To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising of 1956, Imre Gazda decided to erect a monument to the Freedom fighters who heroically fought the invading Soviet troops, to the martyrs that gave their lives for the Hungarian Freedom and to all those Hungarians who lived through those troubled times. He came up with the idea to erect a Kopjafa, a traditional Szekler wooden monument used in Transylvania as a memento of a memorable event.

Being a Hungarian with Transylvanian roots, he took it upon himself to materialize this idea. He started the design phase of this project and his brother, Miklos Gazda, hired Arpad Koch, a known Transylvanian master woodcarver to create the Kopjafa. He carved it from several pieces and transported it to Belapadfalva in Hungary in 2006, where he assembled it for viewing by a Texas delegation and some interested local people. After the event, the Kopjafa was disassembled then carefully packed in four suitcases to be transported by air to Texas by four husband and wife teams:

1. Jeannie and Imre Gazda
2. Rie and Peter Vali
3. Fanny and Laszlo Deak
4. Sandy and Bela Marton

Upon its arrival to Texas, Imre Gazda reassembled the Kopjafa and with the help of some enthusiastic people it was erected on the Cistercian Abbey’s grounds, where it still resides.

In order to defray the costs associated with the Kopjafa, the local Hungarian Community members ordered brass nameplates to be affixed with the name of the donors. The $100.00 donors’ nameplates were affixed to the front of the Kopjafa, while those who donated $50.00 their nameplates were placed on the sides and $25 on the back. The Metroplex Hungarian Community wishes to express their gratitude to everybody who contributed, either materially or through their work, or both, to this project.

Like everything else, this monument has seen the ravages of time. In spite of the good engineering employed by Imre Gazda, the foundation couldn’t stand the Texas clay soil either. Over the twelve years of its erection, the foundation had to be repaired twice. The first time, the Kopjafa was bolted to the concrete thanks to volunteers like Gyorgy Gaal, Laszlo Varga and Istvan Kope. The second time the Kopjafa had to be re-aligned because the foundation gave way. Botond Laszlo volunteered his time and money to finish this job. Until her passing Jeannie Gazda oiled the wood regularly. That helped for a while, but later the Kopjafa dried out and became discolored because of the sun and lack of maintenance. This year another enthusiastic Hungarian, Janos Szabo, volunteered his time and expertise to rejuvenate the wooden part of the monument. We, the members of the Hungarian Community, are grateful to everybody who helped us in preserving our beloved Kopjafa, a monument to the sacrifices brought by all the Hungarians to the altar of Freedom. Please see the photos and Imre Gazda’s original engineering drawing from 2006.
Koch, Árpád alkotása
Reosk 2006

Czabajszki, Joseph & Jodi
Tura

Ferencz, Péter & Krisztina
Bélapátfalva

Fetter, Ferenc & Elaine
Sacján

Gaál, Erzsébet
Gyergyóditró

Takács, Ödön Pál
Boldogkőújfalu

Hertelendy, Attila & Ilona
Esztergom-kertváros

Herczegfalvi Mihály & Gail
Budapest

Takács Ödön & Elaine
Boldogkőújfalu
Balikó, Tünde
Székesfehérvár

Beluska, János & Éva
Kolozsvár

Engel, Elemér
Budapest

Gazda, Erzsébet & Gizella
Osteros

Greksa, Sándor & Emese
Székesfehérvár

Kőpe, István & Olga
Sokoly
In commemoration of the sacrifices of those who participated or even gave their lives in the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 to shake off the Soviet communist dictatorship.

Also in appreciation to the exiled Cistercian Friars of Zirc, Hungary, who under the leadership of Abbot Anselm Nagy established the Cistercian Abbey of Our Lady of Dallas and the Cistercian Preparatory School.

ISTEN ÁLDD MEG A MAGYART!
October 23, 2006