

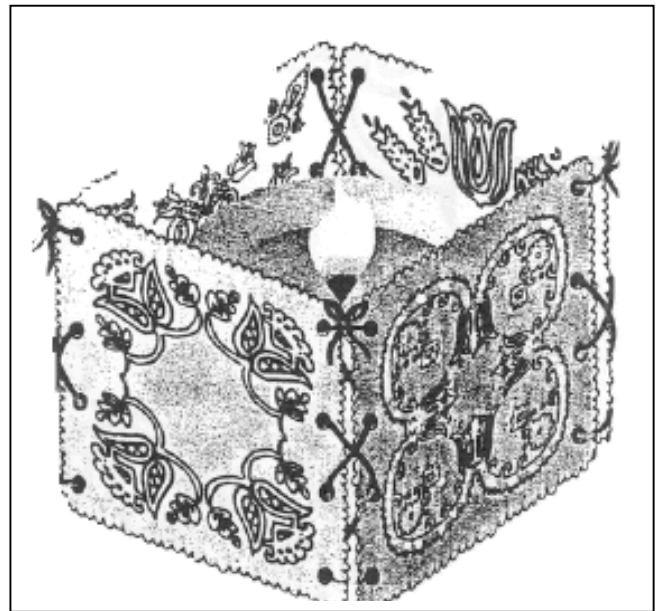
TRANSYLVANIAN DESIGNS for BOXES or LUMINARIA

Materials and tools: thin cardboard; one copy of the next page for each item; a box top design you have made (if you decide to make it) or an extra copy of one design for each box top; a 4-inch cardboard square for the bottom of each item; scissors; paper-to-cardboard paste; red, blue and black felt markers or crayons; red, blue and/or black yarn and yarn needles; votive or tea candles and lighter; thick sponges or thickly folded towels.

Symbolism and designs The four designs on the next page are sketches from Transylvanian folk embroidery. Usually this is done in red, as a symbol of freedom. Sometimes blue is used, as a symbol of caring for people who are sad. Or black, a symbol of the good earth. Some designs are made with a continuous line, to symbolize the unbroken Hungarian heritage. Tulips appear because they are the flower of freedom. The embroideries are used to decorate churches and homes.

If you are making a box you could create a separate design box top with the symbol of Unitarianism in Transylvania and Hungary--the symbol is a reminder of Jesus' urging his disciples to be "as wise as a serpent and as gentle as a dove." Or your top could be a repeat of your favorite of the folk patterns.

To make both a box or luminaria:
first color in the designs (1--4 for the luminaria; 1--4 and 5 for the box. You might choose a symbolic color for designs 1-4. Or you can use all one color—in Transylvania they are often red. Then cut out and paste each square onto a 4" square of thin cardboard. (like posterboard, or a file folder.) You will need a blank for the bottom, and you may need a thicker blank cardboard square for the bottom of the luminaria to support the weight of the candle.



To finish a luminaria: you will need your 4 colored-in design squares already pasted onto posterboard. Next: pierce around close to the outside of the four designs with a large yarn needle to make many holes for the light to shine through. The easiest way to do this is to place the design onto a thick sponge or thickly-folded towel.

Before lacing the sides together, punch out (a hand-held hole punch works well) the holes marked along each design edge, and punch out matching holes on all 4 sides of the bottom square. Use yarn that matches the color of your designs. You can put a votive candle inside, in a holder. You can glue four small cardboard ridges to the bottom to securely hold the votive candle's metal bottom in place.

You should only light the luminaria candle with adult supervision. Always use it flat on a table. Never carry it while it is lit.

To finish a box, you can color an extra design and glue it onto a posterboard square to make a lid. Make lacing holes as indicated by the dots, and make six matching holes along the top edge of one of the design squares.

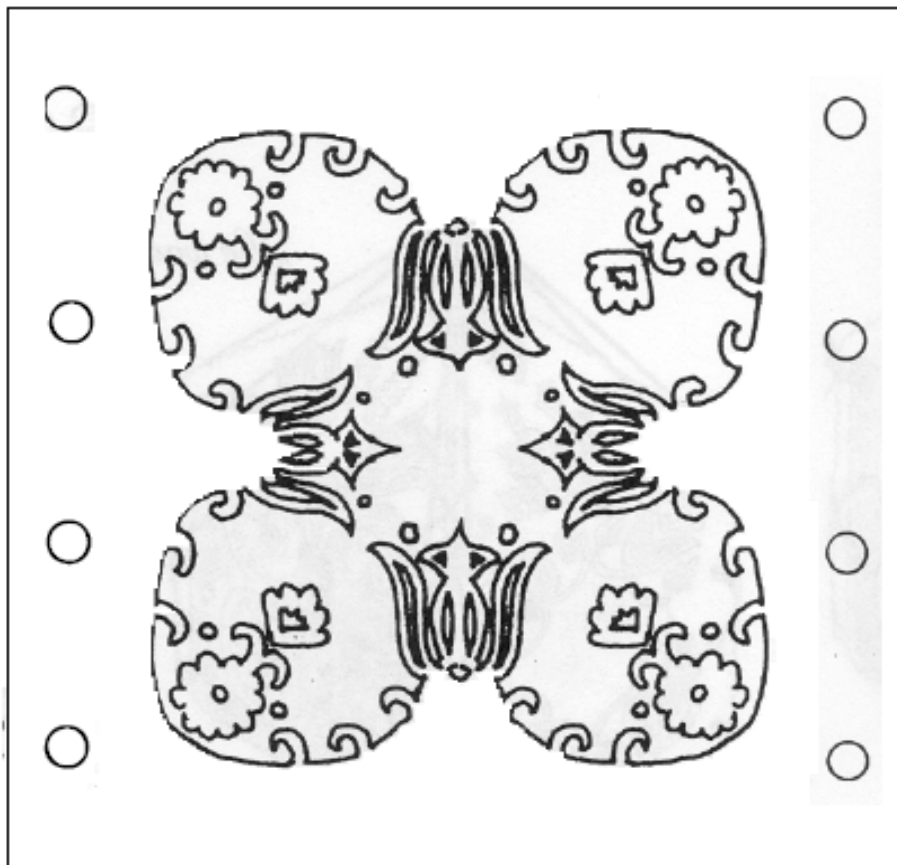
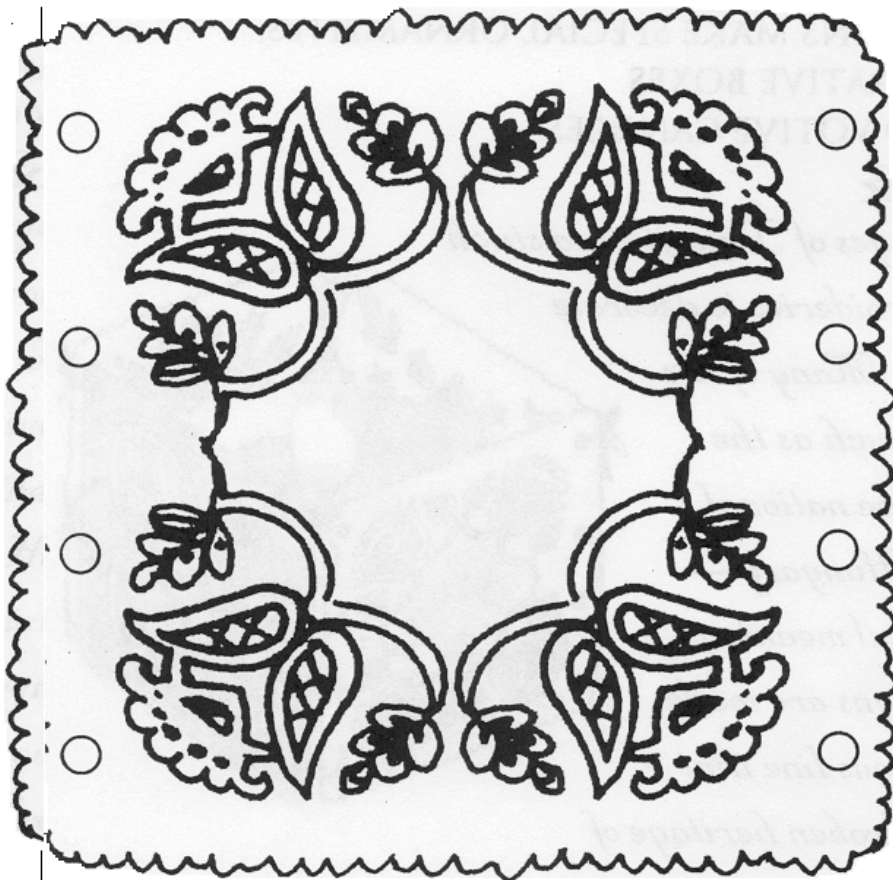
On the next page you will find the designs for the box-sides. Each design should have a wavy line around it and four punch-holes indicated on the two vertical sides.

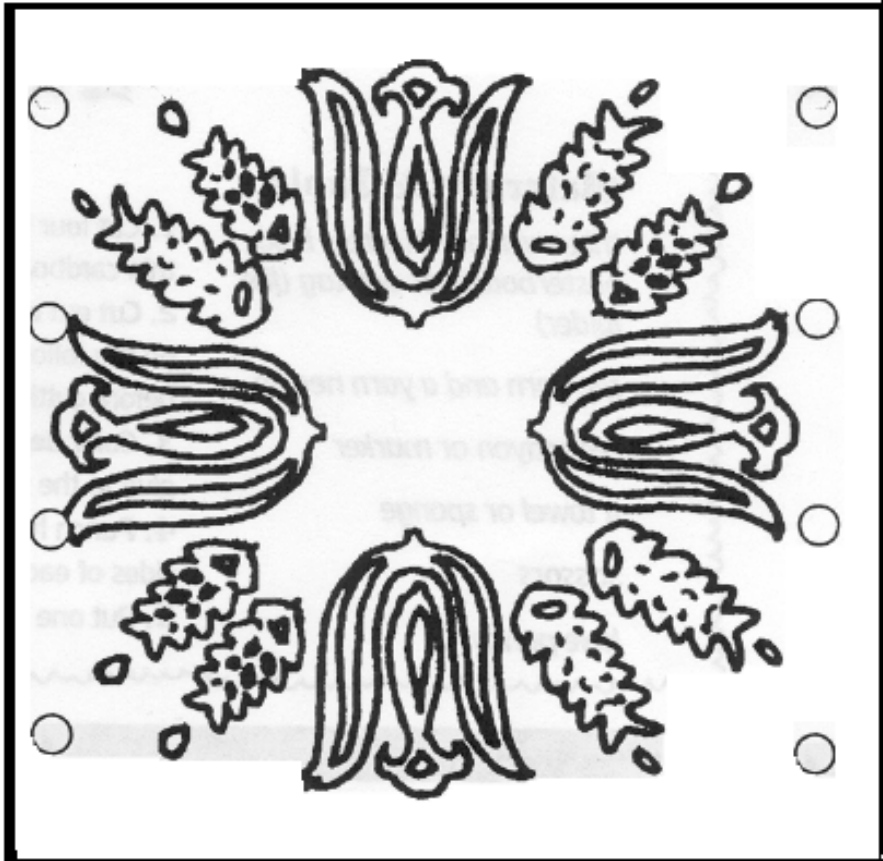
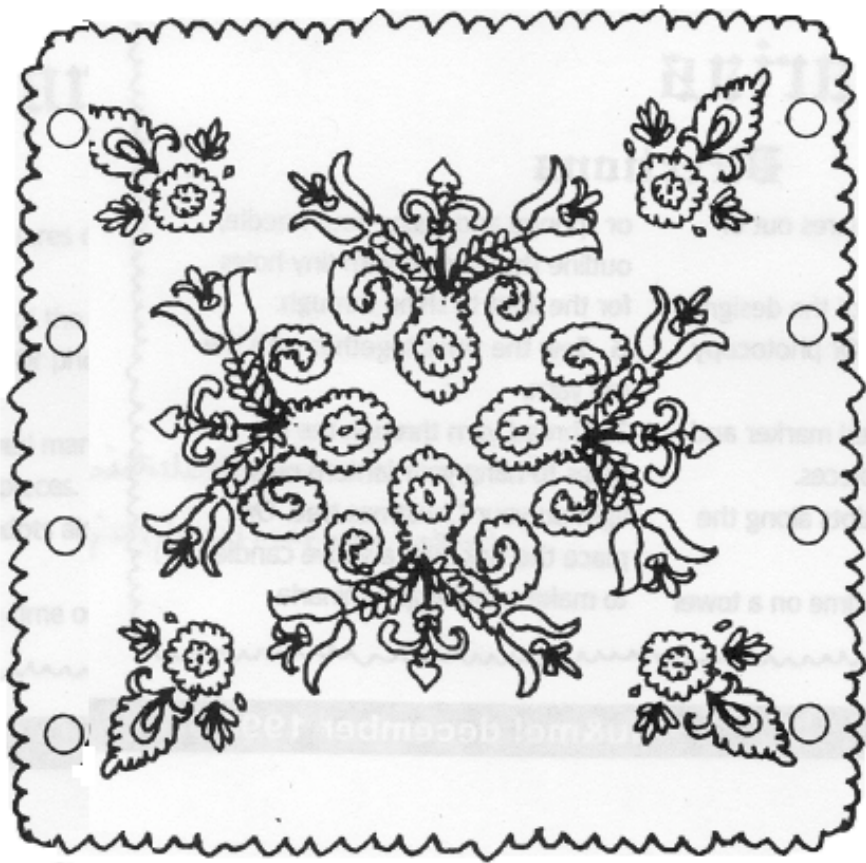
*Note from Ruth Gibson –you can also use this same process to make Partnership boxes using squares with the U*U symbols of our partners, instead of using Transylvanian designs.*

Here is a different use for the designs, which can temporarily make your pulpit look like one in Transylvania:



Designs and directions for the four sides of the luminaria /box appear in the December 1999 edition of UU&Me, a quarterly magazine for children (contact <bwilliams@uuaorg>) published by the Church of the Larger Fellowship. CLF has given us permission to reproduce their drawings.



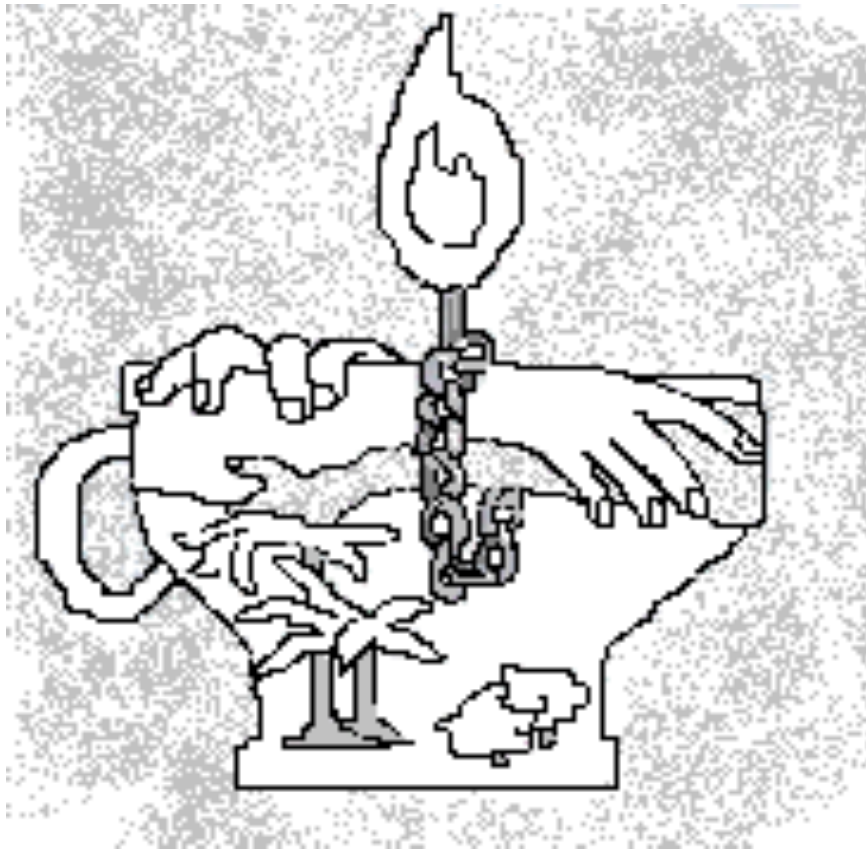




Khasi Unitarian Symbol



Transylvanian Unitarian symbol



Philippine U U symbol



Czech Unitarian symbol



Canadian UU symbol



USA UU symbol