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Hungarian Studies Association
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August 2012

NEWSLETTER

Please mark it on your calendar. The 44th Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies will be held in New Orleans, LA, from Thursday, November 15, to Sunday, November 18, 2012 at the New Orleans Marriott. The theme of the convention is "Boundary, Barrier and Border Crossing".

Our business meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 16, 2012 at 6.30 pm in the hotel's Preservation Hall Studio 5.

The convention program is available at <http://aseees.org/convention/program.html>.



News from our members:

István Deák's opinion piece titled "Where's Charlemagne When We Need Him?" was published by *The New York Times* on June 20, 2012. <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/01/opinion/sunday/wheres-charlemagne-when-we-need-him.html>

Charles Gáti's article: "Backsliding in Budapest" was published in the Jan/Feb 2012 issue of *The American Interest Magazine* and is available at: <http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=1166>

_____ was interviewed by *Népszabadság* on July 15, 2012. The English translation of the interview is available at <http://hungarianspectrum.wordpress.com/2012/07/15/charles-gati-on-the-orban-government-and-conspiracy-theories/>.

Gabor Vermes' article: "Extra Hungariam non est Vita" and the Baroque in 18th and Early 19th Century Hungary was published in the *Hungarian Studies Review* 39, no, 1-2 (2012).

Thomas Sakmyster, *A Communist Odyssey, The Life of József Pogány / John Pepper*, published by the CEU Press, 2012.

A group of Central European communists, most of them Hungarians, in the interwar period served the world communist movement as international cadres of the Comintern, the Moscow-based Communist International. As an important member of this cohort, József Pogány played a major role in the Hungarian Soviet Republic of 1919, the "March Action" in Germany in 1921, and, under the name of John Pepper, in the development of the American Communist Party of the 1920s. During the 1920s he was an important official in the Comintern apparatus and undertook missions on three continents. A prolific writer and effective organizer, he was one of the most flamboyant and controversial communists of his era. Some of his comrades praised him as "the Hungarian Christopher Columbus." Others, like Trotsky, called him a "political parasite."

This study is based on newly available primary sources from Hungary, Russia, and the United States; it is the first ever written about this colorful and well-travelled Hungarian communist. Sakmyster examines Pogány's development as a socialist and communist, the influence of his Jewish origins on his career, the reasons for his remarkable success in the United States, and the circumstances that led to his arrest and execution in the Stalinist terror.

Alice Freifeld was asked to serve on the Institute of History of the Research Centre for the Humanities of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences new English language history journal entitled Hungarian Historical Review.

A YouTube interview with **Katalin Fabian** on the Occupy Wall Street protest by a Lafayette college student is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pL9ThJApCw>.

Peter Pastor and Graydon Tunstall, eds., *Essays on World War I*, published by the Center for Hungarian Studies and Publications, NJ., 2012. This book is a collection of essays from military historians focus on various aspects of the eastern front during World War I.

Emese Ivan and Carla Vidoni, presented a paper titled “Comparative Analysis of the IOC's Olympic Education Pr AAHPERD conference in Boston in March 2012.

Catherine Portuges and Peter Hames, eds. *Cinemas in Transition in Central and Eastern Europe After 1989* is to be published in January 2013.



Call for papers:

1. Declines and Falls: Perspectives in European History and Historiography - Twenty Years of the European Review of History/Revue européenne d’histoire: An Anniversary Conference, at the Central European University, Budapest, May 15-17, 2013.

It is not mere irony, let alone pessimism, that motivate the European Review of History / Revue d’histoire européenne to devote this anniversary conference to the theme of “decline”. It is a theme that looks both highly topical, and one that lends itself naturally to being explored in diverse historical perspectives.

Barely two decades after the process of European integration entered its advanced stage with the Treaty of Maastricht, and at a time when the process of EU enlargement is still moving ahead, the voice of skeptics is stronger than ever. The countries of the European Union, individually and as a collectivity, are seen to be undergoing a structural crisis of political institutions, economic and social relations, cultural and moral values. The continent is struggling with a complex web of strongly interrelated challenges, not triggered but amplified by the recent global economic crisis, ranging from the pressures of immigration and inequality, through the fluctuation of markets and the ailing condition of the shared currency, to the broken confidence in institutions and politicians, and beyond. A pan-European trend of anti-integration movements is emerging ever more robustly, while mainstream political leaders, including ones of the new accession countries, speak of the ultimate Spenglerian Untergang des Abendlandes, when European nations need to seek their separate paths and relationships in finding their place in a new global order.

Neither the experience of structural tensions, nor the atmosphere of gloom generated by those tensions, is unprecedented in European history. Cultural-intellectual responses to decline were central to the thought of ancient Greek philosophers and historians, whose legacy was a critical impact on certain strands of medieval and early modern thought. Roman moralists and Christian church fathers lamented the corruptions that exposed Roman civilization to the blows of barbarian vigour – a theme keenly embraced a millennium and a half later by Edward Gibbon in the work whose title is echoed in our conference call, at a time when the overall enthusiasm about progress inevitably fed an interest in its counterpart, decline, as well. In the intervening centuries, the vision of impending apocalypse was kept vivid, in the Middle Ages by the combined impact of baronial feuds, famines and epidemics, and in the early-modern period by that of endemic, large scale religious, civil and international warfare. In modern and contemporary times, self-styled apostles of progress, from Jacobins through Bolsheviks to National Socialists, presumed to be saving European civilization from decline, only to throw – and to be seen throwing – it into the hitherto unseen and

incomprehensible, barbarous abysses of revolutionary terror, world wars and the Holocaust.

Such an abyss is hopefully far from being a real threat today, while the sense of living in a fragmented and uncertain world, and the loss of self-confidence on the part of Europeans as Europeans, which the phenomena synoptically listed above denote, is undoubtedly present. “Absolute” decline – whether of demographic trends, the gross national product, or habits of religious devotion, to mention but a few areas – should not be mistaken for “relative” decline or mere retardation (a slowdown of growth in the first two cases, and a shift in denominational balance in the third one). Nonetheless, the perception of the latter could be as alarming, and as likely to be caught up in alarmist discourses and representations as the former. It must be added, however, that today, as in the past, “decline” and its companion terms that define a whole conceptual area – such as “crisis”, for example – have not necessarily been invested with negative connotations. The decline of e.g. the Habsburg, Ottoman or Soviet empires was viewed with optimism (at any rate by outsiders), and their fall, celebrated; the “crisis of the seventeenth century” diagnosed by modern historians has been understood by them as a catalyst for accelerated progress; etc.

We have in mind a conference that historicizes the current experience and discussion of “decline” in each of these senses. While there is scope for addressing “real” processes in the economic, social and political realm, we are more interested in the conditions under which the perception of “decline”, “crisis”, “decay”, “disintegration” etc. has tended to become prominent in public discourse; more generally, in the ways in which such perceptions have shaped mentalities and cultural-intellectual responses of Europeans over the past three millennia.

Keynote speakers will include:

Ian Wood (University of Leeds), on “The Decline and Fall of Rome since before Gibbon”

Mary Gluck (Brown University), on “The Discourse of Decadence as Historical Metaphor and Cultural Criticism in the European Fin de Siècle”

Jürgen Kocka (Freie Universität, Berlin / Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung), on “Rise and Decline in the History of Capitalism and its Critique”

Submit proposals for 20 minute papers by **30 September 2012** to ERHDeclinesandFalls@ceu.hu

2. Eleventh International Conference on New Directions in the Humanities will be held at the Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary, June 19-21, 2013.

The conference will address a range of critically important themes in the various fields that make up the humanities today. Plenary speakers will include some of the world’s leading thinkers in the humanities, as well as numerous paper, workshop and colloquium presentations by teachers and researchers. Submission deadline is November 12, 2012. Late submissions will be accepted but scheduling requests will be denied. *All conference registrants (in-person and virtual) may also submit their written papers for publication in the refereed [The International Journal of the Humanities](#).* Submit proposals online at <http://thehumanities.com/the-conference/call-for-papers/>

3. EATAW (the European Association for Teachers of Academic Writing) announced that its next conference will be held in **Budapest, Hungary, from June 27-29, 2013**. More information will be forthcoming from the conference chair, John Harbord of Central European University, Budapest. E-mail: harbordj@ceu.hu.

4. The 2013 annual conference of the **Economic History Society** will be hosted by the University of York (Heslington, York, YO10 5DD, UK) from 5–7 April, 2013. The conference program committee welcomes proposals in all aspects of economic and social history covering a wide range of periods and countries, and particularly welcomes papers of an interdisciplinary nature. Preference may be given to scholars who did not present a paper at the previous year’s conference. Those currently studying for, or who have recently completed, a PhD should submit a proposal to the New Researcher session; please contact Maureen Galbraith (ehsocsec@arts.gla.ac.uk) for further information. For full consideration, proposals must

be received by September 12, 2012. Notices of acceptance will be sent to individual paper givers by mid-November 2012.

The Economic and Business History Society (EBHS) is now accepting proposals for our 38th annual conference, to be held at the Tremont Plaza Hotel and Grand Historic Venue in Baltimore, Maryland.

Proposals for presentations on any aspect of economic or business history are welcome. We also welcome proposals for whole panels, typically of three presentations. Proposals may be submitted through the EBHS website at www.ebhsoc.org, by email to ebhs2013@ebhsoc.org, or to the program chair by postal mail:

Dr. Duncan Philip Connors

Lecturer in Oil and Gas Management, Geography, Environment and Disaster Management,
George Eliot Building, Coventry University, Priory Street, Coventry, England, CV1 5FB.

The deadline for submission of proposals is February 15, 2013.

5. The Business History Conference invites proposals for its 2013 annual meeting, taking place March 21–23, 2013, at the **Hyatt Regency Columbus** hotel in Columbus, Ohio.

The theme of the annual meeting is “The Cultures and Institutions of Business.” We are interested in all topics embracing the culture of business and the business of culture. Papers may engage the ways in which cultural beliefs, values, practices, institutions, meanings, language, identities, habits, and cognition shape business orientation, governance, behavior, and performance in different geographical, historical, or social settings. Papers may also address the ways in which business has acted upon cultural practices and institutions, both high and popular culture, or how the language of business has entered into wider public discourses. Works might cover such matters as the business of entertainment and the arts or cultural differences (or conformity) in ideas and practices of management, accounting, human resources, scientific and technological research, and innovation.

In keeping with longstanding BHC policy, the Committee will also consider submissions not directly related to the conference theme. The deadline for receipt of all proposals is **October 1, 2012**. Acceptance letters will be sent by December 20, 2012. In addition, presenters are encouraged to post electronic versions of their papers prior to the meeting and to submit their papers for inclusion in the BHC's on-line proceedings, [Business and Economic History On-Line](#).

6. CFP Conference: Collective Identity and Practices of Citizenship in Post-communism
Deadline: September 30, 2012

February 22-23, 2013 at the University of Wroclaw, Poland

A large number of post-communist countries have undergone institution and state building since the start of democratic transition. These have affected issues regarding formal citizenship, but have practices of citizenship changed? The conference invites interested scholars to reflect on dynamics in practices of citizenship across post-communist states.

We are specifically interested in comparative studies of societies that saw practices of citizenship changing since early 1990s as a result of border changes (including territorial adjustment and dissolution of socialist federations), population dynamics (both demographic, as a result of in and out migration, and resettlement after warfare) and amendments to their citizenship regimes (issuing passports to an ethnic kin folk and provisions for extraterritorial citizenship).

For more information, visit www.conferencepro.eu/citizenship

Abstract submission: by **September 30, 2012**.

Authors invited to attend the conference will be notified by October 15, 2012.

7. Studies of Transition States and Societies would be happy to receive articles and research notes from a wide range of disciplines that focus on transitional countries. It particularly encourages submissions

concerned with social and political transformation of Eastern Europe and the former USSR, although good articles that focus on other regions will also be considered.

It particularly encourages empirically-rich accounts, constructed on recent and/or ongoing research, that can contribute to current theoretical debates in the social sciences.

However, potential contributors are welcome to contact them at an early stage to discuss an idea you might want to develop or have developed. Please visit the webpage www.tlu.ee/stss for further information on submission guidelines or contact stss@tlu.ee if you would like to discuss a proposal.

8. The [European Association for Banking and Financial History](#) (EABH) e.V., in cooperation with the National Bank of Poland, the Kronenberg Foundation, and the National Bank of Poland Foundation, will hold its next annual meeting on **June 6-8, 2013**, in Warsaw, Poland. The theme will be "Foreign Financial Institutions and National Financial Systems." The call for papers states:

Modern and contemporary financial institutions developed in a world of deep and increasing interconnection among national economies leading to what is now known as globalization. Thus it comes as no surprise that they tended to cross borders since the early days of the building of the contemporary world economy. Correspondents, branches and affiliates played their roles as representatives or agents of foreign financial institutions for business, sometimes following the paths opened by trade and investment flows, sometimes following the attraction of the main financial centers of the world economy. Of course, national economies reacted to the presence of foreign financial institutions. According to circumstances they were sometimes welcome as the introducers of important innovations for economic progress, sometimes mistrusted as the instruments of foreign interests, in critical moments possibly blamed for difficulties and subject to control and even expropriation measures. The Conference will explore all aspects of multinational financial institutions in a broad sense of the expression and their relations with host economies in general and governments in particular.

Paper proposals should be sent to info@eabh.info by **October 31, 2012**, and include the author(s)' name and affiliation and an abstract (up to 3,000 words). For further information about appropriate topics and timing, please see the [full call for papers](#).

9. The **University of Rochester Press** is accepting manuscripts for its publication series entitled Rochester Studies in East/Central Europe.

Professor Timothy Snyder, Professor of History at Yale University, serves as series editor, and is assisted by a panel of scholars from a variety of institutions. The editorial board seeks new projects and formats ranging from monographs to edited volumes representing myriad points of view.

The series encompasses contemporary and historical works relating to all areas of East and Central Europe including the territory of the former Habsburg Empire, the western Soviet Republics and their successor states, and the Balkans. It seeks manuscripts of original historical synthesis on a variety of subjects, and would especially welcome works that cross traditional disciplinary, geographic, and period boundaries (for example on the Ottoman Empire in Southeastern Europe, or the Central European diaspora in Latin America). It will consider works of literature in translation and historical memoir, in both cases only when English language rights are available.

To submit an appropriate project for consideration, please send a formal proposal or prospectus. The proposal should include:

- 1) a brief but detailed synopsis of the work, outlining its intended contribution to the existing literature;
- 2) an abstract of 300 words or less, summarizing the work's content;

- 3) a complete table of contents and one or two sample chapters;
- 4) an updated CV.

Scholars interested in submitting their work for consideration should request a proposal form from guidod@uofrochesterpress.net.



Other items of possible interest:

1. **A new way to follow and to keep in touch with the research your colleagues are doing via the internet is by using: “academia.edu”** - The company's mission is to accelerate the world's research by offering a place to share and follow the research of colleagues. Visit and sign up at <http://academia.edu/>.
2. **Cold War History Research Center** at Corvinus University of Budapest is accessible at www.coldwar.hu.
3. **The Helena History Press** was established to provide publication opportunities for scholars researching and writing on Central and East European themes. The publications will be distributed by Central European University Press: Budapest and New York. For more information visit their website: <http://helenahistorypress.com/>
4. New books from the **Center for Hungarian Studies and Publications, NJ.:**

Erika Szivós, *Social History of Fine Arts in Hungary, 1867-1918*. (2011)

Erika Szivós places the fine arts and their practitioners in the political, cultural, and social context of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. She investigates the influence of European patterns on the public role of the arts and the changing status of the artist in fin-de-siècle Hungary.

Eugene De Thassy, *Risky Region: Memoirs of a Hungarian Righteous Gentile*. (2012)

Eugene de Thassy (1920–2008) was the member of an old landowning family and studied at Ludovika, the Hungarian military academy. In this book, Eugene de Thassy describes life in Hungary between 1920 and 1945. During World War II he served as a military officer, and in 1944 he joined the resistance. He left Hungary for France in 1946 and, five years later, emigrated to the United States where he worked for Radio Free Europe and Voice of America. He is the author of many novels, short stories, and plays.

5. Interesting books from the CEU Press:

Vladimir Tismaneanu and Bogdan C. Iacob, eds. *The End and the Beginning, The Revolutions of 1989 and the Resurgence of History*.

A fresh interpretation of the contexts, meanings, and consequences of the revolutions of 1989, coupled with state of the art reassessment of the significance and consequences of the events associated with the demise of communist regimes. The book provides an analysis that takes into account the complexities of the Soviet bloc, the events' impact upon Europe, and their re-interpretation within a larger global context. Departs from static ways of analysis (events and their significance) bringing forth approaches that deal with both pre-1989 developments and the 1989 context itself, while extensively discussing the ways of resituating 1989 in the larger context of the 20th century and of its lessons for the 21st. Emphasizes the possibility for re-thinking and re-visiting the filters and means that scholars use to interpret such turning point. The editors perceive the present project as a challenge to existing readings on the complex set of issues and topics presupposed by a re-evaluation of 1989 as a symbol of the change and transition from authoritarianism to democracy.

Violetta Zentai, János Mátyás Kovács, eds. *Capitalism from Outside? Economic Cultures in Eastern Europe after 1989*.

Does capitalism emerging in Eastern Europe need as solid ethnic or spiritual foundations as some other “Great Transformations” in the past? Apparently, one can become an actor of the new capitalist game without belonging to the German, Jewish, or, to take a timely example, Chinese minority. Nor does one have to go to a Protestant church every Sunday, repeat Confucian truisms when falling asleep, or study Adam Smith’s teachings on the virtues of the market in a business course. He/she may just follow certain quasi-capitalist routines acquired during communism and import capitalist culture (more exactly, various capitalist cultures) in the form of down-to-earth cultural practices embedded in freshly borrowed economic and political institutions. Does capitalism come from outside? Why do then so many analysts talk about hybridization?

This volume offers empirical insights into the current cultural history of the Eastern European economies in three fields: entrepreneurship, state governance and economic science. The chapters are based on large case studies prepared in the framework of an eight-country research project (funded by the European Commission, and directed jointly by the Center for Public Policy at the Central European University and the Institute for Human Sciences) on East-West cultural encounters in the ex-communist economies.

6. Brand new from the **New Europe Books** (www.neweuropebooks.com) this year:

György Moldova: *Ballpoint: A Tale of Genius and Grit, Perilous Times, and the Invention that Changed the Way We Write*. Translated by David Robert Evans.

Sándor Szathmári: *Voyage to Kazohinia*. Translated by Inez Kemenes.



From the August issue of the **Nyugati Hirlevél** at <http://www.hhrf.org/nyugatihirlevel/>

Hasulyó János, egy borsodi kisvárosból indult el, hogy filmet készítsen amerikai magyarokkal, mely annyira sikeres lett, hogy a filmének folytatására is sor került, 2012. nyarán a dokumentum film második részének a forgatása kezdődött meg Floridában. A készülő alkotás érdekességeként megemlítette, hogy nagy megtiszteltetésnek érzi a rendező, hogy a második rész zenéit az egykori Edda zenekar zeneszerző hangszerelő billentyűseként ismertté vált Barta Alfonz készíti. Illetve Gerák Andrea énekes dalai is hallhatóak lesznek. A film Gaál Rita producer segítségével készül.

Az első rész itt látható: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exPQSCci4KM>



At the 2011 Business Meeting in Washington, DC, Kumiko Haba graciously agreed to review the newly released translation of the *Szigeti Veszedelem* (Siege of Sziget). Here is her review:

The Siege of Sziget, Miklós Zrinyi,

Translated by Laszlo Korossy, with an introduction by George Gomori, The Catholic University of America Press, Washington D.C., 2011.

The *Szigeti Veszedelem* (Siege of Sziget) by Zrinyi Miklos was translated into English by Laszlo Korossy, and was published in 2011, 360 years after this epic was first published in 1651. The original title of this epic poem was *Obsidio Szigetiana*, the title, *Siege of Sziget*, by which all Hungarians know this work, was given to it by the writer Ferenc Kazinczy. Zrinyi’s work is great literature, and making it available to the English speaking reader was no small undertaking; according to the young translator, it took several years to complete the task.

This epic poem is composed of 15 parts/songs, of which, 1566 are quatrains and 2 are five line poems. Zrinyi numbered each of the quatrains and thus reminding the reader of the year of the battle. The Battle of Szigetvar (*Szigetvari csata*) was fought in August-September 1566, was part of Suleiman’s last

campaign, in fact, his last battle. Suleiman died two days before the sally of the fort's defenders. Szigetvar, near the Southern border of Hungary today, was a small garrison led Miklos Zrinyi. It is his identically named great grandson, who composed the tribute in form of an epic poem. Zrinyi's small army of about 2,000 soldiers faced a well-equipped Turkish army of over 100,000 soldiers.

To understand the historical significance of this battle, we have to go back forty years. In 1526, the Hungarian forces led by King Louis II were defeated at the Battle of Mohács by Ottoman forces led by Sultan Suleiman the Magnificent. Louis was killed in the battle which resulted in the end of the independent Kingdom of Hungary, as he died without an heir. Hungary became a divided country, its eastern provinces were the independent Duchy of Transylvania, the Western part was ruled by the Hapsburg monarchy, the central area was occupied by the Ottomans. The significance of this battle was that it blocked Turkish line of advance towards Vienna in 1566.

The book begins with a short introduction in prose where the author recounts how he researched the death of Sultan Suleiman, and that it is his considered opinion, based on "historical consensus," that the Sultan died at Zrinyi's hand. Today readers know that this in fact is not true. In the first two parts of the poem the background to the story is explained, namely that God was angry at the Hungarians for having abandoned their faith, and God decided to punish the Hungarians by reviving Sultan Suleiman's anger towards them. At the same time, Captain Miklós Zrinyi, the great grandfather of the poet, implores God to take his life before he grows old and feeble. God hears Zrinyi's prayer and promises him that he will not only fulfill his wish, but also give him the ultimate reward of martyrdom after taking the life of the sultan. In parts III-V the Turkish forces march towards their destination in the North of Hungary when Suleiman dispatches an emissary to Bosnia. The emissary is captured by Hungarians and the Sultan turns his army towards Szigetvár. Zrinyi sends off his young son, the poet's grandfather, to the Habsburg emperor's court, foretelling his death in the upcoming battle. Parts VI-XIII describe the battle of Szigetvár. The Turks suffer grievous losses in the skirmishes which convinced the Sultan to decamp. God in order to fulfill his promises intervenes. Zrinyi's farewell letter carried by a carrier pigeon is intercepted by a hawk, and the letter falls into the Sultan's camp. The Sultan changes his mind and decides to continue fighting instead of leaving as planned earlier. In parts XIV and XV the battle ends with Zrinyi instructing his men to take one final charge out of the fortress. In the battle, Zrinyi sees Suleiman and beheads him. The Turkish soldiers return fire, and Zrinyi with his small band of heroes is gunned down, completing the prophecy of his martyrdom. The five-line epilogue is a short prayer to God.

Zrinyi's book does not only convey the record of the famous and tragic battle of Szigetvar, but it became a representation of the fighting spirit of Hungarian nation.

Laszlo Korossy succeeded in translating the text in beautiful and flowing poems that will provide pleasure to all, even those readers who are unacquainted with Hungarian history. But, to help those who are not familiar with the history or geography, Korossy includes detailed notes. The explanatory notes cover Christian theology and Greek mythology as well and a glossary of Turkish, Croatian, and Hungarian words is also helpful to the modern reader. The importance of making this work available to the English speaking public was best summarized by the translator, when he said "*this work is rich with theology and philosophy, history and patriotic spirit.*" Korossy succeeded in remaining true to the original, managed to retain the atmosphere reflected in the Hungarian verses.

The original Hungarian version is accessible on the internet at <http://mek.oszk.hu/01100/01137/01137.htm#12>.

As a Japanese scholar of Hungarian history reading this book, I was reminded that in Japan there is a similar work, written about the battle of between the aristocracy and samurai, between Heike and Genji.

I hope this Korossy translation of the Siege of Sziget will find its way to the reading list not only of students of Hungarian history and literature, but to all who want to get acquainted with literature of the 16th century. This book is a satisfying read for all.

(Kumiko Haba, Researcher of History of Hungarian Minorities and Enlargement of the

European Union, International Relations.)



Please, do not forget to pay your annual dues. Make checks (\$25) payable to HSA.

Thank you!

Susan