

<p style="text-align:center"><b>Balázs Scholars Program</b> <b>Starr King School for the Ministry</b> <b>2441 Le Conte Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94709</b></p>
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**August 2008 – July 2009**

This year's Balázs scholar, the Rev. Endre Nagy, Jr. is the fourteenth Transylvanian Unitarian minister in recent years to study at Starr King School for the Ministry.

The Balázs Scholars Program has brought a Unitarian Transylvanian Minister to study at Starr King School almost every year since 1994. The Program is named for Francis Balázs, a young Transylvanian Unitarian minister who graduated from seminary in Kolozsvár, then studied at Oxford and at Starr King School. After traveling across Japan, parts of China, India and Palestine to learn from leaders such as Gandhi and Schweitzer about creating peace, he returned to Transylvania through Asia. He then became head of a Unitarian High School. In 1930, he became the minister in the village of Meszkő, the Alabaster Village, where he also wrote poetry, prose and music, mentored seminary students, and, with his wife, restored the historic Unitarian church, ministered to the village, and brought health programs and economic development throughout the valley. He died in 1937 at the age of 36.

Starr King School provides fundraising and administrative assistance as well as waiving tuition for the Balázs scholar. The volunteer Balázs Scholars Program Coordinating Committee provides hospitality and support for the scholar and family, and schedules preaching engagements and transportation. The Committee is made up of representatives from the school, the Starr King community, the host churches and a liaison to the Partner Church Council. The host church for the scholar rotates between the Unitarian Universalist churches in San Francisco, Oakland and Berkeley. Arliss Ungar (arliss@ungar.us) is chair of the committee.

Rev. Endre Nagy, Jr. joins a long line of Balázs scholars, Transylvanian Unitarians ministers who are committed to not only improving the lives of their fellow congregants in their homeland, but also to sharing with North American Unitarian Universalists the breadth and depth of their passion and caring for their homeland and for our common faith tradition.

Endre is minister at the Gyergyózentmiklós fellowship and the Csíkszereda church in the Szélyudvarhely District of Transylvania. His father is also a Unitarian minister. He will be joined by his wife, Eva Patko, a theater director. Endre's passion is church music. He says that in addition to his studies at Starr King school,

I am trying to learn as much as I can about your church music because our church music, and our musical life here in Transylvania really needs a "boost", and I am sure that there is a lot of gold out there in your UU churches, and in your approach to music. What I'm trying to explain is, that I want to collect songs, I want to find new ways of implementing music in worship and church life. I am hoping to return at the end of my scholarship with a lot of musical and theoretical material, which I can then use back here. Translating and publishing songs, perhaps organizing tours in our churches with fresh new music which I brought back home with me - this would be the dream, and this is the music of the future.

The Balázs Scholars Program is funded by donations from individuals, money from the Partner Church Council, and from honoraria, donations and Sunday service collections from the churches where the Balázs scholar preaches. We appreciate your help to sustain this important program.