



CRESCENCE SEILERN
(1799 - 1875)
Széchenyi Chain Bridge



Széchenyi Chain Bridge



DÓRA MAURER
(*1936)
Magyar Tudományos Akadémia

Széchenyi rkp.



Millennium underground UNESCO



Andrassy avenue

MESHI GUESSOUS
(*1988)
Andrassy Avenue



ERZSÉBET GAÁL
(1917 - 1989)
Szabadság-szobor

Szabadság-szobor

SZILVIA SZÉNÁSI
(*1979)
Muzsikuss cigányok parkja

Muzsikuss cigányok parkja



Gaross u.



JUDIT MONA
(1926 - 1981)
Corvin köz



Corvin köz

WELCOME TO

BUDAPEST

SIGHTSEEINGS IN BUDAPEST

Every year, millions of tourists ride pleasure boats under our beautiful bridges and climb Gellért Hill so that they can take pictures of our world heritage city and the Danube panorama. They explore Buda's medieval Castle District, and, on the Pest-side, the City Centre: Andrassy Avenue and its surroundings from St. Stephen's Basilica to Hero's Square. The eclectic cityscape of Budapest today barely shows any remaining signs of the destruction that took place in World War II or the architectural anomalies of the period of State Socialism. After the regime change, Europe's largest synagogue and second largest parliament were restored to their original beauty. Many, however, are not as interested in tourist sites, as they are in the secret stories told by locals.

It is for them that Budapest Walkshop created walks that thematize the unexplored political past and the unique lives of minorities, along with other programs of interest.

WOMEN CITY TOURS IN BUDAPEST

The Liberty Statue, which towers over Budapest holding a palm branch over her head, is a defining female figure of the capital city. The public spaces of Budapest are adorned with many other symbolic female figures as well, carved out of stone or cast from bronze. Why not commemorate reality instead? The story of Erzsébet Gaál, the flesh-and-blood woman who stood model for the Liberty Statue, is barely known. Nor do we know or remember much about those important female politicians, scientists and public figures who have helped this city thrive. The programs of Budapest Walkshop evoke spaces from the memories of these forgotten women. During our walks, we will also call to mind the centuries of witch trials, as well as the Secession Era, when women finally threw away their corsets and claimed their place in the public sphere. We will also explore the habits and culture of women's communities belonging to the religious and ethnic minorities that live among us.

Judit Mona
physicist, revolutionary
1926 - 1981



Judit Mona

*„The country's situation
should be improved first.”*

Judit Mona was born into a family with three children in Tápiószily. Her parents had a leftist affinity; her mother joined the Social Democratic Party, her father guarded the borders of the Hungarian Socialist Republic as a soldier of the Red Army. She studied medicine, and in 1951, she married her fellow student, Attila Lehoczky. Their son was born in 1955.

On 23 October 1956, on her way home from work, traffic came to a standstill: the Stalin statue was in the process of being taken down. She also witnessed the seizure of the radio station. At the beginning, she provided medical help in Kőbánya, and after a few days, she joined the fighters at the Corvin Passage. She became the chief physician in Práter Street and obsessively worked in a makeshift operating room. She also treated members of the State Protection Authority (ÁVH). When a rebel expressed his disapproval, suggesting harsher treatment, she replied: “Fighter, how can you speak like this? That would make us just like them.”

On 6 November, along with the majority of Corvinists, she set off toward the western border. The couple had no choice but to leave Hungary together in late November, without their child. First they lived in Vienna, then in Geneva, while also maintaining contact with the Hungarian Revolutionary Council. In a bold move, her husband managed to bring their child out of Hungary.

Shortly after, they moved to the United States, first to New York, then to Buffalo, where they changed their family name to Lehotay. They encountered difficulties when the Americans refused to accept their Hungarian diploma, so they had to start their professional careers over. Judit began to work as a pathologist in various hospitals, then obtained her medical degree in New York. A successful career followed: she became a forensic expert, gained membership to numerous American scientific associations and became the first female member of the leadership of the National Association of Medical Examiners. Her achievements attracted a significant amount of publicity.

Judit found it important to hold on to her Hungarian roots. She became a leading member of the US Federation of Hungarian Freedom Fighters. She was also involved with organizational activities of the American-Hungarian scouting movement. She died at a young age, in 1981.

Authors Hungary:

Interviews:

Andrea Ausztrics, *Anna Lénárd*

photo: Andrea Ausztrics

Meshi Guessous, *Réka Kemény*

photo: ?

Dora Maurer, *Dorka Kiss*

photo: Katalin London

Andrea Pető, *Réka Kemény*

photo: Dániel Kováts

Szilvia Szénási, *Réka Kemény*

photo: ?

Historical women:

Johanna Bischitz, *Gabriella Dohi*

photo: ?

Erzsébet Gaál, *Réka Kemény*

photo: Fortepan

Etelka Kuntich, *Dorka Kiss*

photo: ?

Judit Mona, *László Eorsi*

1. portrait of Judit Lehoczky

Crescentia Seilern, *Ádám Németh*

photo: ?