

Albert Wass  
100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration  
January 8, 2008



Dear Family and Friends:

People all over the world are remembering Albert Wass' life and works, and commemorating what would have been, on January 8, 2008, his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. On January 4, one hundred red roses and a beautiful wreath made of red cedar branches, the dominant trees around Papi's Astor family home, were placed in the Astor Park cemetery by our brother Geza, his wife Zsuzsa, her mother Margit Kutasi, and their sons Albert and Daniel. In addition, below the wreath, lit by a candle, were placed two fallen deer antlers that were found in the forest in which Papi enjoyed hunting. As we, the five sons of the writer, think of him on his birthday and throughout this year's celebration of his life, we remember him as a loving father and grandfather, and he will live in our hearts forever. We also know that Papi, throughout his long life, made many sacrifices because he felt driven to tell the truth about his nation, his homeland, and all the families that were left behind the "iron curtain" to suffer for more than 50 years.

We are especially saddened that our father did not live long enough to see his literary heritage remembered. He would be pleased, honored but also humbled to know how his works are widely read, enjoyed and often even revered today in Hungary, Transylvania, and throughout the world. His books are filling the shelves of bookstores and libraries. New statues, busts and monuments have been erected in numerous towns and villages of Hungary and Transylvania; literary programs, poetry contests, theater performances and movies about him or of his works, are taking place almost daily.

This tribute is due largely to the "word of mouth" endorsements of readers who found a world filled with beauty, honesty and nobility in his writings. It is also due to a number of diligent literary historians who appreciated the quality of his work, researched it in depth and reported their findings. They say he was a dedicated patriot who wrote beautifully, richly, lovingly and with much wisdom from exile in Germany and America, about the people, forests and mountains of his homeland, exploring sensitive historical issues that resonate with meaning today. Some say that anyone who reads Papi's works will become a better person, with a better understanding of who Hungarians are.

As we hear and read of events that are scheduled all over the world to remembering his life and his works, we are saddened for not being able to attend all the commemorations that are being held throughout this centennial year. But our hearts will be with each of the events, and we will



continue to participate in as many commemorating events as possible. Unfortunately, the geographic distances and our professional duties keep us from participating in all the many commemorations. However, if a family member is not able to attend an event, then our appearance will be embodied through members of our family's Foundation, the Czegei Wass Foundation, which has a branch in Hungary and Transylvania. Therefore, through the attendances of Joseph Simo and Rev. Joseph Bartha, the Presidents of our two branch organizations, or any other board members, we will share our feelings. In addition, we are represented by our approved book publishers; Mentor and Szabad Ter, as well as through the emails and articles written by our friend and confidant, Rev. Eva Lukacsi. But beyond these, there are many more that have worked with us, have contributed inestimable time and effort, that also share our thoughts.

But our hearts will be at each of the events, and we will attend those events we can. We gratefully thank all dedicated individuals involved in all the activities, which are committed to spreading the positive literary message and recognizing his important cultural role. We thank all the civic and church organizations, the local institutions, libraries and schools for their contributions in helping bring to the foreground his message.

Albert Wass' sons: Vid, Huba, Miklós, Géza, Endre and Family



### How We Remember Papi

