

The fraternal year ahead

WILLIAM PENN



LIFE

December 2017

Merry Christmas

9 ways to put more Hungary in your holidays

BolDOG Karácsonyi Ünnepeket Kívánunk



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Cover: Photo by John E. Lovasz • This Page: Photo © Can Stock Photo Inc/gubh83

Official publication of the William Penn Association. Published monthly.
Office of publication: 709 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15233 Phone: (412) 231-2979.
Third Class U.S. Postage Paid. Indiana, PA Permit No. 12

Unsolicited articles, letters, pictures and other material submitted to the William Penn Life are forwarded at the owner's risk, and the William Penn Life expressly denies any responsibility for their safekeeping or return. The William Penn Life reserves the right to edit, revise or reject any article submitted for publication.

Postmaster: If undelivered, please send form 3579 to: William Penn Association, 709 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15233

WPA joins Ohio fraternalists at annual meeting

INDEPENDENCE, OH -- The Ohio Fraternal Alliance (OFA) hosted its 100th Annual Meeting Oct. 13 and 14 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Independence.

The Alliance was glad to have William Penn Association once again become an active member. Representing WPA at the meeting were Vice Chair of the Board Kathy Novak, National Directors Richard Sarosi and Joyce Nicholson and Harry Nicholson, vice president of WPA Branches 40 and 349. Director Nicholson was selected to serve a two-year term on the OFA Board.

Friday's schedule featured registration, a committee meeting and a wine tasting and social. Saturday's meetings included guest speaker Melanie Hinds, Director of Advocacy and Policy for the American Fraternal Alliance, who discussed the latest issues regarding fraternal societies' relations with local and state governments.

Director Sarosi participated in a memorial service honoring members of OFA's member societies who had passed away. A candle was lit in memory of former WPA National Director Albert Frate. Director Sarosi later delivered the candle and program from the ceremony to Mr. Frate's sister Rosemary and brother Frank.



Fraternalists attending the annual meeting of the Ohio Fraternal Alliance, including representatives from WPA, visited the Seven Hills Health & Rehabilitation Center to deliver flowers to the residents.

Fraternalists attending the meeting also visited a local rehab/nursing center to deliver flowers to the residents. It proved to be an uplifting experience to see the smiles on the residents' faces, as they received their flowers.

The meeting concluded Saturday evening with a wonderful dinner during which the OFA presented grants to the recipients of its 2017 scholarship program.

2017 Branch Family Christmas Parties

Branch	City/State	Date	Time	Location
0001.....	Bridgeport, CT.....	Dec. 9.....	12:00...	United Church of Christ, Puritan Hall, 2180 North Ave., Bridgeport
0008.....	Johnstown, PA.....	Dec. 3.....	1:00.....	Church of the Visitation Social Hall, 1127 McKinley Ave., Johnstown
0013.....	Trenton, NJ.....	Dec. 3.....	1:00.....	Please call Marguerite Beke at 609-617-0471 by Nov. 24 for location
0014.....	Cleveland, OH.....	Dec. 2.....	10:00...	The First Hungarian Reformed Church, 14530 Alexander Road, Walton Hills
0015.....	Chicago, IL.....	Dec. 9.....	2:00.....	St. Luke's Christian Community Church, 9233 Shermer Road, Morton Grove
0016.....	Perth Amboy, NJ.....	Dec. 3.....	12:00...	Ponte Vecchio, 3863 Route 516 East, Old Bridge
0019.....	New Brunswick, NJ....	Dec. 16....	4:00.....	Confectionately Yours, 3391 Route 27, Franklin Park
0027.....	Toledo, OH.....	Dec. 16....	1:00.....	Timber Bowling Lanes, 1246 Conant St., Maumee
0028.....	Youngstown, OH.....	Dec. 9.....	12:30...	Aut Mori Grotto Hall, 563 N. Belle Vista Ave., Youngstown
0040.....	Martins Ferry, OH.....	Dec. 16....	9:00.....	Murray's Restaurant, 498 Cadiz Road, Wintersville
0048.....	New York, NY.....	Dec. 9.....	2:00.....	Ruppert Houses Community Room, 222 E. 93rd St., New York
0051.....	Passaic, NJ.....	Dec. 3.....	2:00.....	American Hungarian Citizens League, 21 New Schley St., Garfield
0088.....	Rural Valley, PA.....	Dec. 3.....	2:00.....	William Penn Social Hall, 132-134 Main St., Rural Valley
0089.....	Homestead, PA.....	Dec. 2.....	1:00.....	Brunswick Playmor Bowl, 5840 Buttermilk Hollow Road, Pittsburgh
0129.....	Columbus, OH.....	Dec. 2.....	2:00.....	Columbus-Grove City Elks Hall, 2140 Sonora Dr., Grove City
0132.....	South Bend, IN.....	Dec. 10....	3:00.....	Barnaby's Pizza of South Bend, 713 E. Jefferson Blvd., South Bend
0159.....	Phoenixville, PA.....	Dec. 16....	1:00.....	Chick-fil-A (Gateway at Saratoga), 14 W. Lightcap Road, Pottstown
0189.....	Alliance, OH.....	Dec. 3.....	1:00.....	William Penn Club, 1361 S. Webb Ave., Alliance
0216.....	Northampton, PA.....	Dec. 16....	1:00.....	Chick-fil-A (Gateway at Saratoga), 14 W. Lightcap Road, Pottstown
0226.....	McKeesport, PA.....	Dec. 10....	2:00.....	Free Hungarian Reformed Church, 101 University Dr., McKeesport
0249.....	Dayton, OH.....	Dec. 10....	11:30...	American Czechoslovakian Club, 922 Valley St., Dayton
0336.....	Harrisburg, PA.....	Dec. 10....	12:00...	Penbrook Borough Hall, 150 S. 28th St., Harrisburg
0349.....	Weirton, WV.....	Dec. 16....	9:00.....	Murray's Restaurant, 498 Cadiz Road, Wintersville
0525.....	Los Angeles, CA.....	Dec. 3.....	2:00.....	Bloomington Magyar Klub, 992 W. San Bernardino Ave., Rialto
8000.....	Altoona, PA.....	Dec. 3.....	6:00.....	Hampton Inn, 180 Charlotte Dr., Altoona
8036.....	Scottdale, PA.....	Dec. 10....	1:00.....	The Ligonier Lanes, 209 W. Main St., Ligonier
8114.....	Clarion, PA.....	Dec. 10....	6:00.....	The Tavern, 315 Main St., Clarion



Christmas Greetings

from the Fraternal Department

WILLIAM PENN ASSOCIATION and our members have shared another busy and successful year. Grateful thanks to our National Officers, Home Office employees, Board of Directors, Fraternal Department Secretary Judit Ganchuk and you, our wonderful members. Thank you for supporting and participating in our many events. Our activities and events could not happen without all of you. Wait until you see next year's events.

Many branches took part in our annual Join Hands Day. I hope more of you take part in 2018. We can all reach out and help someone. Please call me if you need suggestions; I have a few ideas.

Our Hungarian Heritage Experience was the best ever. We had as many new participants as we had repeat students. The management and staff at Sequanota Lutheran Conference Center and Camp continue to be wonderful hosts. It was a little cooler there this year, but we were busy from sun up to sun down. We hope the new pool will be ready in 2018 when we visit Aug. 5 to 11. And, yes, we are taking reservations.

The WPA Picnic was again at the Hungarian Cultural Center of Northeastern Ohio in Hiram, Ohio. Thank you to all who volunteered. We are already planning next year's picnic, scheduled for Aug. 25, 2018.

Our annual trip to Europe this year was all in Hungary. We had a wonderful group, as always. We made many new friends. Our 2018 tour will include Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and even a visit to Venice. We are planning for departure in late September. Make your reservations as soon as possible. We already have nine travelers on our list.

We supported many of your local church celebrations, golf tournaments, picnics, dances, dinners, festivals, Easter and Christmas baskets and branch Christmas parties.

We also supported many events at the Bethlen Communities in Ligonier, Pa., and we mourned the loss of our longtime friend, Bethlen Communities executive director and WPA supporter Rev. Imre Bertalan. May he rest in peace.

We are the only Hungarian fraternal benefit society in the United States. Please spread the word about all our many events. You help determine our future.

Now, let me tell you about some of the future plans we have for you. Take out your new 2018 WPA calendars and write these events down:

- Joining Hands Against Hunger drive in early 2018. Each participating branch will be reimbursed up to \$50.
- WPA's Easter Basket program in early 2018. Again, each participating branch will be reimbursed up to \$50.
- Join Hands Day on May 5 and throughout the year. Participating branches will be reimbursed up to \$500.
- This year we will support the Calvin Synod meeting in May. This event is held every other year. WPA will host a dinner at the Darlington Inn during this event.
- Hungarian Festival, New Brunswick, N.J., on June 2. This is the largest festival I have ever attended.
- Hungarian Night at Lake County (Ohio) Captains baseball game on June 30. This event grows every year.
- 35th Annual WPA Golf Tournament and Scholarship Days on July 13 and 14 in Ohio. We're adding a new twist to a popular event for your entire family's enjoyment. More details to come soon.
- We continue to support the Hungarian Reformed Church Camp in July.
- WPA's annual Hungarian Heritage Experience on Aug. 5 to 11.
- The Birmingham Ethnic Festival in Ohio on Aug. 18 and 19.
- The WPA Picnic on Aug. 25 in Hiram, Ohio.
- And, we round out our fraternal year with the WPA Tour 2018 in late September. Remember, many of our events have early bird discounts.

We wish you a wonderful Christmas season and a happy 2018. We ask God to continue to bless our beloved William Penn Association and you, our wonderful members.

Special thanks to my Branch 18 officers who helped me to attend many of your events.

We wish you happiness to keep you sweet, just enough trials to keep you strong, enough success to keep you eager, enough faith to give you courage and enough determination to make each of your days special. (Thank you Father Barnabas).

Boldog és áldott Karácsonyt a bethlesemi Jézus áldásával és békés, sikeres új esztendő.

(Happy and Blessed Christmas with the blessing of Jesus of Bethlehem, and a peaceful, successful New Year.)





2017: The year in review

BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, Thanksgiving will be over, and we'll all be busy planning for the upcoming Christmas holiday.

As I look back on the year, I'm filled with many great memories from my travels through Florida, New England, the Carolinas, Kentucky, New York, Virginia and West Virginia, along with our Midwest trip last month through Michigan, Illinois and Iowa and all the way out to Omaha, Nebraska! All of this travel was sandwiched around a great year of fraternal festivals, bowling tournaments, golf outings and picnics. What a great fraternal year 2017 was! I am truly blessed to work for a company that offers me the opportunity to travel throughout our territory and make great friends and business partners along the way.

Since this is the time of year for reflecting back on the events of the past year, I thought I'd take some time this month to review my past columns and highlight some of the important issues we covered throughout the year.

In January, we talked about making resolutions, something that most of us will be thinking about again in the coming weeks. We discussed the various costs associated with funeral expenses and the importance of providing sufficient insurance coverage to cover your final expenses. We also discussed the importance of communicating your wishes to your loved ones and keeping them informed of any changes in your situation. Lastly, we reviewed our Ordinary Life "Senior Special" life insurance plan to cover your final expenses. Take some time to review that article and consider being better prepared in 2018.

In the February issue, we discussed the "ins and outs of IRAs." As the year comes to an end, now is the time to consider year-end tax strategies to help reduce your tax bill due in April. Review the February issue for important information regarding which type of IRA, if any, might be best for you.

In March, we happily welcomed spring and talked about reverse mortgages. With so much confusion in the reverse mortgage marketplace, I thought it important enough to consult with an expert and get her input for this excellent and timely article. For more information on whether a reverse mortgage might be good for you or a loved one, contact Sallie Dunn at Retirement Funding Solutions at 724-503-4500.

In the April issue, we talked about "power of attorney" and its value in your estate plan. Review that article if you are considering writing or updating your will this year or considering adding powers of attorney to your will or estate plan. We also featured one of our leading agencies, The Stewardship Group, in the April edition. We're proud to have Mark, Preston and the Stewardship team representing William Penn Association in the Central Pa. Valley region.

In May, National Vice President-Secretary Jerry Hauser published an excellent article on filing death claims and who's responsible. This article is worth revisiting often. In



my column, we discussed the living benefits of life insurance. Many people only think of the "death benefit" side of life insurance and forget about all the wonderful "living benefits" that permanent whole life insurance can have.

In the June issue, we recapped the results of our annual bowling tournament and Join Hands Day and celebrated Flag Day. National V.P.-Secretary Hauser concluded his two-part series on the filing of death claims, and we discussed the benefits of life insurance versus annuities in the *Moneywise* column. This afforded us the opportunity to review the similarities and differences between life insurance and annuities. We reviewed some great information in that issue; I recommend going back and reviewing that article if you are considering life insurance or annuity purchases in the coming year.

In July, we were busy preparing for the WPA golf tournament and various ethnic festivals around the region and celebrating the 4th of July. Fraternal Director Barbara House asked "are you really a member?" Her column re-

ally drove home the benefits of being an active member. In the *Moneywise* column for July, I discussed six estate planning mistakes and how to avoid them. In addition to the power of attorney, this is very timely information for those of you considering writing (or updating) your will this year.

In August, we reviewed the WPA Annual Golf Tournament and Scholarship Days. (Who hit that winning shot on hole 8?). One of the highlights of the weekend for me was to have my dad in our foursome. What a treat to have my 88-year-old father in attendance to see what a fine organization we have, to enjoy the weekend festivities and to witness that shot on hole 8. (Did I mention that?) I only hope and pray that I'm half as active as my father is at his age. Thanks for joining us, dad!

The August issue also included part one of a two-part overview of Social Security and busting some of the myths surrounding today's Social Security. This article is worth reviewing if you plan on retiring in the coming years or are contemplating initiating your Social Security benefits at an early age.

In September, we celebrated Life Insurance Awareness month in an effort to increase overall awareness of the need for life insurance among our membership, and we mourned the death of former National Director Albert Frate. We also recognized our members and friends who attended the annual Hungarian Heritage Experience in Boswell, Pa. According to Fraternal Director House, this was one of the best classes they have ever had. In my *Moneywise* column, I discussed a few possible life insurance options for clients with diabetes as well as statistics and recommendations for improving overall health for

those with diabetes.

In the October issue, we relived the WPA Picnic in photos, and I concluded my two-part series on Social Security and Medicare. This issue also featured one of our top agents in the Midwest: Kirk Harrington from Loup City, Neb. I had the opportunity to meet with Kirk during my visit to his area and was quite impressed with his professionalism and dedication to William Penn Association. We're proud to have Kirk representing WPA in the Nebraska territory!

Lastly, in the November issue, Fraternal Director House thanked everyone who attended the annual trip to Hungary. From what I could tell, this was a wonderful trip, and it looks like everyone had a great time. My column focused on nine life-changing events that should make you want to call your insurance agent. This is a good article to keep for future reference should any of those events happen to you or a loved one in the future. Cathy Graham also had a very insightful article on retiring "inspired" in her *Aging Well* column that month. Cathy is Director of the Graceful Aging Wellness Center at Bethlen Communities in Ligonier, Pa. I always appreciate her insightful writings.

So, another year will soon be in the record books at William Penn Association. Please do not hesitate to call your agent or the Home Office should you have any questions or require any additional information on anything that we have discussed this year. Don't have an agent? Call the Home Office, and we'd be happy to help.

From Bob and Barbi in the Sales Department here at WPA, we'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and prosperous New Year! □

Come grow with us

William Penn Association is looking to grow and expand its reach in current and possibly new markets. To do this, we are seeking to add highly motivated agents to our list of over 800 existing agents. WPA currently writes insurance and annuity products in 21 states. The states include: CA, CT, DC, DE, FL, IL, IN, KY, MD, MA, MI, MO, NC, NE, NJ, NY, OH, PA, VA, WV and WI. To grow, we need both full-time and part-time agents. Good agents are the lifeblood of any association, and WPA is a strong and growing association that has much to offer our members and the agents who write for us. If you are interested in an opportunity to grow with us, then contact Bob Bisceglia at 1-800-848-7366, ext. 134. Thank you.



Illustration © Can Stock Photo Inc./dny3d



Magyar Christmas music

A FEW WEEKS AGO, my bride Monika and I made the approximately 350-mile trek to Ohio for an extended weekend. The usual good times were experienced as we spent 72 precious hours with family and friends. I usually get very little sleep on such trips, knowing our stay is short and the long drive back to DC is difficult. In the middle of the night, I like to venture to the cellar — “the Cseh Pince” — and explore this cavernous bunker in quest of hidden treasures. My parents recently re-organized much of the cellar, but there is still much for me to discover in its depths.

As the family slumbers upstairs, I find a bit of comfort in the pure silence that is interrupted only by the occasional sounds made of the furnace boiler and water well pump.

The purpose of my most recent descent to the basement was to find for my *apa* a record album containing a song entitled “*Ahogy Én Szeretlek*” (“The Way I Love You”) by Joe Jeromos. My quest was to satisfy the request of a longtime WPA member and listener to our Magyar radio program, Mary V. of Hubbard, Ohio.* (See note at end.) I found that same song recorded by such performers as Alex Udvary, George Batyi, Frank Borisz and Frank Mikisits.

My task complete, I decided to further peruse our collection of Hungarian Christmas recordings, doing a bit of early holiday reminiscing and radio programming preparation.

As mentioned in earlier editions of *Tibor's Take*, Hungary arguably has more original Christmas songs than any other nation. I like to read the back of records as they usually contain interesting bits of info that can't be found elsewhere. Oftentimes,

the information is written only in Hungarian, but readily available cell phone apps make instant translating a breeze.

The Christmas recordings within our family's collection are predominantly on 33 RPM records. The way I understand it, 33 RPM records became more prevalent following the Korean War. I also learned that many recordings were redone from original earlier versions on 78 RPM discs, which date back as early as World War I.

While perusing the array of *Karácsonyi* (Christmas) records, CDs and tapes, I recalled many special memories, some happy, others bittersweet. After I emerged from

the dusty nooks of the basement, I decided to compile an informal list of “My Favorite Hungarian Christmas Songs/Carols and Complete Recordings.”

Now, I present them, along with a brief explanation of my personal attachment to each, to you, my loyal readers, as a small holiday gift.



My Favorite Hungarian Christmas Albums

1. ***Christmas In Hungary*, featuring Sari Barabas with the Lakatos Sandor Zenekar.** Forgive me if I have mentioned this many times before, but this is the Best of the Best. Excellent vocals by Hungary's most famous opera and ballet star is coupled with the master violinist Lakatos that features a full orchestra highlighting music on the cimbalom. I grew up listening to this record and enjoy it not only during the holiday but all year.

2. ***Áldott Karácsonyt*, featuring the late great Frank Mikisits.** Instrumentally backed by female *primás* Ilona along with daughter Suzanna Mikisits and others. This was the second of 10 albums made by the native of Bethlehem, Pa.

3. ***Hungarian Christmas Songs*, featuring the Kodaly Chorus of Toronto.** Recorded in 1960, this group was mainly comprised of refugees of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

4. ***Magyar Karácsony*, featuring the vocals of the Budapest Orphan Choir.** Made in the mid-1950s, this album featured many Hungarian songs of a sacred and joyous nature. The vocals seem ethereal and ghostly; as a child listening to this album, I was often haunted by the thought of being a Hungarian orphan living under a Communist regime.

5. ***The Calgary Hungarian Senior Citizens Choir.*** A simple sing-along recording that I could hum to and feel that I was part of the group.

6. ***Hungarian Christmas Sing-along with Dr. Charles Szabo.*** I first heard this sing-along CD in English and Hungarian just a few years back. I used the music and lyrics for a holiday get-together with some college friends.

7. ***Vilmos Cseh Plays Christmas Favorites.*** The name explains it all. Recorded a few months following the 1956 Revolution, the master violinist performs along with his daughter Emerencia. Cseh performs on his ultra-rare



Landolfi violin made in Milan in 1772.

8. *Szabad-E Bejönni Ide Bethlehemmel?*, by folk group **Kaláka**. This album features short selections of obscure songs from the remote areas of Hungary, much in the style of Kodaly and Bartok. Simple, handmade instruments are featured.

9. *Áldom Szent Nevedet*, by **Maczko Maria**. This was given to me as a gift by my cousin Olgi when I visited Csót, Hungary, in 2014. Simply a beautiful recording done by a native citizen of the village.

10. *András Cseh II Christmas Cimbalom*. A few years back, my brother made a CD featuring all Hungarian Christmas songs. Unfortunately, he made only a limited number for relatives overseas and a few friends here in the States. He performed the selections on his 1925 Bohak and 1897 Sternberg cimbaloms. I keep trying to convince him to make more recordings.

My Favorite Hungarian Christmas Songs

1. *"Mennyből Az Angyal"* ("Angels from Heaven"). It seems that every Magyar recording of Christmas music features a rendition of this most familiar of all Hungarian yuletide songs. When I was in elementary school, one of my teachers had a party with an international theme. Each of her students was to bring in a treat and a recorded song of their ancestry. I wanted to bring a recording with singing in English, but my family only had versions in Hungarian. While shopping, my parents stumbled upon a cassette tape entitled *Christmas Around The World*. It featured 10 songs sung by a group of children and discovered that one of the selections was "Mennyből Az Angyal" sung in English. In keeping with the spirit of the season and title of the song, my mother made Hungarian Angel Wing pastries. This version of the song has always been my favorite, one I play on my family's radio program.

2. *"Ave Maria,"* by **Jean Szaiber Cseh**. Though not necessarily a Christmas song, my grandmother's rendition of this song always reminds me of Christmastime. My grandmother passed when I was a little less than four years of age. One of my earliest memories is the both of us singing together as she played the piano. One day, she sung for me "Ave Maria." To my good fortune, my *nagyapa* (grandfather) recorded on tape my grandmother singing this song while playing the organ at St. Stephen of

Hungary Church in Youngstown. I play her interpretation of the Schubert masterpiece every *Karácsony*. It will always be close to my heart. Franz Liszt is credited with transposing the poem for piano and actually made three versions to the original song.

3. *"Csak Karácsony,"* by the **Animal Cannibals (of Budapest)**. A fast-paced song that starts with the sounds

of crunching snow as someone is walking. A bit weird but festive, it is contemporary and reminds me of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. This was sent to me via mail two years ago from cousins Judit and Géza.

4. *"Csordapásztorok/A Kis Jézus,"* featuring the **Budapest Children's Choir**. This is a lively medley of songs. I recall learning to play "Little Jesus" on the saxophone while in grade school.

5. *"Fel Nagy Örömré"* from the album *Magyar Karácsony*, featuring **Miklos Bencze** on vocals and **Rev. Aladar Egyed** on the church organ. As

youngsters, my siblings and I considered this a bit of a novelty. Bencze was a famous opera performer in Hungary with a deep bass voice that could rattle plates on a shelf. He was one of many accomplished artists who came to America

after 1956, but we thought it comical when we were kids. Rev. Egyed was not only a respected organist but a composer as well. He led the West Side Hungarian Lutheran Church in Cleveland. This album was another prime example of what B&F Records produced in the way of unusual and eclectic Hungarian-styled recordings.

Every Hungarian Christmas song is beautiful and each interpretation is equally breathtaking. I hope you can listen to some Christmas songs Hungarian-style this season either via your own recordings or by tuning in to a local Hungarian radio program.

Boldog Karácsonyt!

Tibor II

**Mary V. and her daughter are longtime members of WPA. All 10 of Mary's grandchildren are WPA members, and each has benefited from the WPA Scholarship program. My hat goes off to the entire family and to the men and women who work so diligently at keeping the scholarship spirit alive and well. Please, remember to support the William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation.*

Tibor Check, Jr., is a member of Branch 28 and an attorney working in Washington, D.C.

Let's hear your take

If you have any questions or comments about me or my column, please email me at: silverking1937@gmail.com, or drop me a letter in care of the William Penn Association, 709 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15233.

Churches unite to commemorate 500th anniversary of Reformation

by Richard E. Sarosi
CLEVELAND -- A special commemorative service marking the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation was held Oct. 1 at the West Side Hungarian Reformed Church on Puritas Avenue.

Members from seven congregations participated in the service, which was celebrated in both the Hungarian and English languages.

Following the service, an Agape Meal was served.

The theme of the event was stated in the program booklet: "We invite all people of good will to join us as we celebrate, and as we also make peace and build bridges between brothers and sisters in Christ."

It was a very moving and enlightening service to commemorate the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation.



Photo by Richard E. Sarosi

America's oldest Hungarian Roman Catholic church celebrates its 125th anniversary

CLEVELAND – WPA joined the Hungarian community of Greater Cleveland to celebrate the 125th anniversary of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, the first Hungarian Roman Catholic church in America. Among those attending the Mass and the Hungarian dinner which followed were Chair of the Board Andrew W. McNelis and his wife Marguerite, Vice Chair Katherine E. Novak, National Director Richard E. Sarosi and Fraternal Director Barbara A. House and her husband Thomas, Branch 14 Coordinator Violet Sarosi and Branch 14 member Ernest Sarosi.

Rediscover your Hungarian self.

ReConnect Hungary is a unique cultural, educational and social immersion program in Hungary for young adults aged 18-28 of Hungarian heritage, born in the U.S. or Canada. Every summer, a group of individually selected young people experience a two-week journey of rediscovery to learn about their Hungarian roots in a totally different and new way. Gain a deeper understanding of your Hungarian heritage while enjoying a living culture!

June 16-July 2, 2018

The cost to participants is only \$1,800, which includes a \$300 deposit, refundable upon successfully completing the entire program. Remaining expenses are funded by the organizers and individual and corporate sponsors.

Parents and Grandparents: This is the perfect graduation gift for a young adult wishing to discover their roots and heritage in Hungary.



Learn more:
www.ReConnectHungary.org

A public-private partnership supported by
Hungarian-American and Canadian organizations and the Government of Hungary

E-mail: info@reconnecthungary.org
Toll-free: 1-844-4MAGYAR (462-4927)

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Remembering the 1956 Revolution

William Penn Association members, along with members of the Hungarian American community, gathered at numerous locations throughout the nation in late October to commemorate the 61st anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. Above, members participated in a ceremony at a memorial honoring the Freedom Fighters of '56 in Youngstown, Ohio.

AHF to host annual Festival of Trees, Christmas Craft Fair in December

NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ -- A holiday tradition with an international flavor will return to the Museum of the American Hungarian Foundation in New Brunswick with the opening of the 29th Annual Festival of Trees on Sunday, Dec. 3.

The museum will also host its first *Karácsonyi Kézműves Vásár* (Christmas Craft Fair) on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., featuring handmade gifts, walnut and poppy-seed rolls and outdoor activities.

During the Festival of Trees, which runs through Jan. 12, Christmas trees decorated by volunteers from about a dozen ethnic groups will be on view.

The trees are trimmed with hand-made ornaments, cookies and treats.

The public is invited to the opening reception on Dec. 3 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Individuals representing the decorating groups will be present in folk dress, entertaining with holiday music and verse. Many will also be serving their special holiday treats.

Museum hours are Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The museum is located at 300 Somerset Street in New Brunswick, NJ. For more details, call 732-846-5777 or see the museum's website: www.ahfoundation.org.

Exhibit features rarely seen paintings

CLEVELAND -- Over a lifetime, Piroska and Sándor Zoltán collected a wide variety of paintings by renowned Hungarian artists of the late 19th and early 20th century.

Now, for the first time ever, 29 paintings from the collection will be featured at an exhibit in the Cleveland Hungarian Museum. The exhibit compiles works by József Csillag, Árpád Feszty, Aladár Edvi Illés, Béla Iványi-Grünwald, Jenő Kárpáthy, László Neogrady, Ferenc Olgyay and others.

An opening reception was held

Oct. 28, during which Zsuzsa Sztaray, niece of Piroska and Sándor Zoltán, discussed her involvement with the collection, sharing with the audience the process of researching and identifying the paintings and artists included in this collection.

The exhibit will be on display until March 2018. The museum is located at 1301 East 9th St., Cleveland. Visiting hours are Tuesday through Friday, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, contact the museum at 216-523-3900 or at museum@clevelandhungarianmuseum.org.

Univ. of Pittsburgh Nationality Rooms celebrate the holidays

PITTSBURGH -- The Nationality Rooms of the University of Pittsburgh invite everyone to a Holiday Open House to be held Sunday, Dec. 3, from noon to 4:00 p.m. The 30 rooms, each furnished in the traditions of various European, Asian and African cultures, are located in the University's Cathedral of Learning in the Oakland section of the city.

From now until Jan. 13, the rooms will be decorated in the holiday traditions of each nationality. During the open house, guides in ethnic dress will describe the history and meaning of each room's decor.

The open house will also feature performances of holiday dances and customs every 15 minutes, as well as ethnic foods, craft demonstrations and an ethnic marketplace.

To learn more, visit the Nationality Rooms website at www.nationalityrooms.pitt.edu, or call 412-624-6001.

Exhibit tells story Nationality Rooms

PITTSBURGH -- A painting from 1947 of the Hungarian Room at the University of Pittsburgh is among items featured in an exhibit detailing the story of the University's famed Nationality Rooms.

Entitled "Narratives of the Nationality Rooms: Immigration and Identity in Pittsburgh," the exhibit was created by students enrolled in the University's Museum Studies Exhibit Seminar. It includes displays of seldomly seen artifacts, photographs, documents and water colors by Andrey Avinoff which provide insight into the creation of the Nationality Rooms, the cultures they reflect and the ways in which immigrant identities have become embedded in these unique historic spaces.

The painting of the Hungarian Room was created before the stained glass windows were installed.

The exhibit is on display until Dec. 8 in the Frick Fine Arts Building, 650 Schenley Dr., Pittsburgh.



Reports from our National Directors on the people and activities they encounter during WPA's fraternal and charitable outreach.

Dayton Hungarians gather for gulyás

by Anne Marie Schmidt

Dayton, OH -- What a heartwarming way to engage in the fall season with an evening of delectable Hungarian food, beautiful violin music and the company of dear friends!

Branch 249 and the Hungarian Club of Dayton hosted a *gulyás* dinner on Oct. 21 at the American-Czechoslovakian Club. Over 125 people attended, eating, drinking, singing and dancing until the pot ran dry. The all-you-can-eat buffet of authentic Hungarian food included *gulyás*, *káposztás tészta* (cabbage noodles), salad, hot peppers, bread, beverages and a special dessert.

People came from as far as Cincinnati and Cleveland to enjoy the delicious food and listen to the classical and gypsy violin music of Steven Greenman. As Steven strolled from table to table (*pictured right*), guests' faces lit up as he played their favorite requests. The room was filled with singing and dancing. I even managed to hear some of my favorite Apollónia Kovács tunes.

A special Hungarian dessert, *Női Szeszély*, was prepared by several of the club ladies. I found a recipe for this in my mother's collection of cherished Hungarian pastries. It is a delicious layered walnut, apricot and meringue pastry. I was asked for the recipe several times throughout the evening, so I have included the recipe for your enjoyment.



Photo by Mark Schmidt

Branch 249 hosted a display table of WPA insurance and annuity products, the official publication, promotional items and tickets for a money tree worth \$125 to be raffled at the branch Christmas party on Dec. 10.

The Hungarian Club also had T-shirts and numerous crafts for sale, as well as applications to join the club. If you are interested in joining the club, please contact me at 937-667-1211.

This evening exemplified how organizations can join forces to preserve their heritage. The Dayton Hungarian community has been working together to continue the rich culture and activities that flourished for so many years in the Dayton area.

We look forward to continuing this tradition next year, and hope that you will join us!



Photo by Mark Schmidt

Walter Cramer keeps an eye on the gulyás.

Női Szeszély

½ pound butter • ⅓ cup sugar
1 egg yolk • 3 cups flour
¾ cup ground walnuts
¼ tsp. cinnamon
1 jar apricot filling

For the meringue

6 egg whites • 1 tsp. lemon juice
⅔ cup sugar (add a little at a time)

Cream the butter, sugar and egg yolk until well blended. Add ground walnuts, flour and cinnamon and mix well. Press dough into an ungreased 9 x 13 inch pan and roll dough until smooth. Bake in 350 degree oven for 30 minutes. Allow to cool. Spread apricot filling on cooled crust. Spread meringue on top, sprinkle with ground walnuts and bake in 300 degree oven for 20 minutes.



Photo by Mark Schmidt

Calvin Synod holds fall meeting

by Richard E. Sarosi

FAIRPORT HARBOR, OH -- The Lakeside Classis of the Calvin Synod held its fall meeting on Nov. 4 at the Hungarian Reformed Church of Fairport Harbor.

Rev. Peter Toth of the Hungarian Reformed Church of Lorain invited me to the meeting to speak to the delegates in attendance about the history and programs of William Penn Association.

Barbara Adorján-Watkins of the Calvin Synod Youth Camp, thanked William Penn Association for its generous donation, which was presented by WPA Fraternal Director Barbara A. House in July 2017 during the camp. Ms. Adorján-Watkins said that many children will benefit from WPA's gift, as it will help fund many youth programs.

WPA offers continued support for museum during annual dinner-dance

by Richard E. Sarosi

BEACHWOOD, OH -- The Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society held its 21st Vintner Dinner Oct. 21 at the Canterbury Golf Club in Beachwood to raise funds for the Cleveland Hungarian Museum. Music for this formal affair was provided by Harmonia.

Vice Chair of the WPA Board Kathy Novak and I represented William Penn Association at the dinner. I extended greetings from the Association and presented a check to Alex Kezdi, President of the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society (pictured right), who graciously accepted it and thanked WPA for its continued support over the years.

For our listening pleasure, Harmonia provided a mini concert, showcasing the talents of the group's violinist and cimbalom player as they performed many of the guests' favorite folk songs.

A silent auction and Chinese auction provided many enjoyable moments for those who were seated at our table since everyone at our table won two or more prizes.



Aging Well *with Cathy Graham*

Good repairs what hate tears

GROWING OLDER has its charms, as most of us live harmoniously with the bucking rodeo that life can be. With time on our side, we have the ability to know that the road ahead eventually straightens out. We turn to softer moments and quiet times for nurturing and have figured out how to side step drama and gossip in favor of friendship and caring.

It doesn't stand to reason then why sometimes the negativity of other people crawls into our heads and takes us hostage, robbing us of peace. Whether it happens on a scale large or small, these demons nevertheless take a bite. We have learned that there are no safe places: not our churches, our schools nor the places we work.

It can seem futile, then, to count blessings and give thanks when the fury has outscored kindness. Tight-knit communities unravel, and, for a lack of a better word, the ugly prevails.

Or, does it? With every display of power-hungry, moral-poor action, a call comes from the wreckage, and we pull together. We are tired and restless, with tears flowing, shoulders drooping and heads dropping. But, as weak as hate wills us to be, we stir and rummage and find that the bigger the tear, the more fiber we will make to sew us back together.

We will teach this lesson to the younger generations because eventually they will hold the needle and thread.



Photo © Can Stock Photo Inc./AndreyPopov

For every wolf in sheep's clothing and every assault on mankind, the good will prevail, and love will champion.

We are thankful, then, for every flower that grows from the rubble, every hand that grasps a heart, every hero that saves the day. We are thankful for us, the doers of no harm, the faithful soldiers that rise again and again with the thirst for Heaven's sake.

Cathy Graham is director of the Graceful Aging Wellness Center at Bethlen Communities in Ligonier, Pa.



9 ways to put more **HUNGARY** in your holidays

by Kathy Megyeri

Christmas is a magical time for people the world over but especially in Hungary. Hungarians keep their Christmas traditions by decorating and focusing on children and the family. They hold Christmas markets where celebrants find all types of self-crafted ornaments, traditional Hungarian goods and local handmade crafts emphasizing family and their connectedness to country and religion. Such traditions make the holidays a special time to be with family, friends and loved ones. They help connect the many Hungarians who now live in the U.S. with remembrances of their beloved heritage.

Although some practices have lost importance over time, there are many people who keep these traditions proudly every December.

There are also those who would like to incorporate even more of these ethnic traditions in their yearly festivities. For them, I offer the following tips in an attempt to put a little bit more of Hungary in the holidays, all based on meaningful traditions that Hungarian-Americans have shared with me. Many are customs that they treasure and want to keep alive for their children.

1 Preparation. Beginning Dec. 1, children take blue and green crayons and draw a tree with 31 branches for the 31 days of December. Then, each morning, they cross off a branch to count down the month. This way, they know how far away they are from the end of the year. They also write a list or draw a picture of gifts that they want: toys, dolls, games, bicycles, toy trains, etc.

2 Advent. A Hungarian Christmas begins with the celebration of Advent, the preparation time before Christmas. Advent starts four Sundays before Christmas, and during this time, families decorate their front yards or tables with beautiful wreaths adorned with four candles. Each Sunday before Christmas, they light one candle until the last one is lit on Christmas Eve. Many Hungarian children also receive an Advent calendar that contains a tiny door for each day in Advent. One little door is opened each day behind which a Christmas picture is displayed. My husband, László, remembers having to write on each Sunday in Advent a list of good deeds that he completed that week that would justify his Christmas presents. It was also another way for him to reflect on the goodness of the Christ Child.

3 St. Mikulás Day. Celebrated on Dec. 6, St. Mikulás (or St. Nicholas, who is the Hungarian version of Santa Claus) visits children at home and in school. At home, they wait for Mikulás by leaving their polished shoes at the window on the night of Dec. 5. If the children have been good throughout the year, St. Mikulás will fill their shoes with treats, chocolates, oranges, peanuts, toys, books and other small gifts. If they have been bad that year, really naughty, they receive in their shoes some twigs, a sign of warning that bad behavior will not be tolerated any longer. If the children are small, a family friend or relative will dress up like Mikulás and present the small gifts in person to the children. When he arrives, they sing songs or recite a poem. Mikulás is usually dressed in red, wears a bishop's hat, carries a staff, brings a sack of presents and praises the children for their good work, but he will also call them out for their naughty behavior, as he is the one keeping track of good and bad deeds. The little presents might also be brought by Télapó (Old Man Winter) if no St. Mikulás is available.

4 Importance of Family. For many Hungarians, this is the only time of the year when large families get together, so Dec. 24 to 26 is especially important and is considered a three-day holiday. In Hungary, offices and shops are closed on the 24th at

Photo of St. Mikulás statue © Can Stock Photo Inc./zbig47



2:00 p.m. and public transportation ceases at 4:00 p.m. so everyone can go home to celebrate. Only movies and theaters are open on the 26th, and there are no mad holiday shopping sales on the 26th.

5 The Tree. Christmas Eve is the most important day and is called *Szent-este*, which means "Holy Evening." This is truly family time, devoted to decorating the tree. Children are sent away outside the home while the adults trim the tree. When the children return and see the decorated tree, it's a grand surprise. The tree is usually adorned with lights, little sparkling ornaments that have been hand-made, gingerbread (actually honey bread) figurines and *szaloncukor*, a Hungarian Christmas candy covered with chocolate and wrapped in silver, gold and red shiny paper tied with bows. Children and guests pull these off the tree to eat. Children are taught that it is baby Jesus (Jézuska) who has brought the tree and gifts for all, not Santa Claus.

My husband remembers his grandparents herding him to downtown Budapest to see the city's Christmas lights in order to keep the tree a surprise later that evening. The tradition never got old, even when he knew why he was taken away early in the evening to return to the annual surprise. Once he returned, a small bell was rung as a sign that it was Jesus who brought the tree and gifts. Then, the children sang traditional Hungarian Christmas carols before they received their gifts.

6 Christmas Dinner. When the excitement around the Christmas tree is over, the family moves to the dinner table that is beautifully set for a festive meal. The main Christmas meal, eaten that evening, includes fish (often fish soup called *Halászlé* which is made with white fish, carp or other freshwater fish). Turkey is the main course, served with stuffed cabbage containing rice, minced pork, onion, garlic and herbs and served with a special kind of poppy bread or cake called *Beigli*. Gingerbread is also a tradition, but it is wrapped in very bright colored wrappers and decorated with Christmas figures. Several Hungarian wines accompany dinner as well.

7 Bethlehem. Following dinner, young boys go from house to house carrying a small nativity scene, and they perform a short pastoral play about the birth of Jesus. While living in the village of Szentkirályszabadja, my husband remembers hand making his small nativity scene and taking it throughout the neighborhood. After singing

carols, he received a drink at each home, a welcome present because it was so cold and snowy. He also remembers how his visit cheered the residents who were so isolated in the small village.

8 Gifts. Following dinner and the reenactment of Jesus' birth, the presents, which have been brought by Jesus, are opened. For adults, it is often Tokaj wine or *pálinka* (homemade brandy). For women, dolls dressed in Hungarian folk costumes, embroidered linens, paprika, (the national spice) or a piece of Herend porcelain are all appropriate, and children's wish lists are often met.

9 Church Services. The midnight Mass is very popular, and most people attend after their Christmas meal and gift exchanging are complete. There, they religiously celebrate the arrival of baby Jesus with classical Christmas carols, the traditional Catholic Mass and the singing of the national anthem.

Although your holiday celebration may differ, we hope you will incorporate at least a few Hungarian traditions, keeping alive the heritage and customs of family members we've lost over the years.

In addition to a heartfelt thanks for all these customs we treasure, we hope you will be grateful for your WPA family that is celebrating many of these traditions along with you this year.

Kellemes karácsonyi ünnepeket kívánok!
(I wish you a Merry Christmas!)





JUST 4 KIDZ

On Dec. 6, Hungarian children will celebrate St. Nicholas Day by putting their shoes out the night before, hoping to get candy, chocolate or small toys as a reward for being good all year long. Another part of the Christmas season that Hungarians and Americans both enjoy is giving gifts! This month, let's make a fun gift -- **3D crayons in fun shapes**. You can use one color of crayon if you want to make something like white snowflake crayons. Or, you can use two or more different colors of crayons to create all kinds of fun crayon shapes, like stars, trees or hearts. If you want to make a specific shape, like a Christmas tree, you can use candy molds that you can buy at your local craft store.

What You Need

- A grown-up to help you
- Crayons, either all one color or of several colors, depending on what you want to create
- A mini-muffin pan or an oven-safe candy mold
- An old dish towel

What You Do

- Remove the paper labels from the crayons and break the crayons into small pieces.
- Arrange the crayon pieces in the mini muffin pan or candy mold. Fill each mold to the top since the crayons will melt down.
- Place the pan in an oven, pre-heated to 275 degrees, for 10-13 minutes.
- Have a grown-up remove the hot pan from the oven and let it cool for 30 minutes.
- Once cool, place the pan in the refrigerator for 10 minutes. If you place the pan in the refrigerator before it's cooled, your crayon shapes may crack because of the extreme temperature change.
- Spread the old dish towel on a table. Remove the pan from the refrigerator and hold the pan over the towel. Now, turn the pan upside-down and let the crayon shapes fall onto the dish towel.
- Put each crayon shape into a clear plastic bag and tie up with a colorful ribbon and--TA-DA!--you have made clever, fun and inexpensive stocking stuffers.



Photos of crayons courtesy of Emma's Lunch (www.emmaslunch.com)

Spot the differences!

These two pictures are very similar, but can you discover the 10 ways they are different? Try not to look at the solution until you've done your best. Have fun!



Solution



Branch 1 Bridgeport, CT

by Jim Ballas

We hope that everyone had a good Thanksgiving holiday. Our holiday season plans are set. We look forward to all of you participating as much as you are able.

We are once again participating in the WPA Holiday Basket program. We are asking our members to donate non-perishable food items which will fill three food baskets to be given to needy families in our area. Donations may be dropped off at United Church of Christ, located at 2180 North Ave (corner of Laurel Avenue) in Bridgeport. As we did last year, we will donate any excess items to one of the local food banks.

Our branch Christmas party will be held Saturday, Dec. 9, at noon at Puritan Hall (the church basement), 2180 North Ave., Bridgeport. *Please note the change in location for this year's party.*

Similar to last year, there will be refreshments and lunch served and the singing of Christmas carols. Of course, we may get a surprise visit from Santa Claus for the children, each of whom will receive a gift.

Please bring a non-perishable food item for our Holiday Basket program when you come to the party. Invitations were mailed to all branch families with children. Others can contact Branch Coordinator Jim Ballas if they would like to come by calling 203-929-9425 or email jamesballas@att.net. Looking forward to seeing you all at the party.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and a wonderful holiday season.

Branch 14 Cleveland, OH

by Richard E. Sarosi

It is hard to believe that calendar year 2017 is coming to an end. Time just flew by this year. So, we send a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your family, friends and WPA members. *Boldog Karácsonyi ünnepet és új esztendőt mindenki részére.*

Congratulations to all our Branch



14 scholarship recipients: Jason T. Bronstrup, Steven M. Katona, Ally I. Kelling (pictured left) and Morgan E. Uveges. I would also like to congratulate my cousins from WPA Branch

8340, Connor B. Olson, Kelsey L. Olson and Garrett A. Walker. Study hard and have fun as you pursue your college goals and careers.

On Sunday, Oct. 15, members of our branch had the pleasure of joining the congregation of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Roman Catholic Church to celebrate the 125th anniversary of their founding as the first Hungarian Roman Catholic Church in America. Among those joining me at this event were Branch Vice President JoAnne Sedensky, Branch Coordinator Violet Sarosi and branch member Ernest Sarosi. WPA was also represented by Chair of the Board Andrew W. McNelis and his wife Marguerite; Fraternal Director Barbara A. House and her husband Thomas and Vice Chair Katherine E. Novak.

A celebration mass and banquet was held in the church and church hall. Clergy from the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, including recently appointed Bishop Nelson J. Perez, were in attendance. Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson extended greetings to the sold-out dinner. A delicious traditional Hungarian dinner was served.

This was just part of a very busy October in the Cleveland Hungarian community. For a look at other recent events in our area, see the "In the Community" and "Magyar Matters" sections of this issue.

Branch 14 meetings are held at the Bethlen Hall of The First Hungarian Reformed Church, 14530 Alexander Road, Walton Hills. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 7, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. Branch 14 adult members and guests are welcome to attend the meeting.

Mark your calendars for these upcoming activities:

- Saturday, Dec. 2 - Branch 14 Christmas party, "Breakfast with

Santa," 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- Saturday, June 30, 2018, Hungarian Heritage Night with the Lake County Captains at Classic Park.

- July 2018, the 80th Anniversary of the Cleveland Hungarian Cultural Garden.

- October 2018, Third Gala Organ Concert for the benefit of the Cleveland Hungarian Cultural Garden.

Congratulations and best wishes to Branch 14 member Connor Sobey who is off into the wild blue yonder as a new member of the United States Air Force. Connor left for basic training on Nov. 6. He is the son of Cindy and Darren Sobey. His brother Carson and grandparents Joyce and Frank Wargo are members of Branch 14. They and his many cousins in the Sarosi family send him off with love and God's blessing.

Branch 14 extends our deepest sympathy to Steven and Richard Arnosky and their families on the recent death of their mother, Barbara Arnosky, and to all Branch 14 and WPA members who have recently lost a loved one. May Barbara and all our departed loved ones rest in peace.

Get well wishes are sent to all of our Branch 14 and WPA members, as well as our friends, who might be feeling under the weather or dealing with health issues. We send out get well wishes to branch member Violet Szabo and to National Director Joyce E. Nicholson. Please keep them and all of our members in your prayers.

Happy birthday and happy anniversary wishes are sent out to all of our branch members and Home Office staff who are celebrating a December/January birthday and/or anniversary. Happy birthday to my mom, Violet Sarosi, who will be turning 92 on Dec. 20. Happy birthday to my dad, Ernest Sarosi, who will be celebrating his 94th birthday on Jan. 20. We love you, and we wish you a very happy day. May you be blessed with many more birthdays and anniversaries.

Remember, Branch 14 members having news to share about themselves or family members can reach me at RichSaro@att.net or at 440-248-9012.



Next Deadline

All articles & photos for the January issue of *William Penn Life* are due in our office by Dec. 8. If you have any questions, contact John E. Lovasz toll-free at 1-800-848-7366, ext. 135.

As always, please remember to keep in touch with someone you haven't seen or talked with in a long time. Don't let the opportunity pass you by. Pick up the phone and/or plan a visit.

Branch 18 Lincoln Park, MI

by Barbara A. House
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2018.

What a wonderful, busy year this has been. We started doing branch trips again. Our last was to Firekeepers Casino in Battle Creek. We are planning an overnight trip to Soaring Eagle in Mount Pleasant on March 21 and 22. As always I remind you that we need your support and participation to continue doing these trips. Soaring Eagle has many things to keep you busy, if gambling is not your thing. Cost and other information will be available soon.

Our next branch meeting will be on Dec. 13, when we will enjoy a Christmas dinner with our loyal adult members. We will serve a chicken dinner. Feel free to bring a dessert or a favorite side dish. We will have a \$10 grab bag, if you wish to participate. As always, we will offer door prizes. This month's prizes are from Tom House. We will begin at 6:00 p.m. at the Hungarian American Cultural Center on Goddard in Taylor. I hope to see you there.

Thank you to all who remember our shelter animals at our meetings. They need food, treats, litter and blankets or rugs.

Thank you to George Sabo, Beata Csaszar, Judy Schonek and Carol Truesdell for all the tabs.

Please read "Focus on Fraternalism" this month (*see page 3*) so you can mark your calendars for next year's events. We have so many things planned for you. I am sure you will find something to interest you. I know you all enjoyed our picnic in Hiram, Ohio, so we are again renting a bus for the 2018 picnic for your convenience.

Tom and I were fortunate to attend the 125th anniversary of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church in Cleveland. Also representing WPA were Chair of the Board Andy McNelis and wife Marguerite, Vice Chair Kathy Novak, National Director Richard Sarosi, and Branch 14 members Violet and Ernie Sarosi and JoAnne Sedensky. It was a beautiful event. Dinner was superb. I was especially pleased that Father Barnabas was a celebrant at Mass. I hope to visit the church again. It is a beautiful church.

Join Hands Day is scheduled for the second Saturday in June. We beautify three different places, so, as always, we welcome your help.

Happy December birthday to all our wonderful members, especially retired National Director Dennis Chobody, National Director Debbie Lewis and Home Office employee Dave Chakey. You are all so special. We wish you many more.

Get well wishes to Patty Soltesz, George and Doris Schvarckopf, Eleanor Kender, Beata Csaszar, Joe Csereklye, Pamela George and all who are not well at this beautiful time of year. We wish you quick recovery.

Please remember the families of our deceased members in your prayers, especially Anna Cassar, Mary Moore and Julius Sabo Jr. May

they rest in peace.

I will be home most of this winter. I will be having some hand surgery in December, so I will be available for all your insurance needs or questions. Call anytime at 313-418-5572 or 734-782-4667 or 800-848-7366, ext. 107. Hope to hear from you.

I came across this legend and decided to share it with you. When Mary and Joseph heard about King Herod's massacre of small children, they took baby Jesus and fled Bethlehem. Tired after their long journey, they stopped at a cave to rest. A group of spiders, wanting to protect the Holy Family, covered the cave with webs. In the morning, the webs glittered in the sun. Some say this is how the tradition of tinsel on Christmas trees began.

Have a wonderful Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. *Kellemes Karácsonyi Ünnepeket és boldog Új Évet.*

Branch 27 Toledo, OH

by Paula Bodnar

I sure hope everybody survived Thanksgiving and the Black Friday shopping. The next thing we know, Christmas will be here. Hope your branch's party is more than you expect.

Sorry I missed last month's issue. I have been very busy taking care of my husband. He had major surgery the end of September, and now we are waiting for the next step to begin.

We extend condolences to the Ivancso family on the passing of their uncle John Evancho.

Birthday greetings are sent to Margaret Babarcsik, Lisa Brooker, Donald Brown, Caroline Browning, Madeleine Butler, Barnabas Dudas, Maureen Farkas, Caleb Fouts, Martha Frater, Fielder Gainsley, Kevin James Gall, Amber Gombash, Brianna Gombash, Danielle Gombash, Elizabeth Gombash, Lincoln Graf, Jacqueline Grivanos, Sandra Grove, Lawrence James Hanus, Michael Hanus, Samantha Hornyak, Tammy Hornyak, Stephen Horvath, Judy Huang, Stephen Ivancso III, Robert Ivancso, Gary William Kerekes, Mariska Kinsey, Paula Jean Lajti, Richard Lajti, Stephen

Branch News

Paul Lajti, Kathleen Large, Linda Limbach, Mary Lin, William Lorenc, Betty Marvin, Christopher Nagy, Alexander Ostafi, Martha Plaskiewicz, Krisztina Roder, Connor Stierman, Carolyn Sue Szabo, Dennis Szollosi, Christine Takacs, Scott Vanko, Christine Vasko and Sarah Winkler.

Our Christmas party will be held Saturday, Dec. 16, at 1:00 p.m. at Timbers Lanes. All members are invited to join us. Please bring with you a donation of canned goods or personal hygiene items. These items will be donated.

Our next meeting will be Jan. 20 at 1:00 p.m. at American Table on Wheeling.

If anybody has any questions, please call me (Paula) at 419-460-7214 or Amalia at 419-726-1109. We will do our best to answer your questions.

Branch 28 Youngstown, OH

by Kathy Novak

Blessed holiday wishes to everyone. May this wondrous time of year bring everyone much love and happiness.

Our branch family Christmas party will be held Dec. 9. Details of the day and winners of the scholarship raffle will be in next month's article. Special thanks to the Home Office for all the support and generosity they give to all the WPA branches hosting Christmas fraternal gatherings for members of all ages to enjoy.

The Youngstown Hungarian Federation and Freedom Fighters of 1956 hosted the annual commemorative program for the 1956 Revolution on Oct. 22 at the Franciscan Friary. The outdoor ceremony at the memorial statue was blessed with beautiful weather, allowing the attendees to enjoy a nice fall afternoon.

A brief history of Maléter Pál was read by Alyssa Schauer and a Hungarian poem was read by Irene Szurovy. Songs and prayers were part of the program, with everyone participating. Candles were placed at the base of the memorial before the attendees gathered in the social hall for fellowship and refreshments.

The Hungarian Community of Youngstown held its traditional



Members of Branch 34 recently attended a fundraising event supporting the Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Free Care Fund.

Thanksgiving Vesper services on Nov. 21 at St. Stephen of Hungary worship site, hosted by Holy Apostle Parish. The four Hungarian churches took part in this annual ecumenical service.

Hope some of our members get a chance to visit the University of Pittsburgh Holiday Open House on Dec. 3. The festival is quite a beautiful day of ethnic traditions, food and talent.

Watch for information on WPA events in 2018. Some changes are being made to offer a variety of places for members to travel and be a part of great fraternal activities.

October was a busy month in Northeast Ohio. Among the month's numerous events were the annual meeting of the Ohio Fraternal Alliance, the 125th anniversary celebration of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Parish of Cleveland and the 21st Vintner Dinner hosted by the Cleveland Hungarian Heritage Society. For more on these and other events, see the "In the Community" and "Magyar Matters" sections in this issue.

With all the hustle and bustle going on this time of year, we can't forget the true meaning of this holiday – the birth of Jesus. So, let's also wish everyone celebrating a birthday or anniversary a wonderful day.

It's always hard to have to lose a loved one, but at this time of the year, it seems more difficult. We express sincere sympathy with thoughts and prayers to all those suffering a loss at this time.

Get well wishes to all those under the weather.



Branch 28 member Alyssa Schauer reads a brief history of Maléter Pál on Oct. 22 in Youngstown, Ohio, during a commemoration of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

Insurance questions? Call Kathy at 330-746-7704 or Alan at 330-482-9994.

Peace, love and happiness are wished to all of you, your family, and friends. Merry Christmas!

Branch 34 Pittsburgh, PA

by Marguerite McNelis

We hope everyone had a happy and blessed Thanksgiving, and that you were able to celebrate it with family and friends.

Our branch made a monetary

donation to the KDKA Turkey Fund. This fund helps families in need receive food items over the holidays.

Branch 34 members of the Vamos, Healy and McNelis families attended the annual Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh Free Care Fund event sponsored by Howard Hanna Real Estate Services, South Hills Office. Roseann Vamos is a real estate agent in the South Hills Office and is a member of the committee that plans this worthwhile fundraiser. A special thanks to her and the committee for their hard work in putting this together every year.

Have a blessed Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Happy and healthy birthday wishes to everyone celebrating their birthdays.

Remember in your prayers our servicemen and women, here and overseas.

If you have any news you would like to share, please contact Marguerite McNelis at 412-421-6031.

Branch 40 Martins Ferry, OH Branch 349 Weirton, WV

by Joyce Nicholson

Hello from the WPA branches in Martins Ferry, Ohio, and Weirton W.Va.

Our Holiday Baskets this year were, as always, graciously received by the individuals and one organization (Friendship Warming Center) to which they were donated. All were happy to receive the assistance during the holiday season.

Remember, our combined branch Christmas party is scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 16. We will be enjoying breakfast from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at Murray's Restaurant, 498 Cadiz Road in Wintersville. It's across the street from Indian Creek High School and located in the Big Lots Plaza. Visit with Santa and enjoy breakfast throughout the morning with your fellow WPA members and children. All of our branch members are welcome to attend this open house breakfast with Santa. So, grab a bite of breakfast with us while



Branch 44 members Sam, Sophie and Izzy Confer help deliver to Summit County (Ohio) Animal Shelters pet food and other items donated by fellow branch members.

you're out Christmas shopping! All branch children will get a treat bag.

On Oct. 13 and 14, I attended the Ohio Fraternal Alliance Annual Meeting in Independence, Ohio, along with WPA Vice Chair of the Board Kathy Novak and fellow National Director Richard Sarosi. The OFA provides learning opportunities and educational resources for members. It's essential to keep informed of what is new and/or changing in fraternal benefit societies and on legislative fronts. I was honored to be elected by the Ohio Fraternal Alliance membership to the OFA board representing William Penn Association for 2018-2020.

We hope everyone had a delicious and heartwarming Thanksgiving holiday with family or friends.

As Christmas approaches and we begin a New Year, we want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped throughout 2017 with our WPA projects, picnics, outings, meetings and parties. Our branches were happily busy all year!

We are grateful to be able to be of assistance to many of our local community projects, events, fundraisers and people-in-need while having a great time in fraternalism, too.

As we look toward 2018, we wish everyone a blessed Christmas and

a Happy New Year filled with love, peace, joy and good health.

Happy birthday, Debra Lewis!

For additional information about branch activities, please call Joyce Nicholson at 740-264-6238.

You can call on Alan Szabo for all your life insurance needs at 330-482-9994.

Branch 44 Akron, OH

by Elizabeth Darago

Happy holidays to all WPA members and their families. As you read this, Branch 44 will be celebrating our family Christmas party with our William Penn family. We're so excited: Santa's coming for the junior members, and all adults win a door prize of a fresh poinsettia plant. More importantly, all in attendance will bring non-perishable items, usually enough to fill an SUV.

Your branch officers have been as busy as elves, purchasing and wrapping gifts for the young ones. We'll have a wonderful assortment for all junior members up through age 16 in attendance.

George and Jean Naswadi have found the perfect raffle table items.

Other officers have been inventorying food items for the baskets.

Thank you to Rose Herdon for her generous monetary donation for the food baskets; it will really make our basket recipients happy.

As many members know, we try to tailor the baskets to each recipient, staying away from items which they may be allergic to, adding a treat for a pet and including a gift for each child. We ask the recipients what would make a great Christmas for them. Most replies are modest. Two years ago, one family wanted pickles, all different kinds of pickles. Done. What a modest request, one fulfilled by your generous donations.

Recently, members Sam, Sophie and Izzy Confer helped deliver donated pet food and supplies to local animal shelters. Mom (member Kimi Confer) joined them. Thanks to all involved.

As you can see, Branch 44 actively tries to practice fraternalism all year long. Thanks to our members, we're able to do some amazing things.

Branch News

Thank you to all, and happy holidays.

If you know of a family in need of a food basket, contact me at 330-604-1264.

Don't forget: Alan Szabo can help you with your family's life insurance and annuity needs.

Branch 89 Homestead, PA

by Mark S. Maskarinec

The final report on our golf outing is in, and it shows our proceeds totalled over \$3,400. This couldn't have been achieved without everyone's help. Thank you for making this event such a huge success!

We are still trying to find the person who won the Hungarian Gourmet Basket at the WPA Picnic. Please contact me so I can make arrangements to deliver your basket. It's a nice value, and there's a lot of goodies in it that I know will please your palate. Email me at maskarinec1836@comcast.net or call me at 412-398-2078.

We are eagerly gearing up for the holiday season. Our branch, in conjunction with the First Hungarian Reformed Church of Homestead, had a baking project in November and will be having one again in December, just before Christmas.

Plus, our very own Chef János made his famous Hungarian gulyás in October. We still have some left in our freezer. Please call or email me if you would like some. Price is \$6 per quart. Our thanks to all those who helped make our gulyás making a success. Those in attendance were Branch President John Toth Jr., Branch Vice President Mark S. Maskarinec, Branch Secretary-Treasurer Ruth D. Toth, Branch Auditors Justin T. Toth and Lisa Toth-Maskarinec, branch members John and Vera Recktosch and guest Ron Mathos.

Our homemade Hungarian kolbász returns this month. We will be joining forces with the Third Avenue Calvin Reformed Church and the Hungarian Reformed Church of Homestead to make kolbász just in time for the holidays. Date and price to be determined. To order kolbász, call me at 412-872-5022.

Our annual branch Christmas

TOP: Retiring Munhall Mayor Raymond Bodnar (left) receives congratulations from Branch 89 members Michele and Devon Wittpenn. MIDDLE: Branch 89 Vice President Mark Maskarinec (right) and member Michael Sarraïno enjoy the mayor's retirement luncheon. BOTTOM: Branch 89 President John Toth and Mr. Maskarinec prepare gulyás for a First Hungarian Reformed Church fundraiser in October.



party will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, at Brunswick Playmor Bowl. It promises to be a good time.

On Thanksgiving, some of our branch members helped out at the 20th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner held at the Homestead Park United Methodist Church. What a wonderful way for those alone, shut-in or homeless to enjoy a good, home-cooked meal and celebrate the holidays with others in the same circumstances. 'Tis the season to be thankful and what better to show how thankful we are by helping others.

Special thanks to branch members Devon and Michele Wittpenn, Michael Sarraïno and Mark and Lisa Maskarinec for representing the branch and church at the recent retirement luncheon for Munhall Mayor Raymond Bodnar. Mayor Bodnar held the office for 53 years. We wish him and his wife much happiness and good health as they embark on this next stage of their lives.

And we thank branch members Fred Gabocy, Janet Phillips, Vera Recktosch and Mark and Lisa for representing our branch at the Celebration of Life for Rev. Imre A. Bertalan at the Third Avenue Calvin Reformed Church in Beaver Falls on Nov. 11. What a wonderful way to honor the legacy and memory of Rev. Bertalan. Congratulations to Arlene Csoman for pulling together such a wonderful event.

To all our veterans, we say thank you for your service to our country. We thank you and we salute you for your efforts. We thank Mark Maskarinec and our very own Fred Gabocy for their part in the service



honoring the veterans at the First Hungarian Reformed Church on Nov. 12.

Get well wishes go to branch member Janet J. Phillips as she continues to recuperate from spinal surgery, Jim Findlay as he battles cancer and Fred Gabocy who was battling pneumonia. All of you are

in our thoughts and prayers. And Jim, we expect to see you riding that lawnmower of yours up and down Brierly Lane in the near future. Get better, all!

Branch 89 will be distributing Holiday Baskets to those less fortunate in the upcoming weeks. Pictures to follow.

Take care and make every day count. Do something nice for someone and see how good you will feel. It takes more energy to complain about something than it does to correct the problem. Fraternalism is the key! Let's make it count.

Branch 129 Columbus, OH

by Debbie Lewis

As 2017 comes to a close, we would like to wish you love, joy and happiness this holiday season and always. May you all be blessed with good health in 2018.

Get in touch with family and friends that you haven't seen or talked to lately; you never know what a call or visit will do to lift someone's spirits.

We will have our branch Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 2, at 2:00 p.m. It will again take place at the Columbus-Grove City Elks located at 2140 Sonora Dr. in Grove City.

Important days for this month:

- Dec. 7 - Pearl Harbor Day.
- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve.
- Dec. 25 - Christmas.
- Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve.

We congratulate all those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month.

Congratulations also to all who have new additions to their families.

Get well wishes go to those who have been ill or hospitalized.

We wish to extend our sympathy to all who have recently lost a loved one.

Please keep all in your thoughts and prayers.

If you have any news you would like to share or need information on life insurance or annuities, please contact Branch Coordinator Debbie Lewis at 614-875-9968 or e-mail DAL9968@aol.com.

Branch 132 South Bend, IN

by John E. Burus

Winter is almost here, and I am sure the snow is not far behind. The Branch 132 officers would like to extend warm holiday wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all WPA members.

The next Branch 132 quarterly meeting will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 5, at the Martin's Supermarket Deli (first floor) on Ireland Road at 5:00 p.m. We will begin planning for the upcoming year and starting year end paperwork.

The Branch 132 Christmas party has been planned for Sunday, Dec. 10, at the South Bend Barnaby's Pizza starting at 3:00 p.m. and ending by 5:00 p.m. The branch will provide the pizza and sodas for all members and family who attend. Please make reservations no later than Dec. 5 by calling Janos Burus at 574-287-0590.

Branch 132 is also planning to donate food baskets to local food pantries in our area. More information and photos to follow in upcoming reports.

Branch 226 McKeesport, PA

by Judit Ganchuk

Congrats again to all of our WPFASF scholarship recipients featured in last month's issue of *William Penn Life*, especially Branch 226 members Matthew Benedek, Mary DeFazio,



Libby Myers, Daniel Trombola and Sarah DeFazio. Special congratulations to Daniel (pictured left) for also earning his Eagle Scout designation earlier this year and to Sarah

for winning second prize for her scholarship essay.

Happy birthday and happy anniversary wishes to all those celebrating this month! Sending warm hugs to Sally Petras, former branch auditor.

We send get well wishes to Mar-

garet "Manci" Kiraly and our other branch members who are coping with illnesses.

We extend our sympathies to members and their families who have lost someone recently and sending prayers to the family and friends of Lucy Norgren and Paul Martincsek. May they rest in peace.

December is a busy month! The Free Hungarian Reformed Church in McKeesport will hold their annual chicken paprikás dinner (take out only) on Saturday, Dec. 2. Please call the church at 412-672-7298 for info.

On Dec. 6, Hungarian children will celebrate St. Nicholas Day by putting their shoes out the night before, hoping to get candy and small toys as a reward for being good all year long.

The students at the Hungarian embroidery class at the Free Hungarian Reformed Church in McKeesport, many of whom are WPA members, have created a "Hungarian Dancing Queen" Christmas tree for the Festival of Christmas trees contest to be held in McKeesport's Renzie Park Main Pavilion. The students worked hard this fall, creating handmade decorations for the tree. Come view beautiful Christmas trees and enjoy a visit with Santa from Dec. 7 to 11.

Our branch was able to donate a few much-needed Holiday Baskets to members of our community, thanks to WPA's program.

Our last branch meeting of the year will be held before our Christmas party at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Free Hungarian Reformed Church in McKeesport. Party photos coming next month!

Branch members, please note that the branch will take a break in January and February. We will resume holding regular meetings in the spring.

Finally, at this festive time of year, keep up an attitude of gratitude. Make someone else's day happy and don't expect anything in return; it may surprise you how good it feels to give to others.

On behalf of Branch 226, we wish you a happy and blessed Christmas and Happy New Year, or in Hungarian: *Kellemes karácsonyi ünnepet és boldog új évet kívánunk!*

Branch 249 Dayton, OH

by Mark Schmidt

Instead of "Ho! Ho! Ho!" I'm saying "No! No! No!" It can't be December already. Where did this year go?

With one year of retirement under our belts, Anne Marie and I thought life would be slower and simpler. Wrong. Just the opposite has happened. Travel, doctors, WPA and other Hungarian activities have kept our lives very busy. Oh, and best of all--our first grandchild. But, whatever we have going on, we look forward to it. Life truly is wonderful and is especially meaningful this time of year.

Congratulations to local member Stephen Buckey for his third prize scholarship essay. We are very proud of Stephen, and we are sure his parents are, too. Good luck with your continued education.

On Nov. 11, we had our branch meeting. Plans for the Branch 249 Christmas party were finalized and everything is set for the party on Dec. 10 at the American Czechoslovakian Hall, located at 922 Valley St. in Dayton. The party starts promptly at 11:30 a.m. Santa will be there at 1:00 p.m., so be good and don't be late. The naughty list is still being written, and you don't want to be on it. Invitations were sent out in the mail to local members, so make sure your calendar is marked. We will be raffling off the \$125 money tree and other cash prizes. Did you get your tickets? I hope to see you there. Contact me at 937-667-1211 or email amschmidt@msn.com to let me know how many people you will be bringing.

Get well wishes to those sick or in the hospital, especially John Deme-ter and Karen Vance.

We extend our thoughts and prayers to those who have recently lost a loved one. It is especially hard to miss someone during the holidays, so make sure that you reach out to them.

Happy anniversary and happy birthday to those celebrating this month. May the holiday festivities make it seem like a month-long celebration.

That's all for now. With Christmas and New Year's soon upon us, take this special time to reflect on your family, both at home and with WPA.

Now, how to pay all those Christmas bills?...

Branch 296 Springdale, PA

by Mary A. Kelly-Lovasz

Our annual branch family Christmas party was held on Nov. 26, and at the time that this was written, it had not yet taken place. So, look for comments and photos in January's *William Penn Life*.

We do hope that all of our members enjoyed their Thanksgiving and are anticipating the blessed tidings of Christmas. The year 2017 is nearly over and, looking back, it's certainly been eventful, and challenging... and not always in a good way. A few more weeks and everyone can start fresh and have new optimism throughout 2018.

We wish delightful December birthday greetings to all of our 296-ers, especially Diana Borland, Noreen Fritz and Martha Schuller. Kick back, relax and enjoy your special day. And, by all means, don't forget to eat cake!

For our members recovering from illnesses and infirmities, may you be on the road to wellness. We are thinking of you and want you all to be at your very best.

God grant eternal rest to family and friends who have left this earthly life in 2017. The year-end holidays can be especially difficult for those of us dealing with a loss of a family member or a friend. Three members of my own family passed this year, and it is strange and sad knowing that these cousins and aunt are gone. May each of you be comforted by good memories and traditions to help you continue your journey in life.

A special note to students eligible to apply for grants through the WPFA Scholarship Foundation, Inc., in 2018: *William Penn Life* magazine has already begun publishing the updated application and eligibility rules. You may also visit our website at www.wpalife.org to view the rules

and print out an application. The deadline for submission of your application and essay is May 31, 2018. You can begin applying now.

Please note that there has been an important change to the rules for the academic year 2018-2019: your latest scholastic record and proof of enrollment for the Fall 2018 school term must be mailed and postmarked by Aug. 31, 2018. That's about two weeks sooner than in previous years. So, please do not delay submitting your necessary materials.

Winter break is upon us. Branch 296 will return to regularly scheduled meetings beginning March 2018. In the meantime, I will keep you posted on any upcoming events.

Contact me if you have any branch news or personal milestones that you would like to share, at make-lly367@verizon.net or at 724-274-5318.

And, of course, for your life insurance and annuity needs, contact Noreen Fritz at 412-821-1837 or at noreenbunny.fritz@verizon.net. In fact, contact Noreen and wish her a happy birthday. She'd like that!

Merry Christmas to you and yours! We hope that as you extend your generosity to others during this wonderful time of the year, that you'll receive the same, in return.

Branch 352 Coraopolis, PA

by Dora S. McKinsey

What an exciting time of the year, especially for the little ones. The anticipation of Christmas morning is almost too much to bear for the children. May you all have a very Merry and Blessed Christmas. I hope we all remember the real reason for the season--the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Look for a report of our branch Christmas party in the January issue of *William Penn Life*. Hopefully, you were able to attend.

All of our grandchildren have been members of the WPA since birth and are covered by the Special Juvenile to Age 25 plan of insurance. This plan only costs \$25 a year and provides \$20,000 of term life insurance to age 25. One nice feature of this plan is that when members turn age 25, they will be offered a chance

to convert up to \$20,000 of insurance to a permanent plan without any evidence of insurability, and permanent insurance plans build cash value. Consider this plan for your children or grandchildren. Grandparents: This can be used as a Christmas gift for those precious little ones.

During this Christmas season, may we all give thanks for the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. There are many who are struggling to put food on the table for their families. Please remember those less fortunate and make a donation to your local food pantry.

Let us remember all those service men and women who are away from home during the holiday season. Keep them and their families in your prayers.

For those of us who live in a cold weather area, stay warm and safe this winter.

For all those celebrating a birthday this month, we wish you a happy birthday! May you have many more and may all of them be healthy.

If you have recently lost a loved one, I pray that God would comfort you in what surely will be a difficult

time.

Don't forget that if you have any news to share or if you need assistance with any insurance question, please do not hesitate to contact me at 412-932-3170 or by email at dmckinsey@hotmail.com.

Branch 800 Altoona, PA

by Joan B. Ballash

A blessed Christmas season to all branch members as we celebrate the nativity of Jesus. Happy Hanukkah to our Jewish friends, as well.

Branch 800 voted to donate Holiday Baskets to five needy people for the holidays. We thank the Home Office for initiating and supporting this endeavor and being a model of charity.

Branch Coordinator and Treasurer Bob Jones underwent knee surgery and is recuperating at home. We ask for prayers for Bob, his wife Jean and all those who are ill, in treatment or experiencing any physical and or mental challenges. Remember caretakers, also.

This time of the year can be very

lonely for people who have lost a loved one and are facing their first Christmas without them. Keep in touch through calls and visits so that those left behind are not forgotten.

We welcome(?) winter on Dec. 21. Is your car prepped for the cold weather? Watch for "black ice" and give yourself extra time to get to events.

The end of the year is a perfect time to review your life insurance and annuities. Call Bob Jones at 814-942-2661 to assist in planning for your needs.

We wish good luck to the Bishop Guilfoyle Football team as they play for the district championship.

Information on the 2018 WPFA Scholarship Foundation grants can be found in this month's *William Penn Life*. We urge all eligible branch members (and their parents and grandparents) to review the eligibility rules and consider applying.

I bring this article to a close by congratulating Michala M. Cooney and Danielle M. Miller, both of Altoona. They are Branch 800's recipients of WPFA Scholarship Foundation grants for 2017-2018. You make us proud!

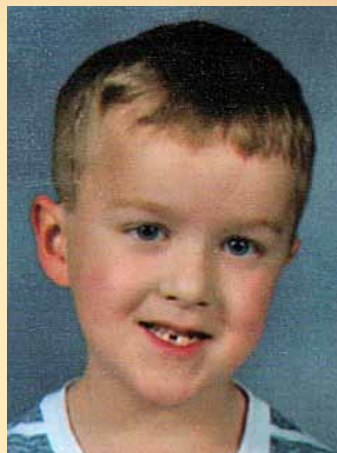
Welcome To Our Fraternal Family



EMERENCIA J. HADZINSKY
Branch 28 Youngstown, OH



LUCAS G. HEITMAN
Branch 249 Dayton, OH



CHRISTIAN J. MATTIE
Branch 18 Lincoln Park, MI



CODY D. WEDEKIND
Branch 8114 Clarion, PA

If you have a child who recently joined WPA, send us his or her photo. We will publish it in an upcoming issue so all our members can welcome your child into our WPA Fraternal Family.

Eligibility Rules for Year 2018 Scholarship Grants

The Board of Directors has established the following rules governing eligibility for scholarship recipients:

a) The student applying for a scholarship grant must be an individual life benefit member of William Penn Association in good standing for four (4) years as of January 1, 2018.

b) For both new and renewal applicants, the students must be the child or grandchild of a life benefit member of William Penn Association in good standing. For the 2018 school year, the parent/grandparent must be a life benefit member for at least four (4) years as of January 1, 2018.

c) Scholarship grants are awarded to full-time undergraduate students only if they have been accepted by or are currently attending an accredited college, university or school of nursing.

d) Grants are awarded for a two- or four-year period.

e) **New applicants** must submit the following:

1. WPFA Scholarship Foundation, Inc. Application for Scholarship Grant, which can be found in this issue of *William Penn Life*. An application also may be obtained by writing to: President, William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc., 709 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15233, or may be downloaded from the Association's website at www.wpalife.org.

2. An Essay of 100 words or fewer answering the question: **"What one item would you place in a time capsule, and why?"** If the essay exceeds 100 words, the student's application will not be accepted.

The Scholarship Application and Essay must be mailed and postmarked by Thursday, May 31, 2018. We recommend the student submit these materials via Certified Mail to ascertain proof of mailing date.

3. A transcript of the student's latest high school scholastic record.

4. Proof of enrollment for the Fall 2018 school term.

Items 3 and 4 must be mailed and postmarked by **Friday, August 31, 2018.**

f) **Renewal applicants** must submit the following:

1. WPFA Scholarship Foundation, Inc. Application for Scholarship Grant, which can be found in this issue of *William Penn Life*. An application also may be obtained by writing to: President, William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc., 709 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15233, or may be downloaded from the Association's website at www.wpalife.org.

2. An Essay of 100 words or fewer answering the question: **"What is the importance of having a life insurance policy?"** If the essay exceeds 100 words, the student's application will not be accepted.

3. A copy of the student's latest scholastic record. All renewal applicants **must maintain a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale to qualify.**

4. Proof of enrollment for the Fall 2018 school term.

Items 3 and 4 must be mailed and postmarked by **Friday, August 31, 2018.**

g) All applications and essays must be submitted and signed by the student requesting the grant and mailed to the attention of the President. Eligibility rules for renewal grants will be in accordance with the eligibility rules in effect for the initial grant. Materials submitted by anyone other than the student will not be considered. **E-mailed and faxed submissions will NOT be accepted.**

h) Scholarship grants will be awarded by the Executive Committee of the William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc. once each year. Grants will be paid directly to the applicant provided the student is a life benefit member in good standing on the date the check is issued and all of the eligibility requirements stated herein have been met.

i) If for any reason the recipient does not attend college after receiving the grant, it must be returned to the William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

j) In compliance with current privacy laws, all information in regards to the scholarship status will be divulged only to the applicant/student and to the parents and/or legal guardians of the applicant.

k) All applications and essays must be mailed and postmarked by **Thursday, May 31, 2018.** Any applications and essays postmarked after that date will not be considered.

Students with questions about these eligibility rules may call Mary Ann Kelly-Lovasz at the Home Office at 1-800-848-7366, Ext. 128, or e-mail us at scholarship@wpalife.org.

William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

709 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15233-1821

Phone: 412-231-2979 • Toll-free: 1-800-848-7366 • Fax: 412-231-8535 • Email: scholarship@wpalife.org



Application for Scholarship Grant Academic Year 2018-2019



1. Check One: ☐ **New Applicant** ☐ **Renewal Applicant**

STUDENT APPLICANT INFORMATION

2. NAME: _____ **3. DATE OF BIRTH:** ____/____/____
Last First Middle Initial

4. ADDRESS: _____
No. Street

City State Zip Code

5. STUDENT APPLICANT'S PHONE: () _____ **6. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.:** _____

7. E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

8. SCHOOLS ATTENDED (LIST IN REVERSE CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER, STARTING WITH MOST RECENT SCHOOL):

Name of School	Location	Years Attended
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

9. ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY WHERE ACCEPTED:

School Name: _____ **Year Will Be Attending in School:** ☐ Freshman ☐ Junior ☐ Sophomore ☐ Senior

Street Address or P. O. Box: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

10. MAJOR COURSE OF STUDY (e.g., ENGINEERING, PRE-MEDICAL, BUSINESS, ETC.): _____

Completed application must be mailed and postmarked by May 31, 2018

11. LIST THREE PERSONAL REFERENCES, EXCLUDING RELATIVES, WHO HAVE KNOWN YOU FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS (e.g., TEACHERS, CLERGYMEN, COACHES, ETC.):

Name

Address

Occupation

12. LIST YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN WILLIAM PENN ASSOCIATION FRATERNAL ACTIVITIES OR COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS:

13. EXTRACURRICULAR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (i.e., ATHLETICS, THE ARTS, SCHOOL CLUBS):

14. SUGGEST AN EVENT OR PROJECT THAT WPA COULD PROMOTE WHICH WOULD INTEREST YOUNG ADULTS:

15. WILLIAM PENN ASSOCIATION LIFE INSURANCE CERTIFICATE INFORMATION VERIFICATION:

INFORMATION ON BOTH STUDENT AND PARENT (OR GRANDPARENT) IS REQUIRED.

Student Applicant

CHECK ONE: ☐ Parent or ☐ Grandparent of Applicant

Name: _____

Life Insurance Certificate Number: _____

Branch Number: _____

PLEASE NOTE: ALL APPLICANTS must submit an essay not exceeding 100 words, along with this completed application form, to be considered for a grant. The application and essay must be mailed and postmarked by May 31, 2018. NEW APPLICANTS must also submit: (1) a transcript of the student's high school scholastic record; and (2) proof of enrollment for the Fall 2018 school term. RENEWAL APPLICANTS must also submit: (1) a copy of the student's latest scholastic record showing that the student has maintained a cumulative Grade Point Average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale; and (2) proof of enrollment for the Fall 2018 school term. Failure to submit these items by the date specified in the Eligibility Rules will result in the forfeiture of your grant. The undersigned APPLICANT hereby authorizes and approves the Scholarship Foundation or its representatives to share or discuss this Application with my parents and/or legal guardians.

I hereby certify that I have read the eligibility rules prior to completing this application. I further certify that this application contains no misstatements or omissions of material fact and that the statements herein are to the best of my knowledge complete and correct.

Signature of Applicant

Date

Completed application must be mailed and postmarked by May 31, 2018



The Nationality Rooms

THE MAJESTIC Cathedral of Learning is located on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh and is the tallest educational building in the Western Hemisphere. Within it are 30 rooms dedicated to the history and cultures of many nations, used daily for classes, tutoring and lectures.

Room 121 is the location of the Hungarian Room, a showplace for the art, history and folklore of our proud people. Within the confines of this classroom, visitors can see beautiful oak woodworking, historically significant stained glass windows, beautifully-painted ceiling tiles and many items of handcrafted embroideries. Many rare pieces of porcelain, paintings and works of obscure folk art can be viewed as well. An original pocket watch once owned by Hungarian patriot Lajos Kossuth can be examined.

First conceived in the late 1920s, the room was the result of many hours of planning and construction. Artists and educators from Hungary were brought in to add their expertise to the project. The Hungarian Room was formally dedicated on September 29, 1939.

A long-standing tradition has been a holiday season open house spotlighting all of the Nationality Rooms, held the first Sunday of December. This year, that tradition continues on Dec. 3 as the doors will be open for group tours or casual individual viewing between noon and 4:00 p.m.

For the open house, many of the rooms will be decorated for the Christmas season in a manner reflecting the traditions and customs of each room's nationality. Ethnic foods from around the world will be sold and performances of traditional music and dancing will be featured in the Cathedral's common area.

The December wordsearch features 14 clues pertaining to the Hungarian Room. The words includes names, specific items or components that make this room a unique showcase of Hungarian pride. For more information on the open house or the Nationality Rooms in general, log onto: www.nationalityrooms.pitt.edu.

Good Luck! Merry Christmas! See you in 2018.

Boldog Karácsonyt! Boldog Új Évet!

Éljen az Amerikai-Magyar,
Lizzy Cseh-Hadzinsky, Branch 28

Puzzle Contest #147 WINNERS

The winners of our Puzzle Contest #147 were drawn Nov. 6, 2017, at the Home Office. Congratulations to:

Paul L. Behers, Br. 352 Coraopolis, PA
Denise M. Funti, Br. 18 Lincoln Park, MI
Mary A. Leeder, Br. 24 Chicago, IL
Rita M. Wesolek, Br. 34 Pittsburgh, PA
Each won \$50 for their correct entry.

WPA PUZZLE CONTEST #150 OFFICIAL ENTRY

B	S	O	Z	Y	N	E	H	M	S	F	J	C	S	D
H	U	N	O	R	S	I	I	L	I	O	J	A	R	C
Z	U	D	G	U	M	S	L	T	A	L	X	Z	O	J
V	I	U	A	N	R	O	O	K	J	A	Q	E	O	I
Y	D	U	U	X	D	M	H	I	X	C	S	T	D	E
X	B	S	W	C	K	A	H	Q	D	E	N	T	M	B
Y	Z	Q	W	L	W	T	R	T	O	L	I	A	T	Q
B	G	R	O	Y	E	T	E	V	E	D	A	S	C	Y
D	W	F	V	Z	D	X	B	T	T	M	L	T	H	G
W	O	R	O	H	O	L	X	L	Q	Q	E	W	N	B
R	E	R	W	O	X	H	E	Y	C	G	C	A	L	A
W	I	T	M	H	T	U	S	S	O	K	R	R	Z	T
O	Y	F	I	I	I	O	B	X	N	T	O	J	G	R
C	A	R	V	I	N	G	S	T	H	K	P	Z	U	J
U	C	X	I	Y	G	R	O	Y	G	S	E	N	E	D

"The Nationality Rooms" Word List

Antal Dióssy	Dolls	Lace
Buda	Folk Motif	Nimrod
Carvings	Himnusz	Oak
Cazettas	Hunor	Porcelain
Dénes Györgyi	Kossuth	

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

WPA Certificate No.: _____

RULES

1. ALL WPA members are eligible to enter.
2. Complete the word search puzzle correctly.
3. Mail your completed puzzle, along with your name, address, phone number, email address, and WPA Certificate Number, to:
WPA PUZZLE #150
709 Brighton Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15233
4. Entries must be received at the Home Office by **Jan. 31, 2018**.
5. Four winners will be drawn from all correct entries on or about Feb. 5, 2018, at the Home Office. Each winner will receive \$50.

In Memoriam

We ask you to pray for all our recently departed members listed here:

OCTOBER 2017

0001 BRIDGEPORT, CT
Bertha Kallay
Regina Mezzo
Heather M. South
Nancy Joyce Zmenyak
0008 JOHNSTOWN, PA
Imre A. Bertalan
0013 TRENTON, NJ
George DiMarcantonio
0014 CLEVELAND, OH
Goldie Galambos
0015 CHICAGO, IL
Howard M. Caldwell

Elizabeth Klanda
0016 PERTH AMBOY, NJ
Irene Shaw
0018 LINCOLN PARK, MI
Anna M. Cassar
Mary F. Moore
Julius Sabo, Jr.
0019 NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ
Margaret J. Hoffer
0028 YOUNGSTOWN, OH
Margaret Ellis
Ali K. Patterson
0034 PITTSBURGH, PA
Gabriella Gally
0044 AKRON, OH
Linda J. Lashinske
0076 PHILADELPHIA, PA
Richard Hall

George L. Saunders
Olivia A. Wilmer
0089 HOMESTEAD, PA
Chester R. Hitt, Jr.
0129 COLUMBUS, OH
Martin Finta, Jr.
0132 SOUTH BEND, IN
Edward S. Gunselman
0159 PHOENIXVILLE, PA
Robert Nagy
0226 McKEESPORT, PA
Lucy Norgren
0336 HARRISBURG, PA
James P. Everett
0352 CORAOPOLIS, PA
Michael A. Kover
0590 CAPE CORAL, FL
Otto L. Tajnai

0705 MAYVILLE, WI
Danny L. Hill
Bernice E. Rittmer
0720 DEDHAM, MA
Dianne E. Allinson
Claire Marino
0723 WORCESTER, MA
Olga E. Borkowski
0800 ALTOONA, PA
Mary C. Yoder
8014 PITTSBURGH, PA
Catherine E. Calega
8114 CLARION, PA
George E. Niederritter
Eileen R. Schill
8340 BALTIMORE, MD
Daniel G. Smith

Recent Donations

WPFA Scholarship Foundation

Donations Through
Premium Payments
OCTOBER 2017

Branch - Donor - Amount
8 - Stephen J. Gall Jr. - \$4.15
8 - Carter J. Vitez - \$10.00
14 - Jane A. Hedrick - \$53.50
16 - Edina Toth - \$5.00
19 - Mary Jane Nagy - \$1.00
26 - Elizabeth R. Pacy - \$2.16

26 - Joan M. Gualtieri - \$1.00
28 - Chris S. Paul - \$9.78
28 - Michael A. Kroner - \$8.78
28 - Shane P. Spencer - \$2.90
28 - David L. Stack - \$10.00
28 - Edward J. Crump Jr. - \$5.00
28 - Michael A. Kroner - \$5.29
48 - Jacob Lugo - \$3.28
89 - Veronica A. Ujevich - \$27.15
89 - Michelle A. Pillar - \$10.00
129 - Theresa A. Lawson - \$10.58
129 - Stephanie L. Shepard - \$14.58
159 - Kirstin E. Mayberry - \$1.85
159 - Kelly J. Scherfel - \$3.39
216 - Attila Kun-Szabo - \$10.00
216 - Buda Kun-Szabo - \$10.00
226 - Timothy R. Holtzman - \$1.40
226 - Carol S. Burlikowski - \$5.00

226 - Sylvia G. Jordan - \$10.00
296 - Elsie R. Cristillo - \$2.00
296 - Alexis J. Whitfield - \$0.72
296 - Thomas E. Whitfield - \$1.05
296 - Connor T. Whitfield - \$0.35
352 - Ella F. Furedy - \$5.00
352 - Dora S. McKinsey - \$2.00
525 - Elsie V. Johnstone - \$10.00
525 - Val J. Dornay - \$20.00
8014 - Nicholas E. DePersis - \$25.00
8020 - Robert M. Dansak - \$2.00
TOTAL for Month = \$293.91

Additional Donations OCTOBER 2017

Donor - Amount
Erzsebet Csiszar - \$3.00
John T. Kwasney - \$50.00

WPA Cookbook Sales - \$75.00
TOTAL for Month = \$128.00

Donations In Memoriam OCTOBER 2017

**Donor - Amount
(In Memory of)**
Br. 18 Lincoln Park, MI - \$100.00
(Deceased Members Mary E. Markes, Merced Gonzales, Jr., Frank S. Magdalenic, David A. Antal, & Edward James Tresco)
Br. 34 Pittsburgh, PA - \$100.00
(Deceased Members Stephen Kalo, Elaine Mate & James I. Marton)
TOTAL for Month = \$200.00

Enjoy even more tastes of Hungary

The Official WPA Cookbooks

Buy one or both - Different recipes in each book

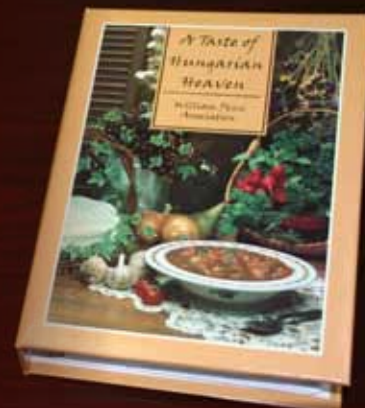
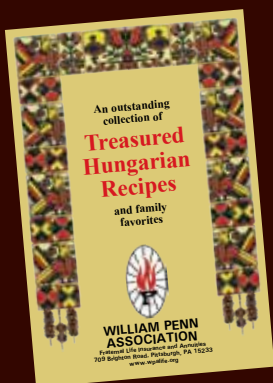
A Taste of Hungarian Heaven - \$20 per copy

Our hard-back book with 500-plus recipes & book stand

Treasured Hungarian Recipes - \$7 per copy

A soft-back collection of 160 classic Magyar recipes

Prices include shipping - **Make great Christmas gifts!**



Make your check payable to "WPFA Scholarship Foundation" and mail to:
WPA Cookbook, William Penn Association, 709 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15233
All proceeds benefit the William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc.



William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation

Tree of Knowledge

Helping our young members meet the challenges of modern educational economics requires great effort by all our members and friends. Towards this end, the WPFA Scholarship Foundation has created the **Tree of Knowledge**. The Tree is mounted in the second floor foyer of the WPA Home Office. Those making donations through this program will be recognized with individual "leaves" on the tree, which can be used to honor and remember loved ones. Donations are being accepted at three levels: Gold (\$1,000), Silver (\$500) and Bronze (\$250). Those wishing to purchase a leaf may use the form below. Please help our tree "grow" and allow us to continue to assist young members reach their educational and professional dreams.

I want to help the Tree of Knowledge grow. Please accept my tax-deductible contribution of:

☐ \$1,000 - Gold Level ☐ \$500 - Silver Level ☐ \$250 - Bronze Level

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Leaf Inscription - Maximum of 4 lines with 20 characters per line (including blank spaces):

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Line 3: _____

Line 4: _____

Please make checks payable to "William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc." and mail to:

William Penn Fraternal Association Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

709 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15233-1821

Inside this issue:

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'Moneywise' year in review...**PAGE 4.**

Tibor shares his favorite Magyar Christmas music ...**PAGE 6.**

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Put some extra jingle in your stocking

Refer a family member or friend to WPA and earn a Recommender Award!

Have a wonderful holiday with a little extra money courtesy of WPA. We will pay adult members age 16 and older **\$20** for each first-time applicant they recommend who is issued any WPA permanent or term life insurance plan. You can also earn rewards for recommending new life insurance plans to current members. WPA will pay you **\$12** for each current member you recommend who is issued a new permanent life insurance plan. You can also earn **\$10** for each current member you recommend who is issued a WPA term life plan. To claim your Recommender Award, send us the names and addresses of everyone you know who would enjoy the many fraternal benefits that come with membership in WPA.

**Family of sales agents living at the same address as the agent do not qualify for a Recommender Award.*



Please Print

WPA RECOMMENDER

Your Name: _____

Branch No.: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

WPA Representative/Agent: _____

Name of Prospective Applicant: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mail to: Recommender, William Penn Association, 709 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15233