



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

# BUDAPEST NEWSLETTER

July 2008

## Recently at the Embassy



### Hungarians and Americans Celebrate America's 232nd Birthday

On July 3rd, Ambassador April Foley hosted a large reception at her residence to celebrate America's national holiday. Hundreds of Hungarians and Americans met to mark America's 232nd birthday and listened to the Ambassador's remarks about the meaning of democracy. The Hungarian Air Force Band entertained with music and corporate sponsors provided refreshments. The grounds of the residence were decorated with the fifty state flags and other historical American flags. The spirit of the occasion as well as the fine weather that day is best seen in our video and [photo gallery](#)



[mp4](#) (high quality, 20MB)  
[mp4](#) (lower quality, 4MB)  
[wmv](#) (high quality, 20MB)  
[wmv](#) (lower quality, 7.5MB)



### Minister Veres Predicts Stronger Economic Conditions to Lady Diplomats

Ambassador Foley hosted Finance Minister János Veres at a luncheon July 21 to discuss the economic and business climate, including the prospects for stronger growth, Euro accession, and progress on reducing Hungary's budget deficit. Responding to questions from guests, including the Ambassadors of Romania and Nigeria, Finance Minister Veres outlined plans to reduce taxes, to modify the social welfare system, and to enhance the transparency of Hungary's Public Procurement system.



### Ambassadors Discuss Political and Economic Climate



Ambassador Foley hosted Minister of Agriculture Gráf at an Ambassadors' luncheon July 18 to discuss a range of political and economic issues, including the prospects for the use of biofuels and the impact of high food prices. Ambassador Foley also congratulated Minister Gráf on the occasion of Prime Minister Gyurcsány's official visit to Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan to discuss gas supplies for the Nabucco pipeline project and European diversification of its sources of gas. Our Embassy applauds this initiative and Hungary's call for a Nabucco Summit in the fall.

### Ambassador Foley Promotes Scientific Collaboration with the New President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences

On July 18, Ambassador Foley called on József Pálinkás, the recently elected President of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA), to congratulate him on his new position. Both parties expressed a desire for the continuation of the distinguished history of fruitful cooperation between the U.S. and the MTA.



### Ambassador Foley Meets with the Prime Minister's Commissioner for Roma Affairs, MP László Teleki

Ambassador Foley welcomed MP László Teleki to her office on July 16. Their discussion focused on the situation of Roma in Hungary, in particular, government programs focused on equal opportunities in education to help the Roma population integrate into the larger Hungarian society. Mr. Teleki also thanked the Ambassador for her public support of Roma organizations, as well as programs to address intolerance.

## Visit of Ambassador Nancy Brinker Raises Breast Cancer Awareness



On July 10, Ambassador Foley, First Lady Dr. Klára Dobrev, and Chief of Protocol of the United States and founder of *Susan G. Komen for the Cure* Ambassador Nancy Brinker stood together in support of the quest for a cure for breast cancer at the presentation of a USD 100,000 grant from the *Susan G. Komen for the Cure* to the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). The grant will help sustain the critical work of the Women's Health Empowerment Program (WHEP), an initiative to promote breast cancer awareness and early detection. It also will expand the program's reach into Hungary's rural communities, where access to screening facilities and breast

health information is extremely limited. [More▶](#)

## U.S. and Hungary Sign a Nuclear Materials and Technologies Agreement



On July 8, Ambassador Foley and the Hungarian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Márta Fekszí, signed the "Agreement Concerning Cooperation in the Area of Countering the Proliferation of Nuclear Materials and Technologies." This agreement will allow the removal of highly enriched uranium, conversion of the Budapest research reactor from highly enriched uranium to low enriched uranium fuel, and security enhancement of the research reactor site and nuclear materials stored at the site. [More▶](#)

## Ambassador Honors the American Football Federation of Hungary

Ambassador Foley gave a reception for the members of the American Football Federation of Hungary (AFFH) at her residence on July 7. Players and coaches from all over Hungary, representing the eighteen teams that compete in the Hungarian League, attended the reception. The Ambassador granted a Sports Diplomacy Award to Mr. László Tóth, the President of AFFH, for sharing the best of American sporting culture with Hungary's sports community. Another award went to Lee Hlavka, head coach of the Budapest Wolves for his tireless work in building the American Football League and developing its cadre of coaches. [More▶](#)



## Ambassadors Meet with FIDESZ President Orbán

Ambassador Foley welcomed FIDESZ President Viktor Orbán and her colleagues from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Canada, Japan, Italy, and Austria at a luncheon July 1. Discussion focused on strengthening Hungary's economy as well as interpreting current political developments, emphasizing the interest of foreign investors in seeing Hungary reach its full potential for economic growth. [More▶](#)

## Looking Ahead

### Keith Haring Exhibition to Open in the Ludwig Museum

Keith Haring was an emblematic figure of the New York art scene of the 1980s. He began drawing on the walls of the subway, then finally had exhibitions in prominent galleries and museums. In 1989, he established the Keith Haring Foundation to assist AIDS organizations and children's charities. He died of AIDS-related complications in 1990 at the age of 31. The Embassy is honored to support this exhibition in the Ludwig Museum (Budapest IX, Komor Marcell u. 1.), which will be open from August 16 to November 16. [Ludwig Museum▶](#) [Keith Haring Foundation▶](#)



© Estate of Keith Haring

### Visit the Embassy Tent at Sziget Festival!



From August 13 to 17, the Embassy will operate a tent at the Sziget Festival. We will offer thematic programs: visitors will be able to listen to jazz played by the Bohém Jazz Band, dance to country and swing, try American football, and learn about American society and the upcoming elections. During the entire week, representatives of the Fulbright Commission, the Institute of International Education and the Hungarian-American Enterprise Scholarship Fund will provide educational advising, and the Embassy's Consular section will give students information about U.S. travel opportunities. [Sziget Festival▶](#)

## *In the News... from Washington*

### **United States Pledges \$400 Million at Kosovo Donors' Conference** (07/11/2008)

International donors meeting in Brussels, Belgium, July 11 pledged \$1.2 billion to assist with development efforts in Europe's newest democracy, Kosovo. The U.S. delegation, led by U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Henrietta Fore, pledged \$400 million, and the European Union pledged \$789 million to help the country over the next four years. [More▶](#)

### **U.S. Public Diplomacy and the War of Ideas**

Briefing by James K. Glassman, Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Foreign Press Center, Washington, DC, July 15

"So here is our ultimate goal: a world in which the use of violence to achieve political, religious, or social objectives is no longer considered acceptable; efforts to radicalize new members are no longer successful; and the perpetrators of violent extremism are condemned and isolated." [More▶](#)



## *New Publication*

### **eJournal▶ National Parks, National Legacy**

This edition presents glorious views of the national parks, the history of this vast system, and its mission of conservation and public access. From the content: Parks can change a nation; The spiritual and cultural significance of national parks; When a park is not a park; Personal insights from park rangers.



## *Summer Special*



### **Diversity at Leisure**

During summer vacation, Americans visit museums and national parks, attend music and theater festivals, participate in sports events, see unusual attractions and, often, perform community service. These activities reflect Americans' cultural interests, outdoor pursuits and civic-minded concerns. Find out more about American museums and amusement parks; summer theaters and summer festivals, and even summer readings; and volunteer vacations at [America.gov▶](#)

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