

October 23rd Memorial in Nagykanizsa

Each column stands for one of the days of freedom achieved during the Uprising of 1956. The left front one marked "X. 23" is the one on our header this month.

The shadows are embedded in the marble.



The 23rd of October

Tollas Tibor

The earth cries out in pain, the walls are falling,
Blue trumpets to the sky with triumph smite;
And from the dank stones of the dungeon crawling,
Man issues forth again and walks in light.

Our withered bodies are a-flood with feeling,
Upon our faded cheeks the sunlight gleams,
Our steps are staggering, nay, almost reeling,
Our souls are bright with freedom and its dreams.

Our hearts, out of the dark, throw wide their portals,
– A purple flower from the earth upsoars, –
Out of our slavery, we show light to mortals,
Without a weapon, we are conquerors.

translated by Watson Kirkconnell



Bell on Plot 301, in Rákoskeresztúr cemetery, where victims of the 1956 Uprising were buried.

Tollas Tibor (1920 - 1997), a professional soldier, was seriously wounded in World War II. He was imprisoned in 1947 on trumped up charges. In Vác prison, he collected the poems of other prisoners, and the ones that were not destroyed by the guards were later published in a volume entitled "Füveskert", and later in English as "From the Hungarian Revolution". His best-known poem is "Bebádogoztak minden ablakot" (They've Tinned Up All the Windows, One by One").

The Holed Flag of '56

Translated by Olga Vallay Szokolay

According to several sources and witnesses, the holed flag first appeared in the capital, on October 23, 1956, during the demonstration at Bem Square. This excerpt is taken from Magyar Kislexikon by Szilvász György.



A red flag was flying off the balcony of the nearby *Külgügyminisztérium* (Department of Foreign Affairs or State Department) building that particularly irritated the crowds waiting for the students of the Technical University. A chorus quickly formed, chanting: "National flag to the State Department!" Workers of the Department soon switched the red banner to the Hungarian flag with the coat of arms of the State (including the hammer-and-sickle and the red star, the symbols of Communism), prompting the chorus to chant: "Not our flag! Down with it!" Within a short time, the removed flag reappeared but with a hole gaping in the place of the former coat of arms in the middle. The crowd at the Square received the newly fledged

flag with loud cheering and from this time on the holed flag became the symbol of the '56 Freedom Fight.

Spontaneously as the holed flag originated, it carries profound meaning. The heroes fighting for freedom rejected with elementary force the coat of arms with the red star representing dictatorship. Its place was not filled by anything else to proclaim, as an eternal memento, the Hungarian people's patriotism and desire for freedom. No other nation in the world had a special holed flag, thus it may be considered a Hungaricum...

Az 56-os lyukas zászló

Több forrás és szemtanú szerint elsőként a fővárosban, 1956. október 23.-án, a Bem téren lezajlott tüntetésben kapott szerepet a „lyukas zászló”. A tér mellett lévő Külgügyminisztérium erkélyére vörös zászló volt kítűzve, ami különösen ingerelte a Múgyetem hallgatóira váró tömeget. Szavalókórus alakult ki, amely követelte: „Nemzeti zászlót a Külgügyre!” Rövidesen a minisztérium dolgozói kicserélték a vörös zászlót az államcímeres magyar zászlóra, amire a tömeg azonnal reagált: „Nem a mi zászlónk! Le vele!” – szolt a szavalókórus. A bevont zászló rövid idő múlva megjelent, de akkor már lyuk tátongott a címer helyén. A téren álló tömeg üdvözléssel fogadta az újdonsült zászlót, és ettől kezdve a lyukas lobogó az 56-os szabadságharc jelképévé vált.

A lyukas zászló, amilyen spontán módon keletkezett, olyan mély értelmet hordott. A diktatúrát jelentő címert a vörös csillaggal elemi erővel utasították el a szabadságért küzdő hősök. Helyét nem töltötték be semmi mással, hogy örök mementóként hirdesse a magyarság szabadságvágyát és hazaszeretét. Ilyen különleges, lyukas zászlója egy nemzetnek sincs a világon, ezért akár hungarikumnak is tekinthetjük...

Musings on My Visit to Budapest

Rev. Mark A. Horton, with an introduction by Claudia Margitay-Balogh.

On September 6th, 2015 at the welcome back coffee hour, after the Church service (United Church of Christ, North Avenue, Bridgeport), Claudia Margitay-Balogh's Minister, the Rev. Horton was asked to speak about his recent three-day stay in Budapest. The following is her introduction and his reflection.

Rev. Horton, who has travelled intensively throughout the world, never takes photos. He believes that a purchased picture book of the sites is all he needs to bring forth the memories of his experiences. Instead of looking through a camera lens, he wants to view the places that he visits with the naked eye. Furthermore, Rev. Horton likes to explore his destinations by himself. With sturdy walking shoes and a guide book (which he has already studied before his arrival) in his hand, he spends his time very efficiently and effectively.

When Mark Horton arrived in Budapest during the last week in August, the early immigrants from Syria were being housed at Budapest's Keleti railroad station. At that time, these immigrants were waiting to be screened for travel visas. Needless to say, Hungary has constantly been in the news during these past weeks as more and more Arabs, Asians, and Africans have spent weeks travelling through Turkey, Greece, and the Balkans to reach Hungary, a popular back door into the European Union. According to Pastor Horton, his timing is always impeccable. Throughout his travels, he has always arrived at a destination during some political upheaval.

Because Rev. Horton was visiting only the capital Budapest, which he agreed was still “the Paris of the East”, language was not an issue. Everyone with whom he came into contact spoke excellent English. He was disappointed that he didn’t need to use some of the Hungarian phrases he had memorized from his guide book. One of the congregants told him that he definitely would have needed to know more Hungarian if he had been able to visit the rural parts of Hungary.

The streets of Budapest were so crowded with tourists in August that Rev. Horton compared his experience with being on Fifth Avenue in New York City during the holiday season in December.

Visiting the different places in Budapest was like a history lesson to Rev. Horton. He believes that the structures and statues gave him a better understanding of the people of Hungary and showed what is important to the people. His impression after his three-day history lesson is that Hungarians are resilient and tough. Despite all who have occupied this country through the ages, the Hungarian people have survived and will continue to do so in the future. They have remained loyal to their ethnicity, staying strong and always hopeful.

At the end of this Q&A session, Rev. Mark Horton stated that he definitely wants to return to Hungary, and even mentioned that he would love to take this trip with others from our congregation.

Claudia Margitay-Balogh is a retired English teacher and devoted wife of our Founding Editor Emeritus Joseph Balogh.

Musings on My Visit to Budapest

Rev. Mark A. Horton

My first memories of Budapest, Hungary were from the air as we glided over the flight path to Ferihegy Airport. I remember seeing from the air the Parliament Building, so majestic on the banks of the Danube. That



Budapest Freedom Square



Chain Bridge

was many years ago, when I took a group of my college students on a Habitat for Humanity build in Romania.

Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to return to Budapest, but now I was visiting with a different mindset. As the Pastor of The United Church of Christ, a congregation in Bridgeport, CT with roots deep in Hungarian heritage, I would be viewing sites that many of my congregants were very familiar with and had spoken to me about.

I spent three days touring the city and had so much to see. I went to the Castle District on the hills of Buda, crossed the Elizabeth Bridge, Margaret Bridge, and the very impressive Széchenyi Chain Bridge which I learned was designed by the English engineer William Tierney Clark, following an initiative by the influential Count Széchenyi, with construction supervised locally by the Scottish engineer Adam Clark (no relation) in 1839. This bridge was a larger scale version of William Clark’s Marlow Bridge which crosses the River Thames in Marlow, England. The Chain Bridge opened in 1849 and was at that time regarded as one of the modern world’s engineering wonders.

On the Pest side of the river, I took in the Parliament Building, St. Stephen’s Basilica, and the Opera House, but my favorite was visiting Heroes’ Square.

With construction beginning in 1896, Heroes’ Square was not completed until 1929. It is comprised of two semi-circular colonnades with a huge pillar in the middle with the archangel Gabriel, a traditional symbol of victory, on top. Within the colonnades are statues of Hungarian kings, princes, and commanders. This too is a very impressive structure.

I also had time to window shop on Váci utca and Deák Ferenc tér as well as enjoy some *marhapörkölt tarhonyával*. I will take away much from my trip: a deeper understanding and love for the Hungarian people and their history, and the meaning of the colors of the Hungarian flag – red (strength), white (loyalty), and green (hope).

I’m so glad I spent time in this fascinating city and look forward to returning.

Rev. Mark A. Horton is Minister of the North Avenue United Church of Christ in Bridgeport, CT.

1956: Children Kidnapped, Held as Prisoners of War

We have all heard about the teenagers who fought bravely on the streets of Budapest against the Russian invaders, as well as about those who survived, were imprisoned and held until they reached the age of 18, and were then executed. But the kidnapping of 5 and 6 year olds was not widely known, nor the fact that some teenagers were actually treated as prisoners of war and sent to Russia.

The first story is quoted from "56 és Kárpátalja" ("56 and Subcarpathia") by Dupka György, as published in "What Everyone Needs to Know about Hungary's 1956" by Orbán Éva.

The second is from the same source, an excerpt from an interview made with Dr. Vándor Béla. He was one of the young people dubbed "pesti srác" who, with Molotov cocktails, attacked Russian tanks sent to put down the Hungarian Uprising. He was only 15 at the time. After graduating from high school, he was not allowed to enter the university because of his participation in the events of 1956. He eventually became a doctor.

Kidnapped

"We know from witnesses in Uzhgorod that during deportations, the KGB organized the 'kidnapping' of small children from Hungarian orphanages to the Soviet Union to raise them to become " *jani-csár'* (janissaries – brain-washed soldiers). The 5-6 year old orphans were transported in trucks across the Záhony-Csap frontier station. After November 4, 6-8 canvas covered trucks packed with crying, hungry children arrived in Uzhgorod. There were small hands reaching out and begging for bread from the trucks arriving at Korjatovich Square. Some bakery goods were being delivered on the square at the time. A worker saw the kids, and threw a bunch of rolls and buns into the trucks, for which one of the guards shot him dead – obviously not to leave any witnesses.

"After the capture of children in Uzhgorod, the shipment of children went on to Onokoc. The news spread quickly, and masses of Hungarian people living in Uzhgorod came forward to adopt the small Hungarian orphans. To no effect, of course.

"After that, while on the road, the truck drivers were given the order to leave Southern Carpathia as soon as possible, because there were Hungarians living there, towards Uzhok. "As a result of the protest of the International Red Cross, the operation

was discontinued, and some of the children were taken back to Hungary. No data of those left behind have ever been disclosed to the public."

Prisoners of War

"We were taken prisoners on November 9. (T)wo Russian soldiers hid behind the telephone box at Hallertér. We were passing by, walking towards home, when suddenly they jumped from behind the phone box. They disarmed us and made us get on the platform of a tank. I was already their prisoner, but they fired a series of shots from a machine gun into my leg.

"Then they took me to Ludovika (the former military academy, Ed.) and handed me over to the ÁVO officers. At that time, the Ludovika served as the headquarters of a security enforcement unit made (up of) ÁVO officers who interrogated me all night.

"First, they kept jumping on my leg with metal plated boots. I couldn't possibly draw my legs away because of my injuries. I had scars from shots on my calf and my ankle as well. My bones were not damaged but a bullet rubbed against my ankle.

"Second, they battered my wounds with a wooden block. This is how they wanted to extract information. They mainly wanted to know who our people were. Of course, I would-

n't have been able to tell them even if I had wanted to. On the point of being beaten to death, it occurred to me that I should say invented names. And then they stopped hitting me. Even today I would be able to recognize the ÁVO officer who interrogated me and beat my wounds with a log.

"They told us that they would execute one of us every hour. They did execute one of us, a guy around 30. There were people collected from all over the city, about 25-30 of us locked up in a room at Ludovika...

"What saved our lives was that the ÁVO officers broke into a pharmacy in Üllői út, from which they stole pure alcohol, and started competing on who could drink the most with the least water. The whole company ended up drunk, putting an end to the executions.

"Then, at dawn, they made us sit in an armored car and took us to the Kilián barracks where we were imprisoned for two or three days. In the street they collected a man with a doctor's case to treat the injured. He was a pediatrician called István Lévai, who worked in (the) MÁV hospital. Later on I found him and thanked him for what he had done for us.

"At first hearing he remembered 20 or 22 names, addresses and phone numbers, and notified our relatives. That's when my parents got to know

I was alive and was kept in detention at the Kilián barracks.

"They took us to the Soviet Union from there on a freight train. On the wagon we tore a plank off, chose the nicest looking wallet, wrote our names in it, and threw it out at a station. As I learned later, it was somewhere near Nyíregyháza. A railwayman found this wallet at the station where we had stopped, and notified everyone. So that's how my parents knew or suspected that I was being deported to the Soviet Union. We were taken to Uzhgorod.

"According to local information, there were about one thousand five hundred of us in the prison at Uzhgorod. A few days later 51 of us were brought back home.

"Later, I heard that the fifty-one of us had been put on a truck and brought home because we were less than 16 years old. This was carried out under international pressure. So from the 1,500 prisoners 51 were brought home. They sought me out from a sick ward, as I was kept there because of my injury. Sándor Altordai, commander of the national guard of Jászberény, was lying on a nearby bed in a very severe state.

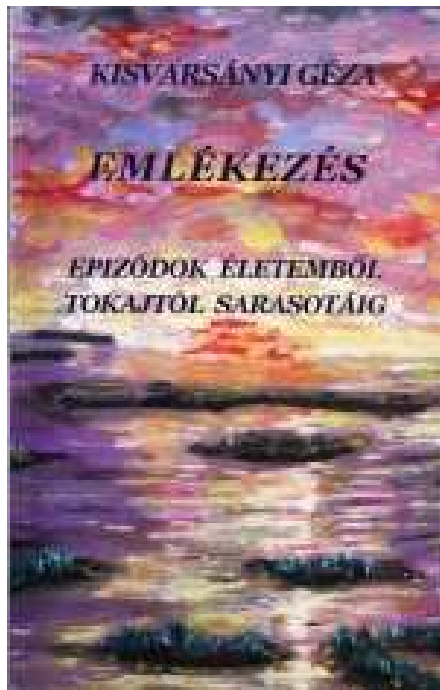
"They brought me home. We arrived home at midday, but then they took us somewhere temporarily. At around midnight, they began delivering us home in a Soviet army truck one by one, based on the addresses we had given. It was November 25, 1956.

"At one-thirty at night, a high-ranking Soviet officer handed me over to my parents with an interpreter, who emphatically warned them against spreading any news about children being deported to the Soviet Union. My parents were obliged to deny such slander and to keep in mind (that) I have never been there, and I have never been a prisoner."

Memories/ Emlékezés

Reviewed by: Bitskey Ella

Through this biography one is able to follow the fate of 20th century Hungary, at the mercy of the great powers. An English version was published as an e-book in 2013, with the subtitle "Reminiscences of a Gulag Survivor".



Memories

Géza Kisvarsányi looks back at his life by the title "Memories", immediately providing the direction: from Tokaj to Sarasota. This imaginary line might seem to be a straight one, did the colors of the picture on the cover, based on the author's own painting not intimate commotion, fear, such a huge detour which, it's true, started at Tokaj, but reached Sarasota only by way of Siberia and the Gulag.

The book of Géza Kisvarsányi begins with a table of contents, which we look for in vain in so many publications from Hungary. I will choose only a handful from the detailed listing so the reader might prepare himself to follow the author. "Tokaj: nature's

poem"; "A little summer workers' camp"; "Small country, big war"; "The world of barbed wire"; "The Constanta transit camp"; "Traveling on the Black Sea"; "Death camp #44"; "Hospital camp #4"; "Road of hope"...

As it says in the Foreword: "I am 85 years old... I never kept a diary... If I had... it would have been lost long ago, in Russian captivity, or later in Hungary. Under Communism it was not advisable to remember... Paper and pencil were great enemies of dictatorships, and the information revolution played a major part in bringing them down..."

During his whole life he always thought positively, even under the most difficult circumstances. In his old age, he presents his memories with such exactitude and strength to the reader that in this age of narrow vision, TV, i-phones and the ever more popular demonstrations, his book should be required reading in schools.

After a thorough historic and metal mining detour, we come to the outbreak of the war, as a consequence of which students graduated as early as April of 1944. But they could not enjoy being graduates because – at German demand – the army corps of Miskolc drafted 300 students for forced labor.

The young people used to city life were put to using pickaxes, shoveling and digging... Fortunately, Géza was admitted to the Nádor József Technical University in September, but because of the bombings, the university closed in October. Géza went home to Eger. In the fall, following the compulsory order, he reported to Eger city hall. And so – with no previous warning – he became a Royal Hungarian soldier. He was posted to Marosvásárhely, to help fill up the Transylvanian Division. Moving west with that unit, he first became an American prisoner of war, but the

tribulations of Géza and his companions began after the Americans handed them over to the Soviets (!): logging in the Caucasian forced labor camp; wretched food; the production demanded of the unfortunate prisoners weakened by the inhumane living and working conditions. Géza was totally exhausted, and in the hospital camp came under the care of a doctor who had studied at the Sorbonne but had been a prisoner since 1917.

Eventually, news arrived of the always expected, but never really hoped for release, and it became a reality. In Debrecen, the returning prisoner received the number 80.372, and following the compulsory doctor's examination, stepped into the "earthly paradise". He traveled back to Eger where he learned that his mother and sister had fled to Germany before the Russians, and his father was helping his own sick mother in Tokaj. Since his brother worked in Budapest, he too moved there. He enrolled at the university as a geology student, choosing the science which would support him through his flight in 1956, his marriage and his starting a family.

There is a chapter on the 1956 Uprising by Géza's wife Éva, a participant in the Budapest demonstrations.

Ella Bitskey had worked for Radio Free Europe, and is a sometime contributor to Magyar News Online from Sarasota, Florida.

Emlékezés

Emlékezés címmel Kisvarsányi Géza tekint vissza az életére, mindjárt megadva az irányt is: Tokajtól Sarasotáig. Ez a képzeletbeli vonal egyenesnek tűnhetnék, ha a fedőlapon, az író festménye alapján készült kép színei nem sejtetnének riadalmat, félelmet, egy olyan hatalmas vargabetűt, amely (igaz) Tokajból indult el, de csak Szibérián és

Gulágon át ért el Sarasotába.

Kisvarsányi Géza könyve a tartalomjegyzékkel kezdődik, amit annyi otthoni kiadásban hiába keresünk. A részletes felsorolásból csak néhányat ragadok ki, hogy az olvasó felkészülhessen az író követő útjára. Tokaj: A természet költeménye; Egy kis nyári munkatábor; Kis ország, nagy háború; A szögesdrót világa; A konstancai gyűjtőtábor; Utazás a Fekete-tengeren; A 44-es halál láger; A 4-es kórházi láger; A reménység útja...



Éva and Géza Kisvarsányi

Amint az előszóban áll: „Nyolcvanöt éves vagyok...Naplót soha nem vezettem... Ha írtam volna ... már régen elveszett volna, az orosz hadifogságban, majd Magyarországon. A kommunizmus alatt nem volt ajánlatos emlékezni... A papír és a ceruza a diktatúrák nagy ellensége volt, és ledöntésükben nagy szerepe volt az információs forradalomnak...”

Egész életében, még a legsúlyosabb körülmények között is pozitívan gondolkodott. Emlékeit idős korában is oly pontossággal és erővel tárja az olvasó elé, hogy könyvét az iskolákban kötelező olvasmánnyá kellene tenni, a szűk látókörű, a tv, a maroktelefon és az egyre divatosabbá váló tüntetések korában...

Egy alapos történelmi és ércbányászati kitérő után eljutunk a háború kitöréséhez, aminek követ-

keztében 1944-ben már áprilisban érettségiztek. De nem sokáig „élvezték” az érett kor örömeit, mert – a németek kívánságára – a Miskolci Hadtest behívott háromszáz diákot munkaszolgálatra.

A városi élethez szokott fiatalok csákányozást, lapátolást, kubikosmunkát végeztek...Szerencsére szeptemberben felvették a József Nádor Műszaki Egyetemre, amit azonban a bombázások miatt már október elsejével bezártak. Géza hazament

Egerbe. Ősszel, a kötelező parancsot teljesítve, jelentkezett az egri városházán. És így – minden előjelzés nélkül – magyar királyi honvéd lett belőle. Marosvásárhelyre került, a Székely Hadosztály feltöltésére. Ezzel az egységgel nyugat felé haladva először amerikai hadifogoly lett, de miután az amerikaiak átadták őket a szovjeteknek (!), elkezdődött Géza és társai kálváriája: a kaukázusi munkatáborban végzett fakitermelés, a silány ellátás, az embertelen élet- és

munkakörülmények között a legyengült, szerencsétlen foglyoktól megkövetelt teljesítmény. Géza teljesen kimerülve a kórházlágerben egy, a Sorbonne-on tanult, de 1917 óta fogoly orvoshoz került. Majd eljött a mindig várt, de soha nem remélt szabadulás híre, sőt a megvalósulása.

Debrecenben a hazatérő fogoly a 80.372-es számot kapta, s a kötelező orvosi vizsgálat után átlépett a „földi paradicsomba”. Hazautazott Egerbe, ahol megtudta, édesanyja és húga az oroszok elől Németországba menekült, édesapja pedig Tokajban segíti beteg édesanyját. Mivel a bátyja Budapesten dolgozott, ő is odaköltözött. Beiratkozott az egyetem geológia szakára, azt a tudományt választva, amely 1956-os menekülése, nősülése, családalapítása után Amerikában további életét biztosította.

*taken from "Életünk" (München), May 2015
Translated by EPF*

Papp László, Triple Olympic Boxing Champion

By: EPF

During the luncheon following one of the last Hungarian Masses at Forestburgh recently, I spoke with Ede Keller, who mentioned that he had known Papp László, called "the best amateur and professional boxer of all time". Papp, born in Budapest in March 1926, died in October 2003, so it is appropriate that we remember him in this issue.

Ede Keller had been a member of the Hungarian junior boxing team in 1960, which trained in the same facility, the *Sportcsarnok*, used by Papp László, the Middleweight and Light Middleweight champion. He remembers watching Papp's attractive wife who was ice dancing with two or three others on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays while her husband was training in a different part of the building.

Papp László was a member of the *Lokomotív* (later *Budapesti Vasutasok Sportklubja – BVS*). He needed sparring partners, and every one of the junior team had a turn with him. Some left the ring after one minute, others after a mere 20 seconds. Papp hit hard, but would always apologize right afterwards: "*Bocs!*" (short for "*Bocsánatot kérek!*" – I beg your pardon!) A hit, then "*Bocs!*" Following these sessions, Papp would treat the youngsters to a slice of cake and a soft drink in a local pastry shop.

"He told jokes, he was a true sportsman. He was very friendly, not conceited at all," recalls Keller. "He did not look down on anyone. You could carry on a personal conversation with him."

Between 1946 and 1956, Papp won 7 national boxing championships. Twice he won the European Amateur Championship – in Oslo, in 1949, and in Milan, in 1951. But his crowning achievement was winning the gold medal at the Olympics in London (1948), Helsinki (1952) and Melbourne (1956), the first to win gold medals in three consecutive Olympics. Only twice was he defeated during this time, on both occasions fol-

lowing serious illness, when both his trainer and doctors opposed his participation in a fight, but were overruled by the official sports leadership. With State permission, Papp László turned professional in 1957, and as such was undefeated in the ring. His career consisted of 27 wins (15 of which were by KO), 2 draws, and no losses.

In 1964, he was scheduled to attend the World Championship bout, but he never had a chance as the Communist leadership denied him an exit visa and forced him to end his career, for whatever reason. He never got over this gross injustice.

By then, everyone called him "Papp Laci", and he became a trainer, together with his own long-time trainer Adler Zsigmond. They introduced a personalized training regime with rigorous workouts, and demanded that the athletes, who were going to represent the national colors abroad, behave in their private lives worthy of the honor. With his leadership, the Hungarian boxing team regained its prestige and won gold, silver and bronze medals in the Olympics and in World Championships.

Papp Laci retired in 1992, and opened his own boxing school, but had to close it due to lack of financial support. In 1996, he had to stop his training activity due to illness. He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of

Fame in 2001, with an award for "Best amateur and professional boxer of all time", and was given Honorary Champion status of the World Boxing Council.

He died in 2003. The Budapest sport arena, the largest in Hungary, is named in his honor. It is home to the Hungarian ice hockey team and is also a concert venue.



Saint John Capistrano

At the entrance to the California Mission San Juan Capistrano, a plaque may be seen commemorating St. John Capistrano, co-defender of Nándorfehérvár, on whose feast day, the day of his death, the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 broke out 500 years later. Dedicated by Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty in 1974, it presents in a nutshell the importance of St. John Capistrano in Hungarian history. The spelling of his name is as it appears on the plaque.

Born 1386 as Giovanni Chiori in Capistrano, Italy. Distinguished himself as a judge in Naples. Later he entered the Franciscan Order. A brilliant orator, his sermons attracted great throngs all over Europe. When Sultan Mohamed II, leading his invincible forces westward, threatened to abolish Christendom, Friar Capistran recruited volunteers. The fort of Nándor-fehér-vár (now Belgrade) was guarded by Hungary's greatest strategist

John Corvinus Hunyadi

with only token troops. Capistran rushed with his ragged band of students and poor to aid the besieged, and together they miraculously routed the largest, best-equipped army of that age. Pope Sylvester ordered all churches to ring out daily and ever since

the Noon Angelus

commemorates this event. Until the recent Communist takeover, Capistran was honored as patron of Hungary's defenders. The Budapest Uprising against godless foreign oppression erupted on the saint's feast day, October 23, 1956 – 500 years after the victory over the infidels. This reminder was dedicated by

Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty



Witches do not exist ! / Boszorkányok nincsenek!

By: Karolina Tima Szabó

We all heard about Nostradamus. But did you know that he was accused of witchery?

Michel de Nostredame was a French [apothecary](#). He assisted [Louis Serre](#), a physician, in fighting against the black plague outbreak in Marseille, and [Salon-de-Provence](#). But when he could not save his own wife and children, he was accused of witchery, and he was forced to move to another area of France.

A witch is a person who has a special talent, something above the natural, the one who can cause illness, destruction. The "striga" is a female persona, who after midnight on her broom, or in a form of some kind of animal, can fly and can cause nightmares to a sleeping person, or even swallow them alive.

The "malefica/maleficus" is a master witch who can foretell the future, do magic, or can cause harm; or he/she was at least suspected of this.

During the early years of Christianity, those who did not take on the new religion were thought to be Satan's followers. Pope Innocent signed a bull against witchery in 1484, in which he explained what harm they can do. During the following years, cruel witch hunts followed in western Europe. That was the era when women were hated, and considered second to men.

Eighty percent of witches were women, often widows, although some were men. Actually, they were innocent Christian people, but for one reason or other, someone thought, or accused them of being witches. The sentences were burning at the stake, drowning or hanging. Between 1400 and 1700, more than 200,000 innocent persons were burned to death, more than died in World War I! The accused almost always ended by confessing. They were brutally tortured, water tested



and medieval torture tools were used. Most were poor people, but rich people were also accused. Motives for accusing a person were money, financial gain by relatives, or to get rid of one's enemy.

In Hungary, records were found of about 1,000 of trials. These ended in death sentences; others received lighter forms of punishment. According to the trial documents, witches met on the Gellért and Tokaj Mountains at midnight, on the nights of St. György, St. Iván, Luca day, and the evenings of days of evil-doing. Among the accusations were that

they turned into animals, or they made the animals sick or die, were immortal, and they were foretelling the future. They were also accused of causing natural disasters, hail-storms or dry spells.

Half of the trials in Hungary were held in the city of Szeged, where on July 23, 1728, 6 men and 6 women were burned to death at the stake, including Kökényné, Nagy Anna, midwife, and the wealthy 82-year-old Rózsa Dániel, ex-judge and representative in Pozsony Parliament. The burning took place on the island of the Tisza River; to this day called called 'Boszorkánysziget' (Island of Witches). Rózsa broke down in the torture chamber, confessed that he sold the rain to the Turks for the next 7 years for a barrel of money.

In Csongrád County a person was put to death because she took up the Calvinist religion.

The most famous trial took place in Arad County. The poor woman, Kata Pásztor, during her torture, confessed among other things that she rubbed her arm, legs and under-arms with ointment she received from Satan, so she could fly better, that she could turn into a rabbit, cat or goose – hoping that the torture would stop.

King Könyves Kálmán (Coloman the Learned) in 1096 ordered in his famous decree "*boszorkányok nincsenek*" (striga do not exist), that somewhat stopped witch hunts in Hungary until the XVI–XVIII century, when the Reformation divided Europe. Finally, after the torture in Szeged, Maria Theresa, Queen of Hungary, ended the witch hunt in the monarchy in 1756. The last witch trial was held that same year.

Witch hunts still exist in other parts of the world, mainly in South Africa and India. The latest was in Haiti in 2010, when 12 people were accused of spreading cholera and were

lynched and stoned to death.

On Halloween, just remember what King Coloman said: **Witches do not exist**, they are only children in costumes.

Source: Wikipedia, Meszaros Albert, Juhász Renáta

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Allyson Szabo at Halloween

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The 2015 Nation's Cake - Pannonhalmi sárgabarack pálinkás karamell torta – Magyarország tortája 2015-ben

For the eighth time this year, a competition was held to choose the "nation's cake" (ország tortája). We are publishing the recipe only as a curiosity, since it is unlikely that anyone would undertake to prepare this masterpiece, especially since some ingredients are available only to the trade. But it is interesting to know what goes into this luscious-looking creation.

A kormány felkérésére idén nyolcadik alkalommal hirdették meg az ország tortája pályázatát. Idén Szó Gellért, salgótarjáni cukrász lett a nyertes a Pannonhalmi sárgabarack-pálinkás karamell tortával.



Karamellizált mandulabél: a 25 g cukrot a 10g vízzel karamellizáljuk, majd hozzáadjuk a 80 g szeletelt mandulát. Jól átfogatjuk, és sózzuk.

Mandulás felvert: a 96 g mandulalisztet a 70 g kristálycukorral és 195 g egész tojással világosra verjük. A 40 g vaját a 70% 53 g csokoládéval felolvasztjuk, majd hozzákeverjük a mandulalisztes masszához. A 80 g tojásfehérjét 25 g cukorral felferjük, majd vegyítjük a mandulalisztes masszával és a karamellizált mandulával. 2 db 22 cm-es tortakarikába elosztjuk, 170° C-on 21-22 percig sütjük.

Sárgabarackpálinkás szirup: egybe tesszük a 25 g Pannonhalmi sárgabarack-pálinkát, a 70 g sárgabarackpürét, és 20 g vizet, és felfőzzük. A 3 g citromsavat kihűlésnél tesszük bele.

Zselatinmassza: 100 g zselatint 500 g vízzel felolvasztjuk.

Sárgabarackkrém: 3 g X58 pektint 20 g porcukorral elkeverjük. 250 g sárgabarackpürét elkezdjük melegíteni, majd folyamatos kevergetés mellett hozzáadjuk a pektines keveréket. Felforraljuk, a kihűlésnél 60° C-nál hozzákeverjük az olvasztott zselatinmasszát.

Karamell mousse: a 82 g glükózszirupot, 135 g tejet, és 135 g tejszínt felforraljuk, a 232 g cukorból karamellt készítünk. A forró tejes alapot 3 lépésben ráöntjük a karamellre. A 105 g pasztőrözött tojássárgáját robotgépbe tesszük. A karamellt elkezdjük visszaforralni, majd 102° C-nál elkezdjük verni a sárgáját, és mikor 105° C-nál járunk, hozzáadjuk a tojássárgás karamellhez, és kihűlésig verjük. Félretesszük, majd felferjük a 390 g tejszínt, a kettőt összekeverjük.

Karamell máz: a 23 g vizet a 45 g glükóz szirupot felforraljuk. A 45 g cukorból karamellt készítünk. A glükózos szirupot hozzáadjuk a karamellhez, hozzáadjuk a 3-4 csipet parajdi sót és összeforraljuk. A 30 g sűrített tejet és 45 g fehér csokoládét tálba tesszük. A meleg karamellt 3 lépésben hozzáadjuk. 60° C-nál hozzáadjuk a 19 g zselatinmasszát.

Összeállítás: a 22 cm-es tortakarikába beletesszük az egyik piskótát és meglocsoljuk a szirup felével. Ráöntjük a sárgabarack krémet. A második piskóta mindkét oldalát meglocsoljuk a maradék sziruppal. Rátesszük ezt a piskótát a sárgabarack krémre. A karamell masszát ráöntjük, majd hűtőbe tesszük. (A hűtőben egy éjszakát kell, hogy álljon a vágáshoz). A 40-50° C-os karamell mázzal fedjük.

Diszítés: a temperált tejszokoládét egyenlő szárú háromszögekbe vágjuk, megszórjuk a maradék sós karamelles mandulával, aszalt sárgabarackkal és egy csipet parajdi sóval, majd körben tejszínhab kupacokra helyezük.

Did you know...

...that Hungarian doctors, inventors and musicians are still improving the people's quality of life around the globe? ...



...that an extract of rooster combs was used by Dr. Endre A. Balázs as a lubricant in eye surgery and to relieve arthritis in the knees? He died in France this past summer at the age of 95...

...that Puskás Tivadar, inventor of the telephone exchange and founder of Telefon Hirmondo (a news service via the telephone) also founded the Puskás Travel Agency in 1873 on the occasion of the World Exhibition in Vienna? It was the fourth-oldest in the world and the first travel agency in Central Europe...

...that a device is being developed by Hungarian professor Zoltán Takáts at the Imperial College, London which gives promise of more precise brain surgery? Called the iKnife, it is currently being "taught" to identify immediately healthy and sick brain tissue, giving surgeons instant feedback. Since surgeons cannot tell where healthy tissue ends and cancerous tissue begins, they have, until now, had to rely on time-consuming lab identification. In

procedures where precision is of the utmost importance, development of this device has enormous significance...

...that Joseph Kosma, composer of the immortal song "Les feuilles mortes" ("Autumn Leaves") was born Kozma József, in Budapest, October 22, 1905, 110 years ago?

At age 11 he wrote his first opera, "Christmas in the Trenches", preceding his formal musical education at the Academy of Music in Budapest, where he received diplomas in composition and conducting. In 1933, he emigrated to Paris with his musician wife, Lilli Apel.

During WW II and the Occupation of France, he was under house arrest and banned from composition. But he managed to write music, mostly film scores, fronted by other composers.

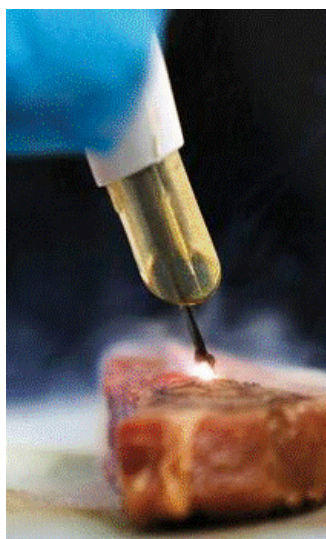
Yet he is probably best known for his "Autumn Leaves" (1945), with French lyrics by Jacques Prevert and English by Johnny Mercer...



Puskás Tivadar



Joseph Kosma



Zoltán Takáts and his iKnife