



# Partner Church News

A publication of the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council

Connecting Unitarian and Universalist congregations around the globe

Volume 17 Number 3

Winter 2010-2011

## UUPCC BOARD CHAIR

### Being Partners

BY RICHARD VAN DUIZEND

In the past few months, I have been given three chances to reflect on the meaning of partnership. The first was in early October, when my wife, Sharon, and I had the good fortune to visit a congregation of the Unitarian Christian Church of Indonesia in Semarang, a city in central Java. (*For more about this visit, see the article on p.18*) I was participating in a work-related conference in Singapore, and from the vantage point of the Eastern US time zone, Singapore and

Semarang seemed just next door to each other. During a question and answer session, we were asked directly, "What does congregational partnership entail?" We spoke about sharing joys, sorrows, dreams and prayers; joining together to transform visions great and small into realities; and through e-mail, post, and Skype, letting folks in each place know that there are caring people with similar values on the other side of the world.

Shortly after our return, we were engulfed in the festivities surrounding the visit of ten members of the Transylvanian partner of my home congregation to celebrate the 20-year relationship between Szentgerice and Fairfax,

VA. The visit provided opportunities to talk about on-going programs and future activities, including a youth/adult trip from Fairfax to Transylvania next summer. The part of me that sits in a high corner and observes what is going on marveled at the frank and open discussion taking place in a mix of Hungarian, English, and German. There was an atmosphere of trust and warmth built of many visits, conversations, letters, and e-mails. Each partner

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Richard and Sharon Van Duizend pose with members of the Unitarian Christian Church of Indonesia.

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The Mission of the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council is to foster and support partner church relationships between North American congregations and congregations in all other countries where partnering is sought and welcomed. This includes countries where partners are already active.

## Being Partners

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was able to share questions, wishes, and concerns: “How long should we stay?” “A week.” “But we don’t want to be a burden.” “Friends are never a burden and we want you to get to know us.” “Can we work on some congregational or village project together while we are there?” “You are guests.” No, we are partners, and it is important for us to contribute with our hands as well as our hearts and wallets....”

The third opportunity was during a workshop I attended in December as part of my day job. Judges of Native American tribal courts and state court judges from around the US gathered to discuss how they could work together to better protect Native American children who had been removed from their homes or placed for adoption. One of the initial speakers observed that it is

nearly impossible to fully understand a culture in which one has not been raised, and that in trying to work cross-culturally, mistakes inevitably occur. He added that this fact should not discourage us from working together. Rather, we should redouble our efforts to work through these difficulties with “respect, humility, and good faith.” The

parallels to the experiences of partnered congregations were clear.

What do I draw from these experiences?

- Don’t refrain from talking with your partners. Language barriers are not impermeable. Communication, even awkward and halting conversation with

(Continued on the next page)

Keep up to date on the latest partner church news without leaving home!

## VIRTUAL CONFERENCE CALLS

Wednesday, March 2, 8:00 PM EASTERN

### Participating with Partners in Summer Camps for Kids

Have you ever considered organizing a summer camp to teach English to young kids in your partner village? Several partnerships have organized and run very successful summer programs in Transylvania. The panel will share their experiences, educational materials and expertise and talk about how teachers, teens and other volunteers come together to make these camps meaningful and fun. Partner Church Committee members, RE Directors, Youth Group leaders are encouraged to participate.

Speaker Panel: Sarah Dorer and Sharon McDonald (First Parish UU in Bedford MA); Lyssa Andersson (UU Church Of Greater Lynn, Swampscott MA); Rev. Jennifer Lentz and Ann Swardlick (First Universalist Church of Yarmouth ME).

Wednesday, March 9, 8:00 PM EASTERN

### Conference Call with the Rev. Peter Morales, UUA President and the Rev. Eric Cherry, Director of the UUA International Resources Office.

Peter will discuss his recent visits to UUs around the world and will talk about the importance of international connections between the UUA and UUs elsewhere.

Space is limited to the first 50 individuals. Register early; if you have a group who would like to be in on the call, perhaps you could arrange to meet together and use a speaker phone. To register for the call, see below. It will also be recorded and can be listened to once it is posted on our website, about 1 week after the call.

Tuesday, May 3, 8:00 PM EASTERN • 5:00 PM PACIFIC | Wed., May 4, 8:00 AM PHILIPPINE ZONE  
**Community Capacity Building**

Speaker Panel: Dick Ford, Nihal Attanayake, and Cathy Cordes

Check the UUPCC website— [www.uupcc.org](http://www.uupcc.org)—for dates and details.

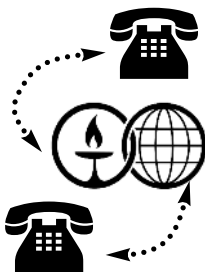
*Topic suggestions from UUPCC members are always welcome!*

.....  
**TO REGISTER FOR A CALL**, send an email to

[office@uupcc.org](mailto:office@uupcc.org) or call the office 9–5 Eastern Time weekdays at 781-275-1710.

Include \* your name \* city/state \* the topic/date of the call you will attend. You will be sent an email with the call-in information 2–3 days before the call (*please let the office know if you don't have access to email*).

Feel free to submit questions to the speakers ahead of time by email: [office@uupcc.org](mailto:office@uupcc.org).



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*Recordings of most previous conference calls are available. We routinely record our Virtual Conferences and post them on the website after the call. You can download those recordings—[www.uupcc.org](http://www.uupcc.org), click on Resources / Virtual Conference Calls / Past Virtual Conference Calls—and listen to them on your computer.*

**Next PCC Deadline:  
March 28, 2011**

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This newsletter supports the mission and goals of the Partner Church Council.

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**For information about membership**, contact Cathy Cordes in the UUPCC office, PO Box 88, Bedford, MA 01730.

**For any other information**, contact the UUPCC office at 781-275-1710, or [office@uupcc.org](mailto:office@uupcc.org), or PO Box 88, Bedford, MA 01730  
Visit the web site at: [www.uupcc.org](http://www.uupcc.org)

# The Promise of Partnerships

BY CATHY CORDES

I am preparing for the annual Winter Board meeting in February as I write this. We will be hosted by the San Mateo, CA congregation this year. For those of us in the frozen climates, we are thrilled to have the opportunity to be somewhere warm and we thank the UUs of San Mateo for offering to host us.

As I begin to pull together all the material Board members will need to prepare for the winter meeting, I turn first to the board's covenant. It is a simple statement but one that sets the tone and has served us well over the years. We begin the meeting each year by reading it and I share it here with all of you.

## COVENANT

We, the members of the UU Partner Church Council Board of Directors, ever mindful of our mission, covenant to walk together by

- Listening to one another
- Honoring each other's skills, knowledge, experience and insights
- Being present and open to one another
- Keeping our promises
- Being mutually empowering and caring
- Respecting our individual and corporate limits
- Sharing the abundance of good news of partnership

Having brought our minds and voices to our deliberations, we leave to do our work speaking in one voice.

Simple and yet powerful words when contemplated. It occurs to me that what guides the board is also good advice for any partnership. Does your partnership have a covenant? If not, have you considered one? Here is a simple exercise that can even be done long distance. It is the method used to develop the Board's covenant and was shared with the board by the Rev. Fred Muir.

Deliberate conversations are an important piece of work for partners. This exercise translates well and is an easy way to start the conversation that can lead to a covenant.

**Step 1.** Give every person in the room a 3 x 5 inch card. On one side ask each person to write down three things they want to promise to their partner. On the other side of the card, everyone should write three things they want their partner to promise them.

(Continued on page 4)

## Being Partners

(Continued from page 2)

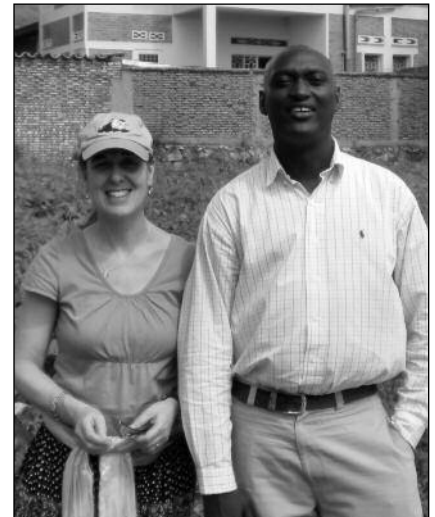
frequent references to bilingual dictionaries, is the building material for relationships.

- Visit your partners whenever you can or make it possible for them to visit you, not just overnight, but for long enough to start sharing experiences and get to "know" each other.
- When planning a visit or thinking about something to sponsor, don't do it alone. Talk with your partner. Remember the tag line from the old William Marchant play, *Desk Set*— "never assume!"
- When there is a miscommunication or something you see as a "failure" by the people you are in direct contact with, work it through with respect, humility, and good faith.

As the Khasis say in parting, *to nangroi* (keep on progressing). And please don't hesitate to share your thoughts and comments with me. ●●

## NEWS BRIEF

The members of the Unitarian Church of Burundi are excited to announce they are on their way to having a real church building for the first time. With financial support from their partner church in Kalamazoo, Michigan, from other friends and from their own resources, the building is expected to be finished by July. Rev. Fulgence Ndagijimana reported that the walls are up and the roof is on. They are waiting for the windows and doors and then they can go to work on the inside. Fulgence says this will bring new recognition to the Unitarians in Bujumbura. Many in the neighborhood of the new building are already asking about the church. And Fulgence says "We are looking forward to getting to know our neighbors and to be a positive addition to the neighborhood."



Rev. Jill McAllister and Fulgence Ndagijimana.

For more information—or if you would like to contribute to the completion of this church, email Rev. Jill McAllister: minister at peopleschurch.net

## Promise of Partnerships

(Continued from page 3)

**Step 2.** Form small groups of 4 to 5 people and ask them to share what they have written. At this step, it is helpful for everyone in each group to be from the same church. Each person reads what is on their card—one by one. The group then decides together what the essential ideas are that represent most of the thoughts. The group then combines the statements into one common list that all members of the group can agree to. Each of the small groups will have a list of promises and a list of what they would like the partner to promise them.

**Step 3.** Now join two groups together and repeat the process. Depending on the size of the original gathering, you may have to do this 2 or 3 times. Now

you have one master list of promises and one master list of what you would like promised.

Combine those two lists into one. This then will become the foundation of the covenant that then can be written.

**Step 4.** Once everyone is in agreement that the list is sufficiently complete, a few people will need to volunteer to convert the combined lists into a more formal statement. Once drafted, this statement can be presented to each congregation for endorsement as a formal covenant.

The first three steps usually can be completed in less than two hours, particularly if you have a facilitator who keeps time and keeps the process moving. If you have been working long dis-

tance with your partner up to this point, it will be important for a joint conversation to take place so that each partner can listen to the other's promises and wants. Consider a Skype call, conference call or better yet, a face-to-face visit. The final covenant obviously needs to be written together and combines the lists of both partners.

The conversation surrounding the merging of the lists requires all of the groups to work on common beliefs and values and to clarify their ideas about partnership. All our partnerships, even the most vibrant and long-term ones, can benefit from such a conversation.

*Happy New Year to all—and may we all remember to be truly present and open to one another in the spirit of partnership. ●●*

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## FELSÖRÁKOS, TRANSYLVANIA: SEPTEMBER 2010

# First International Quilting Retreat

BY LOU MCKEE, ORGANIZER OF THE  
QUILTING RETREAT

What a wonderful whirlwind of an enriching time we all had! There were eight quilters, including myself, at our first International Quilting Retreat



An honorary member of "The Soup Kitchen Quilters, Felsörákos Chapter" receives a gift quilt.

in Felsörákos, from Washington, Idaho, Massachusetts, Florida and Oregon. It was a huge success.

The village guest house was comfortable, cozy and fun...like a women's dorm. We ate meals and sewed in the gathering hall of the parish house across the road. We were served lovely Hungarian-style meals with wine and local pálinka (plum brandy) offered at every meal. Jean Van Bockel, our teacher from Idaho, handed out appliqué kits, had a quilt ready to put on the frame, and started a long table runner to teach the village ladies a quilting project from the beginning.

Two donated sewing machines were humming! The village ladies, who were also our cooks, got so excited to use them. Others from the women's church group joined us. Things were buzzing! One day we invited the high school teachers and the women of Felsörákos to join us. Also, a woman from a city

north of our area came to sew with us when she heard what was going on! The weather was sunny and perfect for taking the quilt frame outdoors to the garden and those working on the appliqué project sat at the long picnic table. As usual, in this kind of gathering, there was lots of chatter and laughter. We had a few translators with us but often we just pantomimed, giggled and hugged our way to understanding. It warmed my heart to see us all working together. Jean and I are members of the "Soup Kitchen Quilters" in Spokane, so we dubbed them "The Soup Kitchen Quilters, Felsörákos Chapter". They are ready to begin their own group now, and will be asking others to join them.

József Kotecz, the minister, was impressed by it all and vowed that he would make sure the new quilters had time to spend around the frame. They are busy women just making their households run. We were visited by a very old woman, dressed in traditional black, white blouse and black headscarf. She had brought us all gifts that she had made, lace doilies and

(Continued on page 10)

## MEMORIAL FUND

The Consistory of the Transylvanian Unitarian Church announces with gratitude the establishment of the Szabó Árpád Memorial Fund for PhD Scholarships in Unitarian Theology, effective October 2010. Following Bishop Szabó's recent passing to eternity, the intention of the church leadership is to immortalize his legacy by creating a motivational source of support and inspiration in a field that was most dear to him. Bishop Szabó himself was a recipient of a PhD degree in Unitarian theology, from the Protestant Theological Institute in Kolozsvár; he was also granted an honorary doctorate from both the Protestant Theological Faculty in Montpellier, France, as well as the Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago, USA. Later, when he became a theological professor, he led the PhD training of some of his spiritual successors, acting as a model for a theologian of dedicated research and prolific writing.

The creation of the Memorial Fund aims to provide financial and professional support for those choosing to enter PhD training in Unitarian theology. The fund will act as an endowment, sharing its annual benefits among those enrolled in such a program. The coordination will be done by the executive committee of the Consistory.

Contributions for the fund can be sent to the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council, PO Box 88, Bedford MA 01730-0088. Please make the check payable to UUPCC and note Szabó Árpád Memorial Fund on the memo line.

—Dávid Gyerő

The Consistory of the Transylvanian Unitarian Church announces with deep sorrow the death of its retired leader,

**Rev. Dr. Árpád Szabó,**

the 30th bishop of the Transylvanian Unitarian Church, who passed away on 30 September 2010, at the age of 76, following a year of grave illness endured with dignity and good faith.

During his lifetime he worked to promote the fulfilment of the centuries-old, historic mission of the Unitarian church, and served its needs with devoted enthusiasm, at convenient and inconvenient times. "Ye are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid!" He preached the gospel of Jesus: the experience of God's provident love, the responsible vocation of the Christian people, and the preserving power of a religious community.

He was born in 1935 in an ancient Unitarian village along the valley of the Homoród, and he studied in Városfalva, Székelykeresztúr and Kolozsvár, where he obtained his ministerial degree between 1953-1957. He started his career in the church as a secretary to the bishop between 1958-1965, later as the minister of the downtown Kolozsvár congregation between 1965-1976. In 1974 he became the professor of Unitarian biblical theology at the Protestant Theological Institute, and in 1977-1978, the scholarship holder of the Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. In 1996 the Synod elected him as the 30th bishop of the church, reinforcing his title in 2002. He retired in 2008, after half of a century of church service.

The first part of his service passed in a period of great tribulations in church history, while the second part fell in times of opened perspectives. He fulfilled his mission with responsibility and commitment in both periods. As a minister, he called the attention of his parishioners upon the providing care of God and His power to preserve the community. As a teacher, he worked for the aim of passing on his knowledge in theological science and the vocation of ministry to the young generations. As a bishop, he sought to find orientation among newly appearing opportunities, and urged the spiritual and financial strengthening of the church. His attention was also extended on intellectual needs: by his own example, he encouraged the pursuance of theological sciences and literature, and the editing of church periodicals. The restarting of the denominational schools and their development into quality educational institutions, the strengthening of the church institutions, the constructions of new church buildings, and the promotion of international relations are all good evidence for his devoted, conscious, responsible service.

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## Introducing Worldwide Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists

The International Office of the UUA has developed a short video that provides an introduction to U\*Us around the world. There is also a list of frequently asked questions. This is a great resource to use with partner church and social action committees, in a New UU course, for religious professionals and RE classes of all ages. Here is the link to the website:

<http://www.uua.org/leaders/international/171464.shtml>

## Gathering of the Women's Wing

The Women's Wing of the Unitarian Union of Northeast India gathered for their 12th annual conference on December 19, 2010.

Dr. Creamlimon Nongbri, the secretary of the Women's Wing reports: "The Conference was very warm and solemn. It was well attended and it was grand as we had all the Officials of the Unitarian Union, the Women's Wing and the Youth Wing with all the ministers and assistant ministers and a large attendance from all the churches in Khasi and Jaintia Hills. In all, about 2,000 people attended. The services were very inspiring and for the first time we had all women participating in all the services including speakers and the moderators." ●●



Madan Laban Church Choir at the conference



The choir from the Jowai Church at the conference

### NOMINATION FORM FOR STEWARDS OF PARTNERSHIP AWARD

UUPCC would like to honor the hard-working volunteers in your congregation who has given dedicated service to your partnership over the years. We know there are many of these folks out there who deserve to be recognized. We will recognize 20 such people this year at the UUPCC Annual Meeting. Their names will be listed in the Annual Report to UUPCC Members and in the newsletter. They do not have to be present at General Assembly to be recognized. **DEADLINE: February 24, 2011**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City / ST/ Province / ZIP (Postal code) \_\_\_\_\_

US or Canadian Church name: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner Church City and Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a narrative of the service provided by the nominee (use additional pages if necessary):

Signature of minister or church governing board chair: \_\_\_\_\_



Please return this nomination form to UUPCC Stewards Award, PO Box 88, Bedford, MA 01730. *If your nominee is not selected this year, you can nominate them again next year.*

## “PASS THE GIFT” FROM SAN DIEGO

### To Philippines Partner Church Ministers, Pigs Smell Like Money

Len Pellettieri, partner church rep for San Diego’s partnership with Malingen, reports that members of the congregation donated \$740 in late 2009 to provide baby pigs for several ministers of Philippines UU congregations. Modeled on the Heifer Program (which has been unable to conduct their program in the Philippines), San Diego sent the money to Rev. Rebecca Sienes, president of the UU Church of the Philippines, with the request that the funds be used to buy livestock for the ministers. Their UU Ministers Association was given responsibility for distributing the funds. They decided that female piglets would be the best investment because larger animals such as carabao or cattle are very expensive and would take years to pass on offspring. Even goats, though smaller, can produce only two offspring a year, not as many as pigs can produce.

The donated money was sufficient to buy four piglets for four ministers

with the understanding that each would take good care of the animal until it gave birth. Then the minister would pass on two female piglets to two households in his congregation, and so forth.

To date, these four ministers have received female piglets:

- Rev. Tirso Ponsica (photo 1), president of the Philippines UUMA (unfortunately the piglet died and policy states that if the piglet dies, the recipient of the gift has to buy a replacement so that the chain is kept).
- Rev. Rafael Vibar (photo 2), vice-president of the UUCP and member of Nagbinlod UU Church (unpartnered)
- Rev. Ludem Esquida (photo 3), minister of Caican UU Church (partnered with Honolulu HI).
- Rev. Elinio Belimac, Sr. (photo 4), minister of the Samoyao UU Church (unpartnered). ●●



### Request for Nominations: Steward of Partnership Award

UUPCC continues to recognize the amazing dedication of volunteers who care for congregational partnerships year after year. We need you to nominate them for the annual Steward of Partnership award.

We recognize that long-term partnerships do not automatically sustain themselves. It takes attention, time and loving care to maintain long distance connections and nurture friendship. Often this work is not publicly recognized though it is this crucial grassroots work that keeps the partnership thriving and keeps the congregations involved.

Whether your partnership is twenty years old or two years old, whether your partner is in Transylvania where the first partnerships were formed or in Hong Kong, one of our newest part-

ners, there is bound to be one or more people who tend lovingly to the relationship over time. They do the hard work of maintaining communication. They organize trips. They organize fundraisers and church events. They write newsletter articles. They are committed internationalists and dedicated to their partners.

This year—2011—at General Assembly we will recognize a minimum of 10 recipients. Nominees will be accepted through February 26, 2010. Please fill out the application form and have it signed by the chair of the church governing board or church minister. We want to make sure that the church knows and can also recognition the special contributions this individual has made.

All nominations of individuals from US and Canadian churches will be considered by a selection committee chaired by Rev. Kelly Crocker, along with Sarah Dorer and Anne Greenwood. If you nominated someone last year and they were not selected, you can nominate them again. next year. Please mail the form in this newsletter (also available at [www.uupcc.org/docs/stewardsappl.pdf](http://www.uupcc.org/docs/stewardsappl.pdf)) to UUPCC, PO Box 88, Bedford, MA 01730-0088. The nomination ust be postmarked by Feb. 24 to be considered for 2011. ●●

**SEE APPLICATION FORM  
ON PAGE 6.  
DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 24.**

For a list of last year’s recipients of the Award, see [www.uupcc.org/docs/stewards.pdf](http://www.uupcc.org/docs/stewards.pdf).

## Cornish Award Nominations Open

The UUPCC Board is accepting nominations for the 2011 Louis Cornish “Living the Mission” Award. Rev. Harold Babcock is chairing the committee that includes Rev. Leon Hopper and Pat Rodgers. They will make recommendations to the UUPCC Board of Directors. We hope you will give careful thought to whom you might wish to nominate for this great honor. The following guidelines may be helpful in your deliberations:

The award is named for Louis C. Cornish, early twentieth century president of the American Unitarian Association. Dr. Cornish was a visionary internationalist who devoted much of his life to forging global bonds for liberal religious groups. He headed a task force on human rights for ethnic Hungarians in Romania, and visited the Philippines to initiate connections with Unitarians there.

In the spirit of Dr. Cornish, the award recipient should have made significant contributions to international relationships.

The recipient should have made an outstanding contribution to global church partnership, and to the partner church movement.

The contribution should be, as nearly as possible, of the same magnitude as the contributions made by previous recipients.

The recipient should not be a current member of the Partner Church Council Board of Directors.

All suggestions will be appreciated. Please include with your nomination a brief statement describing the contributions and attributes of the nominee. Submissions should be sent by **February 24**. Email to Rev. Harold Babcock, Committee Chair. His email is [hebabcock@yahoo.com](mailto:hebabcock@yahoo.com).

Please remember, *DO NOT* send any recommendations via PCC-Chat.

Formal presentation of the Cornish Award will be made at the 2011 UUA General Assembly during the Partner Church Council’s annual meeting luncheon. We hope that many of you will join us. ●●

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 24**

### Previous Recipients of the Louis C. Cornish Living-The-Mission Award:

2010 - Lawrence Coburn  
2009 - Rev. John Eric Gibbons  
2008 - Rev. Dr. Spencer Lavan  
2007 - Dr. Árpád Szabó  
2006 - Natalie Gulbrandsen  
2005 - Rev. Richard Boeke  
2004 - Rev. Peter Raible  
2003 - Patricia Rodgers  
2002 - Rev. Richard F. Beal  
2001 - Rev. C. Leon Hopper  
2000 - Rev. Dénes Farkas  
1999 - Dr. Judit Gellérd

## CONFERENCE CALL

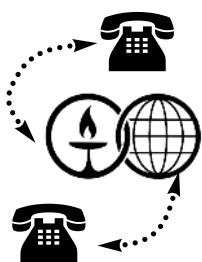
### Reflections from the 2010–11 Balázs Scholar

REPORTED BY LINDALU BURCIAGA

*Each year, Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA invites one Transylvanian Unitarian minister to spend a year at the school as an invited scholar. The minister takes classes and visits lots of partner churches during the year.*

On November 8th, 2010, about 20 people called in from across the country to speak, via conference call, with Rev. Levente Lázár, Starr King Balázs Scholar, and his wife, Rev. Erika Lázár. Our panel also included

Dick Van Duizend, UUPCC Board Chair. Highlights of the conversation include the following:



Erika remarked that California, including the weather, has been amazing. She hopes, upon return home, to bring back what she has learned in the US—a very different culture—to her colleagues in Transylvania. Their children, ages 11 and 7, had a difficult first month but have adapted very well, now loving their new friends and school. Their English is much improved to the point that they now correct the pronunciation of their parents.

Levente reported that he has had many speaking opportunities, focusing mainly on ethics. When asked about differences or similarities between the US and home, he said that the biggest challenge, as it is here, is to involve youth in congregational life. Currently, the churches in Transylvania do not have a committee structure and the minister is expected to do most everything but that is slowly beginning to change. For example, congregations are now realizing that the church buildings

are theirs to maintain. His own church is commencing construction that was completed in 2010 with the dedication awaiting his return in 2011. He also stressed that partnership visits back and forth make the partnerships “more real” in the minds and hearts of all.

Both Erika and Levente and Dick Van Duizend reported that the 20th Anniversary Celebration this past summer was a wonderful experience.

Asked the following questions, they responded:

“What are your hopes for partnership in the future?”

*To learn from each other. It is important for Transylvanian Unitarians to learn to work in groups and to have more autonomy.*

“What was your biggest surprise coming to the US?”

*(Continued on page 9)*

# Close the Distances Between Us and Bring Partnerships to Life

## UUPCC Funds Available for Travel Grants

There is no easier way to bring a partnership to life than to visit one another. Face-to-face meetings can be a critical part of building partnership relationships. Whether we North Americans are traveling to our partner churches, or bringing members of our partner church congregations to us, travel grants are available from the UUPCC to help close the distance.

## Grant Money As Catalyst

UUPCC Travel Grants make up to \$500 available to individual travelers to serve as a catalyst for a trip. Applicants are expected to be able to at least match these funds. We urge those interested to explore different ways to raise travel funds within their congregations

### DISTANCES:

Appleton, Wisconsin to Deva, Transylvania—Romania—4,936 miles  
Wayland, Massachusetts to Wahmawlein—Khasi Hills, India—7,628 miles  
San Diego, California to Malingin, Negros Island, Philippines 7,406 miles  
Washington, D.C. to Lagos, Nigeria, Africa—5,430 miles

Source: Google Maps Distance Calculator

and even outside of these groups. A dedication to that process is appreciated and priority is given to applications that include funding from multiple sources!

Who can apply? North American applicants who are members of the UUPCC, as well as Unitarians and Universalists from partnered congregations around the world. You can also apply in the name of a person from your partner church abroad. The application and more information about the program

can be found on the UUPCC website at [www.uupcc.org/tripservices.html#](http://www.uupcc.org/tripservices.html#).

So get thinking about a trip, or pursue the idea of going on a UUPCC Pilgrimage. Being in the presence of others—the talks, the looks, the touch, the experiences that are enabled by partner travel can transform your life and the lives of others. And Travel grants can close the distance to making this a reality. ●●

## The UUPCC Travel Grant program has made it possible for...

- ...a minister from the US to make her first-ever visit to her partner congregation in the Philippines.
- ...a minister from Transylvania to visit her partner church in the US and attend the International Convocation of UU Women.
- ...a US teen to go on a service trip to the Khasi Hills of India to work on the construction of an orphanage.
- ...a group of youth from Transylvania to visit their US partner community.

This list represents just some examples of grants that have been awarded, and is not meant to be exhaustive. The maximum amount per grant is \$500.

## Balázs Scholar

*Erika replied that it was the acceptance for who she is, the freedom to be herself, to learn, and to study as she liked.*

*Levente said, that, even though they are on the other side of the world, they are not alone, but are “surrounded by friends”.*

There was a question about homophobia in Romania to which Levente responded that it is more true in the villages that are more conservative but



The Lázár family during a holiday visit to Massachusetts; December 2010. The children are Levente and Réka.

that the cities are more accepting. He also stressed that witnessing the US acceptance has helped their congregations move toward this acceptance too. ●●

*If you would like to hear the entire call, a recording of the call is available on the UUPCC website at <http://www.uupcc.org/confcalls.html>*



## Children's Village Report

BY DEE IDNANI

The children and “mothers” are doing well. It was wonderful to be in the Khasi Hills on September 18th for Anniversary Day, the day that commemorates the first Unitarian Service held back in 1887. Someone described it as Christmas, Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July all rolled together! This year, it fell on a Saturday, but it is a state holiday for everyone. The children were so happy with their new clothes; I was amazed by the shopping ability of head mother Mei Rilum, who was able to hold up articles of clothing and immediately know the size needed for each child.

A special group of visitors came to the Children's Village in September, Rev. Dick and Joyce Gilbert, Rev. John Rex and Betsy and John Darr. It was Olive Lennox—a relative of Dick and Joyce—who made a significant donation for the construction of the orphanage back in 2008, and got the project off the ground. The main living area at the Children's Village is named the Lennox Room, in her honor.

A medical camp took place at the CV while I was there. It was headed by Dr. Donkuper Nongbri who came with a large medical team. It was inspiring



The medical camp team unpacks supplies.



Children enjoying the new bookshelf.



to watch this amazing activity as cases of medicines, vaccines, vitamins and equipment were carried into the Lennox Room. Each child and “mother” received a medical exam, lab work, and was given the necessary injections, vitamins and medications. Dr. Nongbri, who is the government

doctor in charge of Kharang and surrounding villages, is providing free medical care and medications to the children and mothers of the Children's Village on an ongoing basis.

The water storage tank is finally complete as of this month. It is huge and will hold more than 10,000 liters. We received the wonderful news that the Public Works Department will pave the long driveway before the next rainy season.

The book shelf is looking better and better as boxes of books are arriving from various congregations and individuals. Special thanks to Shenandoah Valley, VA; Wyoming Valley in Wilkes Barre, PA; Cathy Healy; and Daya Shankar. Another steel book shelf will be ordered! ●●

*Khublei.*

## Quilting Retreat

*(Continued from page 4)*

crocheted seat pads. What a wonder she was. We gave her our friend Nancy's donated quilt and she was thrilled. We also gave \$150 to the kindergarten teacher, from Friends of Felsörákos. She does a great job with providing a good environment for the little ones. We told her to use it for whatever she felt she needed. I delivered money for school scholarships from the Spokane UU church also. Our group was treated to Thanksgiving Day, Felsörákos-style, on the following Sunday. The day started with a brass band waking everyone, marching up and down the village streets, reminding everyone that it was

Thanksgiving Day. We attended a special church service (where we sang to the congregation!) and had a luncheon served with special dignitaries attending, after which we walked to the Cultural Center for a performance of local folk dancing, youth brass band and a play. A long day, steeped in the warmth of their cultural traditions. Besides working on our quilting projects we took time out to visit an old style flour mill, a weaver, a fabric shop, a small wool blanket factory, an excellent art/craft store and the high school sewing class. So much to see and do, so little time! We missed the wood carvers, print maker and furniture painter.

When our time in the village came

to an end, we headed to the city of Marosvásárhely where we visited a children's home for the mentally disabled. It was a beautiful building, donated by the US Presbyterian Churches. However, we were told that it is a struggle to keep it open and running. We left all the quilts, afghans, hats and sock animals there. The quilts they wanted to hang, the rest would be used by the children. Thank you to all of you who gave us gifts to take there. We were the ambassadors bearing your gifts. It is what we want people to know, that Americans are good people who care about others.

We are beginning plans for next year. Think about joining us! ●●

## UU CONGREGATION OF FAIRFAX, VA One Church, Two Partnerships

### Szentgerice

The partner church experience of the UU Congregation of Fairfax [UUCF] began 20 years ago with a visit to the village of Szentgerice, Transylvania, Romania by Emery Lazar, traveling there by himself in the Fall of 1990. In getting to know not just the Unitarian Church minister and his family, but also many of the villagers, Emery established a pattern that continues to this day of UUCF folks developing deep friendships with villagers as well as the minister. This is a partnership with a village, not just with a Unitarian church.

Szentgerice is a Hungarian-speaking village of about 800 people, 23 kilometers southeast of Marosvásárhely. There is also a Reformed Church in the village, which has a partner church too—in the Netherlands. We have worked with that church on several projects for the village.

The success of our partnership with Szentgerice can be measured in

several ways. It is successful as a way of helping the villagers, as a way of helping UUCF folks learn about and understand the roots of Unitarianism, as a way of deepening and broadening awareness by Americans of a different way of life, and as a way of developing very strong, lasting and personal relationships between many people in UUCF and many in Szentgerice.

Organizing our partner church efforts is the UUCF-PCC: the Partner Church Circle. Over the years many church members have been part of the Circle, 10 of whom have been members over most of the past 20 years. The Circle meets monthly, and holds annual all-day retreats to plan for the following year. We have an annual partner church service and an annual fund-raiser.

The two primary prongs of our partnership are developing close personal relations with many Szentgerice citizens and with the minister and his family, plus assisting the Szentgerice Unitarian Church and the village to accomplish mutually agreed-upon projects. For many of us, Szentgerice has become a second home.

Over 135 UUCF adults and 65 youth have visited Szentgerice, quite a few for multiple visits. Many of these

visits were group experiences, including two trips by our Chorale (1992 and 2000) and five youth-adult trips (1995, 1998, 2001, 2005 and 2008). These visits usually lasted for a week each, with UUCF folks staying with Szentgerice families. A visit has been made to the village virtually every year since 1990—and in some years, twice. Years after her first visit, one UUCF youth and her fiancé held their wedding in the village, with Szentgerice Unitarian minister Sándor Balázs officiating. Another former youth and his wife spent part of their honeymoon there!

Three UUCF ministers have preached in Szentgerice: Josiah Bartlett in 1992, Jim Nelson in 1995 and 2000, and Mary Katherine Morn in 2008. Two Szentgerice ministers have preached at UUCF: Attila Csongvay in 1991 and Sándor Balázs four times, in 1997, 2000, 2003, and October 2010. He and his wife and eight other members of his congregation came to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Szentgerice/Fairfax partner-church relationship.

Among the projects we have helped with are:

1. Providing medical and school supplies to Szentgerice

*(Continued on page 12)*



Fairfax children welcome visitors from their partner church last October.



Emery Lazar and Rev. Sándor Balázs speak to the Fairfax congregation.

## Reports, News & Travel Stories

(Continued from page 11)

2. Repairing the Unitarian Church and the village school
3. Together with a Dutch Reformed Church partnered with the Reformed Church in Szentgerice, providing the building materials and equipment for a medical clinic which the people of Szentgerice built. The clinic was dedicated in 1999 and has been operating on its own since then.
4. A van to be used as a school bus to transport older elementary school children to their classes in the adjoining village and elderly and disabled persons for medical treatment beyond the capability of the clinic.
5. Selling hand-crafted items made by many village women. Half of the proceeds go to the woman who made the purchased item and the other half to a charitable foundation established to support village projects and programs.
6. Since 2001 providing high school and college scholarships for Szentgerice students and for 60–65 students each year at the Unitarian High School in Kolozsvár.

As always, our guiding principle of help is to ask the village and church leadership: What do you want us to do? How can we help you help yourselves?

From Szentgerice, UUCF has received the carved posts for the bridge to the Administration Building and embroideries. UUCF members who have visited Szentgerice have received copious hospitality and a greater understanding of themselves and our faith.

Since 1990 our ability to keep in contact with Szentgerice has improved very much. From writing regular letters back and forth, we have now advanced to emails and phone calls. This is possible now partly because of advanced technology, of course, but also because today a much higher percentage of people in Transylvania—especially the young folks—speak English.

Our big problem is one we share with most UU folks with partners in Eastern Europe: convincing the wonderful people of Szentgerice how much they do for us, and show how important it is for all of us—young and old—to experience the kind of warm, caring, focused community that is this lovely village.

## Purlang

In January 2005, UUCF added a second partner with a congregational vote—The Unitarian Church in Purlang, Khasi Hills, India—after exploratory visits were made by Govind and Dee Idnani in the summer of 2004, and the Lazars and Van Duizends six months later. While visiting Purlang, connections were made with the church minister and school principal who had primary contact with the church members and villagers of Purlang. A town meeting was held with members of the Purlang congregation to discuss the possibilities and meaning of partnership.

Our partner church's village of Purlang is home to approximately 3,000 people. It is located in the mountains in the remote northeast portion of India, in the state of Meghalaya, directly north of Bangladesh and south of Bhutan. A quarter of the villagers are Unitarian, and most of the rest attend Presbyterian, Catholic, Baptist, and Assembly of God churches. Purlang is a warm and welcoming farming community. The Unitarian Church of Purlang celebrated its 100th anniversary in February of 2010.

Our pattern of partnership has been the same as with Szentgerice: establishing congregational, community, and personal relationships and assisting to improve congregational and community life in ways identified by the Church and village. In March 2007, UUCF helped to sponsor a Community Capacity Building planning workshop in which 200 members of the Purlang community met at the Unitarian Church to identify village needs and resources, establish priorities, and

develop an action plan for addressing those priorities. The plan was used by the Village Council (the Dorbar) to get the state government to make good on its promise to build a gravity-powered water system for Purlang so that the women and children would not have to travel an hour each way to obtain water each day in the valley below the village. Efforts are underway to address several of the other priorities identified including improving the road to the fields, building a health clinic, and creating a microfinance program primarily drawing upon local governmental resources.

The UUCF scholarship program started in Transylvania in 2001 now includes scholarships for all classes at Purlang's Unitarian School, grades N–10 (there is no 11th or 12th grade at the school). This program with the school started in 2005.

Communication, although still a challenge, has improved immensely since 2005 with the increase of mobile phones and enhanced internet access.

Twenty-one UUCF members have been to Purlang, some several times. In the spring of 2009, Purlang's minister, Reverend Helpme Mohrmen, visited Fairfax. The growth in cultural awareness between the two communities and the benefits of cultural exchange are two of the precious gifts that have been bestowed on both partners. Even Fairfax's first partner, the Unitarian Church of Szentgerice and its enterprising minister, Reverend Sándor Balázs are interested in learning more about Purlang, looking for ways that they can help the community face economic challenges that are greater than those in Romania. ●●

SUBMITTED BY BOB TRIPP, EMERY LAZAR, DICK VAN DUIZEND AND DEE IDNANI ON BEHALF OF THE UUCF PARTNER CHURCH CIRCLE.

(Continued on page 13)



## Székelykeresztúr District's 20th Anniversary of Partnerships

BY RODGER MATTLAGE

On Saturday, October 16, 2010 approximately 100 ministers and lay leaders from congregations in the thirty-two towns and villages which make up the Székelykeresztúr (Keresztúr for short) district of the Transylvanian Unitarian Church gathered in the village of Magyarandrásfalva to celebrate twenty years of partnerships with their counterparts in North America.

After gathering in the village's community house for coffee and pastries, hosted by Rev. István Berei\*, everyone walked the short distance to the church, jointly owned by the local Unitarian and Reformed (Calvinist / Presbyterian) congregations.

Rev. Lajos Lőrinczi\* presided over the service. Dr. Mary Donald\*, her daughter Amy, and Rodger Mattlage\* represented North American partner congregations. Rev. Noémi Moldovan Szeredai\* interpreted for them.

After a short sermon by Rev. Lajos Lőrinczi, Mary presented a short remembrance of their partnership. Rodger than presented a short overview of a typical service in Concord, read a

piece called "We Give Thanks" which Ann Gary\* composed from pieces submitted by members of North American partners, and closed with Concord's benediction.

Everyone then walked back to the community house for more refreshments, followed by a set of presentations. Noémi and Rodger presented short reflections on the importance of partnerships for the congregations in their respective communities. Then representatives (minister or lay leader) of each of the district's twenty-five partnered congregations presented a short summary of their partnership.

After the presentations, everyone went into the main hall for a complete and delicious three-course dinner at two long tables, each seating fifty people.

It was clear that there are very strong and vibrant partnerships in the district and that these partnerships have profound positive influences on all participants. Many thanks to the Reverends Lőrinczi, Berei and Moldovan Szeredai for all their work to organize these celebrations!

*For annotated photos and the text for some of the presentations see:*  
<http://3.ly/Mq84>. ●●

\*About the people mentioned in the article (in order of their appearance in the article)

- Rev. István Berei is the minister of the Unitarian congregations in both Szent-ábrahám (partnered with U U Congregation at Montclair, NJ) and Magyarandrásfalva (partnered with the UU Church of Harvard, MA). He is also the Assistant Dean of the Keresztúr district.
- Rev. Lajos Lőrinczi is the minister in both Csehétfalva (partnered with the Unitarian Fellowship in Kelowna, BC) and Tordátfalva (partnered with the Unitarian Fellowship of Ames, IA). He is also the dean of the Keresztúr district, and a past Ferenc Balázs scholar.
- Dr. Mary Donald is from the UU Church of Harvard, MA (partnered with Magyarandrásfalva)
- Rodger Mattlage is from First Parish in Concord, MA (partnered with Keresztúr)
- Rev. Noémi Moldovan Szeredai\* is the minister in Csekefalva, and the networker for the Keresztúr district congregations.
- Ann Gary is a member of the Hopedale Unitarian Parish (MA), partnered with Csekefalva

Rodger and Ann are two of the four UUPCC volunteer networkers for the partnerships in the Keresztúr district, and members of the UUPCC's Executive Board.



## WINCHESTER, MA

### Another Memorable Trip to Marosvásárhely

BY JOHN RUSSELL

In July, eleven youth and eleven adults set out for the fifth visit by the Winchester, MA Unitarian Society to our Partner Church in Marosvásárhely in Transylvania. The two-week journey was filled with new sights and new friendships and with many opportunities to renew old bonds. Minister Laci Nagy and wife Gizi and their Partner Church Committee expended enormous energy making our stay comfortable. They filled our days with engaging activities from breakfast to bedtime. Here, very

*(Continued on page 14)*



Winchester Unitarian Society youth pose with their Transylvanian counterparts.

## Reports, News & Travel Stories

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briefly, and by no means completely, is how the trip unfolded:

After several days sightseeing, first in Prague, then in Budapest, we set out by bus for Romania on Friday, July 16. Enroute to Marosvásárhely, we overnighted in Kolozsvár, birthplace of Unitarianism; the place where Francis David first declared “God is One.”

On Saturday, it was on to Marosvásárhely where we were warmly greeted by our friends, some new, some old. The youth departed with their host families; the adults retired to an excellent local hotel. That evening, there was a buffet and reception at the Jazz and Blues Club. Scholarship students Timea, Loránd, Boti, and Emöke were all there as were many of the youth and adults who had visited Winchester in 2008. It was a grand reunion.

Sunday morning, all attended church where Revs. John and Sarah Millspaugh gave a homily filled with warmth and appreciation for partnership. Intern minister Csecs Márton (who is being supported in his studies by a group of families from the WUS) provided the translation. Gifts were exchanged: we presented our Partner with two engraved silver candlesticks; they responded with a handsome, illustrated book about Marosvásárhely. As always, we were thanked profusely for

our many years of support.

Monday, we visited Segesvár/Sighisoara, an old fortified Saxon village and now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Then, on Tuesday, it was on to Nyárádszentlászló, a beautiful campsite near Marosvásárhely. Here we spent three days with a delegation of youth and adults from our Partner Church. There were discussions, games, dancing, much “just hanging

out” together and, on the last night, a bonfire and celebration which, for some, lasted into the very wee hours of the morning.

On Friday, as our bus tried to depart the camp for Bucharest, the Marosvásárhely youth formed a human chain to block its way. We felt the same about leaving them. Our partnership is thriving. We look forward to its continuation. ●●

(Continued on page 15)

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## NEW BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM UUPCC BOOKSTORE

### *Walking in Others’ Shoes: Stories from the Early Years of the Partner Church Movement*, by Gretchen Thomas, 2010

Gretchen Thomas’ inspiring and informative book, *Walking in Others’ Shoes*, appears in the 20th anniversary year of the Unitarian Universalist partner church movement. Its personal and highly entertaining stories capture the excitement and uncertainty of the early days (1990-1993) of grassroots partnership relationships between congregations in North America and Transylvania. These pairs of congregations began working together in the wake of the dramatic overthrow of communism in Romania. The book explores how the lives of church members, East and West, were shaken open by the changes swiftly unfolding in both their countries. The Transylvanians were reconnected with the world outside their long-locked borders, while the North Americans woke up to their global responsibilities and possibilities. It also describes how partners have confronted the reality that national, ethnic, and religious identities can separate or unite us. The stories document how, as they worked and dreamed together, partner churches began to connect in committed, long-lasting ways—ways that overcome differences and renew spirits, that connect partners to faiths worth fighting for and freedoms worth holding dear.

Pricing and Ordering: \$28.00

Order with credit card online from the UUPCC Store at [www.uupcc.org/store.html](http://www.uupcc.org/store.html) or send a check for \$28 to UUPCC, PO Box 88, Bedford MA 01730 Call UUPCC office for details on quantity discounts.

### *Participatory Planning and Action: Eight Steps for Facilitators*

by Eileen Higgins and Dr. Anna Tones

This is the handbook for the Community Capacity Building process that has been so successful in helping communities organize. This new handbook, beautifully written, provides clear step-by-step descriptions and how-to of the process used to bring communities to consensus and action planning. It documents numerous “in-the-field” experiences and the many illustrations bring the process to life.

This process has been used with communities and organizations around the world with proved success. Since introducing this to partners in 2006, creative UUs have also used it with their churches, community groups such as condo associations and even town government committees! Learn how to use these useful tools such as Pairwise Ranking to bring consensus to your issues!

Pricing and Ordering: \$15.00

*Quantity discounts available:* call UUPCC 781-275-1710. Order with credit card online from the UUPCC Store at [www.uupcc.org/store.html](http://www.uupcc.org/store.html) or send a check for \$15 to UUPCC, PO Box 88, Bedford MA 01730

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP HANDBOOK



We know this Handbook will be referred to again and again by your committee as you continue your work with your partnership. It represents the efforts of many, many people; it truly has been a grassroots project. We are grateful to all who worked to bring this volume to publication. You can download the handbook from [www.uupcc.org/handbook.html](http://www.uupcc.org/handbook.html)— as well as an order form to purchase more copies.

## BELLEVUE, WA

### Building Community in the Khasi Hills

BY ROGER CORN

It was our third visit to the Khasi Hills of India, and the second since East Shore Unitarians (Bellevue, WA) decided to partner with Smit and Kharang Unitarians. Fran Corn and I joined Cathy Perry, who had been in India since attending the IARF Congress in Kochi.

We got an in-depth exposure to the Community Capacity Building process, from facilitator training through a participatory planning workshop in our partner church village. The bonus of delightful home stays with our Khasi “pen pals” and their families made this the most enriching visit to date. Now, more than ever, we can attest that partnership changes lives.

For the Oct. 1–3, 2010 facilitator training sessions, Dr. Richard Ford and Eileen Higgins were joined by Rev. Nihal Attanayake from the Philippines and Dr. Kyrham Nongkynrih from North East Hill University in Shillong. The trainees were 21 Khasi Unitarians, including teachers and other young professionals, whom Rev. Nangroi Sut-ing had recruited through the Unitarian Union’s Social Service Committee. Eileen distributed copies of Participatory Planning and Action, the excellent facilitators’ guide she had just co-authored. This “how to” guide is chock full of the best ideas, tools, and examples for participatory planning and action in communities everywhere.

The next weekend, ten of the newly trained facilitators joined Dick, Eileen, Nihal, and Nangroi to practice their skills at a rural participatory planning workshop. The monsoon season was making its torrential last stand that Friday evening in Kharang. By the scheduled start time, only the young facilitators had joined us in the cold damp classroom. But as the winds abated, and more and more umbrellas began emerging from the darkness, the facilitators quickly engaged the gather-

ing community in mapping exercises that got them thinking about local resources and deficiencies. By Saturday morning, over a hundred villagers were actively involved in small group discussions, reporting results in plenary sessions, pooling their wisdom to prioritize community needs, and discussing constructive action plans. While we couldn’t follow many details of the discussions in Khasi, the enthusiasm and energy of the Kharang community was obvious, and the products (maps, diagrams, and charts) of the workshop gave us new insight into our partner church village and the needs of its people.

We weren’t surprised to see “health” and “income generation” emerge from the pairwise ranking process as top priority categories for Kharang. “Water supply,” “roads and footpaths,” and “schools” followed. On a Sunday walk in the surrounding hills Fran and I saw for ourselves the leaking pipes and an unfinished dam construction project that reflected these concerns. We also saw the Friendship School, just where it had appeared on Friday night’s sketch maps. Kharang residents were obviously well aware of the future hilltop location of this English medium preschool/lower primary school that East Shore and Kharang Unitarians are building in partnership. (*Partner Church News*, Vol. 15 No. 2, page 7).

India’s governmental financial aid programs for rural village projects (see details in the resource guide posted at [uupcc.org/ccb.html](http://uupcc.org/ccb.html)) were also discussed in the workshops. While we don’t know how adequately funded these programs now are, we are hopeful that providing Khasi translations of program rules to rural village leadership will increase utilization of government project

funding in the Khasi Hills.

The products of this CCB workshop should become a significant resource for East Shore and Kharang Unitarians as we work together to foster sustainable development in the years ahead.

We were so glad we got to visit our Khasi partners again. What a great homecoming it was! ●●

## CONCORD, MA

### Concord’s Music and Culture Pilgrimage

BY RODGER MATTLAGE

Twenty-two pilgrims from First Parish in Concord, MA spent a week on the October-November cusp of 2010 with their partner congregation in Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania (Keresztúr for short). Unlike our past “Choir Pilgrimages” where we stopped by for only two or three nights in the middle of whirlwind concert tours in different eastern European cities, this time we settled in for a full seven nights.

To see the sights described in this article, please go to our photo gallery at [www.firstparish.org/photos/gallery2/v/2010FallPilgrimage/](http://www.firstparish.org/photos/gallery2/v/2010FallPilgrimage/) where you can see many of our pilgrims’ photos. After arriving in Kolozsvár (Cluj), spending the afternoon and evening

(Continued on page 16)



The cemeteries across Transylvania are lit up on November 1, All Soul’s Day.

## Reports, News & Travel Stories

(Continued from page 15)

sightseeing, and a restful night in the Hotel Transylvania (located right around the corner from the Unitarian Headquarters) we headed south to Keresztúr. On the way we stopped by Torda to see the church of the 1568 Edict of Toleration, and then the Unitarian Church. Rev. Lajos Józsa (partnered with First Parish in Weston, MA) gave us the grand tour, including the church's amazing wood carvings. Then it was on to the Torda salt mine, with its other-worldly constructions, courtesy of an EU-funded million-euro spending "binge". Then on to Mészkö for a quick visit and lunch with Rev. Róbert Bálint and family—they had visited us in Concord in January during their winter break from Róbert's year as the Balázs Scholar at the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, CA. Then it was on to Keresztúr for a joyous reception and dinner, and our home for the next seven nights.

During our first day we explored the town, visiting the Molnár István Múzeum's extraordinary new archeology exhibits of the area from prehistoric times ([www.mimuzeum.ro/kiallitas](http://www.mimuzeum.ro/kiallitas)). Then it was on to the town's memorial park to learn about their beloved poet Sándor Petőfi.

For the remainder of our stay, hosts and pilgrims learned each other's songs, sang together, worked together outside on a dirt-moving project, and inside weaving rugs together. We traveled together to the UN World Heritage fortified Unitarian church at Székelyderzs, the grave of Orban Balázs at Szejkefürdő, and the craft mecca village of Korond. And on a frosty morning we hiked together over the hills to Rugonfalva lake where, after another hike to the hills overlooking Nagykedo and back down to the lake and the hills and mountains beyond, we went back down for a lakeside barbecue of little sausages (*mics*—"MEECH") with all the fixin's!

Evenings were spent together eating, meeting, singing, chatting, and enjoying performances in the newly

renovated "Friendship House," where we stayed in the new guest rooms up under the roof, each room with its own bathroom!

**We left far richer than we thought possible, with memories we'll never forget, renewed and new friendships, extended family members we long to see again, and lessons learned of loving, bottomless hospitality.**

We were hosted for a day at the Berde Mózes Unitarian High School where many of our pilgrims are among the fifty-some sponsors in Concord's Transylvanian Student Sponsorship Program. We met the sponsored students, who gave us short backgrounds about themselves, in English! The principal, vice-principal and teachers told us about their widely varied programs, both social and academic. We visited classes in session in newly renovated classrooms, and finished up watching performances by the students and "Tarisznyás Együttes" a spirited folk band and dancers from Kolozsvár. For three nights we stayed with host families, developing close ties with adults and children, and getting to learn first-hand a little bit about family life among Székely families on the edge of Székelyföld

On Sunday, the church service included singing by their newly-formed children's choir, and by our combined adult choirs. Our own Rev. Gary Smith gave the sermon, interpreted by our partner minister Rev. József Szombatfalvi. The service closed with their youth group performing an original skit. After the service, the "Friendship House" was formally dedicated as "The Székelykeresztúr-Concord Unitarian Congregations Friendship House" in a ceremony with speeches, youth folk dances, singing and a banquet.

Monday, Nov. 1st was our last full day and their "All Souls Day" or "Day of the Dead". We went with our respective host families to visit, clean up and decorate their ancestors' graves,

often going to many different villages, depending on each family's ancestry. The cemeteries were transformed into quiet but very social gathering places, with friends, relatives and neighbors greeting each other and remembering their ancestors among graves festooned with flowers, bouquets, decorations and candles.

The day ended with candles being lit on and around each grave, some with only a handful of candles, others with twenty or thirty or more. As darkness descended, we drove back to Keresztúr through the villages in the valleys whose hillsides were eerily twinkling with the candle-lit cemeteries. On the hill above Keresztúr the cemetery is more than one third of a kilometer long and it was blazing with the smoky lights of literally thousands of candles. Shadowy figures of the living moved among the graves paying their respects to each other and to their departed loved ones. It was a unique and amazing sight, capping off a moving and wonderful experience that helped forge strong bonds among us pilgrims and our amazing hosts.

The next morning it was a very early breakfast, followed by many tearful good-byes as we boarded the bus for Kolozsvár and the long flights back to Boston. But we left far richer than we thought possible, with memories we'll never forget, renewed and new friendships, extended family members we long to see again, and lessons learned of loving, bottomless hospitality. We'll be back! *Köszönet a testvéreinknek!* ●●

## MONTCLAIR, CA

### Field Notes from the Philippines

*This summer, Julie Steinbach, congregational president of the Monte Vista UU Church in Montclair, CA, was on the first pilgrimage her church has made to visit their partner in Calapayan. She wrote daily notes of their experiences and recently shared them in her church's newsletter. They are delightful and give a flavor of what a visit to the Philippines can feel and*

(Continued on page 17)

*taste and look like! Here are excerpts from her introduction to her journal and the story of one memorable day!*

**A**s Unitarian Universalists, we covenant to affirm and promote this Principle, our Sixth:

***The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.***

Four years ago, MVUUC took a giant step in that direction by entering into a partner church relationship with a congregation in the Philippines. Since then, we have exchanged pictures and stories, sent materials and raised money to assist construction of their chapel and pathway up the mountain, and hosted the Rev. Nihal Anton Attanayake, Faith in Action Chair, UU Church of the Philippines, Dumaguete City.

Summer 2010 will forever be marked in MVUUC's history by our first visit to our fellow UUs in the jungle mountain village of Calapayan, on the island of Negros in the Visayas, the central section of the Philippine archipelago (Manila being on Luzon, the northernmost large island). Leading the group was Jackie Albay-Yenney, native of Agoo, north of Manila, and the original founding inspiration for our partnership, along with Dave Albay-Yenney and their children Angela and Lucien. I was honored and privileged to be able to travel with them. Nihal was our consummate tour guide and host the entire trip.

*July 25*

Today was our big day hiking up the [rather steep & challenging] path to our Calapayan congregational partners, with ribbon-cutting ceremony at both the entrance to the path and at the chapel doorway. Rebecca had surprised us by showing up at the breakfast table in a beautiful Filipina embroidered blouse and skirt—and she hiked in that elegant outfit, while we sported our semi-grubbies. Herself a Meadville-Lombard trained minister, she led the services—and used lovely ritual elements new to our worship experience—sprinkling (sort of tossing, actually)

salt (for preservation—of RELATIONSHIPS!), water (for life), and oil (for healing)—and she did all three into the FOUR DIRECTIONS!! Am looking forward to quizzing her about this tonight at dinner.

Jackie doesn't know about an indigenous Filipino tradition that would include that. Nor does the still dominant Roman Catholic church include that. In the meantime, my personal favorite taste sensations at the chapel were provided by drinking from the hole in top of the coconut shell, then scraping the meat out of the half-shell to savor every spoonful.

Even Lucien, who avoids the camera, had a good time—marked by his requesting a picture taken of him and his new best friend found there. Angela made her own teen connection.

Imagine a room maybe 12 x 18 (my combined living-dining room)—a whitewashed chapel with four unglassed windows wide open, a gentle jungle breeze and the concrete block construction keeping the cool in, even in the hot sunny humidity of these tropics. Imagine wooden planks on crossbars for pews, holding some 50 adults and children squeezed together to meet and greet us in worship and song. Imagine Efren's guitar music and those voices singing the rousing "Joyful Universalism" in Cebuano PLUS the offertory song "From you I receive, to you I give" and "Spirit of Life"—both in English. Very powerful.

Nihal translated later that Rebecca's sermon was all about building a house on rock, not sand—and the paths that we take. The paths that brought us five here have provided a journey profound and unforgettable. When back at the resort, we were all too tired to walk into town so rode the human-powered pedicab—Jackie, Lucien & I in the covered metal sidecar of bicycle, here to the internet cafe. Another swim may call...



## **INDEPENDENT TRAVELER Romania by Bicycle**

BY EVAN SEITZ

*Editor's Note: Evan is a young man from Tyngsboro, MA, who grew up as part of the First Parish in Bedford. He had heard much about Transylvania through traveler's reports, and when he had the opportunity to visit, he did.*

**I**n the summer of 2009 I bicycled across Romania in the company of 35 young Transylvanian Hungarian students. For American Unitarian Universalists considering visiting Romania, bicycling is rarely considered as an option for transportation. This is unfortunate. Cycling through Romania offers a chance to understand the landscape and culture in ways that are not available to the bus or car bound tourist.

The trip was organized by Zsolt Solymosi, a minister at the János Zsigmond Unitarian High School in Kolozsvár, and nearly all of the participants were students or former students of the school. I was one of two Americans on the trip, and at age 26, definitely one of the oldest riders.

At the request of Zsolt, I arrived at the High School several days before the trip was scheduled to begin. Preparations for the trip were in full swing. Over the next few days a trailer was welded and painted, huge quantities of tomatoes, potatoes and pâté were stockpiled, cars were branded with the trip's logo, and bicycles were repaired and lubed. On July 19, the group departed Kolozsvár: we were 35 students with fluorescent safety vests, five cars (complete with roof-mounted strobe lights), and two huge trailers stocked with food and supplies.

It took us a week to reach our destination—the Danube Delta. In the first several days we traversed stunningly beautiful sections of Transylvania. The landscape was hilly and dotted with small farms. We encountered little traffic, a true blessing for a group of largely inexperienced cyclists. When the group was tired, we stopped and bought gallons of soda from the small

*(Continued on page 18)*

## Reports, News & Travel Stories

(Continued from page 17)

grocery stores that are found in all but the smallest of villages. Often these stops were accompanied by a tour of the local Unitarian church. I sensed that the students, many of whom had grown up in villages and attended Unitarian churches, were bored with these tours—but I found them fascinating.

In the eastern city of Tulcea, we left the cars behind; the Danube Delta region is only accessible by boat. A two-hour ferry ride brought us to the city of Sulina and the coast of the Black Sea. Despite its inaccessibility, Sulina had a fair number of cafes and restaurants catering to tourists. In fact, the Danube Delta region is one area of Romania that has a fairly well-developed tourism economy. The beach in which we set up our tents even had a disco dance club. After a day in Sulina lounging on the beach, we set off on a 30 km ride on the soft beach sand to the next village, Sfântu Gheorghe. An early morning ferry returned us to Tulcea and our support vehicles.

For lodging, we most often camped out. One of my favorite camping spots was a soccer field in the middle of a village in eastern Romania. Before we had a chance to set up our

tents, the local children had challenged us to a scrimmage. In the evening, a trio of musicians stopped by to perform for us. A couple of students from our group responded with traditional Transylvanian dances. Afterward, everyone enjoyed a bowl of Hungarian-style goulash that had been prepared in an iron cauldron over a fire.

On August 1st the trip concluded with a triumphant ride through Kolozsvár with police escort. Friends and family, waiting in the courtyard of the high school, greeted us with cheers, hugs, and flowers. As people began to drift away, I felt a real sense of loss. For two weeks I had been a member of a team, an expedition even. The shared challenges and hardships had fostered an unusually strong sense of shared identity with the students—despite the fact that I did not speak Hungarian. It was a cultural exchange and adventure I'm sure I will never forget. ●●

### A Visit with Unitarians in Indonesia

BY DICK AND SHARON VAN DUIZEND

**O**n October 1–4, 2010, a business trip provided an opportunity for us to visit Semarang, Indonesia.

Semarang is a busy commercial and port city of approximately 2,000,000 on the north coast of central Java. Most importantly, it is the home of the Unitarian Christian Church of Indonesia (UCCI). We were warmly welcomed by Aryanto (Ary) Nugroho, an elder of the Church and his family, including David Tjahjadi Nugroho, his father and one of the co-founders of the Church. Throughout our visit, we were graciously and generously hosted. We felt we were at home with long-time friends.

The UCCI began in 1994 when a small group, led by D.T. Nugroho and his brother, broke away from the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. They had concluded, after intense Bible study, that there was not a Biblical basis for the concept of the Trinity. They found information about Unitarianism, determined that its principles were close to their own Biblically-grounded faith, and established the Unitarian Christian Church of Indonesia. It is difficult for a new religious group to officially register in Indonesia. However, in 1999, Abdurrahman Wahid, a long-time friend of Mr. Nugroho, became President of Indonesia for a brief period and facilitated the processing of UCCI's registration paperwork in 2000. There are now four congregations. In addition to the one in Semarang, there are UCCI congregations in Jakarta, Solo, and one smaller community. Congregational leaders are chosen by the UCCI Council of Elders in consultation with the congregation. Some elders lead a congregation (a shepherd Elder); others are religious teacher Elders.

We were privileged to attend the Semarang's congregation regular Saturday morning service, held in a large room in a newly built building that will soon house the maternity clinic directed by Mrs. Nugroho. The UCCI is building a headquarters facility across the street which will house offices, a library, conference rooms, and a recording studio. A church school building is planned for a plot of land next door. All are located in a

(Continued on page 19)

### COMMUNICATION

I know profound exchanges can happen in every partnership, but only if both sides continually and deliberately work together to create deeper and more open communication. I have found that topics that are particularly meaningful or likely to be misunderstood need to be re-discussed again and again.

When I complained to Harry Scholefield (then emeritus minister to the San Francisco, CA Unitarians) about how drawn out and difficult I found these deliberate attempts to communicate over long distances and through two languages, he replied (sounding, it occurs to me now, like an Aboriginal elder), "But that is how you want it to be because it is the only way we hear each other into being and speak ourselves into community."

I have found that my strongest incentives for persisting with and learning to communicate more truthfully and more care-fully with our partners have been the questions, feelings, regrets, and misunderstandings I am forced to confront as I am writing stories of our experiences.

—Gretchen Thomas, *Walking In Others Shoes*  
(see review on page 140)

## Reports, News & Travel Stories

(Continued from page 18)

pleasant, quiet, residential neighborhood in the city.

The service, which was led by Ester Welson, daughter of Mr. Ahmad Welson, the Shepherd of the Semarang congregation, began with hymns, a dance performance by the children, and testimonials by members of how their faith impacted their lives. D.T.

Nugroho then offered a powerful sermon reminding us all that we should behave in accordance with our beliefs—that people have the choice of how to act and that acting in accordance with religious principles is the most powerful and attractive demonstration of faith. Early in the service, we were invited to offer greetings, and following the service we engaged in a question-and-answer session with members of the congregation. Key issues of interest were how US congregations engaged in social outreach activities in their communities, especially in conjunction with other faiths.

Following a wonderful lunch with the Church Elders and their families in the Nugroho home, a few doors down from the new clinic and next to the existing maternity clinic building, we met with the Elders. We were asked to describe what was involved in congregational partnerships and Community Capacity Building. They are very interested in pursuing both. There was not time to begin a full-scale Community Capacity Building workshop and only the Elders were present rather than the full congregation. We suggested developing a Vision Statement of what the UCCI would be in five years and led an exercise that resulted in the following enthusiastically agreed-upon vision which will be shared and discussed with the congregation:

In five years, the Christian Unitarian Church of Indonesia will be a large, self-sufficient organization that is a blessing to its members and the surrounding community. It will be able to support:

- Theological training
- Education in religious values

- Training in practical skills
- Opportunities for growth of women, youth, and men
- Leadership training
- Interfaith dialogue
- Assistance to persons in need because of disaster, poverty, or illness, and
- A vibrant music program.

One of D.T. Nugroho's goals is to establish an interfaith school supported by all the Abrahamic religions. He has already reached agreement with local Jewish and Catholic leaders, and active discussions are underway with Muslim and Protestant leaders in the city. Land has already been purchased for the school.

In late afternoon, we joined Ary and his family for a monthly picnic for the youth and young adults of the Church. We traveled about an hour into the mountains to the grounds of a many-centuries-old Hindu temple. Just as we arrived, a cold rain began and we retreated to the home of a friend of

D.T. Nugroho's who raises fish. With little notice, a feast was prepared for the 30–40 of us. While the food was cooking, there were songs, inter-generational games, conversation, and laughter.

The next day, with Ary in the lead, we toured Borobudur, a ninth-century Buddhist temple complex which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in the mountains a few hours drive from Semarang. It is a magnificent, seven-level structure with intricate carvings on the walls and many *stupas* and statues. All the stones are fitted together—no mortar. (Our timing was fortuitous. Only a few weeks later, Borobudur and much of the surrounding area was covered by volcanic ash from the eruption of nearby Mt. Merapi.)

We left warmed by new friendships, reaffirmed in the knowledge that the principles of our faith speak in many languages, and that our spiritual questions are being asked in many lands. ●●

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## UUPCC Pilgrimages: Bringing People Together

For more than a decade the UUPCC Pilgrimage Service has helped to cement the bonds between North American UU and their partners overseas. We provide multiple and varied pilgrimage opportunities for Unitarian Universalists of all ages. For more details on any of the following services or to begin planning your pilgrimage contact our travel coordinator, John Dale, at [jdaleuupcc@yahoo.com](mailto:jdaleuupcc@yahoo.com) and visit our website at [www.uupcc.org/tripplan.html](http://www.uupcc.org/tripplan.html).

**Congregational Pilgrimages**—Travel with us on a life-changing visit to your partner church in Eastern Europe, India, or the Philippines. Low-cost all-inclusive land packages include transportation, meals, lodging, guide(s), interpreter(s). Our in-country experts work with groups of 5 to 50 to develop a customized itinerary that fits your interest, budget and timeframe.

**Concert Tours for Choirs & Musical Groups**—Looking to expand the horizons of your music program? The UUPCC can facilitate your choir's international concert tour. Buses, performance venues, hotel arrangements, and side tours are all part of our large-group service portfolio.

**Youth & Service Trips**—Bring your youth group on a low-cost/high-return pilgrimage to Transylvania. They can follow in Francis David's footsteps in Torda, Kolozsvár and Déva, perform a service project in your partner village, make the world a better place, and come back better people.

**Group Tours for Individuals & "Space Available" travel** on UU congregational pilgrimages. We know that not every UU congregation is capable of organizing their own travel group. For small churches, churches without partners, or just interested individuals, we offer Spring and Fall Group Tours at Pentecost and Transylvanian Thanksgiving. If you wish to travel during the summer months we have numerous congregational groups with extra space and a variety of itineraries and dates.

### À la Carte Services for Individuals and Independent Travelers include:

- Guides & Interpreters • Car rentals or • Car & driver
- Airport – village – airport van/car transfer
- (Budapest BUD, Bucharest OTP, Kolozsvár CLJ, Marosvásárhely TGM)
- Hotel, B&B, Guest house and home stay accommodations.

[www.uupcc.org/tripplan.html](http://www.uupcc.org/tripplan.html)

### Spring/Pentecost Pilgrimage to Transylvania and Budapest

June 3–13, 2011

During the spring of 2011 we are again planning to organize a group pilgrimage to Eastern Europe to experience the historic roots of Unitarianism. We will share in the lives of our co-religionists in Eastern Europe, discuss the origins of our denomination with Unitarian ministers, and visit a number of significant Unitarian sites as well as attractions of general interest.

Beginning in Kolozsvár /Cluj, Romania and ending in the lovely Hungarian capital city of Budapest, the trip will also include a stay in a Unitarian village, and visits to numerous historic village and town churches. Travelers will discover the warmth and loving hospitality of Transylvanian Unitarian families during a home stay in a Unitarian village and experience rural village life.

By popular demand we have altered the itinerary to celebrate Pentecost Sunday in Budapest. Tours of Déva, Marosvásárhely, and Gyulafehérvár (where John Sigismund is entombed in the 1000-year-old church) have also been added. You have a choice of two start dates/cities. June 3 in Kolozsvár/Cluj, and June 1 in Bucharest. Itinerary details and costs are posted on the UUPCC travel web page. \$1900 (includes \$150 non-refundable registration fee.)

### UU Festival Choir 2011 European Concert Tour

August 8–20, 2011

**Festival Choir Tour – SOLD OUT!**

We have had an overwhelming response to our first UUPCC Festival Choir. The 40 singing spots were filled in mid-December and at the time of this writing, online registration has been closed. We have now begun a waiting list that we will use to fill any cancellations. If you are interested, call the UUPCC office during business hours to put your name in.

If you were not able to sing with us this summer please mark your calendars for the summer of 2013. We are already making plans for our second Festival Choir European tour.

### Transylvanian Thanksgiving Pilgrimage

September 20–30, 2011

*Eleven days, \$1,450 per person, double occupancy + \$150 registration fee. (Add \$250 single supplement). Includes ground transportation, meals, lodging, guides, interpreters, and fees. Cost does not include airfare to/from Bucharest, Romania, gratuities, alcoholic beverages, departure airport transfer, or expenses incurred during free periods.*

Eleven days of spectacular scenery, loving hospitality, and unique architecture in Southeastern

Transylvania. Discover the singular beauty of the Carpathian Alps and the fascinating history of the walled churches of the region. Beginning and ending in Bucharest, this tour will visit the walled Unitarian churches of Szekelyderz (a UNESCO World Heritage site) and Arkos, and the Reformed church & model village at Illyefalva. You will spend a long weekend with your partner congregation and worship on this special Őszi hálaadás Sunday—the traditional Transylvanian Unitarian Thanksgiving. The tour also includes two nights at a mountain resort high in the Carpathians, architecture as varied as Peles Castle (home of the former King of Romania), the sprawling Black Church in Brassó, and the Saxon fortress church at Biertan (a UNESCO World Heritage site). You will also participate in discussions with local ministers about life under Communism and with local experts about the Transylvanian Unitarian Church today and the future of the Unitarian villages.

### Transylvania Quilting Retreat—Encore! Fall 2011

Our 2010 Quilting Retreat was a huge success. We heard rave reviews from both the Americans and the local women in Transylvania that took part. (see Lou McKee article on page 4). The organizers are now busy making preparations to

(Continued on next page)

## Celebration of 20 Years

Rev Szombatfalvi József, Jr. (one of the editors) sent the following link to a booklet that was published by the Executive Committee of the Transylvanian Unitarian Church's Consistory for their celebration of the 20th anniversary partnerships with us here in North America:

[www.unitarius.com/pdf/20ev-20years.pdf](http://www.unitarius.com/pdf/20ev-20years.pdf)

*Everyone should take a look at this lovely book. There is a page (text in Hungarian and again in English) for almost every one of our partnerships. It is a marvelous effort.*

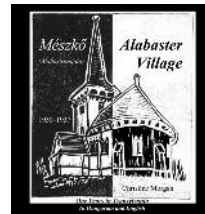
**\*NOTE** The UUPCC office has a few copies of the book on CD. They are \$10 each. Please contact the office if you would like to purchase it.

[office@uupcc.org](mailto:office@uupcc.org)

## Alabaster Village: Our Years in Transylvania

In a timeless story of courage, Christine Morgan recounts the years she and her husband, Hungarian Unitarian minister Ferenc Balázs, battled political oppression, social upheaval, poverty, and religious opposition in post-World War I Transylvania. This amazing story is presented in both English and Hungarian.

Order online at [www.uupcc.org/online](http://www.uupcc.org/online)  
OR send a check —\$25 per copy + \$5 shipping to:  
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## Flaming Chalice Art Glass

Art glass ornaments of stained glass panels of flaming chalices. For gifts, recognition to members, ministers, volunteers. 70% of

revenue to Transylvania partner church. [www.flaming-chalice.com](http://www.flaming-chalice.com). Al Wambach, 1-610-613-1390.

## Travel Services & Resources

*(Continued from page 20)*

do it again—this time with a few days in Marosvásárhely along with the Felsőrákos vilage portion. The exact days and detailed itinerary are not completed as this goes to press, but the concept will be the same. There will be a “name” quilter who will act as the instructor for the daily sessions with participation from local women’s groups. There will be side trips to visit local crafters and major sites of interest.

Space is limited to 10 people and we expect the trip to fill. If you would like to get your name on the list to receive more information when it becomes available please send an email to John Dale at [jdaleuupcc@yahoo.com](mailto:jdaleuupcc@yahoo.com) with “Quilting” in the subject line.



Malingin UU Congregation of the Philippines, partnered with First UU Congregation of San Diego, celebrated their 29th anniversary in October 2010.

## JOIN PCC-CHAT!

Need help with a partnership question? Want to share some news with other partners? The UUPCC has an e-mail list service that will keep you in touch with the partner church community. Every church that has a congregational partnership and individuals, groups and congregations sponsoring students is eligible to join.

At least one member of every partner church committee should be on PCC Chat. It's easy to join. Just send an email request to [office@uupcc.org](mailto:office@uupcc.org) and you will be added to the membership of the list service. It's a great way to stay in touch!



Rev. Rodolfo Engano, a UU Faith healer who was the pioneer of UU Malingin Unitarian Universalism, celebrated the 29th anniversary with the congregation.



Download the Transfer Form from our web site: [www.uupcc.org/services.htm](http://www.uupcc.org/services.htm) (or use the form below)

**NOTE:** Funds transmission is a benefit of UUPCC membership. A transferor of funds should make sure that her/his/its dues are up to date. If your church is not a UUPCC member, dues will be deducted (\$50 for churches under 100 members, \$150 for churches over 100 members).

## PARTNER CHURCH TRANSFER FORM

FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS THROUGH THE U U PARTNER CHURCH COUNCIL

Please enclose a form with each check for funds to be transferred. Please type or print clearly.

*Note: Funds transmission is a benefit of membership in the U. U. Partner Church Council*

Make check payable to: *UU Partner Church Council* Mail to: UU Partner Church Council, PO Box 88, Bedford, MA 01730

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Transferor is:**  Church  Individual  Other Organization

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Transfer Is:** Total US\$ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**Recipient(s) is (are):**  Partner Church  Other Church  Individual(s)  Other Organization (*Please check all that apply*)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**PURPOSES—DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS—OTHER INSTRUCTIONS** (*please be explicit and concise*):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Transfer Process: How to Send Money

### INDIA

UUPCC is now processing transfers for churches partnered with UUNEI churches in the Khasi Hills in India. We will process checks as they come in, and will do the actual transfers every 3 months. The schedule in 2011 is the end of January, April, July and October.

### THE PHILIPPINES

We do not have a regular schedule for transfers yet, as there has not been demand for this. If you wish to transfer money to your partner in the Philippines, please contact the office first at 781-275-1710 to discuss.

### TRANSYLVANIA

Transfers are done monthly from the UUPCC office between the 26th and 30th of each month. Transferred funds are wired from Headquarters directly into the local church bank account.

**Please make sure that you contact someone in your partner village/town/church to let them know that the money is coming.**

### ALL TRANSFERS

Checks must arrive at the UUPCC office at least one week before the transfer date. Please use the above Transfer Form or download one from [www.uupcc.org/](http://www.uupcc.org/). Click on Programs &

Services, then Fund Transfer. Then select the Fund Transfer Form. Please include this form along with the check. Please send whole dollars only—no cents. Make checks payable in U.S. dollars.

**PLEASE NOTE:** *This Transfer Form is for use by the office staff in preparing the bank transfer, which is done electronically. Paper copies of the forms are not sent to India or Transylvania. Therefore, please make sure that you contact someone in your partner village to let them know that the money is coming. It takes as long as 5–7 business days for the transfer to arrive there.*

# Invitation to Membership

*If you or a friend wish to receive this newsletter three times a year and to support and participate in Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council programs and goals, please fill out this form to join us.*

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ —ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIPS—  New Membership  Renewal

\$30\* Individual Membership  \$50\* Family\*\* Membership  \$\_\_\_\_\_ Individual or Family Membership *PLUS* gift for UUPCC program support

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Please add my email address to the PCC-Chat list so I can keep up to date on the latest UUPCC news! \*\*\*\*

UUA Church Name/City \_\_\_\_\_

\* Canadian members please send \$28 for an individual membership or \$47 for a family membership in U.S. funds by check or USD money order to the UUPCC address below.

\*\* A family membership consists of two adults residing at the same address (receiving one newsletter).

\*\*\* A "congregational subscription" provides you with up to four newsletters mailed to the church.

\*\*\*\* *Your contact information will be used solely by the UUPCC and will not be shared with other organizations.*



Make your tax-deductible check payable to  
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# UU Partner Church Council Vision & Mission Statement

## ***Vision:***

We envision a worldwide Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist community that promotes peace, justice, and liberty for all, supported by partnerships that are integral to congregational life.

## ***Mission:***

The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Partner Council is to foster and support partner relationships between UU congregations and individuals in the United States and Canada with Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist congregations, orphanages, schools and students in all other countries where partnering is sought and welcomed. These will be mutually beneficial, responsibly sustained, and linked by joint and mutual covenants.

## **We will:**

- BE a bridge that connects congregations around the world;
- REACH across boundaries to collaborate with old and new partners;
- CREATE transformational opportunities for pilgrimage and hospitality, for learning and for service;
- CHALLENGE ourselves theologically and open ourselves to changed values and behaviors;
- INITIATE partnerships that promote global friendships, international awareness, human rights, and a better world; and
- SUSTAIN this global vision, enlarging and renewing it as new occasions teach new duties.



ADOPTED AT THE  
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