our Amazon store and help AHF!

Search:

Venice 1956 memorial was unveiled on October 23, 2005 as Hurricane Wilma approached. [\[read more\]](#) about the Florida chapter and get involved!

Miami, Florida

10/22/2006 - **AHF Chairman, Akos Nagy provides keynote address at 1956 Memorial unveiling at Miami's Kossuth Club.**



Miami's Hungarian community commemorated 1956 with a service at the First Hungarian Church of Christ followed by the unveiling and unveiling of its 1956 Memorial. The consecration ceremony began with the Ringing of Bell for the martyrs.

[\[read more\]](#)

12/5/2006 - **Miami Screening of "Freedom Dance: The Movie,"** an animated documentary



produced by AHF's Emmy-nominated producer Steven Fischer and Telly Award-winning animator Craig Herron, retelling the story of artist Edward Hilbert who, during his four months on the road to freedom with his newly wedded wife, kept a journal of cartoons detailing an adventurous escape from communist Hungary to the US during Hungary's bloody 1956 revolution against Soviet occupation.

The preview screening of Freedom Dance was held in front of an enthusiastic audience at KimbaraCumbara Cafe in Little Havana. Law & Order: SVU star (and Hungarian-American) Mariska Hargitay recently recorded the narration for Freedom Dance. [\[read](#)

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Featured Member

HRFA The Hungarian Reformed Federation of America is a Fraternal Insurance Co. chartered by Congress in 1907. HRFA's President Gyula Balogh is also AHF Vice-Chairman. In Trenton, New Jersey, a small group of Hungarian ministers and laymen gathered on July 4-5, 1896, to organize the Hungarian Reformed Federation of America. In 1907, HRFA would receive a Congressional Charter.

[\[read more\]](#)

Featured Link

The Hungary Page and "Nobel Prize Winners & Famous Hungarians"

Do you think you know something about famous Hungarians? Think again! See "Nobel Prize Winners and Famous Hungarians" on www.thehungarypage.com



Béla Barényi

Father of the Volkswagen Beetle, Passive Safety, Occupant Safety Cell, Collapsible Steering System, AND the Seat Belt! Because Porsche was credited with the invention, Barényi went to the German courts in 1955 and won. Barényi asked for only 1 German Mark as compensation.

Strength can only be found in unity!

Please join AHF and work together on common ground issues! We are in our 100th year. We are all volunteer, non-partisan, independent, and need your support!

There are two easy ways to Join and Support us!

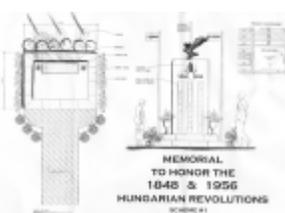
10/29/2006 - **Sun Sentinel publishes, "Budapest is a riot!"** by AHF's [Professor Peter Hargitai](#) of the Miami Hungarian



Workshop. "As a boy in 1956, he witnessed the street fighting of the Hungarian Revolution. Returning this fall, he saw a different kind of demonstration." "Budapest is a riot. But it's not because the people can now practice their democratic rights of free speech and free assembly, or because a group of soccer hooligans hijacked the demonstrations. Budapest is a riot because it is a fun city, a city of lights, a riot of architecture where eclectic doesn't mean hodgepodge but a distinct style in which baroque, medieval and modern co-exist peacefully." [\[read the full article\]](#) or [\[read more\]](#) about Prof. Peter Hargitai a 2006 Recipient of 2006 recipient of the [Col. Commandant Michael Kovats Medal of Freedom.](#)

Lorain, Ohio

9/17/2006 - **The American Hungarian Council of Lorain**



County officially dedicated its 1848-1956 Memorial Monument starting with a dedication ceremony at Oakwood Park. The dedication was followed by a banquet in the social hall of the Hungarian Reformed Church. The Honorable Mayor Craig Foltin and the city of Lorain, through proclamation, designated a property on the corner of East 31st Street and Grove Avenue in Oakwood Park as the future site of the monument. AHF

1) Online Processing (fastest):



Contribute or join online! AHF accepts all major credit cards and checks. AHF is a 501c(3) non-profit organization. Your donations may be tax deductible. Your information is secure not shared with anyone. [[Join Online Here](#)]

2) The Old-Fashioned Way:

If you are uncomfortable or unable to process an Internet transaction, download the [AHF Membership Registration Form](#) and mail it in with your check payable to "American Hungarian Federation." NOTE: If you are sending a donation for a specific fund, please be sure to include that on the form. (You do not need to become a member to donate):

American Hungarian Federation
 C/O Sandor Murray, Treasurer
 2805 56th Place
 Woodside NY 11377

For technical assistance, contact bryandawson@americanhungarianfederation.org

congratulates John Peters and all those in Lorain who made this possible. AHF National is proud to be a sponsor! [[read more](#)]

In a **1956in2006** related story from Ohio, AHF's Laz Buda rode **1956 Miles to Help Hungary**

Laszlo Buda is raised funds for United Way Hungary by riding his bicycle 1956 miles by October 23, 2006.



Funds are still needed! Contact him at

lazbuda@yahoo.com and See www.1956in2006.org or [[read more](#)] about Laszlo.

San Diego, California

10/21/2006 - San Diego's House of Hungary commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Revolution with a dinner featuring the "Carpathian Folk Band" on Saturday, October 21st at 4 pm at the St. George Church's Reception Hall. The Guest speaker is Ferenc Bösenbacher General Consul to the Republic of Hungary. [[read more](#)]

Hungary

AHF also supported the memorial erected in Kaposvár, Hungary: "Az 1956-os forradalom és szabadságharc 50. évfordulója tiszteletére emlékszobrot avattak Kaposváron, a Berzsenyi parkban hétfon. [[tovább](#)] AHF's Co-President



Imre Toth was a 
special guest, representing AHF,
during Budapest's official 1956-2006
commemorations.

Austria

**AHF Papp Laszlo was guest
speaker in Vienna, Austria** at the
October 23, 2006 50th year
commemoration of the Hungarian
Revolution

Successful 1956 Resolution effort.

AHF pursued
resolutions
commemorating
the 1956 Hungarian Revolution in
State Legislatures! AHF's 1956
Committee announced a nationwide
effort urging state houses and
governors to adopt resolutions
honoring the heroes of the 1956
Hungarian Revolution. Texas
became the first state to adopt the
resolution and congratulated the
American Hungarian Federation on
its 100th anniversary. Ohio,
Colorado, Maryland, Virginia,
Massachusetts, Washington,
California and others have followed.



[\[read more\]](#)
