



Partner Church News

A publication of the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council
Connecting Unitarian and Universalist congregations around the globe

Volume 17 Number 1

Spring 2010

BOARD CHAIR

What Does the UU Partner Church Council DO? How Does It Work?

BY RICHARD VAN DUZEND, CHAIR

As the new Chair of the UUPCC Board of Directors, I find that I am constantly being asked questions. Two of the most frequently asked questions (to coin a phrase) are: “What does the UUPCC do?” and “How does it do its work?” Let me offer my answers to these questions.

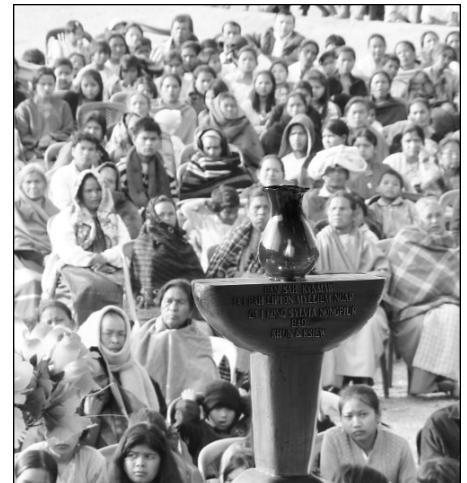
What does the UUPCC do?

I believe the UUPCC performs at least three functions.

First, it is a *connector*. The UUPCC helps to connect the far-flung

UU congregations from BC to DC and Austin to Boston that have UU partners. This newsletter is one of those connections. The monthly “Virtual Conference Calls” are another (see the list on page 2.) It also connects with the people and committees of the Transylvania Unitarian Church, the Unitarian Union of Northeast India, and the UU Church of the Philippines to identify congregations looking for partnerships. Then, to mix cultural metaphors, the UUPCC serves both as a *yenta* and a *doña*. As a *yenta*, it

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Chalice and a view of the crowd at the Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Union of Northeast India. (See story on p. 4)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What I Have Learned from Our Partners in Faith

BY CATHY CORDES

I write this on the eve of my trip to see our new partners in Burundi and Uganda. I have been thinking a lot in the past few weeks about all I have learned from our partners around the world. I won’t bore you with the whole list—but here are a few. I hope you will think about your own list as you read about mine.

Lesson 1—Our religion has a deep history. The Unitarian faith has survived for over 400 years in Transyl-

vania. Its core beliefs are that each person develops their own relationship to God, religious thought evolves to embrace new learnings and everyone should be free to choose their own religion. These were radical ideas 400 years ago and in some places they are still radical today.

This may seem like a “duh” moment for some of you—but I was quite surprised to learn this history. I was introduced to Unitarian Universalism as an adult in a New England UU

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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.

What Does the UUPCC DO?

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matches (connects) congregations in North America with congregations on other continents. As a *doña*, it helps to guide and nurture both new relationships and those whose connections have frayed over time. Finally, it connects with other UU organizations with a transnational focus such as the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU), the UUA's International Resources Office, and Project Harvest Hope. A good example is the coordination between the UUPCC and ICUU in identifying the congregations in Nigeria, Uganda, Burundi and elsewhere that are able to undertake a full partnership.

Second, the UUPCC is a *developer*. It is developing programs to broaden both the number and types of relationships, and to deepen existing relationships. An example is the Paths to Partnership program launched last



Dick Van Duizend, at the recent UUPCC Board meeting in Concord, MA.

year. The Path to Partnership Student Sponsorship Program enables individuals, RE classes, and small groups of UUs to establish an on-going relationship with a UU high

school or college student in India, The Philippines, or Transylvania. Another example: the Community Capacity Building Program uses participatory

procedures and inclusive tools to help communities identify strengths, design action plans, and locate resources to solve basic needs, reduce poverty, and strengthen community development. Equally important, it enables new or existing partners to undertake truly joint projects and base their relationship on mutual understanding and respect, thus avoiding the so-called charity model and the dependent relationships it can create. Yet another example: the new Building Our Faith Fund developed by the UUPCC in cooperation with the UUA and the UU

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**Next PCC Deadline:
September 3, 2010**

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PARTNER CHURCH NEWS is the newsletter of the UU Partner Church Council, an independent affiliate organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association, started in 1993.

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

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For any other information, contact the UUPCC office at 781-275-1710, or office@uupcc.org, PO Box 88, Bedford, MA 01730
Visit the web site at: www.uupcc.org

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

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE CALLS

May 6, Thursday 8:00 PM EASTERN
Annual Call with the UUPCC Leadership
Presenters: Richard Van Duizend and Cathy Cordes

June 8, Thursday 8:00 PM EASTERN
An Africa Update on Burundi and Uganda
Presenters: Cathy Cordes, Richard Ford, George Davenport

June 16, Wednesday 8:00 PM EASTERN
The 20th Anniversary Celebration in Transylvania and Current State of Events
Presenter: Rev. Dávid Gyerő

In the fall, the PCC Communications Committee hopes to have calls on:

- "Participating with Partners in Transylvanian Summer Camps"
 - "Khasi Hills Update"
 - "International Update" (following UUA President Peter Morales' trip to Dumaguete and IARF in India);
 - "Overseas Churches that Need Partners"
 - "Ugandan Orphans, Burundi Students, and Churches Needing to be Built"
- in addition to any suggestions members might wish to send in.

TO REGISTER FOR A CALL, send an email to 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.



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, click on Resources / Virtual Conference Calls / Past Virtual Conference Calls—and listen to them on your computer.

What Does the UUPCC DO?

(Continued from page 2)

Funding Panel encourages all U.S. and Canadian churches planning a capital campaign for their own buildings to commit a small percentage—1/2 to 2% of funds raised—to help congregations elsewhere to purchase or build a place to worship and provide education based on UU values. Small groups and individuals can contribute as well. A UUPCC-coordinated microfinance program is in the development stage.

Third, the UUPCC is a *facilitator*. Its electronic funds transfer program provides a FREE and reliable means for North American partners to send funds to their partners overseas. The UUPCC Pilgrimage Service facilitates travel by congregational groups and groups of individuals to visit partners or potential partners, and to learn about both the roots and new branches of our faith worldwide. As described on the UUPCC's website (www.uupcc.org):

For more than a decade the UUPCC Pilgrimage Service has helped to cement the bonds between North American UUs and their partners overseas. ... In the past five years, almost 1,000 U.S. and Canadian UUs representing more than 150 congregations travel with us to visit partners around the globe.

How does it do its work?

The UUPCC is a tax-exempt membership organization. Its members include individuals, families, and congregations. (If you are not already a member, please see the Invitation to Membership on the back of this issue of Partner



UUPCC Board of Directors, and Staff: (back row, L to R) Rev. Kelly Crocker, Beverly Moore, George Davenport, Rodger Mattlage, Dick Van Duizend, Rev. Roger Bertschausen, Rev. Harold Babcock; (front row, L to R) Margot Fleischman, Rev. Vail Weller, Cathy Perry, Cathy Cordes, and deForest Ralph.

Church News.) The UUPCC holds its annual members meeting during General Assembly at which all members are entitled to define its vision and mission, vote on the budget, discuss new programs, elect members of the Board of Directors, and share what is going on with their partnerships. (*Please do attend* if you are planning to go to GA this year in Minneapolis! A sign-up form is in the packet of materials to be mailed to members shortly.)

The UUPCC's policies, programs, and organization are overseen by a 12-person Board of Directors – ministers and lay people from across the country committed to strengthening partnership. At its March 2010 meeting, the Board developed the following summary of its mission:

Grounded in our shared UU faith and deep commitment to fostering

international connections, the mission of the UUPCC Board is to:

- create excitement about partnerships,
- imagine and explore new directions,
- act as stewards of relationships and resources, and
- serve as catalysts for advancing the Mission of the UUPCC.

The day-to-day work of the UUPCC is performed by a hard-working, dedicated staff—Executive Director Cathy Cordes, part-time Office Manager Margot Fleischman, and Travel Coordinators John and Csilla Dale—aided by some extraordinary volunteers who put together *Partner Church News*; promote new partnerships; lead, define, and refine programs; plan and coordinate the Virtual Conference Calls; and help in innumerable other ways.

As with any other organization, there is much more we could do. If you are interested in helping us do more – please let Cathy know. If you have other questions about what the UUPCC does, what I have said, or what I did not say, please send me an e-mail (rvanduizend@nscs.dni.us). I look forward to hearing from you. ●●



Part of the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, held at First Parish in Concord (MA).

Imagine

BY DICK VAN DUIZEND

Imagine a sun-draped field perched on a forested ridge, festooned with flags, a ceremonial arch, hundreds of brightly colored plastic chairs, with row upon row of blue hills fading in the distance. This was the vista that greeted five visitors from the UU Congregation of Fairfax in February as we joined in the celebration of the 100th anniversary of our Indian partner, the Puriang Unitarian Church, and participated in the Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Union of Northeast India. We listened to speeches and sermons, some in English, most in Khasi. We sang familiar English hymn tunes with words written by babu Hajom Kissor Singh, the founder of Khasi Unitarianism. We listened to joyful choirs from Puriang, Jowai, and Shillong. As the cold evening fell, we marched in a torchlit procession through Puriang with nearly 2,000 of our brothers and sisters of faith “to let our little lights shine.”

Though we were thousands of miles from the comforts of American suburbia, in a rural village where hunger and hardship are constant neighbors, we were immersed in a deep and warm river of friendship, welcome, and generosity bounded by solid banks of shared values. In his sermon, Mr. Roosevelt Pariat, one of the leaders of the Unitarian Church of Jowai, the second largest city in the Khasi/Jaintia Hills, told the story of an epidemic that swept



100th anniversary belltower of the Puriang Unitarian Church.



The scene greeting the Fairfax attendees prior to the celebration of Puriang's 100th anniversary.

through Puriang in the early decades of the 20th century.

...Many died and those who survived, fled... Mr. Kamai Singh, the Unitarians' church elder was left alone. Yet his dream to revive the movement never faded. As a dutiful and committed elder, he never failed to ring the church bell every Sunday and weekdays as well. He worshiped and prayed earnestly all by himself for seven years! His enthusiasm and strong commitment not only became a famous story among Unitarians in Northeast India, but serves as a model that others may follow in his footsteps, chanting choruses joyfully:

One God, One Truth and one true Religion! Love God—love each other and together loudly preach everywhere.

Like Dávid Ferenc of Transylvania, our forefathers took their faith as a “Gift of God.” Thus with all their might, they were proud and happy to take care of it faithfully. Therefore, I have no doubt whatsoever, that the present generation will be following on their footsteps with enthusiasm and sincerity. The good news of a liberal faith is to be shared with others. To give them courage, not Hell's fire; hope not damnation; and a warm heart not a cold shoulder, that men and women may be able to raise their heads upward and advance together for qualitative change.

Mr. Pariat's words left us with no doubt that we are partners in faith, and provided added meaning to the traditional words that Khasi Unitarians use when parting: *To Nangroi—Keep on Progressing.* ●●

SENG KYNTHEI

“The Seng Kynthei or Woman's Wing of our UU friends in North East India are simply remarkable! They are conducting free health screenings for all ages in multiple villages and have sent lovely local crafts to be sold at General Assembly this year to assist them in these efforts. This will benefit equally the unfolding work of the International Conference of Unitarian Universalist Women. Please join us at the ICUUW table and see what they have shared with us! Perhaps you will take home a traditional Khasi gift as well as the joy of improving someone's quality of life!” —Sharon Van Duizend

Partners in Faith

(Continued from page 1)

church. It was all new to me and seemed like a very modern religion. Having grown up in the Roman Catholic church I kind of missed having a sense of history. I learned about the Unitarians of the 1800's. And then I went to Transylvania. Needless to say my whole perception of the Unitarian Universalist faith was deepened and widen. I found a profound history that has deepened my own faith.

Lesson 2—Our faith resonates with people of all ethnic groups in many lands.

and

Lesson 3—Connections are very important—and a little encouragement and support goes a long way.

Here are a few examples that illustrate these two lessons:

- The congregation in Hong Kong was started by Alexander Szeto who found out about Unitarian Universalism on the web. They are a small but growing congregation. They are a welcoming congregation—not an easy

position to take in Hong Kong. They have sponsored informative talks for the general public on the LGTB issue and have testified at the Legislative Council on this issue and on the issue of universal suffrage. They provide group support and counseling services for people who are doubting or who want to change their faith.

- In the Khasi Hills of India the Unitarian faith has been practiced for over 100 years. Prior to their conversion to Christianity, the region was tribal—neither Hindu nor Muslim. Missionaries from England came in the mid-1800s. As a young boy, Hajom Kissor Singh was educated in Presbyterian missionary schools. He converted to Christianity in 1880. But as he read the bible he questioned the concept of the trinity. His own tribal religion had believed in one God and he could not reconcile the idea of the trinity. In debates with missionaries, he learned of Rev. Charles Dall, an American Unitarian in Calcutta. Dall and Kissor Singh exchanged many letters. Dall sent him a copy of the writings of William Ellery Channing. And Kissor Singh found that oth-

ers thought as he did. He called his new religion Ka Niam Unitarian. And that church thrives today with over 10,000 members in 32 churches and they operate numerous schools

- The Philippines island of Negros was strongly Catholic at one time, but after the Americans took over the government in 1900, Protestant missionaries moved in. And in 1943, Toribio Quimada (later Rev. Quimada) joined the Inglesia Universal de Christo church. Five years later he was ordained. In a desperate attempt to secure bibles and other religious materials for his congregations he wrote to the Universalist Church of Gloucester, MA—he had found their address in an almanac. The minister in Gloucester responded and began a long relationship, supplying materials and keeping up a correspondence. Rev Quimada found the concept of Universal salvation and began preaching it: a loving God is not capable of preparing a place called hell for the people to be tormented forever with fire. “How could a loving God damn humanity?” he asked. He was excommunicated from his church. In 1957 the Universalist Church in America helped him to register with the government and the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines was born.

- In Burundi Fulgence Ndagujumana was studying to be a Dominican priest, but had many questions about Roman Catholic teachings. He learned of a Canadian priest who left the priesthood to become a Unitarian Universalist. Fulgence started reading about the UU faith on the internet and as he says “I was not converted, I just discovered that I was a UU.” He got in touch with UUs in many countries who encouraged him to start his own community of like-minded people.

- In Uganda, Mark Kiyimba trained as an apostolic minister. He says he was bothered by the hypocrisy of his own ministry. He would preach about not drinking and then would go home and have a beer. He would preach about accepting our neighbor as our self and

LAWRENCE W. COBURN TO RECEIVE 2010 CORNISH AWARD



The Board of Directors of the UU Partner Church Council is pleased to announce that at its March meeting Larry Coburn of Weston, Massachusetts was named the recipient of the *Louis C. Cornish Living the Mission Award for 2010*. In so doing, the Board recognized Larry's outstanding contributions, both past and ongoing, to the Partner Church Council and to the partner church movement. A founding member of the UUPCC, Larry served on the Board from 1993 until 2009 and is a former Treasurer. During that time he

worked tirelessly to insure financial accountability and helped to build the UUPCC into the strong organization it is today. He also served as a District Networker in the Mass Bay District, and currently serves as the Networker responsible for the Hungarian Unitarian Church.

Larry first visited Transylvania in 1992 when the Weston congregation was invited to the rededication of the church in Torda. He has remained a dedicated and loyal supporter of the Torda partnership and of the UUPCC and a faithful friend to many in the Transylvanian Unitarian Church. Larry and his wife Gabriella, a native of Hungary, have provided translation services and cultural advice on many occasions. In addition to his work in Transylvania, Larry has also traveled to the Khasi Hills in India. He epitomizes the spirit of partnership.

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Nominees to UUPCC Board of Directors and to the Nominating Committee

The election of Board and Nominating Committee will take place at the 2010 UUPCC Annual Meeting at General Assembly in Minneapolis, Minnesota on Saturday, June 26, 2010 at 12:45 p.m. Voting members will receive a call to meeting in May and an Annual Report in early June.

We mark with gratitude the service of Rev. Harold Babcock, Rev. Richard Beal and Linda Lu Burciaga, who will be leaving the Board after numerous years of exceptional leadership and service.

NOMINEES TO THE UUPCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2010

We are pleased to announce the following nominees to the Board of Directors:

FOR 3-YEAR TERMS UNTIL 2013

(Four positions available):

Ann Gary, Upton, MA

Ann Gary has been involved in with UUPCC since 2004 in a networking role—working to support and strengthen partnerships. Initially interested in reaching out and getting involved with a far away place, Ann has become surprisingly involved “spiritually” in her partner church relationship with Csekefalva, Transylvania. She first hosted her partner minister on a trip to the U.S. in 2002. Since then, she and her family have visited Transylvania three times and again hosted a stay in the U.S in 2009. She feels a real connection with her partner village and its congregation. Her partner minister’s daughter is Ann’s goddaughter! Ann is a marketing consultant by trade who specializes in evaluating and improving relationships between major advertisers and their advertising agencies. She is a dedicated humanist, and has been a member of Hopedale, MA Unitarian Parish for the past 14 years. Ann lives in an old farmhouse in central Massachusetts with her husband, Tim House, and their son Alex. And don’t forget the dog, Baci. “One of the wonderful things about being involved in UU

Partnerships is the different levels of engagement possible: History, politics, language, customs, village life, congregational life, people, and our shared religious roots and spiritual connections...and most importantly shared experiences with individuals that can strengthen and transform each others’ lives.”

Rev. Bruce J. Johnson, Norwich, VT
Bruce Johnson is the minister of the UU Congregation of the Upper Valley in Norwich, VT where he has served since 2003. His congregation has a partner church in Mukhap India where Bruce visited in the fall of 2008. Before coming to Norwich, Bruce served churches in Indiana, Michigan and Illinois. He is a native of Northern Minnesota and a graduate of Bowdoin College and Harvard Divinity School. He looks forward to serving on the board.

Rev. Scott Prinster, Madison, WI
The Rev. Scott Prinster is a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin, studying the interaction between religion and science in the uses of Charles Darwin’s ideas. He has served congregations in Michigan and Wisconsin, and earlier spent two years in Transylvania as the English teacher at the Protestant seminary in Kolozsvár. He previously served on the Board of the Partner Church Council almost a decade ago, and is pleased to have another opportunity to work with such an exciting program. In his spare time, Scott hangs out in Madison’s coffee shops or plays old-time music on his fiddle and banjo.

H. deForest Ralph, Houston, TX
deForest Ralph has been a UUPCC board member since January 2008, completing a term vacated by Rev. Eric Cherry. He is owner of Ralph Associates, Inc., an energy consulting company. deForest has been involved with partnership work since the early 1990s, beginning with his home congregation of Emerson UU Church and their part-

nership with Gyergyószentmiklós, and later as a networker for the Southwest district. He has visited Transylvania several times and been a host to ministers from his partnership. He and his wife Martha organized many events at Emerson to raise awareness of their partnership and were instrumental in raising the funds to complete the purchase and remodeling of the church in Gyergyószentmiklós. He instituted the Bell Ringers appeals for the UUPCC in 2000 that helped raise over \$10,000 for our partners in faith around the world. deForest has found much joy and has strengthened his own faith through his involvement with the partner church movement. He is pleased to be able to support the UUPCC with his board involvement.

NOMINEE TO THE UUPCC NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2010

The nominating committee is responsible for submitting names of nominees to the UUPCC Board of Directors and to the Nominating Committee.

FOR A 3-YEAR TERM UNTIL 2013

(One position available):

Rev. Roger Bertschausen, Appleton, WI

Roger Bertschausen is the Senior Minister of the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Appleton, WI, a congregation he has served since 1990. He is the first settled minister of the Fox Valley UU Fellowship, and during his tenure the congregation has grown from 100 to nearly 650 members. He is a graduate of Bowdoin College and the University of Chicago Divinity School. He currently serves on the Board of the UUPCC. Roger’s congregation has been the partner church of the Unitarian church in Déva, Transylvania, since 1999. Roger visited Déva in 2000 and again in 2008. During his last visit, he joyfully shared in the celebration of the dedication of the Déva church’s first building, not far from the citadel where Dávid Ferenc died in prison. He and his congregation have been honored to be part of this project in a place that is so rich in Unitarian history. ●●



UU Partner Church Council

“The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all”

The UU Partner Church Council supports action on the Sixth Principle by helping to build international partnerships between individuals, small groups and congregations.

Annual Luncheon, Award Presentation and Meeting: A Celebration of 20 Years of Partnership



Saturday, June 26 • 12:00 NOON–1:30 PM • Hilton Grand Ballroom G

2010 *Louis C. Cornish Living the Mission* award to be presented to Lawrence Coburn (*near left*) at the Annual Meeting Lunch.

Please get your lunch tickets by June 24 at our booth in the Exhibit Hall.

UUPCC Worship Service

Thursday, June 24 • 1:00–2:15 PM • Hilton Ballroom A

Partners Do More Than Dance

The **Rev. Dr. William F. Schulz** (*above, far left*) will lead a worship celebrating 20 years of international partnership. Rev. Schulz, then UUA President, helped establish the first partnerships in 1990. Join us for a joyous celebration with friends from near and far.

This is a not-to-be-missed GA worship!

Music by Dan Broner, Music Director at the First Unitarian Society of Madison, Wisconsin

LOOK FOR THESE INFORMAL TALKS AT THE INTERNATIONAL BOOTH—#227

- **India:** updates on the Khasi Hills orphanage, student sponsorships and partnerships
- **Educating for our Global UU Future:** how you can sponsor an international UU child at an orphanage or school
- **Standing with Africa:** the latest news from Uganda and Burundi
- **UUs in Asia:** looking for partners
- **Travel:** exciting news about upcoming pilgrimages, including the Quilting Retreat (September 2010) and the Festival Choir Tour (August 2011)
- **Transylvania 20-Year Retrospective:** stories, scrapbooks and songs—come share yours!

For updated schedule information visit our booth, or go to www.uuinternational.org

Other Programs

Thursday, June 24 • 9:00–10:15 AM

Minneapolis Convention Center—Room M100 AB

Our Global Faith: Multiculturalism and International Partnership

The Global Unitarian/Universalist community can provide American UUs with a new vision of Multicultural identity. Unitarian leaders from beyond the USA will help workshop participants explore the reality of our global multicultural community and the power of congregational partnerships in a multicultural context.

Participants: Aryanto Nugroho (Indonesia), Francisco Javier Lagunes Gaitan, (Mexico), Beatrice Niyungeko (Burundi)

Co-sponsored with UUA, ICUU

Thursday, June 24 • 10:45 AM–12:00 NOON

Minneapolis Convention Center—Room M100 D

Facilitating Community-based Justice-making Work Around the World

UU organizations are gaining experience in facilitating this work around the world. US congregations can partner with these organizations to, literally, change the world. Our workshop features the efforts sponsored by Project Harvest Hope, UU Holdeen India Program, UU Partner Church Council and International Council of Unitarians and Universalists.

Participants: Reema Nanavaty (SEWA and Holdeen), Éva Kelemen (PHH), Beatrice Niyungeko (community capacity building in Burundi)

Co-sponsored with ICUU, Project Harvest Hope, and UU Holdeen India Program

For more information on our programs and to learn how you can participate in building relationships with Unitarians and Universalists around the world—visit our booth in the Exhibit Hall and visit us online at www.uupcc.org.

The “Save Transylvanian Unitarianism!” Mission

BY REV. DR. JUDIT GELLÉRD, PCC HONORARY PRESIDENT

A few years ago, as a *summa cum laude* graduate from Boston University, a close friend, a Transylvanian Unitarian minister, made his sincere remark: “Zizi, I just cannot understand you. You have several major degrees, yet you haven’t really done anything with your life!” My surprise bordered on shock; his statement seemed so wonderfully absurd! He and his church have abundantly benefited from my services. But, in their eyes, I was not the typical émigré, returning home rich—I “wasted” my life. His assessment urged me to write my memoir. And on the threshold of the 20th anniversary of our Partner Church movement, I want to recount, in a nutshell, the prehistory of the PCC, as I had experienced it—that is a success to me, but a failure for my colleague in Transylvania.

In the previous issue of the *Partner Church News* Dr. William Schulz reminisced on the beginnings of our Partner Church movement. With wide brushstrokes, he told the story from the viewpoint of a “general” who shaped the policy of the Association. The new program, however, needed footsoldiers in order to take roots and grow into a grassroots movement. My perspective is of the footsoldier, especially during those first five years under the leadership of the Center for Free Religion—that basically consisted of George, its founder, and myself. Our accelerated organizing fervor initially annoyed the UUA, especially when American money began to flow to Transylvania. The attempt to discredit our actions as partisan and clandestine, made the work harder, but the perpetual defiance, the “Do it anyway!” audacity, ultimately, turned it into success—recognized by consecutive UU administrations.

Those early years of our movement—when the Center for Free Religion spearheaded it, bringing life into a mere abstract program, inventing projects and helping churches to carry them to successful completion—have been consistently skipped over by the PCC’s institutional historiography. My volunteer service on behalf of the Partner Church Program had earned an Honorary Doctorate from Starr King before the PCC was even established, much less engaged in the work. Since my service for a decade has been reduced to a mere footnote, on the twentieth anniversary, I wish to tell my own story that I painstakingly assembled from

vast documentation.

Without Bill Schulz’s leadership and vision, the program would have never been born, and my homeland is eternally grateful to him and to the Association. But without the Center for Free Religion’s “Save Transylvanian Unitarianism!” appeal, the UUA’s initiative would have been doomed to failure. The UUA needed proper expertise and tenacious, hard work for years to come, in order to bring the program to fruition.

My story starts in 1988. In a frantic effort to eradicate most of Hungarian history and culture in Transylvania, Dictator Ceausescu launched the “eight-thousand-village-project” in the spring of 1988. He planned to bulldoze those villages, our centuries-old churches and cemeteries. The outside world had no way to know about this diabolical plan, so efficient was the Securitate-secured secrecy. Even though the UUA had been in contact with leaders of the Transylvania Unitarian Church, mostly through the IARF, nobody dared to reveal the imminent doom there.

But I did. Beside my personal petitioning Pope John Paul II in the Vatican for his protection of our churches, I also wrote an S.O.S. letter to Prof. George M. Williams, my fiancé, about the dictator’s plot, urging American Unitarians to intervene. George took the letter to the next UU General Assembly at Palm Springs, California in 1988. This breaking news was received with skepticism first, but it was eventually corroborated from the international media.

Bill Schulz then appointed Don Harrington and George to form a committee and work on an appropriate resolution—which unanimously passed. President Schulz’s announcement of this Resolution before the whole General Assembly was truly historic: the UUA was the first American organization to take a moral-political stand in condemning Ceausescu and calling the world’s attention to a cultural genocide in the making.

As a follow-up to the GA Resolution, the UUA circulated a petition, encouraging all churches to call upon the US Secretary of State to protest the Romanian dictator’s village destruction policy—and my S.O.S letter to George was included in the UUA package as documentary support.

Arriving in the US in October 1988, I added my personal witness. But my political message stirred occasional controversy

among some in our audiences who insisted on Ceausescu’s being a “good dictator”, one defiant to the Soviet Union and friend of the US. President Nixon had even visited Romania and granted the most favored nation status to the country, they argued. Truth, however, would soon be revealed.

Alongside Ceausescu’s condemnation, President Bill Schulz and Moderator Natalie Gulbrandsen had identified ways for Americans to support and protect the Transylvanian Unitarians. Chief among them—requested by Transylvania’s Bishop Dr. Lajos Kovács—was the reinstatement of the early 1920’s “sister church program”. Initiated by then Unitarian President Dr. Louis Cornish, this first church-to-church relationship between ninety-nine American-Transylvanian pairs had been a response to a similar political crisis: the brutal Romanian oppression of Hungarians in Transylvania in the wake of the Trianon-Versailles Treaty. This first flair of American support, however, lasted but a few years. Sixty years later, Transylvanian Unitarians were living under much worse tyranny, as the aggressive Romanian nationalism joined the Communist totalitarian system.

Using this momentum, bursting with goodwill, the UUA formally launched the new sister church program during the 1989 General Assembly in New Haven. An enthusiastic response swept through the denomination: one hundred and thirty American and Canadian churches volunteered to “adopt” a Transylvanian Unitarian church. During our first visit in Transylvania in Summer 1989, George and I identified crucial needs of the church and reported to the UUA.

Yet during the following months the program remained at a standstill, as a mere list. Money raised, letters and care packages sent to random addresses given out by the UU Headquarters, never reached their destination. Mass frustration was looming in the air and the very momentum seemed to slip away as the denominational fervor faded. The Association lacked the expertise to organize the program.

My time seemed to have arrived—along with a great dilemma: whether to go for my medical credentials in the US, or to volunteer my expertise to help my church? On one hand, I was an adjunct professor with specializations in Neurology and Psychiatry in Budapest, on the other, I was the daughter of a Unitarian

(Continued on page 10)

Partners in Faith

(Continued from page 5)

then would be told to preach that homosexuality was a sin and homosexuals were bad people. He disagreed with the leaders of his church on gender issues, spiritual liberty and scriptural interpretation. He began doing research online and found Unitarian Universalism. In 2004 he started his own church—a free and welcoming congregation. He connected with the International Council of Unitarian Universalists and found a religious home. His ministry is now one of possibilities, of social justice for all and care for those less fortunate.

It seems to me the answer to the age old question of whether or not our

UU faith can appeal to various ethnic and cultural groups is answered with a resounding *YES!* How we translate that knowledge into becoming a welcoming community for others in this country is the question we all need to answer.

But first, those who are seeking must be able to find us. In each of these stories someone was seeking to connect and was determined and persistent enough to connect. The Internet is making it easier for those who are searching to connect to Unitarian Universalism. As UUs we need to let our light shine so that others can find us when they search. As individuals, as congregations, and as a denomination, we need to make sure that we can be found for those who are seeking.

And finally, in each of these cases a little encouragement and support goes a long way. Sometimes just responding is all it takes. Whether it is someone new walking in to church on Sunday or friends across the sea, offering encouragement and support and friendship can help cement the connection.

There are people everywhere looking for the message of acceptance and the joy of community that is founded in deeds not creeds and embraces the heart and the head of religion. That is the essence for me of my Unitarian Universalist faith. My hope is that all who are searching can find Unitarian Universalism. ●●

At the Annie Margaret Barr Children's Village:



Fixing a wagon, and showing off homework. See the story on page 18.

OPEN INVITATION TO ATTEND:

A Celebration of 20 Years of Partnership

KOLOZSVÁR—JULY 22–24, 2010

Organized by the Transylvania Unitarian Church

The Transylvania Unitarian Church has issued an open invitation to all involved with partnerships over the years to attend a celebration in Kolozsvár July 22–24. The event will kick off with an opening reception on Thursday, July 22 in the evening (followed by dinner on your own).

Friday July 23 will be a full day of sharing memories, stories, and some histories of partnerships. The program is not yet final but will include Bishop Bálint-Benczédi Ferenc, and former Bishop Szabó Árpád, the Rev. Leon Hopper, Barbara Kres Beach, the Rev. Harold Babcock, the Rev. Richard Boeke, the Rev. Farkas Dénes, and Linda Lu (Schulz) Burciaga along with others. There will be a dinner from 7:00 to 9:00 PM for all in attendance.

On Saturday July 24 there will be a worship service with Bishop Bálint, and the Rev. Dr. William Schulz will deliver the sermon. This will be followed by a concert with the San Francisco Church choir, a Japanese organist and Markos Albert & orchestra.

A luncheon/reception will follow the service and concert.

John Dale, the UUPCC travel director, is happy to help with your arrangements for ground transportation and room reservations. He can be reached at travel@uupcc.org. Please let us know if you are planning to attend so we can give them some idea of how many Americans and Canadians might be there at for these events. Write to: office@uupcc.org.



UUPCC Annual Appeal Donors (since 1/1/2010)

Ferenc Dávid Friend (\$1,000 +)

*Emmons-Bradlee Family Foundation
Rev. Carol Huston
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Ed Knights*

Norbert Čapek Friend (\$500-\$999)

Fred Cox

Béla Bartók Friend (\$100-\$499)

*Rev. Timothy & Gretchen Ashton
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*Betsy-Jo Angebrannnd
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Supporting Member Congregations

*First Church in Boston, MA
First Parish Church in Weston, MA
First Parish in Bedford, Unitarian
Universalist, Bedford, MA
First Unitarian Universalist Society of
Albany, NY
King's Chapel, Boston MA
North Parish Unitarian Universalist
Church, North Andover MA
Unitarian Church of Castine, ME
Unitarian Universalist Church of
Greater Lynn, Swampscott MA
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of
Columbia, SC*

Thank you to all of you who so generously responded to our Annual Appeal. Your continued support helps UUPCC to strengthen and grow international partnerships and sustain our global vision. This list of Donors covers *additional* donations since January 1, 2010



Castine's Dollars for Scholars Meets Goal

BY ELAINE GERARD-CLIMO

Back in August 2009 our partner church committee decided it should and must find a way to help send all 34 children of our Aquino partner church to school. To cover tuition, uniforms and books for an elementary child was \$100; for a high school student \$200. So we had \$4,300 to raise—quite a sum for a small congregation.

First, we held a raffle in August 2009. 100 gallons of heating oil was first prize, a night at a bed and breakfast second prize, and three free pizzas for third. A humble beginning, but a good start.

Kent Price came up with the idea of “Dollars for Scholars.” We hoped through this fundraiser that families would support one of the 34 students

for the coming year. We posted the children's pictures on a church bulletin board. Gradually, congregants came forward to sponsor a child they picked out. Each sponsor received a biography and a summary of the child's report card. With this approach we began to inch a little closer to our goal but time was running out. School in the Philippines starts in June. We were also running out of congregants!!

With the help of David Weeda, a natural chef, we held a spaghetti dinner. And by golly, the proceeds put us over the top! So thanks to UU of Castine, ME, 34 Aquino students will receive school support. The Partner Church Committee appreciates all who worked hard to make this a successful outcome and to all who “adopted” a student. ●●

“Save Transylvanian Unitarianism” (Continued from page 8)

martyr whom the clergy back home knew and trusted. I spoke Hungarian, Romanian and English, and I had the enthusiasm and energy to assist the UUA in its new endeavor.

To my enthusiastic volunteering the UUA's official response was one of rejection: “Don't get involved. It is none of your business.” This fueled my determination and eventually pushed me into a stance of opposition.

President Schulz and Moderator Gulbrandsen, however, continued to demonstrate their commitment to Transylvania, and they scheduled an official visit to pressure Romania's highest officials. Once again, I unsuccessfully volunteered to be their interpreter (at my own cost). Their prestigious delegation arrived in Romania post festum in January 1990. The “Christmas Revolution” had already overthrown Ceausescu three weeks earlier.

Upon the delegation's return, the volunteering UU churches were formally assigned their Transylvanian partners—but the matching committee disregarded the 1920 sister church list, that I happened to find in the Harvard archives and brought to the UUA Headquarters.

Rejection might discourage some, but it only radicalized my desire to get involved. Everything in my life up to then seemed to have been preparing me for this complex work. Fortunately I was blissfully ignorant about how I would be regarded in America: a new immigrant, a

(Continued on page 12)



Three of the beneficiaries of the “Dollars for Scholars”—Christine, Francis, and Kristine.



UU Partner Church Council Pilgrimage Services

Travel with other UUs on life-changing journeys.

Witness our denominational history, worship at our holy places, and forge bonds of friendship with our partners in faith around the world!

Join a UUPCC tour, or plan the trip of your dreams. UUPCC Pilgrimage Services will customize a trip that is just right for you! Group sizes from 4 to 50+

- Choir Tours
- Youth Service Trips
- Congregational Visits to Partners
- Student Sponsors Visits to Students (NEW!)

Upcoming Pilgrimage opportunities—

- Transylvania Quilting Retreat—September 2010
- India's Golden Triangle & NE India—October 2010
- Philippine Pilgrimage—March 2011
- Festival Choir European Tour—August 2011



For more information, visit our website at www.uupcc.org—or stop by our booth (#227) in the Exhibit Hall.

TRIP DESCRIPTIONS FOR 2011 CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20.



PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT

The UUPCC Board of Directors is recommending the following amendment to the Bylaws:

ARTICLE 3: Board of Directors

3.2 Selection and Terms of Office. The elected members of the Board of Directors shall be selected for three (3)-year terms. Four (4) members shall be elected each year at the Annual Meeting of the UUPCC. In case of a vacancy on the Board of Directors, the remaining members of the Board of Directors may appoint a replacement to fill the unexpired term. A person may serve a maximum of three (3) ~~two (2)~~ consecutive terms, except that a person appointed to fill a vacancy may serve no more than ten (10) ~~eight (8)~~ consecutive years. Terms shall begin at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

This proposal would change the number of terms that a board member can serve from 2 to 3. Board members would serve for a maximum of nine (9) years total, except that a board member appointed to fill a vacancy could serve no more than a maximum of ten (10) years.

This is being proposed because the current maximum for duly elected board members is six (6) years. The organization is not well served as the constant turnover results in a loss of institutional memory and continuity of direction.

The membership will have the opportunity to vote on this proposed change at the Annual Meeting at General Assembly on June 26 at 12:45 p.m.

“Save Transylvanian Unitarianism”

(Continued from page 10)

minority, a woman, and not a minister. I only knew that I had to do something for my homeland. Instead of assuming the role appropriate to my status or being intimidated by the institution, I worked myself into the role of the indispensable guide of the program, by providing all the needed services, and I did it for free, on George’s salary.

George and I already had our own institutional framework, the Center for Free Religion, as a “counterpoint” to the UUA. More and more churches turned to us for help in their frustration of not being able to contact their Transylvanian partners. A breakthrough occurred when Rev. Don Harrington shared the Headquarters’ master list of the newly matched sister churches with us. He was the official appointee on behalf of the sister church program, and, from the beginning, I volunteered to help him.

The list was stunning and the mystery of the systemic failure in communications became clear. The Transylvanian mailing addresses from the Boston headquarters, distributed to the UU sister churches, guaranteed that no mail would reach its destination. They lacked zip codes and street addresses in cities; and worse, the outlawed Hungarian names of the settlements were used instead of the official Romanian ones.

Now I took the program into my hands without scruple. In 1991 George and I launched, under the auspices of our Center for Free Religion, the “Save Transylvanian Unitarianism” program. I renamed the “sister church” the “partner church”. For a start, I issued the Center’s first bilingual and personalized introductory newsletter to each of the 130 pairs of churches, trying to establish a direct link between the partners, bypassing the involvement of either Headquarters. I was not praised for this, but it was surely the only model that the Transylvanians trusted after having lived under totalitarian control.

Beside providing the correct mailing addresses, I described each Transylvanian church and introduced its minister to the American partner. Enthusiastic but frustrated American and Transylvanian churches would now turn to me for guidance and assistance, day and night, literally. Each new church-to-church relationship was a tender seedling that needed much care to take root and grow into what later we would call covenantal relationship in mutuality. With each of our subsequent

newsletters, the volume of responses and requests, by way of mail, phone calls, and FAX messages—this was before the Internet era!—inundated our home and our life. George had to build a shed for my boxes, filling up rapidly with letters and publications. I turned into a magnet for projects, and the meaning of this work brought atonement for the disloyal physician. George was the generous enabler—my wise counsel, financier, editor, and chauffeur. As he jokingly said, by marrying me, he married the entire Transylvania. And, I would add, the program was our offspring, my baby.

Dr. Max Goebler characterized the movement in 1992 as “the largest and most heartening grassroots movement of the twentieth century North American Unitarian Universalists,” comparing it to the Unitarians’ participation in the Civil Rights movement. Consecutive UUA Presidents often quoted this statement. Since this program had no precedent for contemporary UU-s, I had to conceive the larger vision, invent the process and the projects, and also micromanage them. We encouraged the American partners to be generous and send money, not only nice letters as the UUA was advising them. In the new Romanian economy a small amount of dollars went very far. And after the devastation of Communism the need was enormous.

We were measuring time by General Assemblies. It was the GA at Calgary, Canada, in 1992 that carried our program into the spotlight of a celebrating denomination. I was suddenly invited by the hosting district as a keynote speaker at the opening ceremony. George and I, dressed in Transylvanian ethnic outfits, were the marshals of the banner-parade. Our banner was a Transylvanian weaving with the logo, “Save Transylvanian Unitarianism!”

•••

From the very beginning, education had been our central and two-pronged objective: to educate American UUs about their religious cousins of Transylvania’s sixteenth century liberal Christianity, and to help educate a new generation of professional clergy and democratic leadership in the Transylvanian Unitarian church. I was sitting on a treasure trove of my father’s extensive scholarship: sermons, theological essays and his dissertation on Unitarian intellectual history. Former UUA President Dr. Gene Pickett—after having encouraged George to marry me



Prof. George Williams and Dr. Judit Gellérd leading the “Save Transylvanian Unitarianism” initiative at the Calgary GA, 1992.

even if I might be a KGB agent!—became the Chair of the UU Grants Panel, and a full-hearted supporter of our ambitious publishing projects. The Panel awarded us an initial \$15,000 toward the publication of our first five books of Unitarian theology and history, mostly my translations. From this time on we published a book per year, sixteen in all, and the UU Grants Panel, and later the UU Funding Program, would generously honor each of our grant applications. Thus I was able to publish my father’s remarkable, vast scholarship both in English and Hungarian.

Pulpits in both countries were resounding with sermons on Transylvania as more Americans would visit and find themselves spiritually transformed as a result of the encounter with Unitarians there. These sermons would end up on my desk, so I began publishing yearly volumes of sermons on Transylvania, and George began to produce Transylvania videotapes, using our original footage during our annual visits.

My 1992 Guidebook chronicled a wealth of projects, from organizing emergency relief for the poorest ministers and widows, to establishing scholarships, to buying tractors and initiating other economic recovery programs, to establishing cottage industry for women, to conceiving ways of fundraising and principles of mutual visits. Children were baking cookies to raise \$500 toward the repair the roof of their partner church! At the First Unitarian Church of Berkeley, with Dr. Dick Boeke’s initiative, and joined by Meadville/Lombard School, the first English teacher, Michael Burp, was sent to Transylvania in 1991. Meadville/Lombard continues this program to the present. Meadville/Lombard also established a scholarship, named after my father, “The

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REV. VAIL WELLER RECEIVES UUA'S STEWARDSHIP SERMON AWARD

The UUA is pleased to announce this year's Stewardship Sermon Award will go to the Reverend Vail Weller, minister of the San Mateo, CA congregation. Rev. Weller's sermon "Poor and Rich, Rich and Poor" was selected by a representative committee from a field of 23 sermon submissions. Vail's sermon takes us on the journey to Cabighaun in the Philippines and back to her life in the United States in the grip of economic recession.

She writes, "All of the talk was about the economy, the stock market, the uncertain future. 'We are in a recession' 'this is the new Depression' 'things are falling apart' ...the headlines read. I had the strangest sensation of being a part of two stories, each one very different from the other."

The sermon raises awareness of the great needs in the world and challenges us to join Rev. Weller in her commitment to "Year of Giving Generously" so that we may "reconnect with our humanity." In a postscript, Vail describes where the journey has led her since delivering her sermon a year ago, to serving on the board of the UU Partner Church Council.

Join us in proudly recognizing Rev. Vail Weller's accomplishment. You can read the sermon on the UUPCC website at www.uupcc.org/sermons.html.

Q&A: Partner Church Religious Education

Elizabeth Leber of the University Unitarian Church in Seattle asks: "Our partner church in Alsórákos has started a church school and is asking to see our curriculum. Does the PCC have any experience in sending this type of information over there? Any particular curriculum you've sent or known of being sent that was helpful?"

Ruth Gibson replied: About 10 years ago the forerunner of the Partner Church RE Committee wrote a grant for the Rev. Csaba Mezei, here as a Balázs scholar, to purchase useful curriculum materials and get them translated into Hungarian, with permission from the authors. At that time the curricula he found most useful were those related to the Bible. He has translated the following curriculum materials and, I believe, has them posted on the website of the Unitarian Church there.

- *Moses. His Life and Times*, by Cynthia Berg and Judith Hoehler
- *Shake Hands with the Bible I and II*, by Jackie Smith-Miller and Rev. Robert Miller
- *Bible Stories for Elementary Ages*, by Joan M. Hunt
- *The Life and Teachings of Jesus*, by Donna E. Wheelock and Judith L. Hoehler

More recently—a couple of years ago—he visited the UUA again and

recommended the following curriculum materials which he saw in the bookstore:

- *We are Many, We are One*
- *A Faith People Make*
- *Special Times* (Middleton)
- *In Our Hands Grades 1 and 2* (1-3)
- *In Our Hands Grades 3 and 4* (4-6)
- *From Long Ago and Many Lands* (Fahs)
- *Character Building Day by Day*

I think that *Timeless Themes*, *Gaia Brown's Bible Super Heroes*, and possibly the *UU Super Heroes* might also be helpful.

First Unitarian Church in Budapest, where Rev. Kászoni József is minister, has a Sunday School, and the last time I was there they were using a version of "Who Are Our Partners Around the World" that had been translated into Hungarian and was available online. I think it may have only been the lesson on Unitarians in Hungary/Transylvania.

I do know there are several churches in Transylvania experimenting with Sunday School or with having a children's story during the service, or having the children lead the "Our

(Continued on page 19)

New Partnership with Burundi Announced

UUPCC is pleased to welcome our newest partner church relationship between Assemblée des Crétien Unitariens du Burundi of Bujumbura Burundi and People's Church of Kalamazoo, MI.

Here is what Kalamazoo has to say about this new partnership:

Our Transylvanian partnership (continuing) has been a source of friendship, learning, and sharing for nearly 10 years. We are excited to add this new partnership with Burundi, to continue that learning and friendship and to widen it. Knowing we have partners in the world is a source of inspiration, of strength, and of challenge to grow.

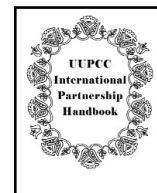
We agree with our Burundi partners on these general aims:

- To learn from one another
- To work in cooperation on some projects
- To exchange materials for training
- To work together on social action issues
- To have mutual visits from one congregation to the other
- To explore different forms of exchanges.

We are excited about the possibilities of our newest partners and wish them well as they learn about each other. ●●

—Cathy Cordes

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— as well as an order form to purchase more copies.

“Save Transylvanian Unitarianism”

(Continued from page 12)

Imre Gellérd Scholarship Fund” that enabled three Transylvanian ministers to spend a year each in Chicago.

We established an “Imre Gellérd Foundation” in Transylvania, and brought in the first desktop publishing system—and many more afterward—along with raising money toward a printing press for the Transylvanian church. This was then Vice-Bishop János Erdő’s cherished dream. For five days—and nights—George trained a few seminary students in desktop-publishing and they printed their first student newspaper—the first publication by the Transylvanian Church on its own press in centuries.

In 1991 we initiated and financed the first of consecutive summer graduate studies in the prestigious University of Szeged, Hungary—and out of that came the first two Ph.D. scholars of the Transylvanian church. And we published the Catalogue and Index of the world’s largest Unitarian Library and Archives—that had been confiscated by the Romanian Academy of Sciences, and rendered inaccessible for Unitarian scholars. George’s negotiations with the Academy and the Catalogue’s trilingual publication re-opened the Library for international scholars. The publication was presented before the first international “Enyedi György” theological conference that we co-sponsored. A few years ago we equipped and trained seminarians to digitally copy and archive the holdings of the most extensive Unitarian library in the world.

We even purchased a church building for the congregation of Szentegyháza of 600 Unitarians. The Center for Free Religion, a pass-through organization of UU donations to Transylvania, was able to match the total of \$110,000 Veatch matching grant toward the building of three new churches in Sepsiszentgyörgy, Székelyudvarhely and Barót.

Not only had the Transylvanian Church officially empowered us to represent their requests and administer American donations, but the IARF and its Executive Secretary, Dr. Robert Traer, personally appointed us as IARF agents. We had been blessed with the privilege of being engaged with what had become 180 pairs of UU churches in a creative international work. We even involved the Japanese Rissho Kosei-kai in helping Transylvania with \$10,000 toward the purchase of the new printing press. The projects mushroomed and my second Guidebook chroni-

cles the fruits of many of our independent actions.

Our approach in building the movement was a “kitchen table” style, and that of the doctor who knew what was best. Only this time I had to rely on my instincts and common sense as I was constantly improvising. I was free of regulations, protocols and bureaucracy. Together we grew into the partner relationships, invented our tasks and ways to accomplish them along the journey. It captured the imagination of the congregations and individuals. And we personally absorbed all the administrative costs; every penny raised—including all our honorariums and proceeds of our book and video sales—got to their destination, whether for partner churches or general projects of education and youth programs. Beside supporting the Transylvanian Youth Association with money, we also bought a car and half of a van for them.

By virtue of my expertise and unpaid work of eighty-plus hours a week, staying at the disposal of American and Transylvanian Unitarians, I acquired real influence with churches and ministers everywhere. Now the parallel office of the UUA Headquarters tried to discredit me by telling the churches that “Judit Gellérd is not an official UUA agent”! But the movement and the underlying enthusiasm did not care.

I was selling inspiration. Although my initial objective was to raise money for my struggling church back home, the benefit would turn out to be far greater for the American side. Dr. Gary Smith expressed it in these words: “We need each other, more than emotionally, more than psychologically, more than socially. We need each other spiritually, which has to do with the divine flame within each of us; with our spiritual mentors in Transylvania who had to fight for our faith, not in the time of the Council of Nicaea, not in the Middle Ages, not at the time of the Reformation, but in our own time, in our own generation. Even if they lost everything to wars and dictatorships, they kept their faith. They had the courage to stand up for something, to live a life far simpler than ours materially but richer in the spirit, a shared faith. We have spiritual cousins to die for.”

And the late Dr. Peter Raible’s stated: “Whatever North Americans may have done on behalf for their peers in Transylvania is more than repaid by the religious experience that have come to us by visiting there. We return, I think, more deeply

grounded in our own faith, more consecrated to seeing our Unitarian Universalist cause continue in this continent, and more assured that our religion has much to give in the hard times of life.”

While Transylvania experienced an economic revitalization on an unprecedented scale, American congregations harvested fruit for the spirit, and, as Rev. David Bumbaugh put, gave up a rigid culture of scarcity, always asking “Can we afford it?” rather than asking “What are we called to be and to do?” and, then, “How can we make that dream come true?” Congregations have changed the way they think and behave as religious community.

Transylvania, with its liberal Unitarian theology and strong identity was considered the “Holy Land of Unitarians”—and I was its zealous “evangelist”. Unitarian ministers whose names were legendary, supported our work, and so did hundreds of UUs. In my constant “circuit rides”, I spoke and played my violin in more than 160 churches. Later I also began to cook dinners for 100-150 all over the country, with a violin concert and teaching Hungarian dances and folk songs afterward, thus helping churches in their fundraising—and later, with Rev. Dénes Farkas, we would raise money for a van and establish the pilgrim service.

The crescendo in our “Transylvania-altered” state of consciousness, in November 1993, reached a peak when Starr King School announced that its Board nominated both my husband, George M. Williams, and me for separate honorary doctorates. I received this great honor for having built the Partner Church movement.

1993 was important for another reason in our movement. When my work became overwhelming and my husband’s financing my endeavors too expensive, I complained to my closest allies, Revs. Dick Boeke, Leon Hopper and Peter Raible. Dick Boeke sent out a convocation letter to the next General Assembly in Charlotte, NC, with the appeal to join forces. This was the moment of establishing the PCC in 1993. On that meeting I passed on to the new PCC a full-bloom program of 180 partner churches. As an unpaid General Secretary, I continued working until the PCC retired me in 2000 to the role of the founding Honorary President and replaced me with a paid staff. I was given the first “Living the Mission” [now Louis Cornish] Award. ●●

Partnership Beginnings

BY ELAINE GERARD-CLIMO,
CASTINE, MAINE

Our Partnership with the Aquino/Cansayan Congregation on the Island of Negros in the Philippines started with trepidation. Those of us on the partner church committee were “gung ho” but we sensed many in our congregation were hesitant. Comments such as “there is plenty of need right here in our own back yard, and “what about those who are having trouble heating their homes” (due to the high price of oil) were heard at coffee hour and at the time of voting on the partnership.

After a June 2008 service to vote on partnership was tabled due to disagreements and the feeling there was a need for further information, our committee of four buckled down. We created a UU Partnership, What’s It All About? brochure, and distributed it to the congregation, questions on partnership were answered in our monthly newsletter and information placed on bulletin boards. That fall, despite partnership uncertainty, a budget of \$1,750 was approved for the coming year—”just in case.” In January 2009, the congregation voted unanimously to partner with the UU Church of the Philippines at Aquino/Cansayan.

We soon learned how far American dollars go in the Philippines. Our small budget repaired the Cansayan Chapel’s roof and windows, repaired the walls of the Aquino church, provided a token honorarium to the part-time ministers,



A welcome sign to greet us.

started a religious education program and subsidized the UU pre-school program. Oh yes, and provided vitamins to the children.

As we proceeded into another budget year, we requested the Aquino congregation to give us a proposal for the 2010 budget year. Now we had a problem. Unbeknownst to us, this was a novel

idea to the Aquino folks. Planning? Proposal? *Budget?* We learned most of the Aquino adults were illiterate or had never had the opportunity to plan the future of a church. Thanks to the patience of Rev. Nihal Attanayake, UU field minister for the Island of Negros, and his foresight to take a bookkeeper and others to educate the leaders, a straightforward proposal was finally received by our congregation.

Now, this was partnership at its best. Aquino was motivated and participating fully; we felt excited that we were not only helping the children but now were working with the adults to strengthen their UU community. Thanks to our partnership, they now have a large religious education (RE) program and will be adding a room to the Aquino church for the RE program. They also plan on expanding the church to accommodate their increased membership.

Rev. Nihal has found that having a continuous minister and a proper church (think small, cement building), a UU congregation in the Philippines has the ability to grow and become strong. To think we had a small part in helping Unitarian Universalism expand in a far away place is amazing. We also learned that we can still continue to help our neighbors here with their



Myrnalynn Caballero, pre-school teacher on the left, is helping Elaine Gerard-Climo give out the high school gifts. Elaine has her arm around Ana Grace, the student she and her husband Jim are supporting to attend school.

needs for oil and/or food with the other programs our congregation so generously supports.

Reflections on a Pilgrimage to the Philippines

BY ELAINE GERARD-CLIMO,
CASTINE, MAINE

Unitarian Universalist Principles neatly positioned on chapel walls, large chalices prominently displayed, familiar orders of service—Wow, these people really are UUs!

What was I expecting on my first trip to UU Churches in the Philippines? Certainly not vibrant congregations extending hands of welcome everywhere we went. Or children eager to sing, dance, recite poetry and even engage us Americans in play as the Malingin children so confidently did. Welcoming programs and Sunday Services evoked words of hope—the promise of a better future and words of community—near and far: home and partnerships. The UU principles were proudly quoted; the chalice lighting opening and closing services. In turn, my own respect and admiration for our seven Principles and their eight grew. *God is Love* is their first Principle.

As our trip neared the end, we

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Reports, News & Travel Stories

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finally arrived at Castine's partner, the Aquino/Cansayan Congregation. I was filled with expectation and worry. Had the church survived? Grown? Would some of the 34 children we were supporting through the coming school year be there? Did they really exist? Have they repaired their chapel with the money we sent? (Yes, they had.) For now, the "proof was in the pudding!" As I approached a group of children sitting along the Chapel wall, suddenly they stood and warmly greeted me with, "Good Morning, Miss Elaine.

In the chapel, there were the eight Principles neatly hand written and posted on the walls. The chalice sat on the only piece of furniture in the room, a bookcase. The congregation of rice farmers, women with babies, older folks and children of all ages, smiled when they learned through the interpreter that I was from Castine, Maine. I told them we were a small congregation like them. We understood how hard the past year had been for them. (Winds from a typhoon had wiped out their crops.) I told them we had the children's pictures posted and it felt wonderful to now see them in person. Just about then, I began to fill with emotion. In that moment I realized how meaningful Unitarian Universalism had become to me on this trip and how connected I felt with these people. I was proud of our congregation and our Aquino partner—UUs together.

The Mountain That Loved a Bird

BY SUSAN GRIEGER

In anticipation of our second trip to visit our partner and other UU congregations in the Philippines, I was doing some online research. I particularly wanted to be able to say a few words of greeting to our partners in their own language. As a member of Unitarian Universalists of San Mateo, California, our partner congregation is Ulay Cabiguhan on Negros Island, in

Negros Occidental—the western and northern part of the island. Hiligaynon is the predominant language there, so that is what I researched.

Wikipedia had a very nice overview of Hiligaynon but, more exciting to me, a description of a popular children's picture book, *The Mountain That Loved A Bird*, now translated into Hiligaynon with new art drawn from the landscapes of the Philippines, and published by Mother Tongue Publishing Inc., a new company based in Manila, with a mission to publish books in local languages.

This excited me because there is a great need for books in local dialects to support UU children's religious education in the Philippines. As the book is also published in English, Filipino, and Cebuano, it covered all the languages needed by the Philippines UU congregations. The story concerns a barren mountain that is visited by a bird who, over time and generations, transforms the mountain into a green and fruitful landscape, full of life and joy. It is a story of friendship, diversity, cooperation and transformation—a beautiful book for all ages.

Our trip leaders, Lee Boeke Burke and Rev. Nihal Attayanake, agreed that the books looked promising and encouraged me to contact the publisher. Nihal made arrangements for our group to meet with the illustrator and publisher, Beulah Taguiwalo, during our stay in Manila. We decided to buy each UUCP congregation two copies of the book, one in English and one in their local language. Members of our travel group pitched in to purchase the books.

We met Beulah at a Starbucks in the Greenbelt section of the Makati district of Manila. She was a charming conversationalist who graciously answered all our questions. She showed a lot of interest in UUCP and our pilgrimage and said she supported what we were doing. She herself was raised Baptist, but her mother told her, "Never believe something just because someone tells you to, but follow your heart." The Quezon City UU group has promised to send her an invitation to



A third-generation pig thrives in Malingin.

their meetings.

I told her how I found the book through the Wikipedia article on Hiligaynon – which turns out not to be the language of our partner congregation! I told her that if I had known to look for Cebuano, I never would have found the reference to her books. She said she had written the Wikipedia reference, and after hearing my story, would edit the Wikipedia articles on all the other languages to include the reference, too.

Beulah is currently working on a book of children's short stories called *The Seafarers' Children* whose theme is children growing up without their fathers because they work far from home, a common situation in the Philippines today. I look forward to keeping up with Beulah's projects which promise to be of great value to our partner congregations.

It was my pleasure to present copies of *The Mountain That Loved a Bird* on behalf of our group to the congregations that we visited. I only wish that Beulah could have been there to see the faces of the children and their parents and teachers as they accepted these beautiful books.

A Book Lover's Discovery in Manila

BY KATHY SMITH

FIRST UU, SAN DIEGO

As a book lover, and one who loves to explore by foot, I wandered out of the Lotus Garden hotel where our tour was based in Manila, to find a small bookstore named Solidaridad

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Reports, News & Travel Stories

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Publishing House. I later learned from Janet Cemanes, a bright young adult leader and supporter of our Bicutan faith community, that this publishing house is an important part of the intellectual and liberal movement in the Philippines. Additionally, the owner is an award-winning author who is published internationally in several languages. Interesting enough, he is a speaker of many languages including the Ilokano language. This language is spoken on Negros Island, where our First UU Church of San Diego has its partner church, Malingin.

At this bookstore, I discovered the Solidarity Seminar Series called "Our Threatened Heritage." It is a compelling nonfiction 200-page magazine written by experts on what is happening to threatened natural resources and how they are managed. The award-winning author (Chip Fey) is the editor/publisher of the books in this series. The article I am presently reading addresses the case of tribal peoples managing their own resources as a model of community-based development. It is a good critique of what happened when a wet rice system was established with inorganic fertilizers, as opposed to the original tribal management system of the Bonito community. On our trip we saw wet rice and fish farms everywhere established on Negros Island so his observations were especially meaningful to me.

Another of my Solidaridad bookstore discoveries is the author, Sionil Jose, and his stories in the *Rosales Novel Saga*. Now I am reading one of his works called *Tree*, which is the story of a boy growing up in a small Ilokano town, surrounded by friends below his social class. It is a story of oppression as well as compassion. I enjoy it for the many details, the imagery, and his use of the many living languages of the Philippines. As we traveled on the UUPCC tour, we heard many languages! In this book, we learn of the stern Catholic Padre Andong, the

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Below: Photo of Vickie Milde from Wisconsin leaning on one of the old bamboo "utility" poles, Len Pellettieri leaning on one of the new metal poles, and three kids you might want to make friends with next year.



Above: Another photo of our Malingin utility poles.

OPEN LETTER TO SAN DIEGO'S PARTNER, MALINGIN

Good morning, good friend Rev. Miguelito. I'm thinking about "field trips" today because my 11-year-old friend Madina, whom Mary and I call our granddaughter, is on one. Her class got on a bus and went to San Diego's big Balboa Park for the day. They will visit one or more of the museums, probably picnic on the grass and have fun.

Do any of your kids, grades 1 to 12, ever get to go on field trips? Probably not. Now I'm dreaming; I wish we could take them to Silay City to visit one of the museums there, eat in a Jollibee (have they ever tasted *halo-halo*?), ride the cable sky ride. Or go to Bacalod, a beach, swim in the ocean, play in the sand. I bet many of them have never been on a beach. True? Maybe next year.

I'm dreaming of doing these things with your kids, because they're such lovable, teachable kids. Give your sons Jun Mark and Jun Mike hugs for me. And say hello to Erwin, age 12, who made the plastic straw bouquet which is now in our RE office. Say, "Whassup?" to the three disk jockeys, Arnold, Paulo and Felix, ages 12, 13 and 11, who had us all dancing like Michael Jackson. And be sure to say hello to my friend Renzo, age 10, a future leader, who said to me, "I will be patient and understanding with my group."

Of course we were amazed to see how the \$450 we sent you last year when you were hungry after two rice crops failed has been turned into three generations of pigs for twelve families. Incredible!

Every day we visitors shed tears of joy, from insights, discoveries, connections, the deep satisfaction of sensing that we were changing lives, and often put our hands on our chests to feel our hearts which had become so large in your company. Thank you.

—Len Pellettieri, First UU San Diego

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boy's father's perpetual absences from Mass, the life of a servant named Old David and much more from a man looking back on his life in a village. The author has been compared to Graham Greene and is considered the foremost Filipino novelist in English.

My trip to the Philippines was made richer by the treasures I discovered in that small bookstore.

KHARANG, KHASI HILLS, INDIA

A Safe Haven for God's Neediest Children

BY CATHY HEALY (A RECENT VISITOR)
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA

To come to the Annie Margaret Barr Children's Village orphanage and school is to come to a magical place. Twenty-one of the dearest children met Dee Idnani and me as we approached the orphanage. Each smiling child greeted us with "*Khublei*," a handshake, and kiss on each cheek, which later on in the week became a bear hug and a kiss on each cheek. Our bags were whisked away before we knew it.

Our days and evenings were filled with enjoying new arts and crafts projects as well as observing how smoothly the CV ran. Chores were done without complaint. Washing clothes and slinging them on the rock to get clean was a daily occurrence. Sweeping the floors and the trough outside the building was a job well done by the youngest children. Our communication was either pantomimed or translated by an older child and it worked well. Joyous singing didn't need to be translated as



Bedtime.



Top: Cathy chatting with the children.
Bottom: boys playing on the playground,

from time to time various children burst out with "This Little Light of Mine" in English, or a Khasi song as their spirits flowed out. Walking to school each morning, little hands would find their way into ours and then a row of children were linked across the road. Going to the pond to wash clothes was an adventure for Dee and me as we followed along on the uneven, rocky, and at times very steep hills. As we turned back for lunch, a new little four-year-old simply led us to the CV.

During the children's service on Sunday and the prayer service before bed, each child bowed his or

her head and earnestly prayed—again their voices rang out with fervor. As usual, the older children cared for the younger ones with family togetherness. The wonderful and hard working Mothers each slept next to a dorm, made the food, supervised afternoon homework, took care of any sick child and kept the CV humming. Their dedication was obvious from the moment we got there.

To know of these daily occurrences cannot bring you the joy and happiness I felt when I was in their midst. Making individual contact with these thirsty minds was beyond belief. To be so near them, to feel their spirits and earnestness, and to see their smiles, made a huge difference in my life. And to know Dee and to meet the very busy, yet dedicated people who all make a difference to these children's lives was inspirational.

The Children's Village is a life-changing place for each and every one of these children, as well as visitors who are lucky enough to see for themselves.

Khublei one and all.



Washing clothes, a daily chore.

Religious Education

(Continued from page 13)

Father” prayer, instead of the minister. It’s an uphill road, especially the Sunday School, because it is not in the tradition there to provide religious education in that way. Religious Education is part of the school curriculum and recently the Transylvanian Unitarians have written, and the state has published, graded RE textbooks. However, in many village and small-town schools, the class of Unitarian children covers a wide age range, so it is hard to use the textbooks. And even in the cities, the ministers who work at the school may or may not have a working relationship with the minister who serves the church.

So—to get to your question more directly—your partner minister can

contact the Transylvanian Unitarian RE Committee, who should know, if anyone does, where Sunday Schools are going on and what other strategies, such as story telling in the service, are being used. He can contact Csaba Mezei in Kolozsvár to find out about translated curriculum. I believe that now seminarians sometimes do curriculum development projects as well, so asking at the Protestant Theological Seminary might be fruitful.

Several churches have been doing vacation church schools in their partner church—usually with the youth of both churches involved. If this is of interest, there are members of the PC RE Committee who can put you in touch with folks who do this.

—Ruth Gibson
revgt@bigpond.net.au

THE REV. NAGY FERENC— HIS STORY, HIS ART, HIS SONGS

Nagy recounts his story with warmth, insight, and humor. Growing up in Transylvania, being a member of the oppressed Hungarian minority in Romania, becoming an internal refugee during World War II, serving as a Unitarian minister during the era of Communist totalitarianism—all figure in the story he tells. Edited by George Kimmich Beach from interviews with Rev. Nagy, the text is richly illustrated with Nagy’s own paintings and songs. The book gives young people and adults a vivid sense of the struggles and the joyous faith of Transylvanian Unitarians in the last century, and continuing today. Recommended for RE teachers! —Barbara K. Beach

Available for \$15 (postage & handling included) from Campicello Press, P. O. Box 417, Madison, VA 22727. Inquiries: gkbeach@aol.com. This book will be available at the UUPCC booth at GA in June.

A SAMPLING OF EXCERPTS FROM AN INTERVIEW IN THE WASHINGTON POST TRAVEL SECTION

Think Italy, Not Vampires

A fondness for the U.S. is in Romanians’ blood

Sunday, December 6, 2009

I say Romania, you say . . . Dracula, right? Well, put a stake through the heart of that outdated association, say Sheilah Kast and Jim Rosapepe, authors of the new book “Dracula Is Dead: How Romanians Survived Communism, Ended It, and Emerged Since 1989 as the New Italy.” Rosapepe, a former ambassador to Romania, and his journalist wife Kast recently spoke with Travel deputy editor Zofia Smardz about Romania’s resurgence and the realities and pleasures of traveling there. Excerpts:

Q. Romania the new Italy? What do you mean by that?

Rosapepe: We mean it is a country that punches above its weight class in history, in culture, in creativity and in attractiveness to Americans who visit.

Q. Do you find much interest in Romania among Americans?

Rosapepe: There are deeper and broader cultural ties between the United States and Romania than you would think. In Transylvania, we were constantly running into American Unitarians. Transylvania is the Holy Land of Unitarianism. If you go to a Unitarian church in the United States, you’re going to find someone who’s been to Romania and someone about to go to Romania. And Romania had a very large Jewish population before World War II; about half perished in the Holocaust, and most of the rest emigrated during the communist period, many to the United States. The most famous example is Elie Wiesel. We wrote a section on his home town, what happened there during the Holocaust.

Q. If I’m an ordinary traveler, why I should go there?

Kast: It’s an incredibly hospitable place. Romanians are hugely pro-American and will tend to say to Americans, with a smile, “We’ve been

waiting for you for 60 years,” because they really did hope after the communists moved in that Americans would come and save them. Even though we didn’t intervene militarily, they did see the U.S. as standing up to the Soviet Union all during the Cold War. . . . So for a place that’s as interesting and exotic as it is, and where, if you get out to the villages or to farms, you really feel like you’re in another century, it’s not scary, because you can communicate.

Q. What’s your favorite place there?

Kast: One of my favorite parts is in the far north, a region called Maramures. That’s where Elie Wiesel’s home town is, that’s where this charming place called the Merry Cemetery is, where the grave markers are carved with little limericks, little vignettes of the life of the departed.

www.draculaisdead.com/news/

Go to “We Wait” to read a sermon given by Rev. Harold Babcock just this past February, inspired by this book.

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 and visit our website at 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

You are invited to join A Transylvania Quilting Retreat!

September 20–October 1, 2010

Lou McKee of Spokane, WA is working with the UUPCC Pilgrimage Service to organize a Quilting Retreat this September in Felsőrákos, Romania. Jean Vanbockel, a noted quilt making teacher and author from Idaho, will be leading the quilt project and providing guidance and instruction. Beginning in Bucharest, Romania and ending with 3 nights in Budapest, Hungary the trip will visit tourist destinations along the way including a number of UNESCO World Heritage sites. During the 5-day village stay, participants will work together to hone their skills and create quilts that will be donated to a local orphanage. In recent years The Westminster Congregational UCC and the UU Church of Spokane have worked to assist their partners with the restoration of a 5-bedroom guest house that will house the participants and serve as the common area for meals and quilting. Felsőrákos is located near the small town of Barót in a beautiful rural area surrounded by the Carpathian Mountains and noted for its local artisans. For more information including a detailed itinerary, trip costs, and registration materials please visit the UUPCC travel webpage at www.uupcc.org/trips.

UU Transylvanian Pilgrimage (On a Budget)

May 14–26, 2011

Two life-changing weeks in Transylvania for under \$1,140! This is the same quality Unitarian pilgrimage that the UUPCC has been facilitating for a decade—but at 60% of the price. We have replaced hotels with dorms and guest-houses, substituted village meals for restaurants, and eliminated the long van ride from Budapest. (You could easily add days in Budapest onto either end of the pilgrimage).

Beginning and ending in Kolozsvár/Cluj, this tour will visit the most significant of the Unitarian holy places including Torda, Mészkö, Gyulafehérvár and Déva. You will also visit the frescoed Unitarian churches of Székelyderzs (a UNESCO World Heritage site) and Karácsonyfalva, the spectacular 13th century castle at Vajdahunyad, the medieval walled city of Sighisoara/Segesvár, and the Saxon fortress church at Biertan (Segesvár and Biertan are both UNESCO World Heritage sites). You will spend a weekend with your partner congregation—make new friends and revitalize your partnership. If you do not have a partner in Transylvania, the UUPCC will arrange for you to stay in one of the many beautiful Unitarian villages with

other pilgrims. For more details please review the tentative daily itinerary.

13 days/12 nights \$990 per person (standard accommodations) + \$150 registration fee. Standard accommodations are a combination of B&B, guest-house & dormitory style facilities—some with shared bathroom). You should be able to climb stairs and handle your own luggage. Travelers with mobility issues or who simply prefer 3-star hotel accommodations should select the "deluxe" option which is an additional \$210 double occupancy or \$300 single accommodations. Single rooms cannot be guaranteed in standard accommodation facilities. Includes ground transportation, meals (as detailed on itinerary at www.uupcc.org/trips.html), lodging, guides, interpreters, and fees. Cost does not include international airfare and other travel to/from Cluj/Kolozsvár, Romania.

Spring/Pentecost Pilgrimage to Transylvania and Budapest

June 3–13, 2011

During the spring of 2010 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

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Notices

Travel Services & Resources

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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 (or will be) posted on the UUPCC travel web page.

UU Festival Choir 2011 European Concert Tour

August 8–20, 2011

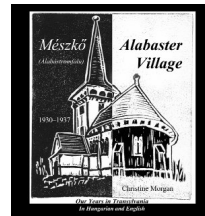
By popular request the UU Partner Church Council is organizing an August 2011 musical pilgrimage to Transylvania & Budapest to explore and experience the historic roots of Unitarianism, and connect with our co-religionists through the universal language of music. Beth Norton, Director of Music at First Parish Concord, MA has agreed to direct the assembled choir. Singers will be provided with music and recordings in advance. We will spend the first days of the tour at a beautiful Carpathian Mountain retreat getting to know each other, seeing the local sights and rehearsing for the subsequent concerts. Along the way we will visit historic Unitarian sites and places of a more general interest, including:

- Guided walking/bus tour of Budapest and farewell dinner/cruise on the Danube.
- Torda—where the first act of religious tolerance was signed in 1568.
- The rock in Kolozsvár that Ferenc Dávid spoke from when he “converted the whole town’s population to Unitarianism.”
- Segesvár/Sighisoara—the medieval walled city which is the purported birthplace of Vlad Tepes.
- The frescoed Unitarian church in Székelyderzs, the world’s only Unitarian UNESCO world heritage site.
- Mészkö—the “Alabaster Village” made famous by the book of the same name.
- Concerts in Sepsiszentgyörgy, Székelyudvarhely, Marosvásárhely, Kolozsvár and Budapest.

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
OR send a check —\$25 per copy + \$5 shipping to:
UUPCC / PO Box 88 / Bedford, MA 01730
Church bookstores—call the UUPCC office for quantity discounts (781-275-1710)



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. Al Wambach, 1-610-613-1390.



The trip is open to singers young and not-so-young, but is limited to 40 participants. Through this trip we hope to foster a new understanding of our historical roots and build deeper relationships with each other and our co-religionists overseas.

In addition to the base tour there will be optional pre and post tour extensions offered for Bucharest and Vienna respectively for those who wish to extend their stay in Europe.

For more information please visit the travel page of the UUPCC website and/or contact John Dale at jdaleuupcc@yahoo.com.

Children’s Songs in Hungarian

In Budapest last summer we obtained a music book and separate CD by Gryllus Vilmos which our music director is using with our children’s choir. I think these songs would be fun and easy enough for singing in regular Sunday School classes and help kids remember their Hungarian or Romanian partner churches. I found the performer through Google, so one may be able to order on-line.

Here is what we have: Gryllus Vilmos: Dalok 1 (1992)... book and CD.

He has three CDs and matching books out: #2 and #3 were of the same title, but numbered Dalok 2 (1998) and Dalok 3 (2002).

—Julie Jose
Spokane, WA

Erdély Map: This map of Transylvania, published in Budapest by Dimap, is somewhat more detailed (1:400,000) than the one printed by Cartographia (1:500,000). In addition, it features street maps of 12 cities and towns in Transylvania. All place names are shown in Romanian and Hungarian, and some also in German. \$15, including postage. *All profits go to the UUPCC.*

For more information: eclazar@earthlink.net
Send your check to: Emery Lazar, 18 Mountain Laurel Lane, Castleton, VA 22716.

Walking in Others’ Shoes, a book of stories from the first three years of the partner church movement by Gretchen Thomas, will be available in May. If you want to pick up a copy—or multiple copies for your church bookstore or PC committee to sell)—for \$25 USD or from her at CUC in Victoria or at GA in Minneapolis, please write to her now at revgt@bigpond.net.au. The price is 26 USD, 27 CAD, 29 AUD, or 20 EUR.

—Gretchen Thomas

Download the Gift Form from our web site: 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 GIFT FORM FOR TRANSMISSION OF FUNDS

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 _____

Church, City/Town, Country Name _____

Contact Person _____ Title _____

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 2010 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/. 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.*

UU Partner Church Council

Board of Directors

Richard Van Duizend, Chair *Term to 2011*
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Please contact Ann Gary to join the ranks of networkers!

To find the UUPCC networker assigned to your church, go to www.uupcc.org/networkers.html.

UU Partner Church Council Vision & Mission Statement

Vision: The vision of the UU Partner Church Council is that partner relationships between North American congregations and churches around the globe will be forged and sustained wherever they are desired—and that these relationships will be of high quality, firmly based, mutually beneficial, responsibly sustained, and linked by a joint and mutual covenant. We envision a commitment to international engagement as a moral and spiritual principle that is integral to Unitarian Universalist congregational life.

Mission: The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council is to foster and support partner relationships between North American congregations and congregations, schools, and agencies in all other countries where partnering is sought and welcomed. At present, active partnerships exist between North American UU congregations and the Czech Republic, Hungary, India, the Philippines, Poland, and Romania.

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
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UUPCC
JUNE 24, 2006.

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

\$50 Congregational*** (*under* 100 members) \$150 Congregational*** (*over* 100 members)

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Address _____

City/State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

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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.*



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