



Cleveland Hungarian Cultural Garden

Dear Members and Friends of the Cleveland Hungarian Cultural Garden,

It is time for the Cleveland Hungarian Cultural Garden Newsletter, Issue #5 – January 25, 2026 and we proudly look back at the garden highlights of 2025.

2025 GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

Our meeting topics in 2025 have included our continued garden renovations; historical restoration items for the garden while keeping the original design in place; fountain repairs; and discussions on plant materials and flowers best representing Hungary.

The Spring clean-up for Earth Day took place on Saturday, April 26, 2025, and resulted in a number of volunteers including students from John Carroll University who worked very hard in the upper garden cutting back the invasive English Ivy which grows up tree trunks and our beautiful walls. We thank the students and everyone who joined us for their hard work. Other clean up days, with local schools and businesses, were held throughout the summer and fall. Look for the new flowers that will be growing and blooming in 2026!

The "Liszt and More Concert" took place on Sunday, June 22, 2025. The audience enjoyed the music of Franz Liszt, Béla Bartók, Zoltán Kodály and other composers in the Upper Garden. The program began at 4:00 pm and featured our garden friend Vera Holczer-Waroquet and her talented friends from the Aurora School of Music who played their instruments and sang in Hungarian. Guests brought chairs, their picnic baskets and had a wonderful time listening to the grand piano that was set in the garden. Although it was very hot, the beautiful music was enhanced by a wonderful sound system.

The 18th Hungarian Cultural Garden Golf Fundraiser took place at the highly rated Mayfield Country Club, on Tuesday, July 15, 2025. We had this annual fundraiser for the Hungarian Garden on a beautiful golf day that included lunch and a delicious Eastern European Dinner. We had 58 golfers! Mark your calendars and save the date for Tuesday, July 21, 2026, to join us for a day of golf, lunch and dinner at Sand Ridge Golf Club in Chardon, Ohio. Plan on bringing your foursome or join us as a single golfer. Or just come for a great dinner and enjoy the beautiful golf surroundings. Inquire about becoming a Golf sponsor and patron.

The Garden Federation One World Day took place on Sunday, August 24, 2025. Visitors came with their Garden passports in hand, were able to visit almost 40 gardens that are part of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens, which represent ethnic groups who

have settled and call Cleveland home. As you travel through the gardens, you can experience their language, culture, music, dance, textiles and delicious foods from these faraway lands and you will have a stamped travel passport as a souvenir. It was a beautiful day with not a drop of rain and pleasant temperatures. The Hungarian Garden utilized both garden levels and included the famous Budapest Café, selling Budapest iced coffee; Hungarian pastry; and beverages. Hungarian children's stories, the Rubik's Cube, Hungarian Trivia, Hungarian dancers and music, were part of the experience. New USA Citizens were sworn-in on the Centennial Plaza Stage. The festive Parade of Nations took place on MLK Boulevard and passed right by our Lower Garden which gave us an excellent view and great pictures. Put on your best Hungarian outfit, join the parade and show your Magyar pride in 2026. Mark your calendar for Sunday, August 30, 2026 and volunteer your time to help and spend the day at the gardens!

The 5th Annual Cleveland Hungarian Cultural Garden Beer Pairing Dinner, was held Thursday evening, September 25, 2025 at the Immigrant Son Microbrewery in Lakewood. Thank you to owner Andrew Revy and his staff-Chef Steven Scheeff, Chef Jeff Motika, and Beer Chef Erik Lubi, who prepared the delicious 4 course Hungarian dinner. A welcome Pint of Hungarian Pearl Kölsch was served to our guests as they arrived. The First Course was three fortune bad boy oysters / green tea fluid gel / petite sea beans, which was paired with 'Worthy Wit' Witbier Beer. The Second

Course was Cod and Mushrooms, Atlantic cod / mushroom / black garlic duxelle / pickled chanterelles / charred leeks / leek consommé / and honeysuckle, which was paired with 'Festbier' Golden Festival Lager. The Third Course was Duck and Fig, duck breast / brown turkey figs / potato pavé / beet jus / onion / sage, which was paired with 'Fine Fellers' Smoked Lager. The Fourth Course

was Farmers Cheese, túrógombóc, pear compote, coffee porter, chocolate sauce, chanterelle maldon and violas, which was paired with 'Gourdians' Pumpkin Ale. The upscale Hungarian cuisine was beautifully presented and tasted delicious.

The Garden Raffle followed dinner and the winners were announced. The proceeds support the Cleveland Hungarian Cultural Garden restoration and maintenance. A 'nagy kersonosom szepen'



goes to our donors, supporters and volunteers who help to support and maintain the Hungarian Cultural Garden. Mark your calendar for September 2026 and plan to attend our Beer Pairing Dinner which will be just as exciting, delicious and sure to sell out.

Be sure to visit the Hungarian Cultural Garden often throughout 2026. It changes with the seasons.



HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED?

We continue to look for photos of the Hungarian Cultural Garden from the early years starting in the 1930's, from when it was established, to the 1980's. We want to build a historical photo file of the garden and we are looking for photos or copies of the original designs, monuments, activities, etc. If you have old photos of the garden and would donate them to us, it would be greatly appreciated. (Please note that if you give us your original copies you will not get them back. The copies made for us would be fine and they will be part of our photo collection). You can bring these pictures to one of our events/activities and give them to one of the officers so we can take notes, identify them and who donated them to us. Photos should be a clear, crisp, image that we can keep. Include your name, address and telephone number with your picture(s).

It was a very busy 2025 and we are planning for an exciting 2026. We welcome Hungarian Cultural Garden members and volunteers, who enjoy the Hungarian garden and who want to be involved and keep active throughout the year. The upkeep of our beautiful garden is ongoing effort and very important.

It is important to note that our Garden relies on the monetary support of our members and friends throughout the year. This support allows us to maintain the Hungarian Garden in the manner you can be proud of. We are a self-supporting and volunteer based organization that relies on our membership and the generous donations, gifts, sponsors and grants that we receive. Please inquire about the opportunity for an individual or family, to check items off of our wish list that are needed for the Cleveland Hungarian Garden (such as benches, trees, flowers, plaques, etc.).

If you belong to a group (such as schools, scouts, corporate or other affiliations) that enjoy performing community work, you can help and volunteer your time during the year, to plant bulbs, pull weeds, staff our events and activities, we welcome your participation. Dates and/or activities are subject to change, so we ask you to be flexible.

If additional information is needed, please contact Cleveland Hungarian Cultural Garden President - Mr. Ron Kovach at 1-216-789-7483 or ron@kovach.org.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2026

Check the Cleveland Hungarian Garden website at www.hungarianculturalgarden.org for information, dates, times and announcements:

- Earth Day Spring Planting, Lower Garden, Saturday, April 25, 2026 from 10:00 am – 12:00 (Noon). See the new lawn that was planted and planting material relocated.

- The musical works of Franz Liszt, Béla Bartók, Zoltán Kodály and other Hungarian artists, will be played on Saturday, June 20, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the Upper Garden. The Liszt Concert in the

Garden begins at 6:00 pm and will feature Vera Holczer-Warouquet (and her baby grand piano) and she will have her friends from the Aurora School of Music. Parking is available on East Boulevard.

- 19th Annual Golf Outing Fund Raiser and Dinner at Sand Ridge Golf Club in Chardon, Ohio, on Tuesday, July 21, 2026. Open to all who want to try a challenging course. If you are not a golfer, join us for dinner.

- 80th Annual One World Day, Sunday, August 30, 2026, with activities that include a Naturalization Ceremony, All Nations Parade, the Hungarian Garden Budapest Café and Rubik Cube Demonstration and Challenge, Hungarian music and dancers and more.

- 6th Annual Beer Pairing Fund Raising Dinner & Raffle at Immigrant Son Brewery – Thursday, September TBA, 2026.

**See you in the
Hungarian Cultural Garden in 2026 !!!
Richard Sarosi Editor
email: richsaro@att.net**



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www.hungarianculturalgarden.org

The Hungarian Cultural Garden is a member of the Cleveland Cultural Garden Federation. The Hungarian Cultural Garden is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.