



Partner Church News

A publication of the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council

Connecting Unitarian and Universalist congregations around the globe

Volume 10 Number 1

Spring 2003



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Don't Let the Light Go Out!

BY DAVID KEYES
Dying and rising is a familiar religious motif.

Alas, it is all too familiar when it

comes to the international programs and interests of North American Unitarians. Right now, the UUA is investing wisely and carefully in a range of global projects. The UUA board is engaged in much-needed brainstorming toward a global vision. There is a strong Office of International Relations headed most ably by Olivia Holmes. And we have a UUA president, Bill Sinkford, who has been willing to spend time and effort learning the global ropes. This is all well and good—and fragile.

As the world becomes a scarier

place for Americans; as the world economy contracts along with denominational investments; and as UUA congregations focus inward on angst and anxiety, our global programs are likely to once again be in danger.

At PCC winter Executive Committee meetings in Bellvue, Washington, we were privileged to hear from one of our founders and former presidents, Peter Raible. He presented, as only Peter could, a clear, sweeping and insightful account of where we have been as a liberal religious movement in the wider world.

Time and again over the last century and a half, Peter noted, Unitarians and Universalists have engaged with brothers and sisters in faith in other countries, only to withdraw and

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CLF Partnering?

BY GRETCHEN THOMAS

The Church of the Larger Fellowship is exploring how it could become a partnered church. By this time next year, CLF could join with a centuries old congregation. Or we might be the “church of choice” for isolated families throughout Eastern Europe whose Unitarianism has helped them survive persecution throughout generations. Or we could be a steady source of inspiration and support for rural congregations without any regular ministry.

Inspired by CLF Board members, staff, and Rev. Jane Rzepka, some CLFers have been talking, writing, and thinking out loud about the possibilities offered by the UU Partner Church

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An Official Visit to the Philippines

BY FRED MUIR

In early March, I traveled with PCC President David Keyes, UUA Director of International Relations Olivia Holmes, UU Church of Honolulu parish minister Michael Young and UUCH member Terry Robinson to the island of Negros in the Philippines to work with the staff of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines and visit our partner congregations in Caican (Honolulu), Samoyaw (Hayward, CA) and Cabigohan (San Mateo,

CA). The weather cooperated (it was unusually cool—80° or so), we had no rain (there are usually a couple of big storms that wash out the rural roads and make trips impossible), and I had the opportunity to visit several congregations not known to me.

One congregation I had not previously been to was the UU Church of Cabigohan in Negros Occidental. On my way back to Annapolis I stopped in

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President's Report

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disappear when the going gets costly or complicated, or when interest wanes.

Our dedication to reach out to those who seek religious companionship in other lands, and our response to their desire for partnership with us, Peter said, "must not be allowed to die again." That is my fondest wish as I prepare to pass on the president's gavel.

The point was brought home to me on my recent trip to partner churches in the Philippines, where I had a chance to reflect on the difference it would have made had the American Unitarian Association stuck by partnership efforts in the early 1900s. To make a long story short, were it not for withdrawal of funding, there almost certainly would today be more than a million Unitarians in these islands, instead of two thousand. (See Fred Muir's book *Maglipay Universalist*.)

Today, the PCC is a healthy organization with a dedicated board and an exceptionally effective part-time executive director. Membership and participation have increased over the past two years. We will have enjoyed the spotlight at two consecutive General



Outgoing Partner Church Council President David Keyes, third from left, with three successive bishops of the Transylvanian Unitarian Church. Left to right: János Erdő, Lajos Kovács, and Árpád Szabó. The photo was taken on the occasion of David's preaching at the Kolozsvár First Church in 1993.

Assembly opening plenary sessions. Yet...

—Our pleas for new partners have generally gone unanswered by UUA churches.

—Many existing partnerships are inactive, while others consider giving up when relationships start to mature, and like all worthwhile relationships, get complicated.

—We have been advised by the UUA to expect a substantial cut in funding because of the downturn in the stock market.

What can be done?

Those of us whose lives have been changed by global partnership must let the leaders of our churches and our Association know how important international engagement is to us. We need to pray for and bend the ears of our ministers, board presidents, and UUA trustees. And, we must renew and refresh ourselves in partnership, being unafraid to travel to visit our faith families, willing to work through conflicts, and excited about new initiatives. We must, in every way, stand with Peter Raible, resolute that our partnerships not be allowed to die again. ••

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.

Editors: Nancy Daugherty and Richard Cooper
Publication Advisors: Barbara Kres Beach, John Gibbons, Leon Hopper, David Keyes, Emery Lazar, and Pat Rodgers.

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For any other information, contact the UUPCC office at 781-275-1710, or uupcc@uaa.org

Visit the web site at: www.uaa.org/uupcc/

NEW ADDRESS

Ever since its founding ten years ago, the Partner Church Council has received its mail at the University Unitarian Church in Seattle, WA. University Unitarian has provided us with this invaluable facility without charge and always with a smile. We are truly grateful for their generosity.

For a variety of reasons, the time has come to change our address (except with respect to certain legal matters). Accordingly, we request that you now send any mail that you previously would have sent to Seattle to our new location, specifically:

U.U. Partner Church Council / P.O. Box 88 / Bedford, MA 01730-0088

You may have noted that this was the return address on your most recent newsletter. It was also the address on the return envelopes for our latest annual fundraising appeal. Now, please use it for anything you want to mail to us, including *especially* gift transfer forms and checks.

If you have recently mailed something to Seattle, be assured that it will either be dealt with there or forwarded to Bedford. We will do our best to make sure that nothing slips between the cracks. However, if you become concerned that something may have gone astray, please contact us. You will find e-mail addresses for contacting the persons responsible for various PCC activities on the back page of the newsletter.

—LARRY COBURN, TREASURER

PAT RODGERS RECEIVES THE 2003 LOUIS C. CORNISH "LIVING THE MISSION" AWARD



Gretchen Thomas writes, "I am happy that I get to claim the honor of having brought Pat Rodgers into our partnership movement. When the San Jose congregation was planning its first partner church minister's visit (József Kászoni was serving Homoródszentmárton at that time), I arranged for József to stay with Pat and Doug because I knew they would inevitably become interested and committed to partnership work. Soon after that the PCC Exec was sweating over who we could possibly recruit to edit the newsletter. I suggested Pat, and the rest is history.

"For a decade Pat has worked faithfully, creatively and tirelessly for the partnership movement—first as the *PCC News* editor, as keeper of our database, as an Executive Committee member, as a vital member of the Matching and Membership Teams, as our main pcc e-mail lists guru, as the make-it-happen person for so many of our projects and connections, as a regular member of San Jose's Partner Church Committee, and as a faithful friend of the Homoródszentmárton Church.

Pat's work is exemplary because it is remarkably wise, reliable, tactful, respectful and full of common-sense experience about what will and will not work. In moments when others would quit, Pat finds ways to continue and to re-forge broken connections. The spirit Pat brings to our work is inclusive and trusting, generous and forgiving. She is eminently able to stand in another's shoes—which is the essence of partnership.

"I'm quite sure nearly every person in this movement has been in touch with Pat at one time or another. Whether the messages that flow are asking for advice or encouragement, trading information to clarify or solve a problem, or dreaming up a new system that allows us to do our work more in keeping with our principles, Pat is unfailingly a joy to work with and take direction from. She is the glue that holds our movement together."

We are honored and blessed by the energy and love that Pat has contributed to the Partner Church movement—always as a volunteer—and are happy to recognize her ongoing commitment with this award.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Unintended Consequences

Things happen that we did not expect. Sometimes these are pleasant little surprises and sometimes we create big problems where there were none. Building relationships with international partners requires us to be even more aware of the potential for unintended consequences.

My son, soon to be a PhD biologist, grimaced when I told him that I had taken some flower seeds to Romania. "You aren't walking gently on the earth, Mom," he said. It was a simple, innocent gesture of friendship, I thought. He reminded me that the environment in my partner village is not the environment of North America. And what may be an innocent plant here could wreak havoc if it cross-pollinates or becomes invasive and chokes out local plants. He tells the story of the innocent and quite pretty "ice" plant that has taken over the coastline of central California. Without specific knowledge of a geographical region, he tells me, it is better to buy local seeds to give, rather than bring unintended problems.

At the recent conference for Partner Church Networkers we heard sto-

ries of unintended consequences from the representatives from Transylvania. Some of our gifts and programs bring jealousy and fighting between congregational members that prove to be problematic for the ministers. It is something that all of us—as well-intentioned as we are—need to consider as we grow our partnerships.

Now I am not suggesting that we put the brakes on the enthusiasm or energy that comes with projects or ideas. I am suggesting we think twice before we jump. We run the risk of unintended consequences when we apply our North American thinking to local issues. The culture, law and customs are unlike our own even when they look similar—whether it is India, the Philippines, Transylvania or any country where we have partners

The Economic Fairness and Awareness Task Force is currently in phase one of a three year project to study the effects—intended and not—of economic assistance to partners. Preliminary results of the phase one study of partnerships with Transylvanian churches will be shared with North American and Transylvanian partner churches in the fall. Eventually we hope that it will lead to good information and guidelines to help partners be



Cathy Cordes speaking recently in Albany, NY.

more effective and have fewer unintended consequences.

Meanwhile, consider carefully your plans and projects, and most of all, talk it over with the minister of your partner church before you implement a program. If you are unsure, ask. If that means sending someone over there to have a conversation with the minister and lay leaders, do so. Visits to our partners are the best way to begin to understand local needs and culture.

Walk gently on the earth—in partnership. ••

—CATHY CORDES

Official Visit to Philippines

(Continued from page 1)

San Mateo, spent time with their Partner Church Committee, spoke at their Sunday service, and presented a program on Sunday evening. I told the UUs of Cabigohan that I would be visiting San Mateo and did they have anything they wanted to share with them. They wanted me to tell the San Mateo congregation four things, which, in general, I have heard from most—if not all—of the UUCP congregations:

First, the UUs of San Mateo had sent \$150 to Cabigohan. With that money, the Cabigohan UUs built a new

church! Yes, you read that right—they *built a new church*. Imagine! They wanted me to thank San Mateo and to tell them that they had built the new church on weekends and they had built it themselves. They were very proud of what they had accomplished.

They said to tell them their church is a place of worship and community. Many of their members walk (or ride water buffalo) long distances to get there on Sundays.

They also said to tell San Mateo that church is a place where they welcome members, friends, and strangers. No one is turned away, especially since they are the only church for miles and miles.

Finally, their church is a place to teach their children about living in community, leading a moral life, instilling in them the values that are important for them.

In a nutshell, the Uni-

tarian Universalists of Cabigohan feel very strongly about their church and what goes on there: When Sunday service is held, they show up; when they gather to do the work of the church, everyone comes ready to work; when decisions are to be made, everyone attends the meeting and shares their opinion.

Generally, this is the purpose, attitude, and ways of all the Unitarian Universalists in the Philippines. I think one of the reasons that their commitment and enthusiasm is so high is because for so long decisions about their faith and institutional life were made for them, which is to say they had very little opportunity to shape either. Now they enjoy and are committed to the freedom of belief and the opportunity to run their own church.

You can learn more about the UU Church of the Philippines next year because the PCC is co-sponsoring, with the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists, a study/tour conference that will meet in Dumaguete, Negros, Philippines. The date is February 22-28, 2004. The conference will include an opportunity to visit UU congregations. ●●



Honolulu minister Mike Young visits UU Church of Honolulu's partner, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Caican—as part of a PCC-UUA delegation to The Philippines.

UUPCC TASK FORCE UPDATE

RE Materials

BY GRETCHEN THOMAS

Since last October the UUPCC's Religious Education Materials Task Force's primary focus has been creating a new curricula for 8-12+ year-olds titled "Who Are Our Partners Around the World?" This work has been possible because of a \$3,000 grant from the Unitarian Sunday School Society. A unique feature of this curriculum is that religious educators in all the countries involved are creating it collaboratively. Some of the country advisors are eager to translate and adapt it for use in their congregations. Like all our materials it is designed to be downloaded free from the UUPCC website. A first draft of the curriculum will be ready in May,

and it will be field-tested in several partnered congregations' summer programs. After it is rewritten the curriculum will be ready for use by everyone in January 2004.

The seven lessons describe the Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists in Britain, the Czech Republic, the Khasi Hills in India, the Philippines, Transylvania and Hungary, Canada and the U.S. along with an introductory lesson about partnership. In each lesson the children hear a story about a historical figure or event central to that group of U/UUs; eat the same snack their RE classes would eat; play a board game that teaches the U/UU group's history, customs, beliefs and practices and compare them to their own; use guided imagery to imagine

themselves visiting a child there for a day; receive a logo sticker and stamp in their passport that shows they have made a pilgrimage to visit this U/UU group. Support for the teachers of the curriculum comes from the local Partner Church Committee.

Our next task will be a companion curriculum on how to do a partnership and the meaning of partnering. This is very satisfying work. It urges us to be creative and enables us to work together with Unitarians from around the world. Best of all is knowing that our work will help our children become global thinkers who understand and accept religious differences and who cherish living by their values. ●●

George Huntston Williams Library To Crown Dormitory Project

A library/common room named in honor of the great historian of the Radical Reformation, George Huntston Williams, is planned for the Center for Students and Pilgrims in Kolozsvár. The goal is to raise \$25,000 for the room, according to co-chairs David Keyes and John Buehrens, who hosted Bishop Árpád Szabó at a kickoff luncheon for the GHW Library on March 3 at the Harvard Divinity School.

The common room will feature the

complete works of Dr. Williams, who wrote extensively about Unitarian origins in Eastern Europe, along with reference books for frequent use by seminarians and high school students. In the summer, the Library will be open to visiting North American pilgrims.

Donations may be sent to the UUA to the attention of Olivia Holmes, International Programs director. The memo line on checks payable to the Unitarian Universalist Association should indicate "GHW Library." ••



At a luncheon at Harvard to kick off the fundraising for the library in memory of George Huntston Williams. Left-to-right are: David Keyes, Bishop Árpád Szabó, past president of the UUA John Buehrens, John Gibbons, Cathy Cordes, and Dávid Gyerő.

Church of the Larger Fellowship

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Partnering could be perfect for CLF. We *know* virtual, long-distance relationships. Possibilities are bound only by commitment and creativity. We imagine building friendships with our partners and other CLFers, and having a chance to work with Unitarians whose families have worshiped in the very same place for over four centuries. Imagine CLF having an historic church building we could all care about and care for. Imagine working together with committed, faith-filled Unitarians to identify mutual concerns we could work on together.

If you would like to encourage this potential new relationship, the CLF Partner Church Team needs to hear from you! Perhaps you want to be a pen-pal (or e-pal), or you just think the Partner Church is a darn good idea. Whatever the case, make e-contact with PartnerChurch@clfuu.org. ••

If you are a CLF member, please send a message to Rev. Dave McFarland at DVMcFar@aol.com so our small planning group can add your name to a list of CLF members with partnering interest and/or experience.



The Kolozsvár Unitarian High School Choir, which will have a concert tour in the U.S. (See schedules starting on page 7)

NANGROI SUTING: AN INTERVIEW

A Unitarian from the Khasi Hills of India

BY BARB CLAGETT, PNWD CO-NETWORKER

Having arrived in Boston from the Khasi Hills in northeast India late last summer, Nangroi Suting—a young Unitarian minister trained in India—has been auditing Old and New Testament classes at Harvard, working in the international office of the UUA, and even traveling to Chicago during the cold winter to take an intensive course at Meadville-Lombard on the art of ministry.

Nangroi joined the Networkers' Conference in late March to learn more about partner church relationships. He

shared with us his vision of his work in the Khasi Hills, once his year here comes to an end.

Living in the United States for the past eight months, Nangroi has noticed many differences between his life style and ours. First, he is amazed at how much more actively people here seem to take part in political rallies and how readily they will make donations to causes. Second, he is overwhelmed by the widespread use of computers here. In his country the few computers available are in high demand but are



very slow in operation. Only a small proportion of the community has computer skills.

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Third Bell Ringers Appeal Update



Our third Bell Ringers appeal went out in March. This appeal will provide support for the Prague Unitarians and for the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Philippines in the wake of the natural disasters that they suffered in 2002. So far, we have received \$2,100 from those who have responded promptly. If you have not

yet responded, please do so now so that we can help speed the recovery efforts.

This third appeal, in addition to descriptions of the devastation from the flooding in Prague and the typhoon in the Philippines, had two "spiritual dividends" that add to our knowledge about the history of Unitarian Universalism in these two areas. One, by Rev. Fred Muir, tells how Unitarian Univer-

salism came to the Philippines. Fred is a member of our PCC Board and author of the recently published book, *Maglipay Universalist*. The book presents an inspiring story and shows the power of our faith.

The second dividend recounts the history of the Palac Unitaria, the building at 8 Karlova Street, Prague, which is the home to the Prague Unitarians. It tells not only the history of the building, but also of Norbert Čapek's establishing Unitarianism in Prague and how it came about that this building, with its association with the centuries-long struggles for religious freedom, came to be their church home. The history of the Palac Unitaria was taken from the book *Norbert Fabian Čapek—A Spiritual Journey*, by the Rev. Richard Henry.

If you are not yet a Bell Ringer, we invite you to enroll now. We have two or three appeals each year for partner church related needs that do not fit into the congregation-to-congregation mode of assistance. Please use the form at left (cut out or copied) and mail it to Pat Rodgers. If you would like to receive the above materials, please indicate that on the form. ●●

—DEFOREST RALPH

YES, I want Religious Tolerance and Freedom of Belief to Ring Out across the World. I will help Ring the Bells!

I AGREE TO RESPOND TO TWO OR THREE REQUESTS PER YEAR WITH A CONTRIBUTION OF AT LEAST \$20 FOR EACH REQUEST.

NAME _____ DATE _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

PHONE: DAY _____ EVENING _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

CONGREGATION _____

UUA DISTRICT _____

To enroll in Bell Ringers, please complete and mail this form to:
UUPCC Bell Ringers
c/o Pat Rodgers
3182 Isadora Drive
San Jose, CA 95132

I would like to receive the Third Appeal

To contact Pat Rodgers:
Phone: 408-926-3799
E-mail: patrodgers@sbcglobal.net

UU PARTNER CHURCH COUNCIL

Call to Annual Meeting

To UU Partner Church Council Members:

Pursuant to Article III, Section 3.4 (a) of the bylaws and the vote of the Executive Committee, notice is hereby given that the 2003 Annual Meeting of the Partner Church Council will be held during General Assembly in Boston, Massachusetts on Saturday June 28, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. for the transaction of the following business:

1. To hear reports of the officers and of such committees as may report to the meeting and to take such action thereon as may seem appropriate.
2. To review the budget and consider ratifying the same.
3. To transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

NOTE: *Article II Membership of the bylaws reads: "Individual members shall be entitled to one vote. Institutional members shall be entitled to designate three voting members. Individual memberships shall not be transferable. Only dues-paying regular members whose assessments are current may vote at meetings of the Council." Notice of this meeting is being sent to all individual and institutional members in good standing as of May 16, 2003.*

Election. The Executive Committee of the Partner Church Council will be composed of 12 members serving for three-year

terms, four to be elected each year at the annual meeting of the Partner Church Council. (In the year this section becomes effective—2003—the Council will elect four (4) persons for a one (1) year term; four (4) persons for a two (2) year term; and four (4) persons for a three (3) year term.) A person may serve a maximum of two consecutive three-year terms, but a person elected, or appointed to fill a vacancy, for a term of less than three years may serve no more than eight consecutive years.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee will be composed of three members. The members of the nominating committee will be elected at the annual meeting of the Council for staggered three-year term. (In the year this article becomes effective one member will be elected for one year, one member for two years and one member for three years. Thereafter one person will be elected each year for a three-year term.)

Nomination by petition shall be made by a signed petition of ten or more voting members and submitted to the President not less than 45 days prior to the Annual meeting along with indication by the candidate of his/her willingness to accept nomination. Full bylaws are available on our website at www.uua.org/uupcc

Barbara Kres Beach, Secretary

Kolozsvár Unitarian High School Choir Schedule

The Kolozsvár Unitarian High School choir will be visiting the U.S. in June. This magnificent choir will be presenting concerts in several churches in the mid-Atlantic, Washington DC, New York and Boston areas. A highlight of the trip will be the performance on opening night at General Assembly.

The primary purpose of the tour is to help the choir raise money for the completion of the Unitarian Center for Students and Pilgrims in Transylvania.

- June 5: Bethesda, MD
River Road Unitarian Church
- June 6: Alexandria, VA
Mount Vernon Unitarian Church
- June 7: Oakton, VA
Unitarian Universalist
Congregation of Fairfax
- June 8: Bethesda, MD
Cedar Lane Unitarian Church
- June 10: Wilmington, DE
First Unitarian Society
- June 11: Devon, PA
Main Line Unitarian Church
- June 12: Princeton, NJ
UU Congregation of Princeton
- June 14: Montclair, NJ

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PARTNER CHURCH COUNCIL AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 YEARS OF SUPPORTING UU INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP

Saturday, June 28 1:30-2:45 PM

A Birthday Party for International Partnership and UUPCC Annual Meeting

A grand reunion celebrating the tenth anniversary of the founding of the UU Partner Church Council. Many of the founders will be present to be honored. Come celebrate with song and story. PCC President David Keyes and Executive Director Cathy Cordes will present "The Next Ten Years."

Saturday, June 28 3:15-4:30 PM

WORKSHOP: UU Youth Explore Unitarian Roots in Transylvania

Come and be inspired by the U.S. teens and their Transylvanian guide from the UUPCC 2002 youth trip. They will share photos and stories of how it changed their lives as they visited the roots of Unitarianism, deepened their religion, explored environmental issues, and experienced the impact of U.S. materialism.

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE PARTNER CHURCH COUNCIL BOOTH

Kolozsvár Unitarian High School Choir—Two Concerts



Performing at
GA Opening Ceremonies, and
concerts at 1st & 2nd Church in
Boston—see schedule

Mutual Understandings Through Covenant

BY CATHY CORDES

Covenants were on the agenda for the Executive Committee meeting in January as well as at the Networkers meeting in March. I suspect you will continue to hear the word often, as it is part of the vision of this organization. Quoting from our vision statement: "... partner relationships between North American congregations and churches around the globe will be... of high quality, firmly based, mutually beneficial, responsibly sustained, and linked by a joint and mutual covenant."

During the recent networker conference we learned that this word does not translate well in Hungarian. So I got my dictionary out to figure out why. My dictionary translates "covenant" in Hungarian as "szerződéses kötelezettség." This then translates back into English as "the duty of law." The Transylvanians thought we were talking about laws.

But the more common use in English is covenant as an "agreement", "egyezés" in Hungarian. My own preference is to think of covenant as a "promise"—igéret.

Let us not allow the word "covenant" become an obstacle in any language or partnership. The idea is that partnerships need to agree how to be partners. And the agreement needs to be mutual—that is, both parties work together to come to agreement on what partnership means to them. My experience tells me that many of our partnerships think there is agreement, but few have really worked together to check assumptions. And this can lead to misunderstandings and can even damage relationships.

Deliberate conversations are an important piece of work for partners. At the networker conference we practiced writing covenants, first covenanting amongst ourselves and then as if we were partner churches. (See a sample of this work in the report on the Networkers Conference

2003 Partner Church Council Networker Meeting

BY JUDY BELCHER, PACIFIC CENTRAL DISTRICT CO-NETWORKER

A hearty bunch of partner church Unitarians joined together for three information-packed days at the Walker Center in Newton, Massachusetts on March 27-30th for the 2003 Partner Church Council Networker Meeting. Networkers from the United States, Canada and Sweden came to share information on networking with overseas District Representatives from the Khasi Hills of India; Budapest, Hungary; the Háromszék, Küküllő, Székelykeresztúr, Maros and János-

falva Districts of Transylvania. The UUPCC Executive Committee was represented by Rev. David Keyes, president; Larry Coburn, treasurer; Sonya Sukalski, retiring network coordinator; Leon Hopper, John Dale, Emery Lazar, John Gibbons and Barbara Weber. Executive Director Cathy Cordes, R.E. Materials Chairperson Gretchen Thomas, *PCNews* editor Nancy Daugherty, and Pat Rodgers, the keeper of the database and membership

(Continued on next page)

on the next page.)

Here is a simple exercise that we used:

Step 1. Each of us was given a 3 x 5 inch card. On one side we wrote three things we wanted to promise our partner. On the other side we wrote three things we wanted our partner to promise us.

Step 2. We formed small groups of 4 - 5 people and we shared what we had written. We decided together what the essential ideas were. And we combined the statements into one common list.

Step 3. We joined together with another group and repeated the process.

Step 4. A few people agreed to take the combined lists and turned it into a more formal statement. The large group then agreed on the formal covenant.

The first three steps were completed in less than two hours. The process of the conversation made us work on common beliefs and values and made us clarify our ideas about part-

nership. I believe that all our partnerships would benefit from such a conversation. We would love to hear from you, if your partnership has held such a deliberate, mutual conversation and what the results were.

Your district networker has lots of new ideas to share from the recent conference they attended. Don't wait for them to contact you. Call them and invite them to come to a meeting at your church. *(See their contact info on page 10.)* Perhaps your church could offer to host a meeting for partnered churches in your area. It is the best way to share ideas, stories and energy about partnering. ••



Networkers visit the Minuteman statue at Old North Bridge in Concord, MA.

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information also joined us.

Workshops included: Travel and Visas by John Dale, Partner Church RE Materials by Gretchen Thomas and Ruth Gibson, an update on the Economic Fairness and Awareness Task Force by Barbara Weber, 'Fishbowl' discussions on "Cultural Similarities and Differences," "The Work of the Networker," and "How to Work with Sticky Situations as a Networker."

We also worked for several sessions on developing covenants in different situations. (See article on *Covenanting on page 8.*) A Draft Covenant was written during several sessions on "How to Create a Covenant between a North American and an Overseas Partner Church." These were practice sessions with net-

workers and representatives playing the roles of partners. We realize that every partnership that develops a covenant will be different—based on the needs and wants of each partnership.

Here is a sample of the results from one of these groups:

"Though the details of our religions may differ, we gladly enter into a covenantal partnership based on Faith, Hope and Love:

1. We will listen to each other with openness so that we will grow in appreciation of our traditions and cultures.
2. We recognize that each partner brings a wealth of gifts, talents and resources to our partnership and we commit to sharing these in mutually determined ways.
3. Our partnership is a manifestation of our vision of a Peaceful and Just world.
4. We will communicate with each other as promptly and in as many ways as possible.

5. Our decisions about partnership projects *whether implemented in North America or Transylvania* will be made by talking prior to implementation and by mutual agreement.

6. If conflict occurs in our Partnership, we promise to seek healthy resolution by using all resources available.

7. We will review, assess and renew our covenant at least every 3 years."

Formal and informal networking with the overseas district representatives was a meeting highlight and Rev. József Kászoni from Hungary and Rev. Eric Cherry from North Easton, MA, led a moving closing worship and communion (in English and Hungarian) on Saturday. As I look back I think I can speak for all that this meeting was a rejuvenating and energizing three days. ••



The annual gathering of the international networkers pose in front of their meeting-place in Newton, Massachusetts. Partner Church Council members owe these people a world of thanks for all the work they do to keep this movement vibrant and growing.

Networkers & Representatives

North American District Networkers

BC (Ballou Channing) — 9 partners

- Peg Carpenter, 58 Meadowbrook Road, Norwell MA 02061 (781-826-8553) margcarp58@attbi.com
- Eric Cherry, 13 Main Street, North Easton MA 02356 (508-238-6373) echerry@mail.com

CB (Clara Barton) — 7 partners

- Jeanne Kocsis, P.O. Box 128, Whately MA 01093 (413-665-7057) cjkocsis@aol.com

CMW (Central Midwest)—14 partners

- (South) Clint Blandford, 12602 Bradford Woods Dr., St. Louis MO 63127 (314-821-2781) cpbland@aol.com
- (North) Kimberly Bares, 2011 W. Birchwood #3, Chicago IL 60645 (773-274-0363) kbares@devcorpnorth.org

FL (Florida)—4 partners

- Abhi Janamanchi, UU Church, 2470 Nursery Road, Clearwater FL 33764 (727-531-7704) abhij@tampabay.rr.com
- Steve Urse, 1118 Waverly Road, Tallahassee FL 32312 (850-385-2864) surse2@earthlink.net

HRT (Heartland)—9 partners

- Gretchen Jackson, 500 Highland Road, Ann Arbor MI 48104 (734-663-1755) gnj@umich.edu

JP (Joseph Priestley)—10 partners

- Kathy Birbaum, 12234 Westwood Hills Drive, Herndon VA 20171 (703-620-6079) birbaum@erols.com
- Liz Campbell, 429 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria VA 22314 (703-683-4579) campfair@comcast.net

MB (Massachusetts Bay)—22 partners

- Linda Lu Schulz, 145 St. Botolph St. #15, Boston MA 02115 (W:781-246-1414, H:617-266-3438) linda.schulz@dmh.state.ma.us Fax: 781-246-1315
- Ellen Cerasuolo, 28 Chester Road, Belmont MA 02478 (617-484-6804) eccerasuolo@earthlink.net

MD (Mountain Desert)—3 partners

- Rev. Ruth Gibson, 2512 S. University Blvd., Denver CO 80210 (608-231-1161) regibson@uua.org
- Sonya Sukalski, 5 Loma Vista, Los Alamos NM 87544 (505-661-4282) sonya@cybermesa.com

MNY (Metro New York)—11 partners

- (North) Douglas Eads, 151 Joralemon Street #11, Brooklyn NY 11201 (718-852-8331) dkeads@aol.com
- (South) Ethel Mae Theriault, 97 Stony Brook Road, Hopewell NJ 08525 (609-466-1259) emtheria@aol.com

MS (Mid-South)—6 partners

- John Dale, 1131 Austin Avenue, Atlanta GA 30301 (404-588-1496) jdale28788@aol.com
- Wilma Jean Nipper, 12885 Ellison Rd., Hampton GA 30228 (770-946-3046) nipperwj@mindspring.com

NE (Northeast)—4 partners

- Jodi Cohen Hayashida, 169 Pleasant Street, Auburn ME 04210 (207-783-0461) jlc@megalink.net

NHV (New Hampshire-Vermont)—4 partners

- Rev. Robert Bowler, P.O. Box 849, Walpole NH 03608 (603-756-3961) uubeau@adelphia.net

OM (Ohio Meadville)—10 partners

- *currently vacant*

PC (Pacific Central)—15 partners

- (North/East) Anne Greenwood (Berkeley), 21 Villa Dr., San Pablo CA 94806 (510-215-6620) annegt1@sbcglobal.net
- (South/West) Bill Kennedy, 263 Alameda de las Pulgas, Redwood City CA 94062 (650-361-8146) flea-st@ix.netcom.com
- Judy Belcher, 248 Mather Street, Oakland CA 94611 (510-655-8658) judanbel@aol.com

PNW (Pacific Northwest)—19 partners

- Barb Clagett, 3121 Franklin Ave. East #21, Seattle WA 98102 (206-860-2758) barbcclagett@hotmail.com
- Julie Jose, 2632 W. Everett, Spokane WA 99205 (509-325-8889) jijj@oo.net
- Susan Maclaren, RR#1 Q-15, Bowen Island, BC V0N 1G0 Canada (604-947-9191) designit@axion.net

PS (Prairie Star)—11 partners

- Rev. Janne Eller-Isaacs, 732 Holly Ave., St. Paul MN 55104 (651-228-1456) janne@unityunitarian.org
- Sherman Eagles, 980 Hampden Avenue, St. Paul MN 55114 (651-646-6667) sherman.eagles@medtronic.com

PSW (Pacific Southwest)—6 partners

- *currently vacant*

STL (St. Lawrence)—9 partners

- Sue McLeod, 80 Front Street East #622, Toronto ON M5E 1T4 Canada (416-368-4014) suprsu@istar.ca Fax: 416-368-7107

SW (Southwest)—8 partners

- deForest Ralph, 4307 Nenana Drive, Houston TX 77035 (713-721-3818) texasralphs@aol.com Fax: 713-721-3818

TJ (Thomas Jefferson)—11 partners -

- Ben Horvay, 11 Linkside Court, Isle of Palms, SC 29451 (843-886-4961) benjaminhorvay@cs.com Fax: 843-886-5175

WCA (Western Canada)—1 partner

- Sue McLeod (see STL)

North American District Networkers as of April 18, 2003

If you are interested in supporting the partner church presence in your district, please contact Cathy Cordes (uupcc@uua.org). She has taken over temporarily for Sonya Sukalski until a replacement is found who will recruit, support, and coordinate the PCC district networkers.

District networkers needed for:

MB (Mass Bay)—22 partners (part)

OM (Ohio Meadville)—10 partners

PSW (Pacific Southwest)—6 partners

SW (Southwest)—8 partners (northern half)

JOIN PCC-CHAT!

Keep up to date with what's happening in the PCC world. Share recent news about PCC happenings, ask questions, and read answers. Be inspired and offer inspiration to others. All you need is a computer and an email address.

Anyone who's an individual PCC member can join. And so can anyone who belongs to a church that's an institutional member. Send your request to:

pat.rodgers@sbcglobal.net

Transylvanian District Representatives

Háromszék district

- Rev. Alpár Kiss / Parohia Unitariana Baraolt / Str. Libertatii Nr. 24 / 4023 Baraolt / Jud. Covasna / România
alpar@honoris.ro

Kolozs-Torda district

- Rev. János Kriza / Str. 21 Decembrie Nr. 9 / Jud Cluj / 3400 Cluj / România
krizajan@freemail.hu

Küküllő district

- Rev. Jakab Benedek / Parohia Unitariana Sighisoara / 3050 Sighisoara / Jud. Mures / România
benjak@elsig.ro

Maros district

- Rev. Szilárd Sándor / Parohia Unitariana Troita / 4334 Troita / o.p. M. Nirajului / Jud. Mures / România
szilard1@hotmail.com

Székelykeresztúr district

- Rev. Lajos Dancs / Parohia Unitariana Inlaceni / 4188 Inlaceni / Jud. Harghita / România
email c/o Dean Kedei's office. at zsazsa@nextra.ro

Székelyudvarhely district

- Rev. Sándor Simó / Parohia Unitariana Ionesti / 3044 Ionesti / o.p. Cata / Jud. Brasov / România
msimo@sigmasoft.ro

Transylvanian District Representatives as of March 11, 2003

Unitarian Church in Hungary Representative

- Rev. Sándor Léta / Béla Bartok Unitarius Egyhazy / H-1092 Budapest / Hogyes Endre U.3 Fsz. 7 / Hungary
36-1-217-6171
sandorunit@yahoo.com

Unitarian Church in Hungary Representative as of March 16, 2002

NEW PARTNERS NEEDED

BY CATHY CORDES

As I write this I am preparing to go to India along with John Gibbons and others to visit our partners in the Khasi Hills. The Unitarian Union of India has informed us that they have four more churches that are ready to partner. David Keyes and Fred Muir have just returned from a visit to the Philippines and also have been told that there are churches there ready for new partners.

This is exciting news, but also a little daunting and we need your help. We need to find more churches in North America who want to partner. We know that this happens best when an already-partnered church talks to other churches about the joy and successes of partnering. So in your contacts in your district, please help us spread the word. Talk about partnership at district meetings, to RE Directors, to other ministers—every chance you get.

If you know of a church that might be interested, please have them contact us at uupcc@uua.org or call UUPCC at 781-275-1710. Now more than ever North Americans need the positive international experience that partnership brings.

Please help us find new partners for these Unitarian and Universalist Churches.



Darihun Khriam's church in Shillong (Khasi Hills) during Consecration Day. Darihun worked in Boston last year in the International Office at UUA headquarters.

A Transylvanian Centering Prayer and Departing Prayer

When Transylvanian Unitarians enter the church to participate in a worship service, many silently pray this Centering Prayer before they sit down:

"I have entered your house of worship,
Oh gracious God.
My prayers are seeking you
And I hear your voice.

Loving God, be with me,
Show me your holy face,
Fill my heart and my spirit,
Let me feel your loving presence."

And just before everyone departs a church service, they pray:

"I depart with joy in my heart,
Filled with peace and stillness.
My soul has found rest here,
Because you have been with me.
Guide me, protect me, help me
Always, oh loving God."

—Translated by Dr. Judit Gellerd, March 1999

—GRETCHEN THOMAS

**The world is a book,
and those who do not travel
read only a page.**

—Saint Augustine

New English Teacher in Kolozsvár

I am pleased to announce that Karen E. Tripp has been appointed to be the English instructor for Unitarian ministerial students at the Protestant Theological Institute in Kolozsvár (Cluj) starting in September, 2003, a position sponsored by Meadville Lombard Theological School and the Partner Church Council. Karen comes to this position with experience in teaching English as a second language, having done that for two years in the U.S. and for three years in Japan where she also served as a cross cultural consultant. Karen holds a B.A. from Earlham College in human development and social relations, an M.A. in intercultural relations and teacher certification.

She has visited Transylvania several times and knows a number of ministers and others there already. She was recommended highly by Bishop Árpád Szabó for the English teaching position. She has also studied Hungarian and plans to continue that study this summer.

I feel very fortunate that we were able to appoint someone of Karen's

ability, experience and commitment. Colleen Sanders, who will be leaving the program at the end of the current academic year, has done an outstanding job in her two years in Kolozsvár, and I am confident Karen will also do outstanding work there.

—WILLIAM R. MURRY, PRESIDENT,
MEADVILLE LOMBARD THEOLOGICAL
SCHOOL

Parting Thoughts from Colleen Sanders

As I write this final piece from Kolozsvár, it is difficult to assess the mutual benefits of the English Language Program without contemplating, first, what it means personally. For it has made it possible for me to work and live among Transylvanian Unitarians, a quiet minority within the larger suppressed but spirited Hungarian minority. At the same time, I have associated with members of the broader society of Romanians and other foreign nationals. While relations among the people are strained, there is not as much tension as I had expected. But that is a story for another day.

Members of the Partner Church

Council and other supporters of our program understand the benefits of having ministers in Transylvania speak English. Plainly, it enables us to affirm our Unitarian heritage, connect with our partners and provide them meaningful support. Beyond this, the effectiveness of our initiatives may sometimes appear too ambiguous to measure. But here is one gauge: it is impossible to meet anyone from churches here who do not express profound affection and gratitude for their North American partners.

What about the westward flow of benefits? Surely, the messages from those who make pilgrimages to Transylvania speak to this issue. We recognize the value of occasional pilgrimages to North America. But what if more ministers and others from Transylvania could travel in our direction, visit our congregations and preach in our churches? Is it not probable that strengthened ties would deepen our spiritual relations and enrich Unitarianism everywhere? Despite the remarkable progress of the past decade, I pose these questions because it is hard for me to believe that Transylvania-North

(Continued on next page)

Kolozsvár Choir Schedule

(Continued from page 7)

Unitarian Church (co-sponsored by the Unitarian Church of Summit, and the Unitarian Fellowship of Morristown)

June 15: Manhasset, NY

UU Congregation at Shelter Rock

June 20: Huntington, NY

UU Fellowship of Huntington

June 21: Hartford, CT

Hartford Unitarian Society

June 24: Norwell, MA

First Parish Church (co-sponsored by First Parish Church UU of Duxbury)

June 25: Bedford, MA

First Parish in Bedford

June 26: Boston, MA

Opening Ceremonies at GA

June 27 and June 29: Boston, MA

First and Second Church (*the Sunday afternoon concert will be followed by a 10th Anniversary celebration of the Partner Church Council*)

The Kolozsvár Choir Visiting Committee is coordinating this tour and the fund raising needed to make the trip possible. They thank each of the churches above, which will also be providing home stays for the choir group during their tour. Further thanks go to the following churches which are also providing home stays: Unitarian

Universalist Church of Arlington, VA, Unitarian Church in Westport, and First Church in Belmont.

Donations to support the tour can be sent to Catherine Bocskor, Cedar Lane Unitarian Church, 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD, 20814. Please make the check payable to the UU Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) and put "choir visit" on the memo line of the check. ••

Questions or comments? Please contact Bob Tripp or Catherine Bocskor, co-chairs of the KCVC: Bob at 703-742-0929 / triprm@yahoo.com, or Catherine at 301-495-8977 / cbocskor@wwparking.com.

(Continued from previous page)

America connections can reach their full potential until there is parity.

Thank you again for allowing me to work in this wonderful job for two years. Because it is important work, I have approached it seriously. Be assured, however, that I have also had enormous fun. And now I look forward to seeing you at GA in Boston or, failing that, on your visits to Maine where you will find me tending my garden for the next year or two.

—COLLEEN SANDERS

Concord Student Sponsorship Program Grows

BY SUSAN BECK

In the summer of 1996, Ivan and Ursula Kristoffy made a trip to Transylvania. When they visited First Parish in Concord's partner church in Székelykeresztúr, they were given a tour of the high school. They saw the crowded dormitory rooms, which house 15 to 20 students, and learned that the poor state of the roads obligates anyone living farther than 6 miles from the school to be a full-time boarder. The Kristoffys offered to lend financial support that would enable one more student to board for the year.

Thanks to the Kristoffys' energy and compassion, the Transylvanian Student Sponsorship Program at First Parish was born on that summer day. Their enthusiasm encouraged others to join them, until the program has grown from that first student to 54 high school and college students who are being helped by 57 members of both First Parish in Concord and the Boston area Hungarian community.

There is more to being a sponsor than simply supplying funds. Sponsors are asked to communicate with their students at least twice a year, setting up an exchange that has led to many friendships. The younger students often must wait to have their sponsor's letters translated into Hungarian; then their replies must be translated into English, and they laboriously copy

them in their finest handwriting. Some of the older students are able to write to their sponsors in English or to use e-mail. Relationships often become close, so that many sponsors choose to continue to aid their students when they leave the Unitarian high school and move on to college in a city.

Many sponsors have included a trip to Transylvania in their summer plans and have met their students and their families. The choir at First Parish sponsors a student, and during their visit this past summer, she greeted them when they arrived in Székelykeresztúr and personally thanked each choir member. The choir's trip was so successful that many of its members have become new sponsors. These personal contacts have all resulted in a greater understanding between our two cultures and a sense of extended family

for the participants. The program is now under the umbrella of the Partner Church Committee, which is looking for additional ways to make this partnership rewarding and successful for its participants on both sides of the globe.

For information contact Sue Beck at sbeck529@earthlink.net or Ivan Kristoffy at ivankristoffy@cs.com.

East Shore Unitarians Renovate Bell Tower

Ten to twelve East Shore members will travel to Torockószentgyörgy, Transylvania August 5-20, 2003, to assist our partners in renovating the bell tower of their church. We have plans for other activities, as well, including an American-led church service, art projects,

(Continued on page 14)

"YOU ARE LIKE LIGHT FOR THE WHOLE WORLD."

CONDOLENCES FROM HUNGARIAN PARTNERS

TO THE OLYMPIA BROWN UNITARIAN AND UNIVERSALIST CHURCH, RACINE, WISCONSIN

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of the Hungarian Unitarian Church we are expressing our grief and sympathy to the loss of your member Laurel Blair Salton Clark on 1st February 2003.

During her flight she was happy to listen in the morning to "Scotland the Brave", to wonder at the Sahara Desert, how beautiful Mount Fuji looked from space but was fully aware the risk of her mission: "To me, there's a lot of different things that we do during life that potentially harm us, and I choose not to stop doing those things. They've all come to accept that it's what I want to do."

As an explorer she wanted to serve science, development and finally the benefit of mankind. And she was not afraid even to make the sacrifice of her own life if it would be the price of her activity.

Our First Church in Budapest dedicated our religious service on 9th February to the memory of the Colombia space shuttle crew and to Laurel Clark. As Laurel was a Unitarian, we have got her last letter written to her family and friends, and we entirely quoted it in Hungarian translation. The ceremony was conducted by Rev. József Kászoni.

The whole congregation agreed upon sending our sympathy to all who knew her and loved her—especially her family. We want you to know that we share your pain and mourning. We are attaching the condolences and signatures of the congregation who attended the service.

May our Father, the Almighty God, give you strength to bear the stroke and comfort you in your future life.

(signed by: Rev. József Kászoni, the Curator, and many lay leaders and congregants.)

HUNGARIAN PERFORMERS

If your Partner Church program is anything like ours in Fairfax, VA, you are constantly struggling to find Hungarian performers to host for fundraising events. We have had our local Hungarian dance troupe perform at our annual fundraiser gala six out of the last 10 years. Although they are very good, there is only so much new interest they can generate.

I have been given a fabulous lead on new entertainment that I must share. Andy Pongratz, of Pongratz Entertainment (atp7@cox.net) brings over first-rate performers from Hungary and tours the United States, Canada and Australia among other places. He is familiar with the work of the Unitarian Partner Church program. I met him last fall at the Cedar Lane Unitarian Church in Bethesda, MD. He was touring with a 6-member Gypsy Orchestra from Budapest's finest restaurant, plus the leading female singer from the Hungarian Opera. The show was absolutely terrific.

Right now, the UU Congregation of Fairfax is working with Pongratz Entertainment to host a Hungarian rock opera, the story of King St. Steven, the first king of Hungary (1000-1038). The work was inspired by the musical "Jesus Christ Superstar." This will be touring in the fall of 2003.

Also planned for the spring of 2004 is a 12-member dance troupe including musicians. They have toured in Hungary, Austria, Switzerland, France and the United States. If your church is looking for fundraising ideas, Mr. Pongratz is an excellent place to start. I have told him that I would share his name in the Partner Church News, and he is anxious to hear from UU congregations across the U.S. and Canada.

MARGARET LAZAR

NEWS

(Continued from page 13)

landscaping at the church and/or local school. We will bring back with us some of the local handicrafts to be featured and sold in the church art gallery to benefit the partner church. We will begin plans to bring partner "delegates" to visit East Shore in the summer of 2004.

As our partnership evolves, we are able to create joint projects, such as the

bell tower work, which enriches the volunteers on both sides of the Atlantic.

Visibility within our church continues to grow as we publicize our activities. Our Youth Group has recently decided to actively assist our scholarship program and expressed interest in helping to purchase a digital camera for our partners to be able to transmit photos by email.

—BARBARA SHELTON

REPORT FROM BELMONT

A Multi-Faceted Partnership

BY SHERRY JONES AND GLADYS UNGER

The First Church in Belmont has had a growing relationship with the Unitarian community in Désfalva, Transylvania, for over 10 years. We have been honored to provide funds for many projects, and there have been several visits back and forth over the years. A group of four people from the church journeyed to Désfalva to celebrate Thanksgiving Transylvania-style this past fall. During the planning for this trip, there was an interest expressed in providing gifts of a more personal nature to the

individual members of the Désfalva church community.

From the reports of earlier travelers we had learned that the women of Transylvania take great pride in their handwork skills. They spin and weave and make beautiful works of embroidery in addition to everyday sewing skills. We had received as gifts two beautiful hand woven embroidered chancel cloths. We had also received banners for our pulpits and walls. We

(Continued on next page)



Belmont apron-creators pose with their gifts before the aprons were sent abroad.

(Continued from previous page)

wanted to give back a gift from our own hands.

As a small farming village, aprons are a part of women's daily dress.

The idea of making aprons came from Ellen Cerasuolo, who has visited previously and was also joining this pilgrimage. There is a sewing circle at The First Church made up of women who meet weekly to sew together. Ellen presented the idea of making aprons to this group. Our gifts would be gifts from our hands and our hearts to the women of Désfalva as had their handwork gifts been to us.

After a few aprons were made, the sewers confirmed that the patterns worked. They then set out to create kits for the mass production of more aprons. Each kit contained the body of the apron, the waist and neck ties, pockets, and an appropriate color coordinated quilted square.

Once a sufficient number of kits were assembled, a Saturday morning grand sewing bee was organized. All members of the church were invited to bring ironing boards, sewing machines, and eager hands to the sewing bee. Even those unfamiliar with sewing were encouraged to come and help.

As the travelers readied for their departure to Transylvania the congregation at First Church gathered for a photo session during Sunday coffee

hour. This was a wonderful occasion at which we celebrated our connection with the people of Désfalva.

Once in Désfalva, the pilgrims distributed the aprons in several ways. An apron was given to each hostess where they spent the night or had a meal. The big gift-giving occurred at a reception held in Désfalva's parish hall. Each woman in attendance was given an apron. After some initial hesitation and shyness, the women donned their new aprons and proudly displayed them to all. They eagerly looked at the photo diary of the sewing bee, asking, "Who made my apron?" "How do you say her name?" "Does she have a family?" and so on. One pilgrim demonstrated hand-quilting to the women. Two others took Polaroid pictures of the proud women alone, with friends, and in family groupings. The giving was complete. It stimulated a curiosity and a connection between individuals. A connection not dependent on language, but one based on shared experience. This was a connection that moves us irresistibly into a closer circle of friendship. ●●

If your congregation is interested in making aprons, the women of the First Church in Belmont would be happy to get you started, by sharing our pattern, some fabric, and the joy of shepherding this project to completion. Contact Ellen Cerasuolo: eccerasuolo@earthlink.net.

Nangroi Suting

(Continued from page 6)

Finally, he is impressed by the number of adults here who can sing, especially in church choirs. Singing this year in the Arlington Street Church choir has inspired him to get adults in the Khasi Hills actively singing. Usually only the children sing. He wants everyone to sing to inspire active worship.

We might well take note of how differently meals and conversation are handled in his home. When he first got here, he was aghast at the way we eat while talking and even carrying on meetings. The noise never stopped! Typically in his country, a family will come together for an evening meal and eat in silence, enjoying the special flavors and textures of the dishes.

This meditative quality is then transformed into long, reflective conversations with everyone around the table—a soothing way to end the day. Do Americans ever stop to spend quality time with friends and relatives in a "smooth" way? Nangroi wonders.

We wish this energetic Unitarian a fruitful journey in the coming months and years and hope to meet him in the Khasi Hills for a partnership meeting before too long! ●●



Désfalva apron recipients pose happily with their new patchwork aprons—made in America, with love.

THE UU PARTNER CHURCH COUNCIL WEBSITE

www.uua/uupcc

The web page has been updated through the efforts of several people including Ron Cordes, Elizabeth Hacala and David Room. Please visit it soon. Check out the religious education materials, information about trips, a new travel guide to Transylvania, sermons from near and far and lots, lots more. Tell us what you think and what else you would like to have there.

Travel Services & Resources

The following services are offered by the **Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council** to facilitate visits to Unitarian partner churches and sites in Transylvania. For information about planning trips to other countries please contact us at uupcc@uua.org.

NEW! Group Tours for Individuals

SEPTEMBER 25 TO OCTOBER 2, 2003

ANCIENT CHURCHES:

ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY IN SOUTHEASTERN TRANSYLVANIA

Eight days of spectacular scenery and unique architecture in Southeastern Transylvania. Discover for yourself the singular beauty of the Carpathian Alps and the fascinating history of the walled churches of the Háromszék region. Beginning and ending in Bucharest, this tour will visit the walled churches of Illeyfalva, Bölön, Nagyajta, Székelyderzs, and Arkos where you will celebrate a traditional Transylvanian Thanksgiving. It also includes two nights at mountain resorts high in the Carpathians, and architecture as varied as Peles Castle (home of the Romanian King) and Ceaucescu's Palace. If you have the time, feel free to add on a few days in your partner village.

COST: (8 days) \$900/person, double occupancy—includes all ground transportation, lodging, meals and fees. Does not include air travel to and from Bucharest, Romania.

To reserve your space or to receive more information please contact: John Dale, UUPCC Travel Committee
Jdale28788@aol.com / 404-588-1496 or visit our website at <http://www.uua.org/uupcc/trips.html>



The Saxon fortress church at Harman.



The walled church at Árkos.

JULY 24 TO AUGUST 6, 2003

FOURTH ANNUAL YOUTH TOUR—FOR AGES 15-19

Travel with other UU youth from around the country accompanied by Rev. Eric Cherry and his wife Linda. Learn about Unitarian history in Transylvania and get to know the people in your partner village. Prior year's trips have had rave reviews from parents and youth alike.

The trip starts with an overnight stay in the Boston, MA area where you meet your fellow travelers. Explore beautiful Budapest and then take a motorcoach to Transylvania. The trip includes a 3-day visit to your partner church. Along the way you'll learn about the roots of our Unitarian faith, hike in some beautiful country, meet Transylvanian Unitarian youth and have a great time. Participants have called it "life-changing." Travel with us and see why.

COST: (15 days) \$2500 includes round trip AIR FARE from Boston, MA, and all other expenses including all meals, lodging and ground transportation. *Personal spending money is not included.*

OPTIONAL ADD ON:
AUGUST 4 TO 13, 2003

ICUU UNITARIAN YOUTH CONFERENCE

COST: \$400 additional

The International Council of Unitarians and Universalists is sponsoring a European Unitarian Con, gathering youth from Europe and the U.S. for a 7-day conference in Illyefalva, Transylvania. Return to Boston, Massachusetts.

To reserve your space or to receive more information please contact: Cathy Cordes at uupcc@uua.org / 781-275-1710.



Bölön's unique cupola as seen from the courtyard.

Check the web site for details:
<http://www.uua.org/uupcc/trips.html>

CONTINUING TRIPS SERVICE

SMALL GROUP VAN TOURS—PERFECT FOR CHURCH GROUPS OF 5 TO 14 PEOPLE

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- Low all-inclusive price includes ground transportation, meals, lodging, guide(s), and translator(s).
- Budget accommodations include home-stays, guest-houses, and pensions, and typically include a shared bathroom.
- Surcharge for hotel stays.
- Trips begin and end in either Budapest or Bucharest
- Minimum Van Tour is five people for five days.

To schedule your trip or to receive more information please contact:
Linda Gabriel, UUPCC Travel Services
gablin@tscnet.com

Harvest Hope Travel Service

In keeping with its mission of encouraging economic opportunity for areas of Transylvania served by Unitarian churches, Project Harvest Hope offers tours for groups of twelve or more visiting partner churches or making a pilgrimage.

For more information, visit their web site: www.harvesthope.uua.org or contact in-country travel director Eva Kelemen at kelemens@zappmobile.ro.

Harvest Hope Pilgrimages

For information about annual Transylvanian pilgrimages for individuals and small groups who come together from several North American partners, contact travel coordinator Sherman Eagles at sherman.eagles@medtronic.com.

B&B Guest House in Barót

Alpár Kiss, minister of Barót/Baraolt, offers visitors to Barót and other Covasna County (Háromszék district) towns, reasonable lodging in a newly remodeled facility.

To make a reservation, contact Kiss Alpár, Str. Libertatii 24, 4023 Baraolt, Jud. Covasna, România (011-40-67-377-446) alpar@honoris.ro.

Erdély Maps

The PCC has available two maps of Transylvania. Both give place names in Romanian, Hungarian, and German:

- Erdély by Cartographia, covers all of Transylvania. The scale is 1:500,000 and the map lists cities, towns, and most villages. \$15.
- Székelyföld also by Cartographia, is a newer map, covers the Székely area where most Unitarian churches in România are concentrated. The scale is 1:250,000, twice as large. Every village is shown. \$15.

Send your check to: Emery Lazar, 18 Mountain Laurel Lane, Castleton VA 22716. All profits go to the PCC.

Fenyökút Guest House

The Unitarian Congregation of Fenyökút and the Los Alamos Unitarian Church in New Mexico cooperated to renovate a guest house right next to the Fenyökút church.

Fenyökút is 7 km from the well-known pottery village of Korond and is served by the same minister. The guest house has room for 9 people, a fully modern, Western bathroom, and kitchen. The hiking and natural environment alone are worth a several-night visit.

To book the Fenyökút guesthouse, contact church president, Ferenc Molnos: Molnos Ferenc, Fintina Brazilor, Nr. 119, Odorheiu 4150, Jud: Harghita, România.

"PARTNERS IN FAITH" VIDEO

"Partners in Faith" is a UUPCC video that is getting good reviews everywhere. This short—17 minute—video provides an overview of how international partnerships affect congregations and individuals.

You can borrow the video from Executive Committee members or from your district networker (see lists) You can also order a copy of your own by sending a check made payable to UUPCC for \$20 (includes video and postage) to:

UUPCC, Cathy Cordes, P.O. Box 88, Bedford, MA 01730-0088

How to Send Money to Your Partner Church

The UU Partner Church Council, in cooperation with the Unitarian Headquarters in Kolozsvár, has developed a process for transfer of funds for PCC members.

Please use the Gift Transfer form on the next page of this newsletter.

When sending checks, it is important to include:

- The name and address of the donor church
- The name, address, and email of the contact person in your congregation who should receive the acknowledgment of delivery of the funds
- The name of the partner church in Romania

- The names of the minister and church president of the partner church
- The amount designated for the congregation (and the purpose, if designated)
- The amount for the minister's support (if any)
- The amount designated for other persons or purposes

You should also separately write your partner church to tell them the funds have been sent and how they are to be spent.

Funds received by the 20th of the month will be wired before the end of the month to a bank in Hungary where they are received in US dollars.

Congregations and individuals in Romania are notified by Unitarian Headquarters in Kolozsvár that funds have been received. Funds are distributed directly to the churches or individuals designated. Receipt of delivery is sent to the Partner Church Council treasurer who in turn sends them to the original donors.

This process takes place every month and is reliable. The PCC assumes the bank fee in the U.S. There are no other fees.

The PCC system has not yet been established for transfer of funds from North American congregations to Hungary and the Czech Republic. When it has, this information will be included in a forthcoming newsletter.

Gift Transfer Form

PARTNER CHURCH GIFT FORM FOR TRANSMISSION OF FUNDS

Please enclose this form with each check for funds to be transferred to your Partner Church or an individual in ROMANIA.
Please type or print clearly.

NOTE: Funds transmission is a benefit of PCC membership. If your church is not a PCC member, dues will be deducted (\$50 for churches under 150 members, \$100 for churches over 150 members).

Mail to:

UUPCC / P.O. Box 88 / Bedford, MA 01730-0088

Make check payable to:

UU Partner Church Council

(This form may be duplicated)

DONOR CHURCH

Name _____ Date mailed _____

Address _____

City/State or Prov./Country _____

Contact Person _____ Email Address _____

Phone (____) _____ U.S.\$ Amt. Enclosed _____ Check # _____

FOR

Partner Church Name _____

Address _____

Contact the Following: Minister: _____

and Church President: _____

(Note: You should also contact these people yourself to tell them what the money is to be used for.)

Delivery Instructions _____

Amount designated for congregation _____

(This will carry the instruction: "to be used at the discretion of the minister and president of the congregation.")

Purpose of contribution _____

Amount for minister's support _____

Amount for: _____

Amount for: _____

UUPCC Mission, Vision, Beliefs and Support

Mission: 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, such as România, Hungary, and the Czech Republic, as well as other countries where new partnerships are now beginning, such as the Philippines, India, and Poland.

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 all of these relationships will be of high quality, firmly

based, mutually beneficial, responsibly sustained, and linked by a joint and mutual covenant.

Beliefs: We believe that partnering is effective because it is a grassroots effort, sensitive to and sustained by the local needs and interests of both partners.

- We believe that partnering and related international exchange opportunities are effective forces for expanding the awareness and appreciation of the historical roots and many flowerings of liberal religion.

- We believe that partnering can be a significant force for social justice and international understanding.

- We believe that partnering can be a central aspect of a reinvigorated North American Uni-

tarian Universalism and a means of infusing congregational life with pragmatic global ethics and one-to-one commitments.

Support: The PCC will be bold and ambitious in the support we provide.

- We will encourage, embrace, and support a wide range of partnering models, including ones that go beyond today's approaches.

- We will encourage and support both church-to-church partnering relationships and meaningful participation opportunities for individuals and congregations that are not in a partnering relationship.

- We will support grassroots partnering activities by developing effective leadership, stewardship, fellowship, and logistical services.

UU Partner Church Council

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

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: _____

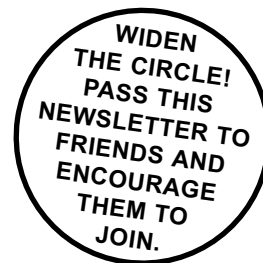
ONE YEAR

New Membership Renewal

Individuals \$30

*Institutional (under 150 members) \$50

*Institutional (over 150 members) \$100



Name: _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ Fax _____

City/State/Province _____

Zip/Postal Code _____ E-Mail _____

UUA Church Name _____

Partner Church Name _____

This is a GIFT Membership from: _____

Also enclosed, an additional contribution for PCC program support: \$ _____

(This form may be duplicated)

Make your tax deductible check payable to
UU Partner Church Council

Mail your application and check to:
UU Partner Church Council / P.O. Box 88 / Bedford, MA 01730-0088

An "institutional subscription" provides you with up to four newsletters mailed to separate addresses

* For Institutional Members, please list the four newsletter recipients:

①	②	③	④
Name _____	Name _____	Name _____	Name _____
Address _____	Address _____	Address _____	Address _____
City _____	City _____	City _____	City _____
State/Province _____	State/Province _____	State/Province _____	State/Province _____
Zip/Postal Code _____	Zip/Postal Code _____	Zip/Postal Code _____	Zip/Postal Code _____
Country _____	Country _____	Country _____	Country _____
Telephone _____	Telephone _____	Telephone _____	Telephone _____
E-Mail _____	E-Mail _____	E-Mail _____	E-Mail _____

- We will provide outreach and informational support so that partnering efforts are widely recognized and strongly supported by North American UUA congregations.

- We will work cooperatively with the international efforts of the UUA and other international

religious organizations, and we will encourage and support the UUA in developing and maintaining a strong international engagement.

- We will provide other support and services to ensure that partnering has a significant, increasing, and mutually beneficial impact worldwide.



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Partner Church Council Contact Addresses

Administration and general services, contact Executive Director, Cathy Cordes, at uupcc@uua.org

District networker services, contact (temporary) networker co-ordinator Cathy Cordes at uupcc@uua.org

Membership status and data base, contact Pat Rodgers at pat.rodgers@sbcglobal.net

Money and budget, contact treasurer Larry Coburn at coburnlh@aol.com

Money—wiring safely and efficiently to Romania, contact Larry Coburn at coburnlh@aol.com

New partnership, or reviving or ending one that is not working, contact Cathy Cordes, at uupcc@uua.org

Newsletter, contact editor Nancy Daugherty at nancydaugh@aol.com

Partnerships in India, contact John Gibbons at jegibbons@rcn.com

Partnership in the Philippines, contact Fred Muir at FredMuir@comcast.net

Religious education materials, contact Ruth Gibson at regibson@uuma.org

Travel services, contact John Dale at jdale28788@aol.com

Visa services for Romanian visitors to U.S., contact John Dale at jdale28788@aol.com



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