

Cleveland Hungarian Cultural Garden

Letter from the Board (2025)

Hello to all of our members, friends and supporters!

Welcome to another great year of events and activities of the Cleveland Hungarian Cultural Garden! We embark on this year with renewed energy and a new board dedicated to continuing the great work that has been accomplished over the past couple of decades of renewal.

Please join our roster of members, or renew for 2025, to support the work of the Cleveland Hungarian Cultural Garden. You can find the form at linked on our site at [HCG 2025 Membership Form](#).

Building on the work of Ernie Mihaly (deceased), Carolyn and Jim Balogh, and Zoltan Mestris, I'm happy to report that the Garden is doing (and looking) very well.

We planted many Spring bulbs of hyacinths and daffodils last Fall. I'm hoping they all come nicely and we can take some good pictures of them to post on our website.

There were several projects completed in the last 2 years to update the Upper Garden:

- The concrete base of the beautiful water feature has been restored. The previous concrete base, which was badly cracked and crumbled, has been replaced with new concrete. It looks wonderful!
- The Liszt Garden has been refreshed by removing all the overgrown vines in the flower beds. Now, the beautiful stonework really stands out in that Garden. New shrubs and flowers will be planted there this year.
- All the ironwork in the garden has been painted, including all the railings, the East Blvd Entrance Arch, and the "Székely kapu" iron gate.
- In addition to new paint, four Hungarian folk figures were installed on the Székely kapu. Pictures of the original gate showed figures like these, but they had disappeared over the years.

Also, there were several new projects for the lower garden completed as of the last 2 years.

- There is now a beautiful lawn in front of the Legacy Wall walkway. All the ivy ground cover was removed and grass was planted to create a lovely green space. The curb appeal of the Garden from MLK is greatly enhanced.
- A new gravel walkway was installed by the South Circle. The garden now has a continuous path to both enter and exit to the MLK sidewalk. It was the first path in all the gardens to use crushed stone as a more environmentally friendly permeable material for drainage purposes.
- There is a new Hungarian flag on the flagpole, installed last Fall.

I'll keep everyone informed of other garden news throughout the year.

The following is the list of the newly elected Board Members, elected this past January for 2-year terms:

Ron Kovach, President
Richard Sarosi, Vice President
Marcia Mestris, Secretary
Michael Pataky, Treasurer
Zoltan Mestris, Garden Manager
Charlotte Kovach, Executive Secretary

Lél Somogyi continues as our website manager and historian.

Please reach out to me with your questions and ideas. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at our events this year.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Kovach, char@kovach.org
Executive Secretary of the Hungarian Cultural Garden Restoration Committee