

REFLECTION

by Rev. Tamas Tofalvi

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Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Milford, New Hampshire

If I say "Transylvania," there's one thing that comes up in everybody's mind: "Dracula!" But don't worry, we are not vampires and we don't drink blood. You don't have to be afraid of us. We are just an ordinary couple, who have never seen such delight, so many beautiful things as we have here.

It's really difficult to put into words what we feel. We'd rather just sit down and breathe in everything like the air, to take it home with us and show it to those at home. And it feels so good to see that smile, that kindness that we are greeted with.

Transylvania's past is very agitated. Until the end of the first World War, it was part of Hungary. Then it was assigned to Romania. Between 1940 to 1944, it was part of Hungary again, and from 1944 it belongs to Romania again. It is followed by more than 40 years of communism, really hard and cruel times.

In 1989-1990 democracy comes. The big drawback of this is that anything that could be stolen, those in power have taken. This is why we are so far behind the times: They have used the democracy and freedom only for selfish interests.

One of the most significant events in the history of Transylvania is the enunciation of religious freedom in 1568, since this is when it is said- for the first time in the world- due to the Unitarians that everyone should have the religion that corresponds with his or her beliefs. We are very proud of this!

We are not famous. We haven't accomplished things known worldwide, but are very good in a certain something: in love. And this is more important than anything else. 26 years is a long time. And I believe that it is love that bound these two congregations. This is how this partnership still stands. This is a flame that we have lit together and must keep it burning together.

I'm greeting you with the sincere Transylvanian love that I have brought from home in the name of every member of our congregation. We are so grateful to you for having us here, for your hospitality and may God give us the chance to return your kindness many times more.

God bless each and every one of you!