

March 2009

Fulbright and KOGART Cement Deal to Promote Study in the U.S.



The KOGART Gallery in Budapest, the KOGART Foundation and the Fulbright Commission signed an Agreement to support the education of Hungarian students in the United States. In the first year KOGART will support one student at the graduate level in the field of painting, graphics, sculpture, or art history.

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Ambassador Foley with Gábor Kovács

Recently at the Embassy



Tolerance Video Competition Awards Ceremony

Over 250 students, teachers, and representatives from the NGO and diplomatic community crowded into an auditorium at Dániel Berzsenyi High School on March 20th for the 2009 Tolerance Video Competition awards ceremony sponsored by the U.S. Embassy. Ambassador Foley awarded the top prize to Jakab Greifenstein for his imaginative video which used a Rubik Cube to convey his message ([video▶](#)). Second place was awarded to Kolos Finta and Dániel Ördög ([video▶](#)), and Kristóf Generál and Mátyás Vincze received third place ([video▶](#)). [More▶](#)



U.S. Embassy Honors the March 15 Holiday

Deputy Chief of Mission Jeffrey Levine visited Monok in north-eastern Hungary on March 15, to participate in commemorations there of Hungary's Revolution and Freedom Fight of 1848. Monok is the birthplace of revolutionary war hero Lajos Kossuth.

[More▶](#)



Progress in Bringing C-17 to Pápa Air Base

On March 13, the U.S. aircraft manufacturer Boeing marked a key milestone at its C-17 final assembly facility in Long Beach, California, holding a "major join" ceremony for the first C-17 Globemaster III. During major join, the C-17 airlifter's four major sections - the forward, center and aft fuselages and wing assembly - are integrated, and the aircraft begins to look like a C-17 for the first time. [More▶](#)



Hungarian Roma Journalist Group Returns from the U.S.

A group of four Roma journalists from Hungary participated in the Department of State's International Visitors Program last month. After their return they met with Ambassador Foley on March 10, to discuss their experiences while in the U.S. [More▶](#)

Young Hungarians Meet the Secretary of State Online

A group of about 20 young Hungarians attended Secretary Clinton's live webchat from Brussels on March 6. They were journalists, politicians, business people and a contingent of the Young Diplomats Club from Corvinus University. [More▶](#)



Symposium on 20th Anniversary of Fall of the Wall

Donald Kursch, former Deputy Chief of Mission at Embassy Budapest, spoke at a symposium in Budapest addressing the history and lessons learned from twenty years ago at the time of political transition in Eastern Europe. This symposium, organized on March 5 by the International Center for Democratic Transition, celebrated Hungary's leaving the Soviet orbit. [More▶](#)

Work and Travel Program for Young Hungarians

On March 5, the Embassy organized a web forum on the Summer Work/Travel Program. Besides the Embassy's Consular Section staff, representatives of nearly all the agencies working on the Work/Travel Program were present: Apex, Bron-Y-Aur, Camp Leaders, CCUSA, Explore USA and Student Work. [More▶](#)



U.S. Congressional Delegation in Hungary

Led by Representative Stephen Lynch, Chairman of the Congressional Task Force on Terrorism and Proliferation Financing, Representatives Todd Platts, Glenn Thompson, Steven Driehaus, Jim McDermott, and Gerald Connolly, visited Hungary on March 2 to discuss national security issues, including bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation in the fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism. [More▶](#)

Ambassador Foley in Zalaegerszeg

As a part of her outreach plan, which has already taken Ambassador Foley to more than forty cities around Hungary, she visited Zalaegerszeg on February 26. [More▶](#)



Prominent Civil Rights Activist Visits Hungary

Dr. Bernard LaFayette, Jr. a minister, an educator and an authority on nonviolent social change, visited Hungary from February 17 to 21, in support of the Embassy program to celebrate Black History Month. [More▶](#)

Looking Ahead



Hungarian-American Enterprise Scholarship Fund – Call for Applications

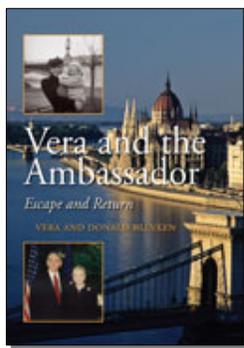
The Hungarian-American Enterprise Scholarship Fund's (HAESF) objective is to promote free enterprise and development in Hungary and to continue to strengthen ties between the United States and Hungary by creating opportunities for accomplished Hungarians and those of great promise to gain professional experience in the United States, thereby enhancing their contribution to Hungarian society.

During the month of April, applications are accepted for the following scholarships:

April 1 - Professional Internship Program and Senior Leaders and Scholars Fellowship

April 15 - Graduate Scholarship Program [More▶](#)

New Publications



Vera and the Ambassador: Escape and Return (SUNY Press, 2009)

In their recently published book, Mrs. Vera Blinken tells the moving story of her escape from Soviet-occupied Hungary as a child with her mother in 1950, and building a successful new life in the United States. She returned to Hungary in 1994 with her husband, Donald Blinken, whom President Clinton appointed U.S. Ambassador to Hungary. In this engaging dual memoir, they provide a fascinating insight into the operations of the



Ambassador and Vera Blinken

Embassy during Ambassador Blinken's tenure in Hungary (1994-1997), and describe their joint efforts in advancing the relationship between the two countries and the two peoples. [More▶](#)

The 2008 Human Rights Report: Hungary has been published.

The report is available both in English and in Hungarian.

[Report in English▶](#)

[Report in Hungarian▶](#)



Defense Issues, NATO, Response to Terrorism

IRC Newsletter

March 2009

[Newsletter▶](#)

Nonviolent Paths to Social Change *eJournal USA, March 2009*

This publication demonstrates that nonviolent actions can be more powerful than armed insurrections in bringing about social change.

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