



Partner Church News

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

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Purpose Is the Glue

BY CATHY CORDES

What do you say after you say *Hello*? It's probably the question most frequently asked by those already in partnership. The question comes in all sorts of guises. Most of them sound something like this:

"We had a really excited bunch of people when we started this partnership thing. We took a trip and had a great time. We came home and raised money to repaint the parsonage and the church and repair the church roof. But it's been a while now and we can't seem to keep the interest level up. What do we do now?"

Sound familiar? I know that it will because I hear it so often. So here is

my "Top 3" list of suggestions for you and your congregation.

1. Take stock of what you are doing. It is probably more than you think. Do you have an article in the church newsletter once in a while? Do you have a bulletin board where you can post pictures and letters received? Do you exchange letters a few times a year? These are all things that keep the relationship alive. So celebrate your success first: you should congratulate the committee for sticking with this partnership and keeping it alive.
2. Think about adding a phone call two or three times a year. Calling Eastern Europe was a big deal five years ago. Not so, anymore. Thirty minutes to Romania costs about \$30. If the minister of your partner village

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE First, Plan

BY BARBARA KRES BEACH



This morning I missed the plane to Cleveland. Driving back home to Falls Church, Virginia, I passed the entrance to Wolf Trap Farm Park, summertime arts venue

for the Washington Symphony and long-time home of the International Children's Festival.

I've been active in the Festival since 1984, when the Board asked me to chair it, and I succeeded in helping bring 35 young children from Taiwan to perform their breathtaking Chinese Folk Sport shuttlecock toss, jump-rope gymnastics, and wild and colorful scarf

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A Gift of Memorial Kopjafák

BY JOHN GIBBONS

In October 2003, the First Parish in Bedford (MA) received two traditional kopjafák as gifts from their partner village of Abásfalva. Kopjafák are tall wooden poles, often carved with floral or geometric designs and inscriptions. Made in a variety of sizes and placed in various locations, kopjafák originally served as grave markers in Transylvania and are often seen in church courtyards. Today these cherished objects represent Transylvanian identity and are erected to commemorate people and historic events. Many, for example, were placed across Transylvania to

celebrate the Hungarian Millennium in 2000.

The Bedford kopjafák celebrate the 10th year of the Bedford/Abásfalva partnership. Made of solid oak, one is "female" and the other is "male." They are more than eight feet tall and together weigh nearly 700 pounds. With the inscription "Egy Az Isten," one shows the dove and serpent crest of Transylvanian Unitarianism. The other shows the UU flaming chalice and the affirmation "God Is One." Carved by artisans from Széntegyhaza, a written history of Bedford was

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Purpose Is the Glue

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doesn't speak English, arrange for someone to be there who does. Even for partners in India and the Philippines this is a possibility. It would have to be scheduled via e-mail and adjusted for the time difference, but it could happen. Have a general idea about what you might discuss on the call—maybe even tell them ahead of time so that it can be a productive call.

3. Plan another trip—give this one a focus and a purpose. Collect oral histories; clean, store and preserve the church record books; hold conversational English afternoons and evenings and invite the whole village—break into small groups for conversation; paint or clean the church or cemetery; host a covenant-writing session. Have a purpose *beyond* just a visit and have lots of translators available for lots of conversation.

All of these suggestions can lead you to deeper conversations and better

understanding in partnership. It takes work to sustain partnership. Once in a while we all need to be reminded that it is worth all this effort—for our partners, for ourselves, and for our congregations. These international connections often lead to transformed lives.

I believe that "Purpose" is the glue that keeps long distance relationships working. Ask your committee to define what the purpose of this partnership is.

Are you working on a project with your partner? What is the purpose of the project? Can you answer the question yourself? It is worth taking the time to struggle with this question both here and with your partner. Answering it together will help you discover all the energy and excitement and commitment you need to keep the partnership vital. ●●

**Next PCC Deadline:
April 5, 2004**

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

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

R.E. MATERIALS GROUP PROGRESS REPORT:

"Who Are Our Partners Around the World?"

BY GRETCHEN THOMAS, CHAIR OF THE UUPCC RE MATERIALS GROUP

In October 2003 the UUPCC's Religious Education Materials Group and the UUPCC were awarded an additional sum by the UU Sunday School Society in order to finish creating, field-testing, editing, making available and advertising the partnership curriculum for 8–14 year olds, "Who Are Our Partners around the World?"

Six of the nine lessons and directions for their use are complete. These materials can now be downloaded from the UUPCC/RE Materials website. The Canada lesson is almost finished. Yet to be worked on are Britain and the Czech Republic.

The entire curriculum will be field-tested in three congregations in the spring of 2004, then rewritten as needed in time to be showcased at the 2004 General Assembly.

Our writer/creator (Betsy Williams), a graphic designer, and a website expert have done fine work on this curriculum. The website person (David Room) will continue to be available to help any congregation with the mechanics of downloading and printing the lessons. The advisors in each country have been invaluable content resources as well as enthusiastic and generous. The chair of the RE Materials Group (Gretchen Thomas) will be the developmental edi-

tor who will spend the month of May incorporating the experiences and suggestions from the field testers into a final version.

We are beginning to think about how other groups (e.g. youth, adults, new UU and UU History classes, camps and conferences) might use the materials, as well as how we can encourage and help our partner U/U/ UUs beyond the US and Canada to translate and adapt the materials for use in their religious education programs.

It feels great to be almost entering the home stretch of this project. When the UU Sunday School Society agreed to double their contribution we felt enormously supported, re-energized, and validated.

Since the lessons are designed so that a group can use any one of the "traveling" (one-country) lessons separately, it is possible to download and use a lesson or any one of the games. ●●

R.E. MATERIALS AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

Material for Religious Education classes for youth or adults about partnership and International Unitarians is available for download at

[www.uua.org/uupcc/
resources.html#REStuff](http://www.uua.org/uupcc/resources.html#REStuff).

President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

dances for Washington-area audiences.

This prompted a telephone call from the Chinese Embassy, asking, "Does not Mrs. Beach know that the Festival is for *countries*?"

"Well, uh, yes," I answered with an appalling lack of suave.

With only a moment of silence, the voice returned, "Does not Mrs. Beach know what her State Department knows? Taiwan is *not* a country. These children should *not* be in this Festival."

Near diplomatic-incident not withstanding, we went ahead. The children performed to rapt audiences.

Several years later, after my husband and I had begun making regular trips to Transylvania and the Czech Republic, we worked with an indefatigable group of Unitarian Universalists and others in the DC area, and brought to the Festival folk dance groups from each of the Unitarian High Schools in Transylvania. A year or two later, we convened again and brought an impish band of mimes, led by the daughter of

a Unitarian minister in Brno, Czech Republic.

With each group, the volunteers who had raised money to bring young people to the US followed up with picnics and barbecues, visits to Washington monuments and museums, and meetings with a generous bunch of UU career civil servants at the Departments of Justice, Commerce, and Education.

Dialogue sprang forth. The give-and-take was amazing. I could have anticipated some of our answers. I never could have anticipated the young people's questions.

Perhaps some of the startling moments with kids at the Festival ignited my passion for partnership work. The Festival experience linked the camaraderie of the committed with chance. Encounters suddenly opened a door onto new and different opportunities. Energy flows. We stood face to face, looked each other in the eye, and gave ourselves to surprise.

The point—just in case, Gentle Reader, you were beginning to wonder—is that our partnership work is inter-

woven with threads of predictability and chance. We plan—up to a point—and then open ourselves to the possibility that unexpected insights and encounters will lead us to those places where the intimate and ultimate meet.

First plan. Then, open the door to surprise.

This is why I am excited about a number of doors opening before the PCC—the Fairness and Awareness study, Richard Ford's ground-breaking work in the Philippines, the new partnerships in India, the new pilgrimage and tour program, our indefatigable Networkers, and all of us growing more deeply the grassroots of congregation-to-congregation and person-to-person partnership.

We plan, in order that we may be surprised. We dedicate ourselves to focus, priorities, and mission. And we find, having done our homework, that partnership opens new worlds of intimacy and ultimacy

May you plan diligently and be surprised by joy. ●●

Photo of B.K.B. by David Tilson

Kopjafák

(Continued from page 1)

requested before the work could begin so that the woodworkers' designs would represent an accurate sense of place. The completed kopjafák were crated and shipped by air freight.

In late October, the kopjafák—secured by steel and concrete—were placed in a newly completed Memorial Garden at the side of the meetinghouse on the Bedford Town Common. A place of remembrance where the ashes of loved ones may be buried, the Garden also features a semi-circular traditional New England stone wall where parishioners and passers-by may sit, rest and meditate. Permission to build the Garden and erect the kopjafák was granted by Town Meeting and the Historic District Commission.

On November 2, five members of the László Family, benefactors of the

Abásfalva church, were present for the unveiling of the kopjafák and the dedication of the Memorial Garden. Abásfalva's minister, Áron Barabas, sent greetings: "Bedford and Abásfalva have shared another dream, and kopjafák are the appropriate symbol... Kopjafák are the object of *memento mori*, a gentle reminder of our finitude. Our loved ones in Transylvania rest under centuries-old kopjafák. Let this place be hallowed by memory. ... In our rushed and chaotic world, this place will commend a moment of quiet. We stop here to contemplate the meaning of our own life, the depth of our faith and our commitment to our community."

The eve of the dedication coincided with *Halaták Napja* ("The Day of the Dead"). That evening, initiating what will be an annual tradition, candles were placed around the kopjafák, prayers were said, and loved ones

were remembered. A perpetual reminder of partnership, the kopjafák are a unique and distinctive feature of the Bedford landscape. ●●



Bedford's kopjafák are unveiled by Zsigmond and János László (left); Rev. John Gibbons (right).

Some Thoughts about Covenanting

BY BARB CLAGETT, CO-NETWORKER IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Covenanting and re-covenanting are in the wind in many organizations, our partner churches among them. While the vision and mission in our partner church relationships set out what we would like them to become and then define the tasks to be accomplished, the work of a covenant includes how we will relate to one another in agreed-upon language. Covenants can be a powerful way to increase understanding, to strengthen ongoing relationships, and to make partnerships more meaningful and productive.

What follows are a brief summary of a process that can be used to create an actual covenant, a description of East Shore's steps taken recently to complete a covenant with our sister church, and some comments on covenants themselves.

While covenanting is more familiar to Americans than to Transylvanians—especially villagers who usually place more trust in a handshake than in a written document—our counterparts in Transylvania assure us of their readiness to take part in the process. At last March's meeting of networkers in

Boston, we created a covenant for ourselves in a series of steps that involved everyone's participation. The process was intense, short, and productive. Starting with individuals writing their own lists of key relationship values on paper, participants then shared their ideas verbally with a group of four or five, one of whom acted as scribe. The scribes reported the results to the whole group, from which several volunteers were asked to craft the final wording. Once finished, the document was read to the whole group for approval. Throughout the process, listening to others and giving feedback was a given.

Partner Church committees in North America could start by creating a covenant among themselves to get some practice, or—if traveling to their partners is not possible—to create a covenant to which their partners could respond. The covenanting process should try to include as many “stakeholders” as possible, although to have the whole congregation involved is probably too unwieldy. People who become invested in a process and its outcome are much more likely to stay connected to partner church work.

—
Here is Barbara Shelton's description of the East Shore process. Barbara has recently stepped down from heading the PC committee, but is still very active in partner church activities.

East Shore Unitarian Church has had a partner relationship with Torockószentgyörgy, Transylvania, since 1990. Interaction has continued to improve since the arrival of Rev. Koppándi Botond in 1997.

East Shore made its first biennial group trip to Transylvania in 1999. During that visit, we met with the Board of our partner church. We had a good discussion of mutual support and our commitment to make regular visits.

There was quite a bit of conversation on the PCC-Chat during 2000-2001 about creating a covenant among partners, and East Shore's committee decided to suggest this to Torockószentgyörgy when we visited in 2001.

We again met with their Board, and they agreed that our strong relationship would benefit by a written “promise.” When discussing what would be in such a document, they asked us to craft the language using key words and concepts that we had all agreed on. The Torockószentgyörgy Board members came forth with most of the concepts.

So back in the U.S., we wrote a draft, had it translated into Hungarian, and then printed on quality paper in both languages. We presented one copy to East Shore's Board and another to the Torockószentgyörgy Board. Each ratified and signed their respective copy and returned it to our committee. We then forwarded a signed copy to Transylvania and kept the other in our files.

This past summer when we traveled to Transylvania and met with the Board, we read the document out loud and asked if we needed to make any clarifications or changes. They felt that it was accurate as written and affirmed that it described our relationship.

The next step is to remind East Shore's new and returning Board of Trustees members that this covenant is an ongoing commitment by both churches (not just our committee).

The dynamics of all relationships call for constant awareness of and sensitivity to differences, some of which may not be immediately apparent. Face-to-face meetings with our partner

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SONYA SUKALSKI'S NEW ROLE: MINISTER-TO-BE

Sonya Sukalski has been the sort of leader with PCC that any grassroots organization is honored to have.

Sonya became a networker for the UUPCC within a few short weeks of joining the church in Los Alamos, NM, in 1999. There, she jumped in with both feet and got involved in both her own congregation's partnership while working for the district partners. She lent her experience and expertise to help organize the networker conference in 2000, and agreed to take on the significant role of Networker Coordinator.

She was nominated to be on the PCC Executive committee and has served in that capacity since 2001. She resigned this fall to devote her time to being a student at the Starr King divinity school.

Sonya is caring and compassionate, a living spirit of affirmation and inclusiveness. Her energy and enthusiasm is inspirational. We will miss her talents and her thoughtfulness on the board. We wish her well in her studies toward the ministry and know that partnership will always have a place in her heart. We hope to welcome her back to more active participation at some time in the future.

BY BARBARA KRES BEACH

Q&A on Travel: Bringing Visitors from Transylvania

Jo Shute recently wrote to John Dale, PCC Travel Coordinator:

Our committee's focus this year is on "getting to know each other"—creating a foundation of friendship and trust. We want to create exchanges, starting with inviting people from our partner village to come for a visit.

Q *What is involved in getting Romanian passports and visas, assuming these are the required documents? (Is there a packet of information on this?)*

A The best place to start is our website: www.uua.org/uupcc. Click on resources and you will see a document authored by me which speaks to the necessary procedures and has some sample letters of invitation and support. The invitation letter and letter of support should be printed on your Congregation's letterhead. You should also go to the US Embassy website at www.usembassy.ro. They have extensive information in both Romanian and English.

Q *Are there local/in-country Transylvanian Unitarian resources available to help with this?*

A I will be in Romania most of next year planning and organizing our tours and would certainly be available to speak with your visa applicants. American citizens, however, are not permitted to be present during the interview

with the consular officials. As we state in our visa overview, they should speak ahead of time with someone who has been through the interview so that they can prepare properly. There are many ministers and other church officials who have successfully navigated the process.

Q *How long does it take?*

A Your applicants will need original letters of invitation and support from your congregation. Mail to Romania isn't always as fast as we would like. Moreover, the US Embassy has now instituted an appointment process. The good news is that our applicants don't necessarily have to wait in line all day. The bad news is that it takes about 10 days to 2 weeks to get an appointment and it needs to be made and checked online. You can read about this on the Embassy website listed above. They should appear at the Embassy at least one month to 6 weeks before planning to depart for the US. This gives us time to file an appeal should they be turned down.

Q *How much does it cost—and what is the best way to handle tickets?*

A \$100 non-refundable per applicant. Have the airline issue an e-ticket. You can email the information to the recipient in Romania and they can just print it out. If you have a paper ticket

then I recommend personal courier, or absent that, registered mail.

Q *Should we buy here and send; if not, how can we pay for them?*

A Buy it here, but do not buy non-refundable tickets prior to your partners getting their visas issued. Depending upon their profile (more on this later) there is a decent chance they might be turned down. We have used frequent flyer miles very successfully in the past. You can hold a reservation at no cost for a few weeks and/or book the ticket and redeposit the miles should they be rejected. If you don't have the miles, and need to purchase a ticket then get an e-ticket.

Q *We hope to host 4-6 people in early Spring 2004. Is this realistic/feasible?*

A Post the processing fee approximately 6 weeks prior to leaving Romania for the US. The number of people is not the issue. Non-immigrant visas are granted by the US Embassy to those Romanian citizens who can convince the consular officials that they have compelling ties to Romania that will cause them to return to Romania at the end of their US visit. The most compelling evidence is economic—property (houses, cars, land), gainful employment, etc. Since many of our partners lack this sort of evidence, it makes things more difficult. It is particularly hard for us to secure visas for unmarried young people. When you and your partners choose these representatives please keep this in mind. ●●

churches—whether in India, Transylvania, the Philippines, Hungary, Poland or Czech Republic—are probably the best way to create covenants. With an able translator helping out when necessary, concepts such as "trust" and "hope" can be amplified or modified, though extensive definition is probably not useful. Once in place, a covenant can serve as a guide for conversations and can lead to more deliberate interactions.

Copies of signed covenants in the

languages of the partnership can be framed and hung in prominent places in both churches to remind all of their meaning. They need to be revisited at regular intervals, every three to five years, to refresh their impact and perhaps to be modified.

A copy of East Shore's covenant may be found on the web at: <http://www.uua.org/uupcc/information.html#partner> Scroll down to Document #10; click on Covenants; #4 is East Shore's. ●●

PCC LAPEL PINS

These pins make a great gift for you, your partners or for members of your local partnership committee. (Actual size—3/4 inch)



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REPORT FROM THE ENGLISH TEACHER IN KOLOZSVÁR:

Reflections on Poetry and Performance in Hungarian Life

BY KAREN E. TRIPP

Boldog Új Évet! (Happy New Year!) As I write this, it is the first day of 2004, and here in Kolozsvár we are experiencing a bit of a thaw after several weeks of quite cold weather. We had snow on December 22, and although less than an inch fell, it stayed on the ground thanks to the cold, lending a little extra magic to Christmas.

I have been in Kolozsvár for four months now, and have completed my first semester as English teacher for the Unitarian seminary students in the Protestant Theological Institute here. There are 32 students this year, and my classes range in size from 4 to 12 students. In addition to working with these undergraduate seminarians, I have also been working with some much younger people—doing twice-weekly half-hour sessions with the more than 40 2–6 year olds in the Unitarian nursery-school/kindergarten. I was asked if I would teach them English; what I do is spend half an hour with each of two groups twice a week, singing English songs with them and playing.

There has been a wonderful opportunity to keep up more formal singing—I have joined the Kollégium Choir! I am happy to have a chance to perform this way. I get to be just one of the altos, rather than being *the American*, so obviously an outsider and different.

But I want to write about another kind of performance I have been conscious of recently: poetry recital. It seems to play an important role in Transylvanian Hungarian life, much

more so than in the U.S.

In my experience in America, poetry has a very small role in most people's lives. There are people who love poetry, and read it regularly, of course. Poets have recited works at presidential inaugurations: Robert Frost at Kennedy's and Maya Angelou at Clinton's. But in general, I think poetry in the U.S. is somewhat specialized, appreciated by a relatively small number of people. Here in Transylvania, however, I keep finding poetry in unexpected places.

Three of my students (Sándor Lakatos, Endre Nagy, and Tamás Kisgyörgy) are members of a band called *Fuszál Együttes* (Blade of Grass Ensemble) that has gained some renown, having performed in Hungary and Yugoslavia as well as Transylvania. They have two tapes out, and I was delighted to learn that the second of these, released in 2002, was comprised of poems they had set to music. These include pieces by well-known Hungarian poets as well as poems by acquaintances of theirs. However, even knowing they used poetry as a source for song lyrics, I was surprised by another way poetry figured into their performance, when I attended a concert they gave in early December.

It was a lovely evening: wonderful music, a relaxed and warm atmosphere



and an enthusiastic crowd. Although the songs themselves were new to me the concert reminded me of many folk concerts I've been to in small venues in the U.S.—until the first break, that is. At that point, instead of just saying, as I expected, something like “thank you, we'll be back after a short break”, one of the band members seemed to be asking for volunteers from the audience—and suddenly a young man (another of my students, actually, Norbert Rácz) went up onto the stage, and proceeded to recite a poem from memory. It was amazing. I only understood a few of the lines, but his delivery was powerful and moving. Then, later in the show the same request was made, and a young woman came forward to recite. She brought a book with her, and said somewhat apologetically she would read the poem—although she didn't, actually: She held the book but never looked at it. I do not know whether having people recite poetry at concerts is something only the *Fuszál Együttes* does, or if it is a more widespread phenomenon, but clearly those audience members were prepared, and no-one in the audience seemed surprised that it happened.

I have encountered several additional incidences of poetry recital, both before and after that concert. It was not so surprising to see it at performances in the Unitarian high school and first grade, and even in the nursery school, although in my experience such recital is not an integral part of most school performances in the U.S. But there have been two more times I have heard poetry in places I did not expect it. The first was on Christmas Eve, at the Children's Service at the First Unitarian Church. It was, I think, the least formal church service I have attended here yet. There was no full sermon, and the minister never stood in the pulpit at all. There was a short prayer to begin with, and a reading from the Bible. A sheet hanging from the ceiling in the front of the church served as a screen, with an overhead projector displaying, initially, a pencil sketch of the manger scene.

(Continued on the next page)

DELINKA KEDEI

December 2003 saw the passing of Delinka Kedei, wife of Rev. Mózes Kedei (Székelyudvarhely 1), after a long struggle with liver disease. In addition to her husband, Mózes Kedei, Delinka is survived by her daughter, Delinke, and her mother, Irma.

Delinka was integral to the life and work of the Székelyudvarhely church. She directed the activities of the Women's League and was the driving force behind the formation and continued growth of the Atlanta/Udvarhely Scholarship Program. Her death at such a young age is a great loss for her family, her many friends in Atlanta, and the entire partner church community. Please keep the Kedeis in your thoughts and prayers.

Those wishing to send personal expressions of sympathy may write to the family at the parish house: Rev. Mózes Kedei / 535600 Odorheiu Secuiesc / str. Bethlen nr. 52 / jud. Harghita / Romania

(Continued from the previous page)

The rest of the service consisted almost entirely of children reciting verses, interspersed with the congregation singing carols. When we sang the carols, the words were put up on the overhead projector (very nice for me!) and when the children recited, they stood on a small platform that had been placed in front of the Lord's Table at the front of the church, and spoke into a microphone. The minister, Bálint Benczédi Ferenc, called each child up, starting with those in the youngest age group. And the youngest, amazingly, were children I know from the nursery-school/kindergarten—some of them no more than three years old! There they were, standing on the stage, reciting verses from memory into the microphone. The service lasted two hours: mostly poetry recitations, with a few other contributions including a class performance by the Unitarian first grade, some solo and duet songs and a couple of recorder performances. The recitations continued up in age order through middle school age students, with periodic carol singing by the congregation as a whole. Then at the end all the children received a bag of goodies as a present, we sang another carol, said a prayer, and went home.

My most recent surprising encounter with poetry was at the very beginning of 2004, right at the turn of the year. At 1:00 a.m. Romania time (which is midnight in Hungary), the Hungarian radio station here played the Hungarian national anthem, and we toasted the New Year with champagne. Then the European Union anthem (Beethoven's *Ode to Joy!*) was played (this is new in the past couple of years, I was told) and then, as has happened for decades apparently, an 1836 poem by Mihály Vörösmarty, *Szózat* (*Summons*), was recited. It is a call to Hungarians to remain true to the land of their birth, to remember the sacrifices and have faith in the future.

Poetry at a folk music concert, poetry to honor the birth of Jesus, poetry to begin the New Year. Recited by actors, by college students, by

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These UUPCC Friends and many other anonymous donors have, to date, helped us to raise \$19,819 of our \$25,000 UUPCC Annual Appeal goal.

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PO Box 88
Bedford, MA 01730-0088

three-year olds. It is present in so many different places—I begin to see why so many Hungarians have such a beautiful way with words, and seem to be such natural performers. ●●

*For those interested in reading Szózat, the poem read on New Year's Eve: the original Hungarian: <http://www.mozaik.info.hu/mozaweb/him-nusz/page4112.htm>
—an English translation:
http://www.port.hu/kultura/info/nemz-szi_a.htm*

CIPÓ—The Student Newspaper of the Kolozsvár Unitarian High School

BY BOB TRIPP

Want to get an insight into the next generation of Transylvania Hungarian leaders?

Read CIPÓ—the English-language edition of the student newspaper of the János Zsigmond Unitárius Kollégium in Kolozsvár. (The Unitarian High School officially changed its name this past November 2003.)

Started in June 2002, the English edition is published six times a year by the students. Yes, they write, edit and print it themselves! These truly are astonishing young people. They write well—in English as well as in Hungarian! They are interesting. They have great senses of humor and warmth. They care passionately about each other, and about the future of the Transylvania Hungarian world. They want to share that world with their North American friends.

They attend the oldest high school in Transylvania and one of the oldest in the world (founded in 1557). There

are roughly the same number of girls as boys in the school, and while most are Unitarian, non-Unitarians comprise about 15-20% of the student body.

Reading what they tell us is a joy—and a great way to understand better the incredible world of Transylvania to which so many of us UUs are connected.

The English edition is available for \$15 for the 2003-04 year. New subscribers will be sent all the previous issues (September and November 2003). The next issue will be in late January or early February.

Please make checks payable to the UU Congregation of Fairfax—please mail them to me so I may record them before they go into the CIPÓ account.

(Bob Tripp, 1704 Lake Shore Crest Dr, Apt. 16, Reston, VA 20190) Don't hesitate to contact me with questions and ideas: email:

trippm@yahoo.com.

And do visit the CIPÓ website: http://www.geocities.com/cipo_bread/

The students who restarted the Kollégium newspaper a few years ago (it had been published from 1833 to 1943) said this: “we have named it CIPÓ, remembering Berde Mózsza’s (long ago) deed of giving a loaf of bread (Cipó) every day to the poor students...We would like to carry on this tradition (with) just a little difference: we would like to feed the soul, not the body...Cipó speaks about us, about what concerns us, teenagers and college students....” ●●



Some of the CIPÓ editors.



PARTNERSHIP SUNDAY IS ON MARCH 21, 2004

Partnership Sunday

Jo Shute wrote to the pcc-chat, wanting to learn more about what others have done for Partnership Sundays. Here are some gleanings from the pcc-chat on ways to celebrate partnerships.

Kimberly Bares of the Second Unitarian Church, Chicago reports that they had a Partnership Sunday service in October, in addition to a spring flower communion service. They decided to do three services within 12 months focusing on their Partner Church, Transylvania and Unitarianism: as an educational tool, fundraising method (they will do a special second collection at all three) and a prelude to their first trip to their partner church next summer.

Their networker preached on the history of Unitarianism and what it

means to be a partner—that is, the uncertainty and risk involved and the flexibility needed to partner with another person, another community, another culture. The “Story for All Ages” spoke about an aspect of ancestral/cultural connections; they sang *Spirit of Life* in English and Hungarian; the pianist played Bartok; two recent travelers gave a short “Beyond These Walls” piece, and—last but not least—communion.

After the service we did a Spotlight luncheon about Transylvania, ate goulash, and talked about our upcoming trip while we watched a video sent to us by our Partner Church and village about their lives.

Julie José in Spokane’s response:
We usually have our annual dinner/

(Continued on page 15)

An Arizona Journey

BY JANICE BRUNSON

When I toured Unitarian churches in Transylvania during the summer of 2002, little did I realize then that a five-day tour there would actually extend for more than a year in Arizona—symbolically, that is.

The original tour was inspiring, learning about Unitarian heritage and meeting the Unitarians who, today, continue to guard our religious heritage for generations to come. I was so inspired that I wanted to share with all Unitarians throughout Arizona.

Thus began a continuation of the original tour, a drive of over 3,000 miles throughout the state to cities and towns with descriptive names like Paradise Valley, Green Valley and Sierra Vista, addressing a dozen Unitarian Universalist congregations with my story, “The Unitarian Hadj: A Journey of Discovery with Our Religious Cousins in Transylvania.”

Some, like in Yuma and Lake Havasu City, are small congregations with only several dozen members. Others, like Tucson, Surprise and

Chandler, number hundreds. Each share common UU traditions, making a visit to any congregation in Arizona a familiar experience.

The larger congregations meet in buildings 50 years old or older (what passes for historic in a young state), owned free and clear by the congregations. A beautiful example of such a building is in Flagstaff, where an old converted home is nestled among a beautiful tree-lined street, with windows framing the majestic San Francisco Peaks.

Other congregations, like the Fellowship and the Church in Prescott, were fortunate enough to be left generous bequests, money enough to purchase buildings that have been converted into lovely settings. Smaller congregations are working hard to raise money enough to buy their first land and buildings.

The best news: two congregations have outgrown their facilities because there are so many children!

Based on feedback after each service, UUs here are hungering for information, history and background about their religion. Most of us are trans-

plants from other religions and because we live far from Boston, we have had scant opportunity to learn about Unitarianism in detail.

Each congregation paid a speaking fee. In all, over \$1,500 was collected and forwarded to the Partner Church Council for distribution between the Council and Transylvanian Unitarians. A small sum was set aside toward the cost of a kidney transplant for Delinka Kedei, the wife of the minister at Second Church in Székelyudvarhely whose recently completed church is partnered with the Phoenix UU Church.

Arizona Unitarians are now planning their own tour of Transylvania in 2004, thus expanding the circle of awareness about what lies across the ocean. And we now have an active Partner Church Email Group*.

** Our Arizona Partner Church Email Group is a means of communication for folks interested in the Partner Church Council. It's sort of a group meeting via email. Those of us included in the mailings live many miles from one another; hundreds of miles in some instances. So this is a way to interact without having to drive to do it. ●●*

Judit Gellérd Receives Transylvanian Julianus Award

The Rev. Dr. Judit Gellérd, physician and Transylvanian Unitarian minister, has been named as a recipient of the prestigious Transylvanian “Julianus Award” for 2003. The award was established in the Roman-Catholic region of Csikszereda, to honor people around the world who have given extraordinary social, cultural, financial, or moral support to the Hungarian minority in Romania/Transylvania.

By bestowing the award upon Dr. Gellérd, the Transylvanian Hungarian community wishes to recognize her fifteen-year-long, untiring volunteer work and her historic role in creating and leading the Unitarian Transylvanian-American partner church movement and the Partner Church Council, one of the most important developments in the North-American Unitarian Univer-

salist movement in recent times. It contributed to a spiritual renewal among churches in both countries and a new appreciation for the deeper roots of their history. Judit's previous work during the Ceausescu era of organizing medical help in Hungary for Transylvanians was also applauded.

The Prime Minister of Hungary, Viktor Orban, was one of last year's recipients of the award; past honorees have included Hungarian State Secretary Zsolt Nemeth, Calvinist Bishop László Tökés (the hero of the Romanian Revolution), President of Hungarian-American Coalition, Edith Lauer (USA). This year's honorees include Hungary's writer/poet laureate Sándor Csoori, Transylvanian Roman Catholic Bishop József Tempfli, and academic-historian Béla Pomogats along

with Dr. Gellérd.

The awarding ceremony was held on December 20. The Rev. Béla Krizsbai, Unitarian minister of Csikszereda, who had recommended Judit for the award, read her Laudatio before a jubilant, large (mostly Roman Catholic and Calvinist) audience and crowds of international media. ●●

Non-profit Agency Ships Goods to Romania

As an alternative to the commercial shipping agencies, you might want to contact Helping Hands. They ship by boat so it takes a while—but deliver to the addressee.

Minimum weight is 50 pounds. Several UUPCC partners have used this service. Contact John Berai in Bellevue, Washington at 425-453-2053.

Networkers & Representatives

North American District Networkers

BC (Ballou Channing) — 9 partners

- Peg Carpenter, 58 Meadowbrook Road, Norwell MA 02061 (781-826-8553) margcarp58@comcast.net
- Linda Rose, 37 Mechanic Street, North Easton MA 02356 (508-238-1915) lindarose77@hotmail.com

CB (Clara Barton) — 7 partners

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

CEC (Central & Eastern Canada) — 8 partners

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

CMW (Central Midwest) — 14 partners

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

FL (Florida) — 4 partners

- 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) — 9 partners

- Kathy Birnbaum, 12234 Westwood Hills Drive, Herndon VA 20171 (703-620-6079) birnbaum@erols.com
- Liz Campbell, 429 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria VA 22314 (703-683-4579) campfair@comcast.net
- Jenny Brown, 1211 Hillside Blvd, Wilmington, DE 19803 (302-762-2818) szabro@comcast.net

MB (Massachusetts Bay) — 22 partners

- Ellen Cerasuolo, 28 Chester Road, Belmont MA 02478 (617-484-6804) eccerasuolo@earthlink.net
- Katalin Spang, 5 Williams Circle, Burlington MA 01803 (781-273-0032) kspang@gis.net
- Michael Fosburg, 396 Main Street, West Newbury MA 01985 (978-363-1391) michael@qualsearch.com

MD (Mountain Desert) — 3 partners

- Rev. Ruth Gibson, 2512 S. University Blvd., Denver CO 80210 (608-231-1161) regibson@uuma.org

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, 3799 S. Banana River Blvd. #1030, Cocoa Beach, FL 32931 jdaleuupcc@yahoo.com
- Wilmajean Nipper, 12885 Ellison Rd., Hampton GA 30228 (770-946-3046) nipperwj@mindspring.com

NE (Northeast) — 4 partners

- *currently vacant*

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
- (Philippines partners) Judy Belcher, 248 Mather Street, Oakland CA 94611 (510-655-8658) judanbel@aol.com

PNW (Pacific Northwest) — 19 partners

- Julie José, 2632 W. Everett, Spokane WA 99205 (509-325-8889) jijj@oo.net
- Barb Clagett, 3121 Franklin Ave. East #21, Seattle WA 98102 (206-860-2758) barbcclagett@hotmail.com
- Susan Maclaren (see WCA)

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

- Peter Beckskehazy, 3589 E. Gibbon Mt. Place, Tucson AZ 85718 (520-271-4923) pbeckskehazy@netscape.net

STL (St. Lawrence) — 10 partners

- Rev. Robert Bowler (3 in U.S.—see NHV)

SW (Southwest) — 8 partners

- deForest Ralph, 4307 Nenana Drive, Houston TX 77035 (713-721-3818) texasralph@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) — 8 partners

- Susan Maclaren, RR#1 Q-15, Bowen Island BC V0N 1G0 Canada (604-947-9191) designit@axion.net

North American District Networkers as of January 19, 2004

If you are interested in supporting the partner church presence in your district, please contact Cathy Cordes (uupcc@uua.org).

Districts in Need of Networker Coverage:

MB (Mass Bay)— need 4th networker

NE (Northeast)— 4 partners

OM (Ohio Meadville)— 10 partners

PCD (Pacific Central)— South/West partners

SW (Southwest)— need 2nd networker for the north

TJ (Thomas Jefferson)— need 2nd networker

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
alpár@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. Szilard 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@nextro.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

Reports, News & Travel Stories

Report from India

BY NANGROI SUTING

The Partnership in the Khasi Hills is growing and has been extended to Wahmawlein Church with Wayland, Massachusetts in the U.S. This is an exciting partnership for the years to come. At present we have five churches that that been partnered and many more churches in Khasi Hills want to have partners. Darihun Khriam and I are also sending a proposal to the Board of the Unitarian Union to have a separate Committee on Partnership to enable the different churches to have better relationships.

Report from the Faith in Action Department of the UU Church of the Philippines

BY REV. NIHAL ANTON

The following six congregations are enjoying the initial journey in meeting one another's expectations fairly well. They are first Unitarian church of Honolulu Hawaii with the Caican congregation; Unitarian Universalist of San Mateo, California with the Cabiguhan

congregation; and Starr King Unitarian Universalist Church of Hayward, California with the Samoyaw congregation.

Rev. Mike Young of Honolulu, Hawaii took a personal interest in the partnership program and visited Caican in March 2003 together with Dr. Terrence Robinson, a member of the Honolulu church. An outstanding partnership has been established and enthusiasm is building. They have exchanged RE workshop materials, gifts, audio tape with songs; and the Honolulu church has provided the Caican congregation with facilities such as chairs for the chapel and internet communications cost. Rev. Young is looking forward to another visit in February 2004.

David Light and Eileen Manning-Villar of San Mateo have worked together to find ways to establish a meaningful relationship with the Cabiguhan congregation. They proposed plans for partnership and have kept the relationship alive. They scheduled a visit to the Philippines in June 2004, which will be a major breakthrough in laying down a strong foundation for all activities in the partnership. San Mateo and Cabiguhan have

exchanged RE workshop material and celebrated partnership Sunday with Philippine food fare. A collection out of the sale was given to Cabiguhan with which the congregation built a chapel. Finishing touches to the building will be done in January 2004.

Rev. Katie Willis of Starr King (Hayward) worked with the children and produced a wonderful package for Samoyaw with children's artwork and crafts. We hope that a team will rally around Rev. Willis and give time to plan out a program with Samoyaw. Rev. Willis expressed the intention of participating in the Philippine study tour in February 2004.

Skills training for Sunday school teachers in the three congregations is the immediate need at this time. I am planning to make a proposal to the three partner churches abroad to undertake this project in 2004.

The three Philippine congregations are set up with e-mail for faster communications, and we hope the partner churches will make good use of this mode of communication.

(Continued on page 12)

Report from Transylvania

Michael Servetus Conference in Budapest 2003

The Unitarian Churches from Hungary and Transylvania held their Michael Servetus Memorial Conference in Budapest in 2003. November 29-30, was the 450th anniversary of the death of Michael Servetus. The conference was in the Unitarian Church in Pest-szentlőrinc, which is situated in the Michael Servetus Square. This location gave us reason to remember one of the martyrs of the reformation.

On Sunday we had guest speakers: Dr. Mihály Balázs from Szeged University, who spoke about the importance of the Transylvanian Unitarians in keeping the memory of Servetus; Dr. Elek Rezi from Kolozsvár, who spoke about the differences and similarities between Michael Servetus' and Francis David's theology; István Mikó, president of the Hungarian Unitarian Church, spoke about the conference held in Geneva; Sándor Kovács from Kolozsvár spoke about the Servetus cult in the Unitarian colleges; and Dr. Szilvia Czeiner spoke about Servetus as a doctor. The day ended with a guitar concert, music from the time of the Spanish Servetus.

On Sunday in the church we held a memorial service and dedication of a Servetus memorial plaque. Dr. Árpád Szabó, Unitarian Bishop from Transylvania delivered the sermon and Csaba Rázmány Unitarian Bishop from Hun-



The inscription on the plaque is: *Memorial Plaque Erected with Grace by the Unitarian Church for the 450th Martyrdom of Michael Servetus*

gary delivered a speech for the memorial plaque dedication. After the sermons, the presidents from both churches uncovered the memorial plaque and placed the wreaths.

REV. SÁNDOR LETA

Charleston UUs Launch Scholarship Drive

This year's scholarship drive was launched in September with a Hungarian dinner honoring all those who have provided scholarships to students of Küküllődombó, our partner church village in the Maros District of Transylvania. Congregants who have expressed an interest in joining this year's effort were also invited. The highlight of the evening was the sharing of excerpts from the letters that various sponsors have received from the recipients of the scholarships. While last year we supported 16 students, this year we are awarding 18 scholarships, 4 to college students, and 14 to high school students. Of the latter group 8 attend the Unitarian high school in Kolozsvár and reside in the newly refurbished dormitory.

To expedite the application and awarding process we have proposed to our Transylvanian partner a simplified English language application form (with the key word also in Hungarian) that the students are to submit, with the ministers endorsement, by the end of May. We in turn will do our fund raising in the spring so that the funds can be transferred by the beginning of the following school year. We are attempting to establish a process that doesn't depend on an interpreter.

The success of this program hinges on the personal relationships that develop between students and sponsors. (In some instances two of our pledging members joined forces to underwrite a scholarship).

Our partner church relationship with Küküllődombó is in its eighth year. No other undertaking has aroused as much interest in our Transylvanian brethren as the scholarship program and probably none can have a greater impact on individual lives.

BEN HORVAY

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN CHARLESTON,
SOUTH CAROLINA

A Minister Visits Cedar Lane

"A spiritual, cultural heritage cannot be locked away within the limits of this or that religious community. The ideals of free conscience and free thought, religious freedom, the protection of and respect for life, as the chief value granted by God, respecting human dignity—these must be the common treasures of all people living in the world, in every country, on every continent. Life and the events taking place around the world prove that only in this way can we avoid war, hold back violence, and make possible a life worthy of a human being."

The above quotation, which captures one of the essences of the partner church movement, is from the sermon Rev. Endré Nagy delivered recently at Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church. Rev. Nagy, who serves the Unitarian Church in Dicsöszentmárton, Romania, and his wife Dodi visited their partner church in Bethesda for two weeks in early October 2003.

In his sermon, Rev. Nagy also expressed heartfelt appreciation for the partnership and noted how the Bethesda congregation's support has helped his religious community cope with hardships that still linger after decades of totalitarian rule and under continuing suppression of the Hungarian minority.

Rev. and Mrs. Nagy participated in a "visioning" exercise that was designed to begin articulating the

(Continued on next page)



Unveiling the Emlektábla

(Continued from
previous page)

hopes and dreams for the partnership in the coming years, building on current activities such as scholarships and support of an English teacher. Among the issues discussed were the desire to make the partnership a true two-way collaboration, seeking more youth involvement, and striving for meaningful ways to contribute to the economic development of Dicsöszentmárton.

Cedar Lane's guests received a thorough orientation to the church's activities, met socially with numerous members of the congregation, visited two other UU churches in the Washington, DC, area, helped teach a class on the history of Unitarianism in Transylvania, and saw some of Washington's best-known tourist attractions.

This partner church relationship began in 1995. Representatives from Cedar Lane have visited Transylvania on seven occasions, most recently in June 2003. Senior Minister Roger Fritts, who has been instrumental in generating Cedar Lane interest in the partner church movement, has traveled to Transylvania three times. This was the Nagys' first visit to Bethesda. Rev. Nagy's predecessor, Rev. Fazakas, and his wife Lydia, visited in 1997.

BILL ZELLMER, CO-CHAIR, PARTNER
CHURCH COMMITTEE, CEDAR LANE UU
CHURCH, BETHESDA, MD

East Shore Visits Their Partner

Twelve East Shore members toured the pastoral countryside of Transylvania and spent 8 event-filled days with our partner congregation in Torockószentgyörgy, Transylvania.

East Shore Partner Church funds



The Nagy family; from the left, Endré Jr., Dodi, Csilla Noemi, and Endré Sr. (Rev. and Mrs. Nagy also have another son, Hunar.)

provided matching funds for repairs to our partners' centuries-old church bell tower. Through centuries of war, the quickest way to demoralize the losing party was to control the use of their bell towers, the means of communicating within the village. Upon the fall of Ceausescu's communist government in 1989, bell towers rang out and have hardly stopped since. It is wondrous to hear the various events of the day heralded by the bells. We forget how much background noise we live with! The bell tower of Torockószentgyörgy's Unitarian church is an important icon for its congregation.

One of the successes of our trip was hiring our scholarship students to translate for us. A student was paired with each host home and arrived there morning and night (and sometimes in between) to make sure both hosts and guests were comfortable. It was wonderful to get to know them on a personal level and share the excitement of their education, which we, in part, are providing.

We brought back over 50 articles of craftwork-embroidery and painted wood-on consignment to East Shore's Art Gallery. We asked the women what they wanted for each and in most cases doubled the price for sale. As the items are sold, the money will be sent back to the women. In addition, the Gallery sent an advance check to the women for supplies for future consignments.

East Shore's delegation, in addi-

tion to delivering the matching funds, joined with the villagers to re-paint the interior of the church itself. We introduced the concept of a potluck dinner. We shared homes and singing, crafts and computers, manicures and smiles. We communicated with gestures and much flipping through dictionaries. We had fun and came home refreshed and renewed, shying away, at least for a little while, from the rampant consumerism of our own country.

We are looking forward to bringing some of the villagers to the U.S. in 2004 and to making another group trip from East Shore in 2005.

BARBARA SHELTON
EAST SHORE UNITARIAN CHURCH,
BELLEVUE, WA

Texas Choir Trip

First Church in Houston knew little more than that we had a partner church in a small village in Romania. Over the 18 months leading up to our first trip last summer, we learned a great deal. We are a choir of 40 people, 24 of whom were able to make the trip. Adding family, friends, a keyboardist, and our minister brought the number of travelers to 38. We ranged in age from 10 to 85. It was a truly enlightening experience for us all.

The choir sang at the four Unitarian churches we visited, and made a small contribution to each which was included in the cost of the trip. Our contributions helped defray their costs in advertising our concerts, as well as the small reception held after each concert. After each performance we invited members of the congregation to dinner at a nearby restaurant. It was at these dinners that we got to know them more personally and learned more about the history of Unitarians in this part of the world.

Prague was our first stop. We had a professional tour guide here as we did in all of the cities we visited. The minister at the Unitaria Church, Petr Samoj-sky, studied at Meadville Lombard. We

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Reports, News, Travel

(Continued from page 13)

found Petr and the congregation optimistic about the future of Unitarianism. They describe Unitarianism as Capek did in the 1930s: a religion in harmony with science and reason and so especially suited for the modern era.

Next we traveled to Vienna and down the Danube to Budapest. The Béla Bartok Unitarian Church in Budapest is also a mission and sanctuary for the many Unitarians who have migrated from Transylvania into Hungary. The minister there, Sándor Leta is a transplant from Arkos, the village where our partner church is located. In Budapest we collected faith stories from several of the members, all of whom had emigrated from Transylvania. Here Unitarianism is something more than a religion. It is bound up in ethnicity and the Hungarian language, the language of their liturgy. They feel their faith holds promise for the future because of its modernity and its tolerance of diverse beliefs. In both countries, the Unitarians strive to be a model for treating others with respect.

We traveled on to Romania, where we met the Unitarian Bishop in Kolozsvár. The faith stories we heard there ran the gamut from feelings that the Unitarian faith is the religion of a dwindling culture to hope for freedom through the European Union and with it economic growth and religious tolerance.

Bálint Ferenc, minister of the First Unitarian Church of Kolozsvár told us of growing up and going to seminary under Communist rule. Being a minister was difficult. Many congregants were also Party and factory committee members. They would meet at the factory to talk about the church and then tell him what “the people” had decided for the church.

The faith stories we heard there ran the gamut from feelings that the Unitarian faith is the religion of a dwindling culture to hope for freedom...

He told us, “I am proud to be a Unitarian because I can touch everything with my mind. I can question and seek answers. I live among traditional denominations where clergy must live with dogma. While I feel free to say only what I believe, those ministers must say what is creed.”

Finally we arrived in Arkos which dates back to the 14th century. Our hosts greeted us warmly. Each of our families was housed with a host family almost all of whom spoke English or had made some arrangement to help with translation.

We brought the village a cash gift that was presented to the parish at the Sunday service. The service was very emotional. It was hard for the speakers, including our own minister, who stumbled when he began to speak of the

many freedoms that we take for granted and the obstacles that they have had to endure to keep their faith.

After the concert that afternoon the congregation applauded, something we were told had never happened before in the 500-year history of the church.

The people of Arkos are in a fight for their lives. Or, to be more precise, a fight for their way of life. What they most need from us is not money, although that will always be welcome, but hope. Their children are leaving because there are no good jobs and they are looking for ways to stop that outflow. They have their own ideas. We talked about their developing a small inn to accommodate UU travelers. We exchanged many ideas—we can sponsor exchange students and offer scholarships. We can give workshops on English; we can exchange music and dance. Using a protocol developed by the Partner Church Program, we hope to work with them to put together a plan for the village in which they can actively participate. We want to help them develop and realize their vision. We can offer them our time, our money, but most of all, our concern, our skills, and our enthusiasm.

They came with us that night to dinner at a local restaurant and we all danced together and at the end no one wanted to go home. We typically ended our concert with the modern spiritual *We Are One*. The words of Francis David, which appear on almost every Unitarian Church in Romania, are *Egy az Isten*—God is One.

Laura Nagel

If you would like to learn more of our experiences and the history we learned, we have produced a DVD, which is available for \$25 (including postage). They can be purchased from Laura Nagel, 5202 Crawford #19, Houston, TX 77004. Phone 713.524.5608. Email: lauranagel@sbcglobal.net ●●

RARE WOODBLOCK PRINT OF KOLOZSVÁR FOR SALE

The Unitarian Church of Vancouver has been donated a wood block print of Kolozsvár in 1944 to sell. The proceeds are to go to the building project of our Partner Church in Brasso.

The block was created by Mátyás Varga in 1944 and shows the cathedral prominently in the centre. Varga (1910-1995) was considered one of Hungary's leading artists and stage designers and his work has graced prominent exhibition halls and stages throughout Hungary and the rest of Europe. His wood blocks were printed in very small editions and are rarely placed on the market.

This print was received from the artist by the renowned Hungarian composer and conductor Ferenc Farkas who gave it to his daughter-in-law Mary Adams in the late 1960s. It has a conservative value of \$1500.00 (Canadian).

For appraisal and picture, please contact Alison Pearson (alisonpearson1@shaw.ca)

HELP TO RING THE BELLS—

JOIN BELLRINGERS!



*Sign up with Pat Rodgers at
patroddgers@sbcglobal.net*

Partner Church Sunday

(Continued from page 8)

dance fund-raiser on a Saturday in February and follow with a PC service the next morning when decorations and gifts from our partners are still on prominent display.

Other things we have done when we celebrated PC Sunday include:

- Inviting guest speakers—such as the visiting Transylvanian scholar at Starr King School
- Our own minister delivering a sermon about partnership or Transylvanian theology/history
- Special Hungarian or Romanian music from the choir and music director
- Special story for the children
- Involving the children in making decorations for our PC dinner
- Recent-travelers' (to your partner) stories make the best program.
- This can also be an excellent time to present a new project if you have one that both partners have agreed on, such as scholarships. ••



1568 PROCLAMATION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM: THE EDICT OF TORDA

Poster reproductions of Aladar Korosfoi-Krieschs famous painting of Francis Dávid and the 1568 Proclamation of Religious Freedom at Torda are available as high quality prints, 16x20 inches, suitable for framing.

This is the sepia-colored photogravure that hangs in most Unitarian churches and many homes in Transylvania. Also included is an outlined key to all the historic figures depicted in the painting as well as a short history of the Edict of Torda and the painting.

Prints cost \$20 (US), including shipping and handling. Checks, made out to First Parish with "Torda Poster" on the memo line, should be sent to:

Torda Poster / First Parish / 75 The Great Road / Bedford, MA 01730

Proceeds benefit (in descending order) the Kolozsvár Dormitory Project (The Unitarian Center for Students and Pilgrims), the UU Partner Church Council, and the Bedford-Abásfalva partnership.

DR. JUDIT GELLÉRD'S NEW BOOK:

Prisoner of Liberté

Prisoner of Liberté is the true story of a Transylvanian minister-scholar, the Rev. Dr. Imre Gellérd, Judit's father. Symbolizing an entire era under totalitarianism, Rev. Gellérd's life was shattered by the devices of a police state and the insidious ways it corrupted every aspect of society. He chose not to compromise his ideals but inadvertently harmed his family.

His arrest by the secret police, the communist show-trial on false political charges, and his imprisonment in Romanian labor camps, lead to agonizing dilemmas and unconventional solutions to challenges of dehumanization, fear and inner exile.

This "literature of witness" attempts to chronicle one victim of

state tyranny to call attention to the larger picture: if history's lessons are forgotten, all the sacrifices of the past have been for naught.

Prisoner of Liberté (Uniquet) 136-page paperback; ISBN 0-914914-18-9. Price: \$13.95 (plus \$1 for shipping).

To order:

Directly from Dr. Judit Gellérd (Indicate if you wish a signed copy.)
E-mail: zizi315@yahoo.com

Checks payable to Center for Free Religion, 1012 Bryant Ave, Chico, CA 95926 (Proceeds will benefit Transylvanian youth programs.) or from UUA Bookstore, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108-2800 ••

CANADIAN TRAVEL TO EUROPE

As a hobby, I've organized a few trips for UUs to meet European Unitarians (England, Czech Republic and Hungary) and have organized one for this September/October in Spain and France. While there are only a few Unitarians in Barcelona we plan to meet with them and learn as much as possible about Servetus and other Unitarian thinkers.

Join a group of Unitarians in Barcelona, Catalonia, and Provence, September 27–October 8, 2004
www.experienceengland.com/travel/04unitarian.htm has all the details.

Beverly Carr
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Neighbourhood UU Congregation

UUPCC Travel Services & Resources

For almost a decade the UUPCC Travel Service has helped to cement the bonds between North America UUs and their partners overseas. The UUPCC is expanding our travel services in order to provide better service for more participants. Our goal is to provide multiple and varied opportunities for Unitarian Universalists of all ages. In this way we hope to foster new understandings of international religious, environmental, political, economic and social issues. It is our hope that these experiences will lead to extended action and reflection on behalf of co-religionists both at home and abroad.

Toward this end, we are happy to help groups and individuals with travel plans in Transylvania. We can arrange for transportation, knowledgeable guides, translators and local experts on a variety of topics including religion, environment, politics, economic and social issues. Please contact our travel coordinator John Dale (jdaleuupcc@yahoo.com) for additional details.

The 2004 travel season has several new offerings for individuals and groups of all sizes:

Congregational Pilgrimages—Travel with Cornish award winner, Rev. Dénes Farkas aboard the PCC van(s) on a life-changing visit to your partner church. Low all-inclusive price includes transportation, meals, lodging, guide(s), and translator(s). Our in-country experts will work with you to develop a customized itinerary that fits your interests and timeframe.

Choir Concert & Large Group Tours—Looking to expand the horizons of your music program? UUPCC Travel Services can facilitate your choir's international tour. Buses, performance venues, hotel arrangements, and side tours are all part of our large group service portfolio.

2004 Group Tours for Individuals

Pentecost Spring Renewal Trip.

(May 21–June 1, 2004) Join Rev. C. Leon Hopper on a beautiful and inspirational Spring tour of Transylvania. Departing from and returning to the dazzling city of Budapest, this tour traverses western and central Transylvania and visits many of the significant Unitarian holy places including Kolozsvár, Torda, and Mézskő. You will spend the 3-day Pentecost Communion weekend with your partner congregation. If you do not have a partner church, we will arrange your weekend in a Unitarian village. (\$1,300*)

Village Life Cycling Experience (July 8–20, 2004) Easy to moderate day-trip bicycling on the scenic back roads of Harghita County, the heart of the Unitarian community. Immerse yourself in the pastoral beauty and the daily rhythms of the region at a relaxing pace. Cycling days will alternate with van side trips to Unitarian Churches and additional sites such as the medieval fortress city of Segesvár and the Prajd salt mines. Departing from Bucharest, this tour includes a weekend stay with your partner congregation and offers a variety of accommodations for every budget. (\$700, \$900, \$1100*)

Fifth Annual Youth Pilgrimage (July 28–August 11, 2004) For ages 15-19 Travel with other UU youth from around the coun-

try with experienced chaperones. Learn about Unitarian history in Transylvania and get to know the people in your partner village during 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 young people, and have a great time! (All inclusive cost of \$2,300 includes airfare from Boston, MA).

Transylvanian Thanksgiving

Pilgrimage (September 21–30). Travel with Rev. Richard Beal and discover the singular beauty of the Carpathian Alps and the fascinating history of the walled churches of Southeastern Transylvania. Departing from Bucharest after a morning tour of the city, this trip visits Peles castle, home of the Romanian King, the medieval city of Segesvár and the unique fortress churches of the Háromszék region. It includes two nights at mountain resorts and a 3-day visit to your partner church where you will celebrate a traditional Transylvanian Thanksgiving. (\$1,300*)

NOTE: Prices with * do NOT include airfare.

For more information on these tours and other UUPCC travel services and resources visit our website at www.uua.org/uupcc. For more details or to schedule your trip please contact John Dale.

NEW! The UUPCC Travel Guide—A compendium of Travellers' Wisdom.

We have compiled the wisdom collected from UUs who have travelled to Transylvania and elsewhere into a handy guide for those contemplating a trip to visit their Partner Churches or the sites of Unitarians elsewhere in the World. This Guide is available as a Microsoft Word document (204 KB) and as a PDF file (671 KB) <http://www.uua.org/uupcc/trips.html>

Erdély Maps: 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.

"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

Other Travel Services and Resources

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) alpár@honoris.ro.

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 close to 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 are worth a visit.

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

"THE GREAT SYMPOSIUM"—July 28 – August 9, 2004

A Pilgrimage to the Heart of Hungarian Culture and Transylvanian Lore
Sponsored by Project Harvest Hope; led by David Keyes and Éva Kelemen

You are invited to join author, former Partner Church Council president and Project Harvest Hope founding president Rev. David Keyes, together with other Unitarian Universalists, on the trip you've dreamed of, an in-depth pilgrimage to Transylvania with a variety of classes and lectures on the history, culture and current conditions in Transylvania.

The focus of this trip will be an immersion in the culture of our Transylvanian partners. A faculty of knowledgeable and engaging English-speaking teachers and guides will lead us in exploring food, crafts, history, economic and social justice issues and more. The trip will include 3 days in Budapest, 2 days in Kolozsvár and 5 days in Székelyudvarhely. Accommodations will be in hotels, including 5 days in the Unitarian-owned and newly remodeled Hotel Tánava-Küküll in Székelyudvarhely in the Unitarian heartland of Transylvania. This trip is ideal for all ages who would enjoy an elderhostel type model of travel and learning.

As has been the tradition with Harvest Hope pilgrimages from the beginning, we will emphasize the importance of the spiritual journey we undertake. There will be ample opportunities for worship, reflection and meditation.

For more information, visit Project Harvest Hope on the web at www.projectharvesthope.org or contact Project Harvest Hope, c/o Unity Church - Unitarian, 732 Holly Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55104 for a brochure.

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 the 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 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

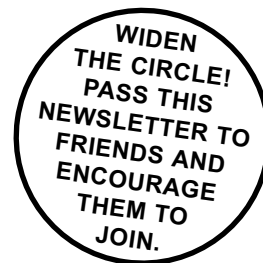
\$30

*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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District networker services, contact networker coordinator 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 minister@uubedford.org

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

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

Travel services, contact John Dale at jdaleuupcc@yahoo.com

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



Partner Church News

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