



A View from My Window

Rev. Roger Bertschusen, UUPCC Executive Director

One of the highlights of my year was September's New Start Weekend at the First UU Church of San Antonio, Texas. First UU's partnership with the Unitarian church in Magyarsáros, Transylvania, is off to a great start.

Here's what made it happen:



- A few lay members and a staff member went on pilgrimages to Transylvania and visited Magyarsáros. They forged an initial bond.
- These folks shared about their pilgrimages and planted the idea of becoming a partner church. In so doing, they engaged a lot of people. One Hungarian dinner drew at least a hundred people.
- With enthusiastic support of a partnership committee and staff, the Board brought a proposal to become a partner church to a congregational meeting. The congregation voted unanimously to partner with Magyarsáros.
- The summer religious education program adapted the UUPCC's "Who Are Our Partners" curriculum.
- I led a New Start weekend in September 2019. The turnout was fantastic for a program with church leadership focusing on best practices for partnership, an informational tea party, a conversation with interested youth, a Hungarian dinner (complete with a visit by San Antonio's chimney cake food truck!), and a service on Sunday.
- Fifty people stopped at an informational table following the service to sign their names to a list of people who want to get involved in the partnership.

- They started a joint Facebook page with Magyarsáros so they can share with each other about their churches and lives.
- They are getting clarity on their hopes for the partnership and have invited their partners to do the same. The next time a group travels to or from Magyarsáros, there will be an in-person conversation where they'll share their hopes and create a mutual understanding for the partnership.



From leading the pilgrimages that introduced the idea of partnership to the New Start weekend, the UUPCC supported San Antonio and Magyarsáros through all these important steps.

This is what the UUPCC does: it supports and strengthens mutual partnerships like the San Antonio/Magyarsáros partnership. Your generous support through our Annual Appeal helps us do this important work. The Annual Appeal and other individual, non-dues giving provides more than a third of the UUPCC's operating budget.

If you haven't already done so, I urge you to visit <https://uupcc.org/donate> and make your Annual Appeal gift. Every gift helps the UUPCC do its magic!



Do You Have a Partnership Story to Share?

We'd love to hear from you. Please email your stories and pictures and we'll try to feature them on our website or in our newsletters.

Email to: **office@uupcc.org**

It's that Time! Calling for 2020 AWARDS NOMINEES

Each year at General Assembly, our Annual Meeting is highlighted by presenting the Louis B. Cornish 'Living the Mission' award and our 'Stewards of Partnership' awards. We are seeking nominations for these awards, to be presented at GA 2020 in Providence, RI.

Keeping partnerships thriving is a rewarding yet challenging role. We want to recognize the people that work hard to make it all happen, and we need your help!

The **Cornish Award** honors Louis C. Cornish, who as President of the American Unitarian Association, championed human rights efforts for Unitarians and Universalists in Romania and the Philippines in the 1920s and 30s. The award annually honors a person who has worked tirelessly to foster the mission of developing and sustaining mutually beneficial congregational partnerships between Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists around the world.

[Cornish Award Information and Nomination Process](#)

In addition, we honor several individuals who have provided exceptional attention, time, and loving care for congregational partnerships. Though often their work is not publicly recognized, they keep partnerships thriving. Please take a moment to recognize these 'Stewards of Partnership'!

[Stewards of Partnership Information and Nomination Form](#)



2019 Cornish Award
Winner Elizabeth Norton

Four January Partner Zoom Video Meetings

Below is information on our quarterly video conference calls. Don't miss these opportunities to discuss your partnerships. Meetings are on Thursdays except the second Transylvania meeting, which is on a Tuesday.

NORTHEAST INDIA PARTNERSHIP CONGREGATIONS

January 9, 2020

8pm Eastern / 7pm Central / 6pm Mountain / 5pm Pacific (US and Canada)

To connect to the UUPCC's Zoom account for the **Indian** video call:

Click to join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/348571639>

OR: One tap mobile - meeting ID: **348 571 639**

+16468769923,,348571639# US (New York)

+16699006833,,348571639# US (San Jose)

OR: by telephone: (for higher quality, dial number based on your current location)

Dial by your location - meeting ID: **348 571 639**

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

PHILIPPINES PARTNERSHIP CONGREGATIONS

January 23, 2020

8pm Eastern / 7pm Central / 6pm Mountain / 5pm Pacific (US and Canada)

To connect to the UUPCC's Zoom account for the **Philippines** video call:

Click to join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/923857744>

OR: One tap mobile - meeting ID: **923 857 744**

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OR: by telephone: (for higher quality, dial number based on your current location)

Dial by your location - meeting ID: **923 857 744**

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TRANSYLVANIA PARTNERSHIP CONGREGATIONS

(Two meeting opportunities)

Meeting #1 - January 16, 2020

8pm Eastern / 7pm Central / 6pm Mountain / 5pm Pacific (US and Canada)

To connect to the UUPCC's Zoom account for the **first** Transylvanian video call:

Click to join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/179210811>

OR: One tap mobile - meeting ID: **179 210 811**

+16468769923,,179210811# US (New York)

+16699006833,,179210811# US (San Jose)

OR: by telephone: (for higher quality, dial number based on your current location)

Dial by your location - meeting ID: **179 210 811**

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+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting #2 - Tuesday, January 28, 2020

8pm Eastern / 7pm Central / 6pm Mountain / 5pm Pacific (US and Canada)

To connect to the UUPCC's Zoom account for the **second** Transylvanian call:

Click to join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS, or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/944095742>

OR: One tap mobile - meeting ID: **944 095 742**

+16468769923,,944095742# US (New York)

+16699006833,,944095742# US (San Jose)

OR: by telephone: (for higher quality, dial number based on your current location)

Dial by your location - Meeting ID: **944 095 742**

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Questions? Contact Rev. Roger Bertschausen (roger@uupcc.org)

or Trina Priese (trina@uupcc.org)

Hungarian Folk Dance Troupe and Band Tour New England

By Sara Ballard, First Parish, Concord, MA

Note: This trip was supported with a UUPCC Cathy Cordes Travel Grant.



The Hungarian troupe women dancing in beautiful costumes.

The Vadrózsák Néptánccsoport (Wild Roses Folk Dance Group), a Hungarian Folk Dance Troupe from Székelykeresztúr, Transylvania, accompanied by the Lelkes Zenekar (Enthusiastic Band), have just returned home after a 10-day tour in New England, holding performances and workshops in Massachusetts, Maine, and Vermont. The Partner Congregation Committee of First Parish in Concord, MA, hosted 25 travelers from Transylvania, making all arrangements and covering expenses.

The dance troupe and musicians, who range from 6 to 19 years of age, are students or recent graduates of the Berde Mózes Unitarian School in Székelykeresztúr, along with their dance teacher, Józsa Levente, and his wife, Nemes Annamária, who both teach at the school. Levente and Annamária founded the group in 2010 to share their passion and help preserve their native Hungarian folk dances and music; there are approximately 60 students in the group, and 15 of their best dancers and musicians came on this tour. They were accompanied by 8 members of the Unitarian congregation in Keresztúr, which

partners with Concord, including their minister, Tódor Csaba, and his wife, Éva. Their 3 daughters are part of the performing group, as is Levi and Annamária's 6-year-old son.



Levi with his son, Mátyás (left) and troupe men dancing (right).

The Dance Troupe gave performances at First Parish in Concord, The Hungarian Society in Lexington, MA, First Parish in Portland, ME, Ferry Beach Conference Center in Saco, ME, in Norwich, VT, and at First Church in Belmont, MA; they also gave workshops at Ferry Beach and in Norwich. The audiences were delighted with the energetic and beautiful dances performed in colorful folk costumes, and the wonderful music performed by the band. Each performance was followed by fun and enthusiastic group dancing with audience members; the dances were easily learned because of the clear demonstration of what to do given by Levi and the other dancers.



Transylvanian travelers with some members and staff on the front steps of First Parish in Concord.

The group enjoyed home stays in Concord and in the area around Norwich; the Vermont home stays were jointly organized by the UU congregations in Norwich, Hartland, and Woodstock. They also stayed at the Ferry Beach Conference Center in Maine. The success of this tour was made possible by the cooperation of the congregations in Concord and Belmont, MA, Portland and Yarmouth, ME, and Norwich, Hartland, and Woodstock, VT, as well as the many people who donated to the fundraising efforts. These included a successful Faithify campaign and a travel grant from the UUPCC.

We'd also like to recognize and thank the dancers and musicians, whose 8 performances and workshop admission fees raised 16% of the needed funds to cover their expenses.

The Transylvanians had some wonderful new experiences in New England, such as seeing a wild ocean during a King Tide at Ferry Beach and at Nubble Light in York, ME, being given an excellent walking tour of Portland, ME, hiking the Quechee Gorge in Vermont, touring the UUA headquarters in Boston and walking through the city afterwards,

touring the Berklee College of Music, and experiencing a real American Halloween. They had some new culinary experiences too, as they were treated to dinner at a Chinese restaurant and lunch at a seafood restaurant. Many new friendships and lasting memories were created during this visit, strengthening the bonds of partnership between Concord and Keresztúr. We know that for many of the travelers this was a once in a lifetime opportunity and we are grateful to all who helped make it happen.



Our guests enjoyed a visit to an iconic New England lighthouse in York, ME, (*top*) and met Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray while touring the UUA headquarters in Boston (*bottom*).

Donate here: <https://uupcc.z2systems.com/np/clients/uupcc/donation.jsp>

The Hungarian Unitarian Church and the UUPCC present:

2020 ROOTS PILGRIMAGE

July 13 - 20, 2020



Mézskő Unitarian Church

Registration Deadline
March 17, 2020

Registration link:

<https://uupcc.z2systems.com/event/Reg.jsp?event=618&>

PILGRIMAGE COST

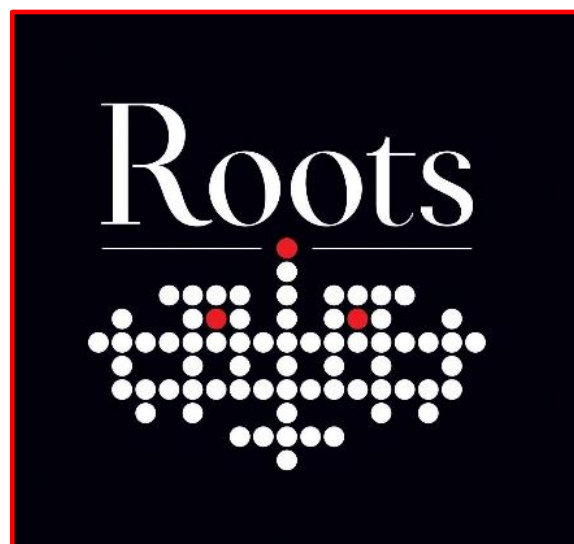
\$999 + \$250 non-refundable registration fee. (Double occupancy required except for 2 nights in Kolozsvár for \$80 single supplement)

Airfare not included.

**Unitarian Universalist
Partner Church Council**
483 E. Lockwood Ave
Suite 109
St. Louis, MO 63119
Phone: 314-918-2618
E-mail: office@uupcc.org

A joint project of the Hungarian Unitarian Church and the UU Partner Church Council, the ROOTS pilgrimage provides a unique opportunity for both laity and clergy from Unitarian churches in Transylvania and North American UUs to explore our shared religious heritage along with our distinctive spiritual, cultural and theological beliefs, values and traditions.

Through presentations, panel discussions, small group conversations and shared spiritual practices, participants explore large spiritual themes. Travelers will engage with activities and discussions focusing on beliefs about birth/origin, development through relationships, finding fulfillment, and death/grief. Pilgrimage begins and ends in Cluj/Kolozsvár with visits to Verespatak/Rosia Montana gold mining area as well as Torda and other villages.



The Hungarian Unitarian Church and the UUPCC believe that sharing our cultural, spiritual and theological understandings with one another enhances our lives and deepens the spiritual journeys of self and other. These values have guided the development of the Roots Pilgrimage.

UU PARTNER CHURCH COUNCIL 2019 - 2020

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