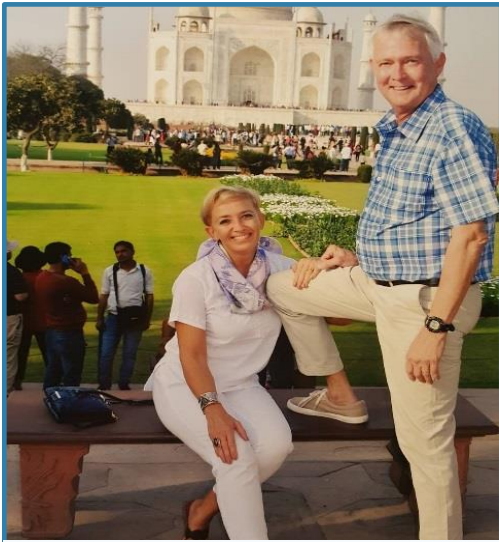


Dear Partners,

An open letter from John Dale, UUPCC Travel Coordinator



John & Csilla at the Taj Mahal.

If you have been following the announcements from the UUPCC office, then you probably know that Csilla and I have given notice of our intention to retire at the end of this season. Our final trip as leader/guides will be to India in March 2020.

This was not an easy decision for either of us. For me, this has been the perfect second career. Seeing this beautiful land over and over through fresh eyes and introducing so many of you to its special places and its warm and generous inhabitants will be something hard to equal.

For Csilla it is even more than that. This is a role that, in many ways, has defined her life. Transylvania is the home of her ancestors who were driven out of Poland in the 1500s for being Unitarians. She is the descendant of a long line of Unitarian ministers, teachers, authors, and scholars. As many of you have experienced firsthand on your journeys, her connection to this place, its people, history, legends, and stories is profound and deeply moving.

Still, it is time. Time for someone else to bring new ideas, perspectives, and energy to this work. Time for us to finally have a proper garden at our cottage in Jobbágytelke, time to travel to the places we want - when we want. And maybe more importantly for me, a chance not to travel - to just be somewhere for a while and take it all in. The sparkling sandy beach just across A1A from our Florida condo and the porch of our cottage both beckon. Then there's the 1-year-old granddaughter I have seen for all of 30 minutes, and my 2 grown children I really haven't seen in 20 years.

We haven't figured out where we go from here. I might just write that book I have been threatening to do, maybe get my last dog, or perhaps train for one more marathon. I don't know right now. Csilla is also searching for her way forward in this new world that has sprung up around us. She is just 52, the age I was when I first pulled up roots in the United States and came here to live. It was an impulsive and arguably stupid thing to do at the time but has turned out to be the best decision of my life. I can't imagine myself anywhere else doing anything else with anyone else.

I know one thing for sure, we are not going anywhere. Marosvásárhely and Cocoa Beach are our homes. Jobbágytelke is our refuge. While I can still get myself on a plane, we will be back and forth as weather, money and events dictate. My email will be changing at the end of the year, but we plan to be in touch and would love to travel with you again to India in early March 2020 or here in Transylvania later this year. Stay tuned for the details about India; the Transylvania public trips are on the website now. You can find them [here](#).

John & Csilla Dale
