



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

BUDAPEST NEWSLETTER

August 2008

Recently at the Embassy

Recognition for Decades of Building Strong Hungarian-American Relations

On August 25, Foreign Minister Kinga Göncz presented this year's Chain Bridge prizes to three individuals, one of whom is a prominent Hungarian-American, Professor Charles Gati of Johns Hopkins University. The honor is granted annually to eminent personalities who promote Hungary's international standing. Professor Gati received his prize for decades of work on strengthening the Hungarian-American relationship and building up the image of Hungary in the United States. The awards ceremony was attended by Ambassador Foley, Defense Minister Szekeres and by members of the Hungarian Parliament.



Ambassador Foley Visits Girls' International Chess Tournament

Ambassador Foley spoke to 35 girls between the ages of 6-16 at the 20th Zoltán Kovács International Girls' Chess Tournament on August 22 in Budapest. The girls were representing Hungary, Romania, Germany and Serbia. The winner of the competition will be awarded with a one-week stay in the U.S. including an opportunity to participate in a U.S. girls' chess tournament.

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Ambassador Foley at a Farewell Ceremony for Hungarian PRT

On August 18, Ambassador Foley was a guest of the Ministry of Defense at the Hungarian Provincial Reconstruction Team's fifth departure ceremony held in Szolnok, in the company of the German, Bulgarian, and Slovak Ambassadors. Hungarian Defense Minister Imre Szekeres, host of the event, announced in his remarks that the U.S. has given 27 armored jeeps to the Hungarian military, and has provided, and will continue to provide, special training for the PRT's bomb disposal crew. After the event, Ambassador Foley visited one of the largest elementary schools in Szolnok, adjacent to the Hungarian Ministry of Defense's (MOD) Peace Support and Training Center (MOD PSTC), where she inaugurated a playground constructed by the Florida Air National Guard's 202nd Red Horse Squadron.



Embassy Accepts Books for Pápa Schools

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One of many important issues concerning the establishment of the Strategic Airlift Capability at Pápa Air Base has been dependent education. To provide support to quality, English-language education in the surrounding community, the Embassy investigated the availability of English-language books and other media at closing U.S. Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Europe. A wealth of such material was found at a school depot, which the Department of Defense donated to the Embassy. The Embassy can and will legally transfer these items to the appropriate educational authorities in Pápa.



Embassy Tent at Sziget Festival

From August 13 to 17, the Embassy operated an informational tent at one of Europe's largest summer festivals, the Sziget Festival. In the tent, representatives from the Embassy and from three educational advising organizations--the Fulbright Commission, the International Institute for Education and the Hungarian American Enterprise Scholarship Fund--provided information about studying

in and traveling to the United States. Each day the Embassy organized thematic programs to introduce various aspects of American culture (music, dance, diversity, sports and elections) and engaged youth interactively in activities that could bring them closer to the United States.

[More](#) [Photo gallery](#)



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[text](#)

Ambassador, Chargé d'Affaires Commemorate Roma Holocaust



Ambassador Foley participated in the Roma Holocaust Memorial event organized by the National Roma Self-Government on August 1 at its national headquarters in Budapest. In her remarks, she emphasized the importance of promoting tolerance, underscoring the message: "Never again." [More▶](#)



Chargé d'Affaires Jeffrey Levine participated in the Roma Holocaust Memorial event organized by the Holocaust Memorial Center on August 2. Following the ceremony at the Holocaust Museum, he went on to Nehru Park with the other guests where he gave remarks at a memorial event organized by the Romedia Foundation. [More▶](#)

"Roma and Friends" Summer Youth Camp Promotes Tolerance



On July 31, Ambassador Foley paid a visit to the Embassy sponsored summer camp at Balatonlelle. The week long experience brings together 42 young people, ages 12-14, plus eight teachers from all across Hungary to participate in a wide array of activities - games, sports, drama, arts - designed to promote inter-ethnic understanding, empathy and tolerance. The common thread in the camp experience is the use of English as the mode

of expression. In her remarks to the students, Ambassador Foley commended them for "taking a step toward a future where intellect will overcome intolerance and excellence will overcome extremism." [More▶](#)



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[text](#)



Yale Summer Intern Program in Hungary

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Ambassador Foley attended the Yale Club reception at the Ludwig Museum on July 30. The event was held to recognize the nine Yale students who had internships in Budapest this summer. At the reception, the students shared the highlights of their experiences in Budapest and were treated to a tour of the museum.



Florida Air National Guard Working in Szolnok

[More▶](#)

On July 29, the first of two scheduled detachments from the Florida Air National Guard's 202nd Red Horse Squadron arrived at Ferihegy airport. This is an air force construction unit with a wide range of construction capability. Each detachment will spend two weeks in Hungary, and will conduct a series of upgrades and construction projects at the Peace Support Training Center in Szolnok.

Ambassador Visits Roma Youth Camp

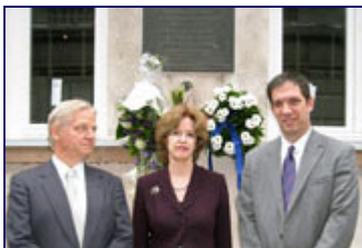
On July 25, Ambassador Foley visited a summer camp in Fonyódliget organized for Roma students with outstanding records of academic performance. Following a tour of the camp, organizers from the Napkerék Association invited the Ambassador and her Indian and Indonesian counterparts to attend a boat tour around the lake together with the children. On the boat, Ambassador Foley delivered remarks promoting tolerance and encouraging the students to continue their education. [More▶](#)



Ambassador Promotes U.S. Commercial Ties with Hungary

Ambassador Foley participated in the opening of the Budapest Bank Békéscsaba Operations Center's new 3,000 square meter wing on July 23. The Operations Center recently hired its 400th employee and expects that number to grow to 700 by the end of 2009. Before the ribbon cutting ceremony, Ambassador Foley met with Mayor Vantara at the Békéscsaba City Hall, where they talked about commercial possibilities for U.S. companies in Békéscsaba. She also expressed her concern about Magyar Gárda activities in the area. Later, the Ambassador and Senior Commercial Officer Patricia Gonzalez visited glass producer Guardian Orosháza, a subsidiary of U.S. firm, Guardian Industries. [More▶](#)

Ambassador Foley Honors the Memory of a Rescue Operation of Hungarian Jews



Ambassador Foley attended a memorial ceremony organized by the Carl Lutz Foundation on July 24. The event commemorated the opening of the Department for the Representation of Foreign Interests of the Swiss Legation, which began its efforts to assist in the emigration of Hungarian Jews to Palestine in 1944. Ambassador Foley laid her wreath at the memorial plaque of Carl Lutz along with the Ambassador of Switzerland and the Deputy Chief of Mission of the Embassy of Israel. [More▶](#)

Looking Ahead

Scholarships: Call for Applications

Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program

The Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program is intended primarily for practitioners and scholars from emerging and aspiring democracies. The program offers five-month fellowships for practitioners to improve strategies and techniques for building democracy abroad and five- to ten-month fellowships for scholars to conduct original research for publication. [More▶](#)

Executive Education Programs at Harvard University

In the fall of 2008, the Hungarian-American Enterprise Scholarship Fund (HAESF) is launching the Executive Education Program to enable mid-level and senior level executives to participate in short-term executive programs offered by the Harvard Business School and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. [More▶](#)



Joey Calderazzo and The Transform Quintet Concerts

American jazz pianist Joey Calderazzo will join The Transform Quintet for five concerts in Hungary. Dates and venues: 09/10 and 14, Budapest Jazz Club (VIII. Múzeum u. 7.); 09/11, Nyíregyháza College; 09/12 Gárdonyi Theater, Eger; and 09/13 Synagogue, Győr. The Embassy is glad to be one of the sponsors of the concert series. [The Transform Quintet▶](#)

Elections '08



New U.S. President Unlikely to Alter U.S. Policy Toward Europe [More▶](#)

By Domenick DiPasquale, Special Correspondent

Although Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain differ significantly on such national security issues as Iraq, the two presidential candidates' positions on Europe fall within the broad consensus that historically has marked U.S. policy in the region. Their differences lie in nuance and points of emphasis.

Democratic National Convention Briefing - Obama Campaign

Foreign Press Center Briefing by Joe Lockhart, Former Press Secretary, President Bill Clinton; Founder, Glover Park Group; Political Strategist, Denver, Colorado, August 26 [More▶](#)

Window on the Democratic National Convention [More▶](#)

Kim Ahern of Rhode Island provides a daily inside look at what it is like to be a Democratic delegate.

More about the elections at [America.gov▶](#)

In the News... from Washington

Georgia Crisis Raises Questions about Russian Policy, Rice Says

Military assault conflicts with Medvedev's vision of partnership
By David I. McKeeby, State Department Staff Writer (August 22) [More▶](#)



More at [America.gov▶](#)

Situation in Georgia and Implications for the Caucuses

Foreign Press Center Briefing by Matthew Bryza, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, Washington, DC (August 19) [More▶](#)

Secretary Rice: Leadership through Negotiation in Georgia

posted by Daniel Fried, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs, on DipNote, the official State Department blog (August 25) [More▶](#)

New Publications

eJournal▶ *Freedom of Faith: Religious Minorities in the United States*

Several waves of immigration have brought followers of diverse faiths to many communities in the United States. This eJournal examines how the nation adjusts to these demographic changes to remain true to the principles of freedom of faith.



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