

Messages From German Unitarians (Deutsche Unitaria) to the Rev. William G. Sinkford
(13 September, 2001)

Dear Bill Sinkford, dear Olivia Holmes,

The German Unitarians are full of consternation and mourning in regards of the insidious terroristic act against the United States of America that caused so very many victims, suffering and despair. Our sympathy is strongly with the Unitarians and Universalists who might be directly affected by this and with your Association as a whole.

We have cause for gratefulness to the Unitarians in America: Spiritually, because representatives of you (together with British and Hungarian Unitarians), at the World Congress 1910 in Berlin of (what is called today) IARF, impressed and convinced the Free Protestant pastor Rudolf Walbaum in such a way that he has started, since 1911, to add "German Unitarian" as a second name and subtitle to his community and its periodical. [In respect to former centuries some elements of Socinianism and Unitarianism in Central Europe can be found also in Earl Morse Wilbur's great historical book.]

Practically, because Walbaum was supported by American - and UK - Unitarians after the end of W W II (1946 - 1948, when he died, aged 78, sprightly unto his end) for his eagerness and enthusiasm to widely open the doors of his established association "Free Protestants - German Unitarians" to many congregations which newly had been formed in cities of North, West and South Germany.

This year we celebrated our 125th anniversary, because the Free Protestants - Walbaum was their fourth minister - were founded in 1876.

Excuse me for this long historical addition; it is to show that the German Unitarians have reason to not only express their sympathy with you but also to remember their deep indebtedness to the UUA.

Eike Moeller, Hamburg,
President of Deutsche Unitarier Religionsgemeinschaft