



EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES

BUDAPEST NEWSLETTER

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Tom Lantos, 1928-2008

President Bush: "Tom was a man of character and a champion of human rights. After immigrating to America more than six decades ago, he worked to help oppressed people around the world have the opportunity to live in freedom. As the only Holocaust survivor to serve in Congress, Tom was a living reminder that we must never turn a blind eye to the suffering of the innocent at the hands of evil men." [Full text▶](#)

Secretary Rice: "Tom Lantos was a genuine American hero. He came to America as a refugee from totalitarianism, and he became a remarkable contributor to American political, civic and cultural life." [Full text▶](#) (photo AP Images)

Recently at the Embassy

Public Affairs Hosts Missile Defense Press Conference

On February 21, the United States and the Russian Federation held the fifth meeting of senior-level missile defense policy experts in Budapest. This was a second round held in Hungary and it included more delegates than earlier to allow the bilateral discussions to cover a wider range of security and nonproliferation issues such as post-START arrangement and CFE. At the conclusion of the bilateral talks the Embassy organized a press conference for the American delegation headed by the Acting Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Mr. John Rood. In his opening statement the Head of the Delegation called the meeting very significant since it brought the two parties closer to eventual cooperation on missile defense and radar cooperation. [More▶](#)



Ambassador Foley Visits Tatabánya and Nyergesújfalu

On February 19, Ambassador Foley visited an area of western Hungary successfully recovering from the loss of mining industries to learn more about how they attract new business and protect the environment. In Tatabánya, she met first with faculty and students at the new College of Modern Business Studies. Then the Ambassador was briefed by Tatabánya's *Climate Group*, a grass roots environmental protection initiative, on its comprehensive municipal strategy of education and action to reduce carbon emissions and conserve energy. She also met with Tatabánya Mayor János Bencsik. Finally, Ambassador Foley visited Zoltek Corporation in Nyergesújfalu. [More▶](#)

American Corner in Eger Hosts Jazz Ensemble to Celebrate Black History Month

Improvisions, an American jazz quartet celebrated Black History Month with a concert hosted by the American Corner on February 19. The group played jazz tunes in the spectacular chapel of Eszterházy College, which was packed with an audience of 150 people. The quartet's colorful style included old jazz standards as well as improvisations on tunes by Wayne Shorter, Joe Henderson, Horace Silver, Miles Davis, and Bill Evans. The quartet also featured original tunes written by saxophonist John McKenna and pianist Michael Arnowitt. [More▶](#)



Super Tuesday DVC Scores in Hungarian Media

The Embassy Public Affairs invited the Hungarian media to its DVC facility on the day after Super Tuesday to have a video conference with two U.S. elections specialists, Gary Nordlinger, the President of Nordlinger Associates, a political and public affairs consulting firm and Ann Stone, an entrepreneur and political activist. [More▶](#)

Ambassador Foley's Media Roundtable Gets Wide Coverage

Ambassador April Foley conducted an on the record media roundtable on February 1 with Hungarian journalists covering foreign affairs. The Ambassador's opening remarks gave the media representatives an outline of her policy goals for the rest of the year as well as highlighting President Bush's State of the Union address. The journalists then questioned the Ambassador on a far ranging set of issues including visas, energy independence, Kosovo, U.S. elections, and economic questions. [More▶](#)



Hungarian Poet Continues to Enrich Hungary and America 10 Years after U.S. Cultural Exchange [More▶](#)

In 1998, poet and novelist András Petőcz participated in the very competitive Iowa University International Writing Program. After Mr. Petőcz returned to Hungary, the Embassy was delighted to assist in the publication of a volume of poetry inspired by this cultural exchange entitled "Napfényes sávban." Some 10 years later, on February 7, under the title "A Ray of Sunlight" the English-language version had its debut.



(Photo courtesy of Linda Vadasz)

Ambassador Introduces Pittsburgh Symphony at Top Budapest Venue



The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) performed a program of Beethoven and Brahms to a full house at the Bartók Béla Concert Hall on February 4. Ambassador Foley introduced the PSO as one of America's premier classical music ensembles not only for its virtuosity, but for helping to train high school musicians interested in a career in music and for offering music appreciation courses to make the genre more accessible to the general public. [More▶](#)

Ambassador Praises U.S. and Hungarian Commitment to Robust Fulbright Program

On January 30, Ambassador Foley opened the orientation session of newly-arrived American Fulbright grantees with welcoming remarks underlining the continued vitality of this flagship U.S.-Hungarian academic exchange program. After meeting the new arrivals, the Ambassador toured the Commission's new offices that also include the EducationUSA Advising Center and the Computer Based Test Center. [More▶](#)



(Photo courtesy of Fulbright Commission)

Looking Ahead



American Visa Forum

The U.S. Commercial Service of the Embassy is organizing a forum for the first day of *UTAZÁS* Show on February 28 at 1:00 pm. (HUNGEXPO, Pavilion "B" Media Room, Budapest, X. Albertirsai út 10.) Ambassador Foley will open the forum. Consul General Thomas Ramsey will provide an update on visa applications and issuance, then he will answer questions. Language of the forum will be English without translation. All tour operators and interested parties are cordially invited! Registration: katlin.barazda@mail.doc.gov

17th International "Bohém" Ragtime & Jazz Festival

The Embassy is pleased to be a co-sponsor of "Bohém," the largest jazz festival in the region. Participants include ragtime and traditional jazz bands, and soloists. This year, Jonathan Russell, a 12-year old jazz violinist from New York will represent the United States. The center of the Festival is March 28-30 in Kecskemét, but 10 more cities will host events between March 25 and April 5. [Bohém web site▶](#)



(Photo courtesy of Bohém Festival)

New Publications

eJournal: *Immigrants Joining the Mainstream*

Immigrants made the United States what it is. This edition of eJournal tells the story of immigration and diversity as it has played out through the centuries and continues to play out now. [eJournal▶](#)

IRC Newsletters: [U.S. Society and Values▶](#) [Defense Issues▶](#)

In the News... from Washington

Bush Hails Kosovo Independence, Supports U.N. Plan (02/19/2008)

"Kosovo committed itself to the highest standards of democracy, including freedom and tolerance and justice for ... all," says President Bush. "These are principles that honor human dignity; they are values America looks for in a friend." [More▶](#)

Black History Month Honors Determination and Triumph [More▶](#)

Each February, Black History Month honors the struggles and triumphs of millions of American citizens as well as their contributions to the nation's cultural and political life. Carter G. Woodson, a noted scholar and historian, instituted Negro History Week in 1926.



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