

# Portrait

**Timiah Bezovics**  
**By: Márta Boros Horváth**

Timiah is an attractive, tall, 18 year old, articulate Hungarian American girl, who was eager to talk in Hungarian with me. That effort already set her apart from many of her Washington state Hungarian American contemporaries. Soon in our interview I learned that she is Hungarian by choice, not by accident of her birth.

Why did I choose to interview an 18 year old girl this time instead of someone with a long career or life history? What struck my interest with her was that she

volunteered her services to our association to be one of our sorely needed English proofreaders/editors for the Hírek newsletter. *Now, that is unusual*, I thought to myself: *an attractive girl in her senior year, full of activities, willing to add one more responsibility to her already crammed school, extracurricular, and social life.*

I suspected that it would be a challenge to find time to interview her. Her father, József Bezovics, answered the phone when I said that I would like to meet with Timiah. "Oh," he said, "that will be very hard. Be prepared for late night hours." When I got hold of Timiah, I suggested following her around during her usual after school activities.

We met at Skyline High School's track field in Sammamish. Between 4PM and 7PM she had a track competition. She said that she can talk to me between her throws. The scene at the track field on this sunny spring afternoon was amazing, busy, and full of young athletes, immediately giving me a sense of the busy life young people lead nowadays. The large, beautiful track lanes and the adjoining football field was also a testament to the emphasis American high schools give to and invest in athletic programs.

Her last activity of the day was a mandatory science project presentation required by her IB (International Baccalaureate) science classes. Students gathered at the high school's main building, upstairs in the commons. It reminded me of a beehive with the crowd, noise level, and cardboard displays explaining the students' projects. Timiah and her partner, Ariel, her closest friend since 4th grade, worked on the cell change of Bartlett pears during their ripening process. The girls received 37/40 and the teacher asked to keep their demo board and interactive illustration (of the pear cells) because he liked their work.

Timiah was born in Florida. Her parents, Agatha and József, moved her and her older brother, Attila, to Washington State when she was six years old. She also has two half siblings, an older sister and an older brother. Throughout middle school she was a 4.0 student; her average only dropped to a 3.7 now that the difficulty of her classes increased. When I asked if she ever had to work too, along with her school, she said "My father is very old fashioned. He says that my job at this point in my life is to study. He was relieved when I didn't get the jobs I applied to a few years ago. I don't have time to even think about work right now, though."

As for her future plans, she wants to be a nutritionist either in a hospital setting or as a private consultant advisor. She is a member of three after school clubs: French club, where she is president, Junior State of America (a debate



club) and Shakespeare Club, where she is exchequer. She also dances in two folk dance groups, Kisbetyárok and Bokréta, and she is a thrower on her school's track team. She is also interested in modeling, which she has done some of already. She has an impressive portfolio of photographs on her Facebook page. She gets by on minimum sleep.

Timiah is very grateful for the experience and foundation Kisbetyárok, the association's dance group, gave her since she was 6 years old, but now she looks forward every week to her Tuesday night practice with Bokréta. "It is what sustains me through the week," she said. She applied for the scholarship of the HAAW, a scholarship set up to encourage the learning of Hungarian language for high school age or college bound students. Will she be crushed if she is not selected to be the recipient, I asked. "Knowing that the other applicant is Lizzy (Isely), even if she wins I know that she is deserving of it. She and her family have done so much for the Association," said Timiah gracefully.

She has already been offered a collage scholarship by her top choice, Syracuse University in New York State and by the University of Washington. Even though her father would like her to continue her studies locally, she doesn't want to stay in Washington State for her college years.

"I feel that I can not explore my primary goal of expanding my 'Hungarianness' here. My eyes were opened to this last summer when I attended Csipke, a folk dance camp in Michigan, and had the opportunity to interact with other young Hungarians. They all speak better Hungarian than I do, because of the "Cserkész Szövetség," the Hungarian Boy/Girl Scouts in the East. Eventually I'd love to study in Hungary, but I want to start college here in the US," she said.

I asked Timiah what else she would like me to mention about her. She said that she wishes that the association would put more emphasis on catering to young people's interests. She mentioned, for example, the debutante dances that Hungarian organizations elsewhere hold, where young girls are introduced to the community at a formal ball. "I would like something like that," she said, "it would be a great way to incorporate all age groups, particularly the younger generations."

She doesn't have a boyfriend now, and she was concerned about the pictures I took of her. "Who knows, maybe some young Hungarian guy reads the Hírek," she said with a smile.

