



April 23, 2007

Recently at the Embassy

Minister of Defense and Ambassador Foley Discuss "New Phase" of U.S.-Hungary Military Cooperation



In advance of his five-day official visit to Washington where he will meet Secretary of Defense Gates and Deputy Secretary Negroponte, Hungary's Defense Minister Szekeres met with Ambassador Foley on April 17 to brief her on the ongoing transformation of Hungary's armed forces. Following their meeting, Minister Szekeres and Ambassador Foley held a joint press event. Ambassador Foley emphasized that security cooperation between the United States and Hungary has never been better. [More▶](#)

Viszontlátásra Reekers!

This month we bade farewell to two extraordinary members of our Embassy community: Philip T. Reeker, the Deputy Chief of Mission from July 2004 to April 2007, and his wife Solveig, an active contributor to the Diplomatic Spouses Association and many other community groups. The Reekers shared a genuine and deep love of Hungary and its people, which infused their professional and personal activities and helped build strong bonds of friendship between our two countries. We will miss them!



U.S. Officials Participate in the *March of the Living*

Warren L. Miller, Chairman of the U.S. Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, and Ambassador Foley took part in the *March of the Living* on April 15. The participants marched between the Holocaust Memorial Center on Páva street and the Dohány street Synagogue in honor of the victims of the Holocaust. Chairman Miller offered remarks and dedicated a plaque in honor of Pope John XXIII at a program held at the conclusion of the March. Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli (later Pope John XXIII) helped save thousands of Jews from the Holocaust. [March of the Living web site▶](#)

Ambassador Foley Attends Commemorative Event of the United Iraqis Living in Hungary

[More▶](#) [Ambassador's Remarks▶](#)

On April 14, Ambassador Foley attended an event organized by the United Iraqis Living in Hungary in observance of the 4th anniversary of the liberation of Iraq. In her remarks, Ambassador Foley thanked the Iraqi people and the international partners for their generous support to U.S. efforts, and reiterated the U.S. commitment to the Iraqi people. The event was attended by around 120 Iraqis and family members, including representatives from the future Iraqi Embassy in Budapest.

U.S. Ambassador Neumann Visits the Hungarian PRT in Baghlan

U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Ronald E. Neumann and his wife visited Baghlan province on April 4. He received a briefing by the Hungarian Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) which focused on security in the province, the structure of the PRT, and planned development activities. [More▶](#)



U.S. Ambassador Wisner Briefs Hungarian Journalists on Kosovo Talks

On April 11, Ambassador Frank Wisner, Special Representative of the Secretary of State to the Kosovo Status Talks, spoke with Hungarian journalists in a digital video conference. Ambassador Wisner noted that there was no need for further negotiations on the status of Kosovo and that Washington fully supports the Ahtisaari plan. He emphasized that Hungary has a crucial role in helping Serbia be incorporated into the trans-Atlantic community. Read the Foreign Press Center [Briefing▶](#) with Amb. Wisner.



Hungarian Youth Posters Promote Environmental Responsibility

[GLOBE Program▶](#)



To commemorate Earth Day (April 22), the Embassy sponsored a poster contest for 14-15 and 16-18 year-old students from schools that participate in the GLOBE program, an international environmental education program that originated in the U.S. On April 20, Ambassador Foley announced the winners and presented prizes at a ceremony in the Chancery. The first place winning poster of the 14-15 year-old age group was also photographed for exhibit at the U.S. State Department. (see photo)

U.S. Expert Promotes Private Sector Support for the Arts

On April 11, President of Arts and Business Partners LLC, New York, Alice Sachs Zimet conducted a day-long seminar in Budapest on corporate sponsorship in the area of arts. Ms. Zimet talked to 50 representatives of cultural institutions and art managers about smart and savvy ways to convince corporations and other business partners to sponsor artistic activities and programs. [More▶](#)



First Hungarian Bilingual High School Celebrates 50th Birthday



The Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Bilingual High School held its 50th birthday celebration on April 3. Kőrösi High, which was the first multi-lingual high school in Hungary, has some famous graduates, among them Foreign Minister Kinga Göncz. At the ceremony, Embassy Public Affairs Counselor Michael Hurley spoke about the importance of learning foreign languages and of educational opportunities in the United States.

Embassy Volunteers Help in Camp for Courageous Children

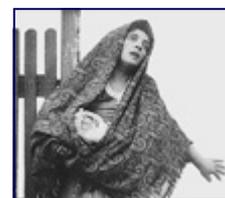
On April 14, ten volunteers from the Embassy participated in United Way's Volunteer Day at Camp Courageous in Hatvan. This camp is open to children with serious illnesses, who can spend a fun-filled week there. The volunteers painted cabins and helped to clear an area and build a structure that will become a bike shed. [United Way Hungary▶](#)



Looking Ahead

An Evening of Jewish Cinema at the Mediawave Festival in Győr

On April 30 at 9:00 p.m., this joint program of American and Hungarian experts will offer brief lectures on Jewish film and feature a Hungarian silent movie and two American documentaries. Venue: Rómer House, Győr, Teleki u. 21. [Mediawave Festival▶](#)



[Webchats▶](#) On April 24: **What Does the Future Hold for Kosovo?** with Janusz Bugajski at 10:00 a.m. EDT (1400 GMT); and **What Will Kosovo's Independence Mean to Southeast Europe, the EU, and the United States?** with Jim O'Brien at 11:00 a.m. EDT (1500 GMT)

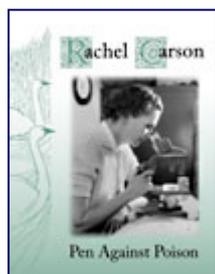
Benkó Dixiland Band Jubilee Concert

[Benkó Dixiland Band▶](#)

Don't miss this grand event celebrating the 50th anniversary of one of Hungary's most popular jazz bands at 7:30 p.m. on May 5 in the Budapest Papp László Sports Arena!



New Publications



2006 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices in Hungarian

The Hungarian translation of the report on Hungary is now available on our Hungarian web site. [Report▶](#)

Rachel Carson: Pen Against Poison [Publication▶](#)

Rachel Carson's 1962 book *Silent Spring* brought worldwide attention to the harm to human health and the environment wrought by mishandling of a powerful pesticide, fomenting the environmental movement.

[IRC Newsletters: Health Issues▶ Environmental Issues▶](#)



In the News... from Washington

2008 Presidential Campaign Overview

Foreign Press Center Briefing by Ben Ginsberg, Partner, Patton Boggs and NBC News Contributor (04/13)

"What I'd like to do is talk some about the rules and the structure for the campaign and hopefully provide some tips on what to look for as you all are reporting on our election. As I said, this presidential campaign is very different from ones in the past, but it is also true that the way we fund presidential elections is different from all the races for the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House and all the states. And so part of the unique features of this is that our presidential system is unique." [More▶](#)

International Student Applications to U.S. Graduate Schools Rise

For a second consecutive year, applications for admission to master's and doctoral programs at U.S. colleges and universities have risen strongly. The State Department has taken a number of steps to expedite the processing of student visa applications. [More▶](#)