

Hungarian Community Activities

Katalin Voros, Operations Manager of the University of California at Berkeley's Microfabrication Laboratory 1986-2011, came to the University with 14 years of experience in the semiconductor industry. She is a Member of the Electrochemical Society and a Senior Life Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. She is a recipient of the UC Berkeley Administrative & Professional Staff Distinguished Achievement Award, 1991, and the Berkeley Staff Assembly's Excellence in Management Award in 1995 and 2001.

- Katalin maintained professional contacts with professors at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics and invited young professionals as visiting researchers at the University of California at Berkeley. This program lasted for 18 years, until Katalin's retirement.

Katalin Voros left Hungary in 1956 as a refugee with her parents and arrived in the US in 1960. She has been an active member of the Hungarian-American community ever since.

- The Philadelphia and Vicinity Hungarian Sports Club, or [Magyar Tanya](#), was established in 1962 as a not-for-profit organization, for "supporting and promoting Hungarian traditions, charitable work by, among and for Hungarians, and in handing down these values to their children". Katalin's father, Lajos Vörös, was among the directors signing the document. Katalin was the chair of the Cultural Committee of the Tanya for 15 years.
- Katalin was the troop leader for over 10 years of girl scout troop No. 48. (Philadelphia) of the [Hungarian Scout Association in Exteris](#). During the course of several leader training camps she developed and wrote a training manual for troop leaders, which was adopted for the organization across continents. She was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Hungarian Scout Association in Exteris for four years. A retired officer, she is a supporting member of the organization through the Bodnár Gábor Fund.
- Katalin and her late husband Charles W. Tobias, were the major supporters and program developers (1986-1996) of the [Tobiás Youth House](#) in Torockó, Transylvania, Romania. The program acquired and redeveloped an old village farm house for youth activities. It also established a small exhibition gallery in the city hall; funded renovation and renewal of the local history museum and sponsored publication of several informational booklets and a tourist guide of Torockó, in Hungarian, Romanian and English.
- Katalin was a member, from 2000 to 2007, of the Board of Directors of [Project Harvest Hope](#), a nonprofit organization promoting and supporting sustainable village economic development in the Homoród Valley, in Transylvania. She visited the project's sites and acted as liaison between the Unitarian churches in the Székelyudvarhely region and their sister-congregations in the United States.
- For the past 28 years – still ongoing – Katalin has maintained and monitored an active, informational [email-bulletin](#) for San Francisco Bay Area Hungarians (over 1,100 addresses).
- Katalin is a member of the Board of Directors of the [American Hungarian Educators Association](#), AHEA, and was Chair of the Local Organizing Committee for the [2009 conference at UC Berkeley](#). Since developing the website [ahea.net](#) for the organization in 2009 she has been its Webmaster. The website is the depository of archival material of the 48-year old organization. In 2008, [Hungarian Cultural Studies](#), e-Journal of the AHEA came out with its first online issue, published by Pitt Open Library Publishing, University of Pittsburgh. Katalin developed this contract arrangement for AHEA. Since the start, she has been the layout editor of *Hungarian Cultural Studies*, now in its 15th year. In 2016 Katalin was presented the [Péter Basa Award](#), to "recognize her outstanding contributions to the advancement of the purposes and activities of the AHEA".

- From 2017-2021, Katalin Voros was the Chair of the Advisory Board of the [Kodály Center](#) at Holy Names University, Oakland, CA. In 2019 the Center celebrated the 50th anniversary of its establishment at Holy Names. A bust of Kodály, a donation from the local Hungarian community, was unveiled at the anniversary commemoration event.
In 2021 the Advisory Board created the [Kodály Foundation for Music Education](#), an independent, not-for-profit organization. Katalin, as past president, is an Honorary Board Member.
- Katalin is a member of the Advisory Board of the [Orly Museum of Hungarian Culture](#), established in 2018 in Berkeley, CA.
- Katalin is a volunteer for and supporter of [CECI](#): Central European California Cultural Initiative activities. One of CECI's projects is the biennial Hungarian Film Festival at San Francisco State University. Another project, initiated by CECI, grew into its own as the [Memory Project](#): Visual Archive of Hungarian Emigration.

In 2009 Katalin Voros received the [Gold Cross of Merit of the Republic of Hungary](#), for her “outstanding dedication and achievement among Hungarian Americans, for helping to maintain the identity of the Hungarian community in Northern California and for promoting the interaction of Hungarian scientists with their colleagues in the United States”.

Katalin Voros is married to Wayne Phillips, who is an avid student of the Hungarian language and all things Hungarian. She has two daughters and seven grandchildren, who all speak Hungarian. For an interview with Katalin [click here](#).

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