



# Project Harvest Hope

Spring 2009

## Message from the President

Dear PHH Friends,  
It is with enthusiasm and delight that we write and bring you up to date on the work of Project Harvest Hope. Our model of engagement with the Unitarian villages of Transylvania is proving to be successful beyond our wildest expectations. Eight villages in Transylvania are engaged in the hard work of long-term community organizing for a better future. In these pages, we will introduce you to our LDA villages. We trust that these images and words will be an opening to the heart and spirit of these communities. You will meet their Local

Development Agents (LDAs) and ministers. You will hear the voices of villagers who have rediscovered hope. While tangible projects may seem the primary evidence of success, it is the resurgence of trust, the practice of collaboration and collective activity and the renewal of a sense of community agency that is so rewarding to us.

There are several core values that are paramount in this work:

- Our model is one of presence and service.
- Our relationship is between equals, mutual and reciprocal.
- We listen to and respond only to initiatives from Transylvania, not from North Americans.
- We work directly with Transylvanian NGOs and foundations.
- We only provide resources not available in Transylvania.
- We honor the traditions and values of Transylvania's cultural and social history.

Each of our villages has completed their munkaponts, offices for their Local Development Agent with appropriate electronic equipment. Each has developed a community plan. Each is working on community-initiated projects, details of which are in this newsletter. And there are challenges rooted in Transylvania's recent history. One of our LDAs wrote, "the most challenging issue for a

typical Transylvanian community is to express its opinion. In the communist era, people were taught to be silent and keep their opinion for themselves. So it is challenging to say what we believe in. It is also challenging to think together and to work together for the community. Also to have common goals, not just in our thoughts or hopes, but expressed." The hopes and dreams of all the villages are similar: improved schools, the renewal of cultural traditions, leadership development, community activities. As one villager said, "We hope to become a coherent, tender, loving community with common aims."

PHH has a goal as well. We hope to double the number of villages with LDAs in 2010. To do that, we must raise \$50,000. And this is where you come in. We hope that you will be as inspired to support our work in Transylvania as we are to extend our volunteer efforts. Thank you!  
With hope,

Will Saunders, President, Project Harvest Hope

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Find out all the latest news about Project Harvest Hope at [www.projectharvesthope.org](http://www.projectharvesthope.org).

# “Theology of the Table” Pilgrimage

In September, 2008, twenty-six pilgrims participated in a “Theology of the Table Pilgrimage,” reflecting on the themes of ethical eating, sustainable farming and local culture. Pilgrims were in the villages of the Homoród Valley for the traditional Thanksgiving holiday and shared the tasks of preparing the community meal with their host families. The travelers helped bake the bread for the communion using a very old method of wrapping the bread in cabbage leaves and inserting it directly into a wood fire. The group also participated in a disznóölés, or traditional pig killing. The locally raised pig was slaughtered under the supervision of the village butcher, accompanied by much pálinka and laughter from both pilgrims and villagers.



heritage breeds. At each meal, the pilgrims reflected upon the links to history and landscape present on their plates. The most popular stop with the group was a mangalica pig farm. This traditional Hungarian breed is renowned for its delicious ham, and the pilgrims delighted in visiting the smoking shed and sampling the wares on a sunny back porch.

Katherine Jesch, Director of Environmental Ministry for the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, offered these reflections on her experience of pilgrimage, her first to Transylvania:

*The theme of “A Theology of the Table” was a miracle of synchronicity, linking fortuitously with the UUA’s recently selected study action issue on ethical eating. It also ties in closely with an emphasis on environmental justice for the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth.*

*There’s nothing like “boots-in-the-dirt” experience to add a dose of reality to the issues we care most about. The dilemma faced by emerging economies around the world is more complicated than a simple tradeoff between subsistence farming and large scale, high-tech industrial agriculture. There are costs in both systems, and advantages in each. Besides, when*

The pilgrimage was led by Cecilia Kingman and Linda Colwell, chef and Portland local food advocate. Throughout the pilgrimage, the group reflected upon the spiritual and theological dimensions of the relationships between land and people, farmer and table, and self and food. Ellin Snow, of Edmonds UU Church in Washington, said, “As a pilgrim, sitting shoulder to shoulder with the villagers in the hall where the celebration dinner was held, I felt tied to traditions forged years before my birth. Being conscious of the sacrifice and the effort which went into growing, slaughtering and preparing this meal gave me an awareness of the holiday which I had never before experienced.”

The group also visited food producers intent on preserving local foods and small scale foodscapes (what’s a foodscape?). They met with restaurateurs restoring culinary traditions and small farmers striving to protect



On Pilgrimage

*we examine our own systems, we have to admit we haven’t found the answer to sustainability.*

*Seeing the local village life in the larger context of Unitarian and Transylvanian history made the picture much richer, even if it didn’t offer simple answers. We were witness to the courage, creativity, and tenacity of a people who have lived for centuries under successive waves of tyranny and oppression, yet they still stand strong in their identity, their Unitarian faith, and their community life. These are role models to us as much as we may be to them.*

*The timing of this pilgrimage, coinciding as it did with the crash of our own stock markets and commodities trading systems, makes our reflections on the challenges and opportunities of sustainable agriculture even more relevant for our own situation. The chaos of the market right now opens up new possibilities. While we can’t return to the past, we are also not stuck with only one failing alternative in our present industrial system. We can choose alternatives that are more locally centered, less damaging to the land, and reinforce personal relationships within our communities. Our imaginations are stimulated by*

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Project Harvest Hope Board of Directors:  
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*connecting more deeply with the land, as our Transylvanian hosts demonstrated. We can pay conscious attention to where our food comes from and how healthy it makes our bodies. And by taking time to express our gratitude for the gifts of Earth and community, we can honor the experiences of our pilgrimage hosts and open our hearts to new ways of nourishing ourselves, both physically and spiritually.*

# Support the Work of Harvest Hope

## Order Form

(All prices include shipping)

	#	Total \$
Note cards: \$15 (set of 6)	_____	_____
Bracelets \$1.50 each (www.projectharvesthope.org)	_____	_____
“Back to Transylvania” \$10 11 minute DVD	_____	_____
T-Shirts \$15 Men sizes: Medium, Large, Extra Large Size(s)_____	_____	_____
		Total \$:_____

To be shipped to:  
Name(s):\_\_\_\_\_

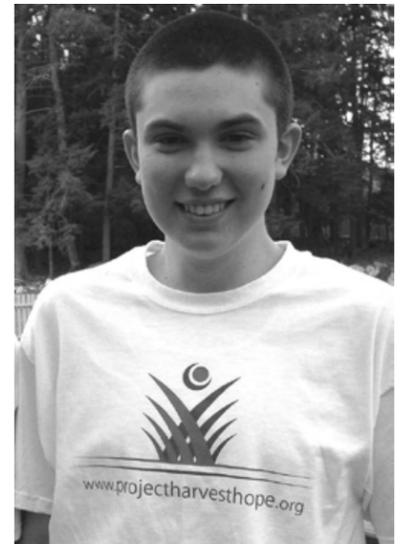
Address:\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip:\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone:\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail:\_\_\_\_\_

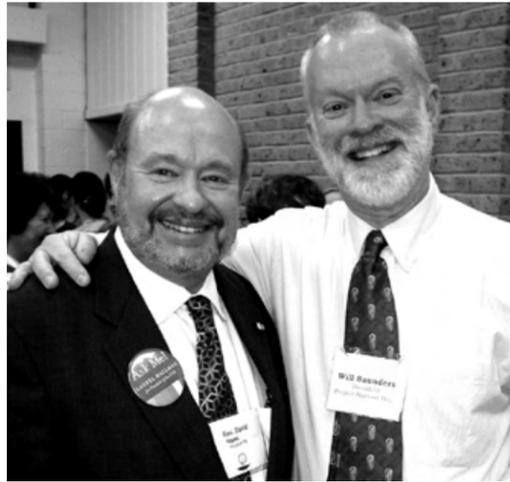
Please send order form with check to :

**Project Harvest Hope**  
c/o Julie Draper  
12 Punkintown Road, Eliot, ME 03903



Clockwise: Project Harvest Hope notecards, t-shirt and bracelet.

## David Keyes named PHH Fellow



It is with pleasure and delight that the Project Harvest Hope Board of Directors announces the election of the Rev. David Keyes as a Project Harvest Hope Fellow. David was a founder and the first President of the incorporated PHH. For almost twenty years, David has poured his energy and enthusiasm into building connections between Transylvanian Unitarians and North American Unitarian Universalists. It was his vision, captured in his book *Something Like an Arch*, which inspired so many Unitarian Universalists around the United States to engage with our Transylvanian brothers and sisters. It was his vision of economic development in Transylvania that led to the founding of Harvest Hope pro Homoród and the initial projects of Project Harvest Hope: the mill, the bakery and the dairy barn. David completed his service on the PHH Board in November, 2008.

David was awarded his honor at a surprise (yes, really, it was a surprise to him) reception in Houston, Texas on February 27, 2009. The reception included guests from the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston (where David is serving as Interim Minister), the PHH Board of Directors, ten Tran-



From top left: David Keyes and Will Saunders. Eva Kelemen presents album to David and Judy Keyes. Reception Guests.

sylvanian women who were attending the International Conference of Unitarian Universalist Women (including Éva Kelemen) and special guest, Judith Droz Keyes, David's wife.

David's plaque read as follows:

*In appreciation for dedicated service  
The Reverend David Keyes  
Elected PHH Fellow  
February, 2009*

*Founding President,  
Project Harvest Hope  
Builder of an arch to our  
Unitarian homelands.*

## Update on the Dairy Barn

In November, 2008, the PHH Board established a "Dairy Fund" in response to a financial emergency in Transylvania. \$20,430 was raised and sent to Harvest Hope pro Homoród to meet a deadline associated with the SAPARD grant. Here is the motion passed in November:

*Moved: To establish a "Dairy Fund" within Project Harvest Hope on the model of a donor-advised fund. The "Dairy Fund" shall be a collection point for donors who wish to contribute to the dairy farm. Board members may advise past donors and potential donors of the existence of such a fund with the understanding that they speak as individuals not as PHH Board members. PHH will transfer funds collected in the "Dairy Fund" to HHpH in a timely manner. The priority for PHH fund raising continues to be support for our partnership with CIVITAS and the LDA program.*

We are delighted to report that the dairy is now stable and has attracted the attention of local entrepreneurs and local capital. This has long been our hope. In response to a report presented by Éva Kelemen, PHH Representative in Transylvania, I wrote to "Dairy Fund" donors immediately following our recent Houston Board meeting to offer an update and express our appreciation for their donations. That letter follows:

March 1, 2009  
Dear Friends of Project Harvest Hope,

We are pleased to share with you a report from Transylvania with respect to the Dairy Barn project.

You may recall that in November 2008 there was an urgent call from

our friends in Transylvania concerning debts due for the construction projects at the dairy. You and many others answered the call. We and our friends in the Homoród Valley appreciate your generosity.

The monies raised were sufficient to meet the immediate financial obligations. The requirements for the EU grant were met, and the paperwork has been filed. We expect the final accounting to be completed shortly. Now that the construction has been completed, our friends in the Homoród will refocus on operations.

A new manager was hired last December and is proving to be a strong and capable leader. He is a young Unitarian and brother of the minister in Firtosváralja, one of the villages where we are currently supporting a Local Development Agent (LDA). We are encouraged by the changes he has made in operations and in his plans for the farm. One sign of progress is that Levente Kelemen has reduced his farm visits to three times a week.

We are excited to report that a local entrepreneur and owner of several grocery stores in Udvarhely is in the process of investing in the dairy. He plans to install several milk "automats" from which shoppers will fill their own bottles with fresh, organic milk. The environment will benefit by a concomitant reduction in plastic packaging.

Levente and Éva have renewed hope that a strong and well-managed dairy will thrive and be a cornerstone for the preservation of traditional agriculture in the Homoród valley.

Thank you for your generous support.

## Development Update

Project Harvest Hope has established a fund raising goal of \$50,000 by December, 2009. The success of our current faith-based LDA program (described in this newsletter) and the desire of many more Unitarian villages to join our program, has inspired us to double the number of LDAs, bringing the total number of LDA villages to 15. Our ability to do this is based entirely on our ability to raise the necessary funds. Please give generously and know that your donations go directly to the preservation and renewal of the Unitarian villages of Transylvania. THANK YOU!



### ***Please Help Us!***

In our efforts to keep up with technology, to "green" PHH and to save money, we are taking steps toward replacing our printed newsletter with an e-newsletter through constantcontact.com. To that end, we need your email addresses. We would appreciate (please, please, please) if you would send an email with "PHH newsletter" in the subject line to: Julie.draper@comcast.net. Please know that we will not use your address for anything but the newsletter.

# Bencéd

LDA: Páll Krisztina,  
Mózes László  
Minister: Makkai Ilkei Ildikó

Website: [www.benced.ro](http://www.benced.ro)

*“The most important achievement in our village has been the creation of the Community Office with new office equipment from Project Harvest Hope”*



“We have been preparing applications for community projects and have organized several village events such as:

- Senior Day
- Family meeting in Upper Bencéd
- Community meetings
- Christmas celebrations
- English-Ecological Camp for Children”



*“Our Hopes and Dreams are to keep our community strong, to attract young people to our community and to welcome back young people who have left the village.”*

*“Our BIG DREAM is that all people of the community will find jobs in our village, and won't be forced to leave to find work elsewhere.”*



# Bözöd

LDA: Csaba Rafai  
Minister: Fazekas Levente

“We would like to thank very much, PHH, for figuring out and initiating this unique way of helping Unitarian communities, which along with financial help, develops the people living in the community to join together in their labor and hard work.”

“We accomplished our goal by asking a lot of people to come and do the work (kaláka). It turned out that the community, which seemed passive, really cares. Later, with the help of PHH, we received new office equipment as well.”



“Traditionally, villagers are separated. Through this program we found a common voice. We had four meetings, where people really spoke about what is important for them in their community and we worked together to create a strategy for the future of our community. Suggestions were made by several villagers for whom this experience was their first ever active participation in their community.”



*“We are excited about the great number of community people who participated in creating the office. It encouraged even more people to be more active in community activities.”*



“The LDA office is located in the birth house of Bözödi György, a writer/poet, who was born in the village.... The women's association meets regularly in this room, and every other week we have film club. We have organized a training already here, four community meetings, two with the coordination of Civitas, and two on our own, so that we can create a village strategy, and set up priorities.”

- Hopes and Dreams:*
- To develop the growth of community responsibility
  - To make changes in the infrastructure of the village. To make the village more welcoming. We would like to build a playground and to establish a village museum.
  - To initiate a village leader's program
  - To initiate opportunities for economical development in agriculture and tourism based on local values
  - To enhance cultural life

## Csehétfalva

LDA: Larinczi Tünde  
Minister: Larinczi Lajos

“We chose to create a room for the dual use of LDA office and for community purposes. This room is an addition to the parish house of our church that once served as a fellowship room. It was in a bad condition and required hard work. With long volunteer hours and the support of PHH, we renewed this room and bought new furniture. Now it is used for an LDA office and for community meetings.”



“We have new electronics for the office; a laptop and a fax machine. We are building connections between the people in the village and the outside world. We are starting to develop rural tourism in the village.”



**Hopes and Dreams:**  
“First of all we plan to survive. The villagers are mostly elders, but we have some young families who

*want a future in the village. We want to find the way to create new jobs, to make the started tourism work, to improve infrastructure. We want to establish a guest and community house in the old cultural house, which brings in the village tourists and we can give work for some people. We hope this will bring home some more young couples and the village will have a future.”*

*“We believe this program is very important for the village. We know that PHH has the main role in it. We are very grateful for your help. God bless You!”*

## Firtosváraja



LDA: Bálint Izabella  
Minister: Solymosi Alpár

“The training opened our eyes to new possibilities. We obtained office equipment and began work on project goals to accomplish.”

“With the accomplishment of the LDA office, there is the renewal of the culture house and the school. To celebrate these events, we had a commemoration where everybody who helped was invited. The inauguration of the LDA office was held at the same time.”

*“The new office equipment has caused a great joy since we got brand new machines. That has not ever happened in the life of the village.”*

“One of our dreams is to start the restoration of the church. In the yard of the rectory, there is the old school’s foundation from 1800. The present teacher would like to move to Firtosváraja, but there is no place for her to live. This foundation could be used for a small house for the teacher. It may be used for some tourists also.”

*“The LDA office has been already very useful. It is where we have RE Classes with the children each week and it is where the locals come to fill out different official paperwork.”*

*“We thank very much the Harvest Hope organization, which helped us to realize our dream for the future.”*

# Gagy

LDA: Katona Levente  
Minister: Gál Zoltán

“Community life has been very weak in the village with people concerned about their own issues and personal problems. Community spirit was fading away. This is why we needed to expand our community and get involved with the LDA Program.”

“The first thing that we achieved was an office for the LDA. We are very thankful for this achievement to Project Harvest Hope. Without all of this, it would have remained just a dream.”



“We hope to return to the former living community with folk dancing, Christmas balls, New Year’s Eve celebrations and local theatre.”



“Our hope is to renew our school and community life and to develop a doctor’s office, while maintaining our living traditions.”



“We have a large and poor Gypsy population who depend upon state help.”



“We believe that with devoted action and call, we’ll be able to form a living community, with living traditions and happy faces. That’s what we would like to see in this community and in this congregation in the next several years.”

# Homoródszentpéter

LDA: Máté Ildikó  
Minister: Székely Kinga-Réka

Homoródszentpéter was one of the five villages in our pilot LDA program. Their LDA program, therefore, is more established and they have been able to complete a number of community projects.

*The villagers hope to create an environment attractive to young families with stimulating work that will provide good opportunities.*



Ildikó has led several projects in the village of Homoródszentpéter. They have restored the bowling alley, created a doctor visiting office, upgraded the school to include flush toilets and central heating, and organized a local area cleanup day (kaláka).

The doctor now visits the village one day each week.



*Good News: Two new families have recently moved to the village!*

*Kinga-Réka shared this observation: “The residents of the village are ambitious and tenacious. Over the years they suffered immense losses and they were truly tried. Hope-*

*fully happier times are in their future. However every one here is aware that the only possible way to change life is to believe in and work for it. The only possible way to preserve their spiritual, cultural and economic values is to have the best intentions and to work honestly. May God help them.”*



# Kálnok

LDA: Szacs Attila  
Minister: Finta Emese

“We have renovated our office area. This was accomplished with the help of the church members and the local LDAs. The old office was in a bad shape. We had to take down the old plaster, change all the electric cables, replace the floorboards and replace the door and two windows. Because there was no heating, we had to put in a stove. Also we refurnished the place with a new computer, fax, copier, and new furniture. By this, our office became a real office. All this was possible only with the help of Project Harvest Hope.”

“The Internet connection in the office (it may surprise you but not many people have internet in our village) helped a lot of people young and old. It is a big help for the junior and high school students. Teglás Aranka, 11th grade said: ‘With the help of the Internet, I was able to finish my research for an important school project.’”

*“Many people, especially farmers, are learning how to use the internet to find out how they can access EU money and to get help in filing out official paper work. We are downloading official forms right from the institutions on the internet sites.”*



*Bed\_ György, a 58 year old farmer said: “Because Attila was able to download an official document and help me fill it out, I was spared a long day in standing in line at the Chamber of Commerce”.*



*Attila explained: “The office is an important place for the LDAs, because they have a place where they can meet, discuss and plan their work. The office offers me a place where I can be together with the children, a place where we can gather together to do all sorts of interesting projects like Christmas tree decorations, and creating small gifts.”*

*“ We hope that with our work we can change the people in our village and make them feel proud that they are a member of this community.”*



# Recsenyéd

LDAs: Tóth Adél and Nagy Edit  
Minister: Nagy Adél

“The most memorable achievement in our village is the partial recovery of the building where the LDA’s office is. It is an old building formerly used by the community for special occasions. A couple of years ago, a wall burned down rendering the building useless. Now it is rebuilt and the room functions not only as an office but as a place for community events. We are very grateful to have had this help from PHH. Without this, we wouldn’t have been able to save the building from complete destruction. This was only possible by a common, joined effort.”

“The young generation would like to have the bowling place function again.”



*“When we decided to apply for an LDA supported by Harvest Hope, we did it with the hope of moving our community forward. Sometimes it is hard to convince people to accept something when they don’t see the immediate effects. This project did not promise us prompt results but gave us a hope for the future. And now that we are getting closer to finishing the recovery of the building, I can see on people’s faces, the contentment. They see now the first big results and also see the benefit of being in this project. It made us believe strongly that things can be done in order to make changes for the benefit of the community. We have lots of dreams and hopes which we believe can come true.”*



*“Our biggest dream for the future is to completely recover the building to use it for community events and also to use it as a guest house. We still need to fix the kitchen, the bathroom and the two rooms. We also want to have medical care in the village at least once a week. There are older people who need special care.”*



## Help PHH Develop the Unitarian LDA Program

- \_\_\_ \$5,000    Outfit a complete eRoom, train an LDA, and provide support for 2 years
- \_\_\_ \$2,500    Purchase the electronic infrastructure: computer, fax, copy machine, scanner, and telephone
- \_\_\_ \$1,000    Furnish an eRoom: furniture, desk, filing cabinets, and chairs
- \_\_\_ \$ 500    Train an LDA and provide continuing professional development
- \_\_\_ \$ 250    Provide internet and phone service for six months
- \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_    Help start an eRoom

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail your contribution to:

**Project Harvest Hope**  
 c/o Unity Church-Unitarian  
 732 Holly St., St. Paul, MN 55104  
 • Or donate on line at [www.projectharvesthope.org](http://www.projectharvesthope.org)



## Board Transitions

There are several board changes to announce. After serving since inception, David Keyes has resigned from the PHH Board of Directors though he remains an active supporter and friend (see article on page 4 about his election as a PHH Fellow). Cecilia Kingman-Miller resigned from the position of Vice-President and is on a leave of absence from the PHH Board. As a single parent with family responsibilities in Portland, OR and a full-time ministry in Edmunds, WA, she just plain ran out of time! Linda Friedman has been named Vice-President by the Board. Bev Smrha will serve another term as Secretary until 2011.

We are delighted to welcome Ann Swardlick of Yarmouth, Maine, as an at-large member of the Board. Ann is a writer at Swardlick Marketing Group, an advertising and marketing firm founded by Ann and her

husband, David, based in Portland, Maine. The Unitarian Universalist Association is among the many organizations their agency has served over the past 25+ years. A long-time member of the First Universalist Church of Yarmouth, Maine, Ann is active on her congregation's Partner Church committee and has visited the village of Gyepes in the Homoród Valley region of Transylvania several times. Most recently, she helped organize a summer camp for the children of three neighboring villages. Ann graduated from Colby College in Waterville, Maine, and received her MA in Communications from Northwestern University. In her spare time, she sings world folk music (including lots of Balkan songs) with the women's a cappella group, Zemya. She has three children, Abby, Betsey and Ben, who can be found in different corners of the world at any given moment.



*PHH Board of Directors meets in Houston, February, 2009*

## Local Philanthropy in Székelyudvarhely

Peace Corps volunteer, Chris Worman, has been instrumental in the creation of a new philanthropic organization in Székelyudvarhely called Székelyudvarhelyi Közösségi Alapítvány (<http://www.szka.org>). Founded in late 2007, SzKA “seeks to build a strong future for our town and region by catalyzing the community’s best ideas while providing ongoing support to quality programs.”

SzKA is building on a tradition of philanthropy in Udvarhely which predates the Communist era. About USD 120,000 was raised to establish the Foundation and to fund its initial programs. In early 2008, SzKA received grant funds from various international funding agencies and NGOs. Using these funds and others received from citizens in greater Udvarhely, SzKA has sponsored several successful local initiatives, often via matching grants.

SzKA is modeled on the concept of the “community foundation” in the United States. In this model, the Foundation solicits donations used for program grants approved by its Board. It pools donations, manages them and vets proposals for funding from community groups. In effect, it serves as an agent for philanthropists to assure intentional and intelligent giving. Many community foundations also have a class of funds called “donor-advised,” in which the decision on grants is retained by the donor.

PHH is considering the possibility of utilizing the good offices of SzKA as a mechanism for funding projects from our LDA villages which have been approved by our Steering Committee. Chris and his wife, Alecia Ball, recently finished a two-year term as



Peace Corps volunteers in Udvarhely (he with the NGO Agora and she with CIVITAS) but decided to stay on for an additional three years so Chris could ensure the Foundation would be positioned for long term success.

Alecia is working to establish a local business to collect, dry and export the region’s delicious natural bounty (e.g., wild blueberries, mushrooms, sea buckthorn).

**Dear ,**  
For 20 years, Bethlen neighborhood residents have walked past a large concrete hole in the ground. Supposed to be a fountain, the project was eventually scrapped as too expensive and dangerous. After the success of last year's Urban Volunteering campaigns in which 5 playgrounds were renovated by more than 100 volunteers, OSCF, in partnership with the local newspaper Hírado and City Hall, has launched a campaign to change the face of this park. 2 weeks ago, more than 2,200 families in the neighborhood received a questionnaire about what should replace the hole. As of today, more than 750 families have submitted their opinion and 1,253 individuals have submitted thoughts online. Common ideas include a new and smaller fountain, outdoor theater, simple green space and a skateboard park. The top 5 ideas will be drawn by partner Urban Design and will be re-submitted to the entire community for a vote in the coming weeks with the goal of renovating the space in the late spring.

**Annual Report:** Our first annual report is now available online. [Click here](#) to read or [contact us](#) for a hard copy.

**Video annual report:** Several community members shared their thoughts about SzKA in this short film. [Click here](#) to watch the video (subtitled) and see our mission in action. Special thanks to Vario Media who produced the film.

**Our Memory Studio** community video album, launched in January, has now received more than 5,000 views. [Click here](#) to watch the album (Hungarian only at this time but we hope to subtitle soon).

**Developing Leaders...**  
Increasingly, youth need something on their CV. NGOs need support. How to put the two together? To answer this question, SzKA ran a series of workshops funded by the United States Embassy and local sponsors. NGO trainings focused on volunteer management.

Youth workshops trained high school youngsters in project development and challenged them to think about ways in which they might build our community. The final workshop brought the two groups together to narrow down the 60 youth ideas to 3 workable plans including: a cinema club, a support group for hospitalized children and an extreme sports day. Today, more than 60 young volunteers and 5 partner NGOs have begun implementing their plans. We invite you to the second meeting of the film club, next Tuesday the 24<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m., at the local library but come early because more than 60 people showed up this week and we ran out of chairs... Funding for these youth determined and driven projects was raised through the SzKA Farsangi Gala auction – thank you to those who participated!

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*Caption*

## Thank You to All Our Donors This Year!

The following list includes those who have contributed to PHH between May 2008 and February 2009.

Meredith U. Anderson  
Anonymous  
Lois D. Atkinson  
Rachael Balyeat  
Judith Belcher  
Stephanie Ann Blythe  
Brad and Julia Bradburd Gwynedd  
F. Anthony and Laura Bushman  
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Arliss & Art Ungar  
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Fairbanks  
Jane Wagner  
Lois D. Whealey  
Steve Wilson  
Eldon Wolf  
Olga Zoltai

❁

Go to the people,  
live with them.  
Learn from them.  
Love them.  
Start with what  
they know.  
Build with what  
they have.  
But with the best  
leaders, when the  
work is done,  
the task is  
accomplished.  
The people would  
then say,  
“We have done this  
ourselves.”

*Written by Lao Tzu*



## PHH and the UU Partner Church Council

In the early days of Transylvanian and North American partnership, Project Harvest Hope and the UU Partner Church Council grew from a single hope of engaging North American and Transylvanian congregations in significant relationships. Over the years, the two organizations have grown in different ways. PHH has focused on economic development and the renewal of civil society. UUPCC has focused on partnerships between Transylvanian and North American congregations. As our missions became more specialized and focused, it seemed important to reconnect and examine the ways in which we might collaborate and the ways in which our missions do and do not overlap.

Project Harvest Hope and the UU Partner Church Council have initiated conversations in an effort to understand more clearly each other's missions and current projects and to explore opportunities for collaboration. Harold Babcock, President of the UUPCC, joined the PHH board for a half day at its fall 2008 meeting in Mt. Holly, Vermont. Harold emphasized that the UUPCC's core values are people to people friendships (and therefore their focus on travel) and Unitarians and Unitarian Universalists working together. He also noted that the geographical range of the UUPCC's activities have extended to the Philippines, India and Africa. In contrast, PHH has a narrower focus: on community organizing in the Unitarian villages of Transylvania. Will Saunders, President of PHH, joined the UUPCC at its winter, 2009 meeting to explain the current LDA program of PHH. Cathy Cordes, Executive Director of the UUPCC, attended the PHH Board meeting in late February for a conversation about their Capacity Building Program.



UUPCC President Harold Babcock (left) visits PHH Board Meeting.

The PHH board came away from these conversations with a deeper understanding for the work of the UUPCC. Though the overlap between the missions of our two organizations has diminished, PHH is committed

to renewing patterns of respect, an acknowledgement of differences and a more direct board to board relationship. We intend to continue attending a portion of each other's board meetings.

## PHH looks forward to GA in Salt Lake City

Project Harvest Hope cordially invites you to our booth at General Assembly, June 24-28, in Salt Lake City. For the first time, internationally oriented organizations are coordinating their booths and will be sited together. Please visit us at the international section of the display area. We look forward to sharing our stories and enthusiasm for current projects in Transylvania. Rev. Endre Nagy and Éva Patkó will provide live Transylvanian music, and tickets for the Annual Project Harvest Hope Dinner will be available for purchase (see article on back cover). Come check us out!



## Some PHH Fun

Match the words/acronyms on the left with the definitions on the right.

- |                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. munkapont                 | a. 31st Bishop of the Transylvanian Church, recently inaugurated  |
| 2. LDA                       | b. Transylvanian equivalent of an American barn-raising   |
| 3. Ann Swardlick             | c. President of the UU Partner Church Council   |
| 4. David Keyes               | d. What we need from YOU for future newsletters. Send to: julie.draper@comcast.net  |
| 5. Bálint Ferenc             | e. Recently elected PHH Fellow  |
| 6. kaláka                    | f. Recently elected member of the PHH Board of Directors  |
| 7. \$50,000                  | g. the current Balázs scholar and his wife. Also, Transylvanian musicians, who will perform at the Annual PHH Dinner in Salt Lake City. |
| 8. email address             | h. PHH Fund raising goal for 2009   |
| 9. Oasis Café                | i. An e-cottage or village office for LDAs  |
| 10. Harold Babcock           | j. Location of PHH Annual Dinner on June 27, 2009 in Salt Lake City   |
| 11. Endre Nagy and Éva Patkó | k. Local Development Agent, chosen by Steering Committee, trained by CIVITAS, supported by PHH  |

Answers: 1-i; 2-k; 3-f; 4-e; 5-a; 6-b; 7-h; 8-p; 9-j; 10-c; 11-g.

## Bishop Bálint Benczédi Ferenc Elected

Congratulations to the 31st Bishop of the Transylvanian Unitarian Church, who was elected on December 6, 2008 and began his duties on January 9, 2009. Prior to his election, Bálint Benczédi Ferenc served for many years as minister of the First Church of Kolozsvár. The Bishop wrote to us of his election: "I always wanted to be only a minister, who tries to reinforce his congregation in faith and spirit. I have never dreamed of occupying a high position. It is a great honor to be elected the Bishop of the Unitarian Church of Transylvania, but it is at the same time a very big responsibility. I pray to God to give me strength, wisdom and good colleagues with

whom we can work together on the further consolidation of our Church." Bálint Ferenc succeeds Szabó Árpád who was the Project Harvest Hope guest lecturer at General Assembly in 2007.

Bishop Bálint concludes his letter to us with these words: "I truly hope we can continue to work together on the building and strengthening of our partnership. It would be nice to create more occasions to meet in order to come to know each other better and to strengthen one another in faith and spirit. The future is of those who serve their community with their knowledge and strength, of those who are led by the serving love and not by the thirst for power."



Bishop Bálint

Project Harvest Hope looks forward to working closely with Bishop Bálint in furthering its mission in the Unitarian villages of Transylvania.

# Project Harvest Hope Annual Dinner

*Oasis Café, Salt Lake City • Saturday, June 27, 2009*

5:00-5:45: Social Hour • 5:45: Dinner

Tickets: \$50.00 per person. • A cash bar will be available.

The Project Harvest Hope Board cordially invites you to its annual dinner in association with General Assembly. A special Hungarian menu is being prepared (vegetarian options available) at locally owned and operated Oasis Café. Rev. Endre Nagy and his wife Éva Patkó will provide live Transylvanian music and Leon Dunkley will lead us in festive American and Transylvanian folk song. *Purchase your tickets early as this dinner always sells out!*

To purchase tickets, please contact:

Julie Draper, PHH Volunteer Coordinator  
at Julie.draper@comcast.net  
or 603-531-9366

or mail your check to:

Julie Draper, 12 Punkintown Road, Eliot, ME 03903

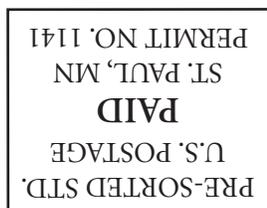
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