



### FORMER AMBASSADOR PALMER RECEIVES HIGH HUNGARIAN STATE HONOR



On December 2 during his visit to Washington, D.C. Prime Minister Gordon Bajnai awarded the Order of Merit, Commander's Cross, to the former diplomat who represented the U.S. in Budapest from 1986 to 1990. Bajnai called Palmer "a legendary Ambassador whose name will go down in Hungarian history books."

*More* ►

*Ambassador Palmer (left) and Prime Minister Bajnai (photo courtesy of the Embassy of Hungary)*

### Embassy News

#### ELENI TSAKOPOULOS KOUNALAKIS HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AS AMBASSADOR TO THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY (DECEMBER 24, 2009)



#### U.S. Embassy Fellow's Success

U.S. Embassy Fellow Timea Balogh receives a certificate from Prime Minister Gordon Bajnai December 16th in Parliament. Ms. Balogh is one of the first two participants in the Embassy's two-month Fellowship Program, which began in early November. *More* ►



#### Green Tornado Webchat with Copenhagen

Alumni and student volunteers of *Green Tornado*, the four day environmental festival in Hungary, received the prize of participating in a webchat with American delegates during the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen on December 11th. *More* ►



#### Human Rights Day Commemoration with Roma Documentary Film Makers

On December 10, Chargé d'Affaires Jeffrey Levine delivered remarks to note the 61st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the Urania National Film Theater in Budapest. The Romedia Foundation and Duna Television Hungary co-produce an award winning documentary series, *Mundi Romani*, depicting Roma life around the world. *More* ►



#### First Hungarian to Receive State Department Alumni Award

Dr. István Sértő-Radics, State Alumni Member was presented with a State Department Alumni of the Month award by Chargé Jeffrey Levine on Thursday, December 10th at the U.S. Embassy in Budapest for his dedication to public service, his support of minority and human rights and for his promotion of mutual understanding. Dr. Sértő-Radics is the first Hungarian to be so honored. *More* ►



### **Campaign to Eliminate Violence Against Women**

On December 11, Embassy Political Officer Christina Hernandez joined the Chief Justice of the Hungarian Supreme Court, Dr. András Baka and seventy county and city judges at the first anniversary event of the Hungarian Association of Women Judges (HAWJ), a branch of the International Association of Women Judges based in Washington D.C. *More▶*



### **First 'America Day' Kicks off in Orosháza**

The first day-long celebration of 'America Day' had a very successful run at the Táncsics Mihály High School in Orosháza. 'America Day' is a joint project of the U.S. Embassy and the Hungarian Ministry of Education and Culture to highlight America and its culture at schools in Hungary. Eleven other schools across Hungary will be holding 'America Days' over the coming year. *More▶*



### **Maritime Paintings at Budapest American Corner *More▶***

Cultural Affairs Officer John Balian opened the exhibit entitled 'Ships of Glory' by the Hungarian-American artist Georgina Nemethy in the lobby outside of the Budapest American Corner. The artist is an internationally renowned marine and landscape painter, mostly recognized for her Hudson River Valley scenes. Her favorite subjects are steamships of a past age depicted in all their detail and glory.



### **Photo Exhibit 'East Side Story' Opens at Veszprém**

The traveling photo exhibition entitled 'East Side Story' by Hungarian amateur photographer Iván Karácsony had its opening on November 30, at the American Corner in Veszprém. The exhibition is supported by a grant from the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy in Budapest. *More▶*



### **Recognition of Hungarian Military Effort in Afghanistan**

On December 1, the Embassy's Defense Attaché Colonel Robert Duggleby, on behalf of Major General Wayt of the Ohio National Guard, recognized several outstanding members of Hungary's military at an award ceremony in Szolnok. The Ohio National Guard is the U.S. partnership unit with the Hungarian military. *More▶*



### **Visit at Nyíregyháza**

Chargé d'Affaires Jeffrey Levine was in the city of Nyíregyháza on December 3, for a fact-finding trip on desegregation programs for Roma and underprivileged students in the local school system. *More▶*



### **Law Enforcement Training**

On December 2, Chargé d'Affaires Jeffrey Levine opened the joint U.S. Embassy and International Training Center two-day workshop, named 'Policing in a Multicultural Environment' held at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Budapest. *More▶*

## Washington News

### TSA Guidance for Passengers on Heightened Security Measures in Place Following December 25th Incident

As a result of this incident, TSA has worked with airline and law enforcement authorities, as well as federal, state, local, and international partners to put additional security measures in place to ensure aviation security remains strong. **Guidance**►



### The Way Forward in Afghanistan and Pakistan-Remarks of President Barack Obama

*United States Military Academy at West Point, December 1, 2009*

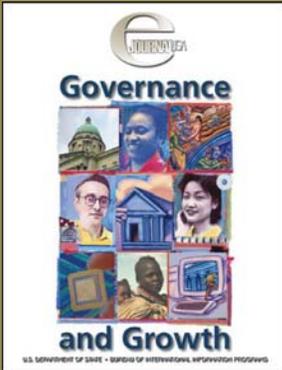
'I want to speak to you tonight about our effort in Afghanistan – the nature of our commitment there, the scope of our interests, and the strategy that my Administration will pursue to bring this war to a successful conclusion'. **Remarks**►



### Vice President Biden Meets Prime Minister Bajnai

During his recent visit to Washington, Hungarian Prime Minister Gordon Bajnai had discussions with Vice President Joe Biden, and met with many prominent present and former U.S. Government officials.

## New Publications



### Governance and Growth | *eJournal USA* | Vol 14, No.12. | December 2009

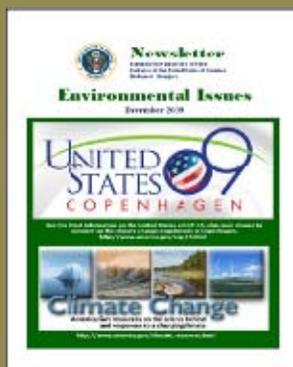
*Governance and Growth* explores the reality behind President Obama's statement to Ghana's parliament earlier this year: "Development depends on good governance."

The link between stable, honest government and economic prosperity is being recognized increasingly around the globe by governments, private sector leaders, and entrepreneurs. Voices from all these quarters are heard in this edition of *eJournal USA*. **eJournal**►

## IRC PUBLICATIONS ▼



Health Issues



Environmental Issues



U.S. Society & Values