

NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2021

ArtLifeCycle.com (The Creative Space of Andrea Ladanyi and James Toler)

Hello Dear Friends,

Your interest is warmly embraced! Thank you.

You can expect updates, reports and tell-tales on our life-journey.

Life is Nature. Nature is Art. A transformational process in Life is through Art. And that is what we seek in the breaths we take, the cake we bake, the life we make...

THE CHAPEL HOUSE (A KÁPOLNA HÁZ)

VELENCE, HUNGARY

Since we have taken possession of this stone building, September 2020, we have given temporary fix to immediate problems which were occurring one after another (plumbing, drain, water pipes, electricity, crumbling surfaces, tree removals etc). Felt like Laszlo Bod's spirit had left the building giving way for us to take guardianship from now onwards. We feel and experience the extraordinary energy of this place and we have been listening and sensing our way with it. It is a wonderful blessing which seems to be on the edges of a lurking disaster at times!

But TRUST carries us on...



Our Christmas Card from 2020

SIDE NOTES

You can listen to our New Song called:

[Silent Streets](#)

We still have more children's books left:

[Annabelle's Lullaby](#)

Thank you



In order to understand the significance of this building we have done some research on it, so here is a capsule of it:

The area goes back to Roman times as plenty of archeological remains had been found. It is said to had been on the Aquincum (O'Buda area in now Budapest) itinerary during the Roman Empire times. The Tabula Peutingeriana (Roman itinerary map) is dated to the 5th century AD. The continuous lines are military and/or major itineraries and the broken lines stand for private/noble itineraries.



A simplified Roman itinerary map. You can see a red dot by Velence.

After the decline of the Roman Empire these regions became part of the Hungarian state as a result of the Hun Carpathian-Basin Conquests. In the year of 1000 AD Hungary became a Christian kingdom with the first crowned king of Stephen I.

During the 12-15 centuries our area was known to have Knights Templar of Malta settlers. It was a Catholic lay religious order of military, chivalric and noble nature. Their motto: 'Tuitio fidei et obsequium pauperum' (Defense of the faith and assistance to the poor). The Templar of Malta cross on our chapel is likely to be a reference to their legacy, which we are still researching. In exchange for protecting the kingdom they were awarded properties by the king. The village of Velence was drawn in on Hungary's first map (Tabula Hungariae) dated 1528 showing a substantial sized catholic church. It is believed to be the location of our chapel; but that medieval church was destroyed during the Ottoman invasions.



Tabula Hungariae excerpt. You can see a red circle by Velence.

After the Turks entered Hungary in 1541 the Knights Templar of Malta landowners along with most residents were ousted and/or killed in the continuous battles. The village was pretty much extinct by the time the Ottoman occupancy ended (in 1699). As it was/is a beautiful and naturally gifted area it was gradually repopulated. The villagers around the end of the occupancy were mainly reformat and a church was built for them in 1690. This still functions as a Reformat Church today.

In 1703-6 Janos Meszlenyi (1659-1736) obtained hectares of property in Fejer county and Gyor area. Janos Meszlenyi was a Hungarian aristocrat. He was the lord-lieutenant of Velence. As more catholic peasants started to reside in the village Meszlenyi commissioned for a catholic church in 1723. This church was to be built with and where the remains of Velence's mideaval church was (reference on Tabula Hungariae). This is our chapel!

The church was very dear to Meszlenyi Pal's (Meszlenyi Janos' son 1694-1759) heart and he was the only Meszlenyi family member who was barried in the crypt under the church in 1759.



By 1833 the church was derelict and not used by the parish. The Meszlenyi family was given a privilege to use it as their family chapel because the village had a new catholic church built a few streets away. The Church Administration pleaded for some funding to save the building. A small some was granted. In this renovation the size of the building was reduced, the independent steeple removed and minimally preserved for history. The artifacts from inside were removed and some were reallocated to the new church. It is not mentioned in the Meszlenyi family history that the chapel would had been regularly used or served any importance to them.

After WWII (!939-45) Hungary was reorganized as a socialist country with a communist regime. The Meszlenyi family's aristocratic title was revoked and their assets became governmental property. Party politics tried to end all sentiments towards the church and bourgeoise sensibilities. The chapel was standing abandoned and forgotten like an empty shell with not much of a roof (see picture of the chapel on the 1st page) until 1967.



Recent photo during grounds' work...

Laszlo Bod (1920-2001) was a Hungarian painter who bought the building in 1967 from the Church Administration. It had a broken roof, no hallway, no services, no floor, crumbling walls and a crypt. His efforts at the time saved the building from going to ruins. He made this his family summer home.

James and I bought the chapel from the Bod family. In the last 30 years it has been neglected and so overgrown that many younger generations in the village don't even know about it.

And here we are, today James and I are the custodians of this sacred space. We are working our way through maintaining the dignity of this building and bringing it into the 21st century. The biography of this space tells us that it wants to stand and find relevance today. We feel that it is to be a space of sacred creativity! Perhaps the ancestral energy flowing from Roman times and onwards can offer support to those who seek self-transformation. We don't know. Hence, we are listening to and observing our dialogues with the chapel...

In the next Newsletter we will introduce other aspects of the chapel...

If you have constructive feedback or queries, please contact us. Details on the website: ArtLifeCycle.com



Blessings to You.