



MEMORIAL DAY (Last Monday in May)



Cities all around the United States hold their own ceremonies on the last Monday in May to pay respect to the men and women who have died in wars or in the service of their country. It is also a day for personal remembrance. Families and individuals honor the memories of their loved ones who have died. Church services, visits to the cemetery, flowers on graves or even silent tribute mark the day with dignity and solemnity. It is a day of reflection. However, to many Americans the day also signals the beginning of summer with a three-day weekend to spend at the beach, in the mountains or at home relaxing.
(AP Photo)

Recently at the Embassy



Chargé Levine (second from right, with journalists at the roundtable. (screenshot courtesy of ATV)
[Full size photo](#)►

Media Roundtable on Progress of New Administration

Chargé d'Affaires Jeffrey Levine conducted a media roundtable on May 19 at the U.S. Embassy. Speaking with a dozen representatives of the leading Hungarian media, Chargé d'Affaires Levine reviewed the new administration's record thus far, stressing the continuity of excellent U.S.-Hungarian relations. He also repeated the Embassy's long-standing commitment to tolerance and transparency. Besides answering questions from the printed media, he gave several TV and radio interviews on issues of bilateral concern.



American and British Civilization Competition in Kaposvár

Eleven teams from across Somogy County participated in the 14th annual competition. The subjects ranged from places in UK/US, famous people, plants, and animals to the knowledge of proverbs, traditions, and British and American culinary specialties. Events included in-depth extemporaneous presentations, impromptu skits and written questionnaires.

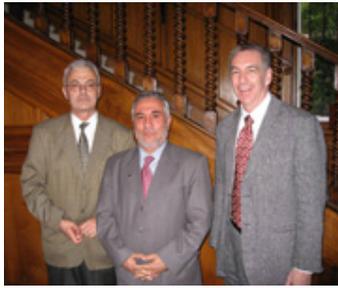
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Sociology Expert Dr. Hollander Analyzes Anti-Americanism

Dr. Paul Hollander talked to university students, politicians, political researchers, and the media about the sources of anti-Americanism. He shared his predictions regarding the future of this phenomenon and the impact on it of the new Obama foreign policy.

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U.S. Embassy Honors Visiting Afghan Governor

Chargé d’Affaires Jeffrey Levine hosted a reception in honor of Mohammad Akbar Barakzai, Governor of Baghlan Province, Afghanistan. In his remarks, Mr. Levine recognized Hungarian contributions to NATO operations in Afghanistan. Also speaking at the event, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Senior State Secretary Vilmos Szabó stressed Hungary’s long-term commitment to helping the Afghan people achieve security and stability in their country.

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Looking Ahead



Public online voting period to select Democracy Video Challenge begins May 15 – June 15, 2009.

The Democracy Video Challenge asked people around the world to create short videos completing the phrase, “Democracy is...” Over 900 contestants from 95 countries answered the call. The independent jury has selected the 21 finalists. From May 15 – June 15 we’re asking the online public to cast their votes for the winners.

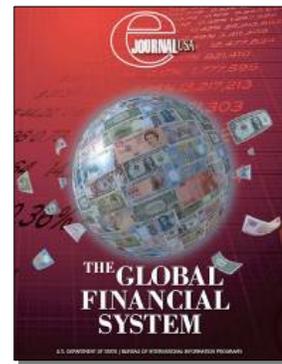
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New Publications

The Global Financial System *eJournal USA* Vol 14, No.5. May 2009

Experts describe the mechanics of the global financial system presenting their views concerning the cyclical nature of markets, the interdependence of global trade relationships, and the role of regulation.

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