

FALL of 2005

CIRCLE SEEKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE

GREATER LAKE MICHIGAN URANTIA ASSOCIATION



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On board the Carnival Cruise ship Sensation during the
2005 UAUS National Conference

2006 IUA CONFERENCE – SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

The Rewards of Isolation: Small Teams in Deep Waters

July 14 to 18, 2006

The Women's College, Sydney
University

Newtown, Sydney, Australia



ANZURA, the Australian and New Zealand Urantia Association, takes

great pleasure in announcing the UAI 2006 international *Urantia Book* study conference, to be held in Sydney, Australia. Mark your calendars and start making plans for this once in a lifetime opportunity. Meet and mingle with *Urantia Book* readers from all over the world to study and ponder "The Rewards of Isolation" and contemplate what "Small Teams in Deep Waters" can accomplish for the fifth epochal revelation.

The Theme:

Our mortal struggles and experience reflect a theme playing at all levels of the current grand universe age: small groups of persons finding themselves in unfamiliar circumstances facing tasks that initially seem too big and too hard, but which somehow they eventually overcome. Why bother with such elaborate evolution? What needs of the future motivate the Father to set up the entire grand universe, and devote this entire age to experience and education? What is it about we finite evolving persons that could possibly contribute to the Father's long-term plan? How on-earth might humans make a difference in the universe of universes?

Streaming Choices

The plenary sessions and workshop topics have been categorized into three "streams" to allow for a diversity of choice:

- 1) The "Reward of Experience" stream – making sense of how things work.
- 2) The "Reward of Life" stream will discover the heroes of the past, present and future and how a small group of people can change the world.
- 3) The "Reward of Faith" stream – explore ways of finding the values and meanings to launch ourselves all the way to the Father. It will discover ways of proving that prayer and worship are antidotes to feelings of isolation.

The Venue

The conference site is the University of Sydney, a Women's College that offers heritage surroundings with a range of seminar and function rooms, accommodations, and full dining facilities. You will be less than 4 kilometers (2.5 miles) from Sydney's bustling city centre.

We hope students of *The Urantia Book* will start making plans for an exciting and unique trip to the great land "down under". Visit our website at

www.urantia.org.au/anzura/IUAconference2006 for regular updates and information. You may also register for the conference or volunteer your time and skills. For further information, please get in touch with ANZURA, PO Box 609, Narrabeen NSW 2101, Australia. Telephone: +61-2-9970-6200, Fax: +61-2-9970-6201, Email: anzura@urantia.org.au.



Message From The President

By Benet Rutenberg

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Urantia,

We are witnessing another devastating event in the form of a major storm which has ravaged and continues to ravage an area larger than some states. In the last five years the results of terrorism, tsunamis and hurricanes have brought severe trials to the human race in ways that we can only think about. All of us have been touched by these events. Many have been hurt. I cannot begin to suggest anything in the way of understanding or meaning other than this is what is. I will pray. I will hope. I will watch. I will help.

The immensity of this disaster is still just being realized. This is the place many of us shared a great experience and a wonderful conference just one month ago. It may never be the same again. It is certain that the people caught in this will not remain the same. Sometime it will be all but memories. Where we will all be then cannot be told.

Can we dig deeper into these teachings and ever deeper into our souls and our connections to Our Father to become resources for those who cross our paths? Will we show forth the Love we have been given even when it seems that it may not be enough? Will we stand fast and together? Can we move at the speed of evolution knowing that it is moving faster than it ever has but slower than we wish it to? Will we hold together in our faith and in our common purpose so that this revelation will have the chance to do what it was designed to do over time?

We have been told not to be concerned if all things visible crash. Yet we are concerned. We know what can happen. We are also told that nothing is more important than the work of our current status sphere. So then let us resolve to face every trial showing forth the fruits of the spirit which we have been given without restraint. With Wisdom, Patience and Love let us also give without restraint. Our prayers and thoughts go out to those afflicted that they suffer with a little more grace and a little more patience until this time passes.

On August 29, 2005 the Representative Council announced that as the result of a vote by the RC, effective August 29, 2005, the working name of our organization is: **Urantia Association International**. See the UAI news section for more details.

Thinking and Praying with all of you,
Benet

CHRISTMAS PARTY DEC 10th

Mark your calendar for Saturday, December 10, 2005. This is that date that has been reserved for the annual Christmas party at the Foundation. Watch your mail for invitations sometime in November. The party will be a similar format to previous years but details are still being planned.

“The Faith of Jesus Retreat”

“Of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know is the religious life of Jesus and how he lived it”. (Paper 196, “The Faith of Jesus,” page 2090, paragraph 4)

Our “Faith of Jesus Retreat” was a soul-satisfying event. Overall, the feedback is that the retreat was enriching and generally successful. Thanks to our keen Urantian sense of humor, we had fun, too. A leather-bound copy of *The Urantia Book* was left in the DeKoven library, inscribed as a gift from First Society and GLMUA with gratitude for spiritual retreat and the date. It was put on a shelf labeled “Prayer and Spiritual Living.”

After arriving on Friday, guests were welcomed on Saturday morning by

Barbara Newsom, Retreat Committee Chair, Benet Rutenberg, President, Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association, and Marilyn Kulieke, President, First Society for Readers of *The Urantia Book*. The program began with Barbara Newsoms presentation “Meditation in the Faith of Jesus”. James Woodward followed in the afternoon with “Prayer in the Faith of Jesus”. The day concluded with Barbara and James joining spirits to discuss “Sharing and Reflections on Meditation and Prayer”.

Sunday morning featured Part III of the program “Worship in the Faith of Jesus” – Readings and Discussion. Followed by a Remembrance Supper and a birthday celebration.



BODY, MIND, & SPIRIT EXPO BOOK FAIR

During the weekend of August 27-28, GLMUA displayed *The Urantia Book* for the Chicago Body Mind and Spirit Expo. The Expo was held in Skokie, Illinois, about 30 minutes north of Urantia Foundation. This is our first experience in with a book fair. Representing GLMUA were: James Woodward, Mark Branham, Chris Bailey, Mark Kurtz, Chris Wood, Bill Martin and Benet Rutenberg. Tamara Wood of Urantia Foundation was of tremendous support during this effort. There were about 75 exhibitors representing all types of new age, metaphysical, massage, alternative medicine and equipment, Buddhism, Course in Miracles, natural food supplements and various mediums and the like. Those in the booth next to us were familiar with and positive about the book. Several people bought books and gave positive compliments towards the teachings of Jesus as stated in *The Urantia Book*.

We spoke to over 500 people, some briefly and some at length. A lady read one of our posters with a few quotes on it and bought a book on the spot. She said she had never seen or heard of this but just had to have it. Attendees came with interest and hunger. There were many who came more

interested in other things but many of them came back around and found welcome conversation and sometimes answers to their search. We saw many of them circle the event several times and over several hours. People are searching for truth. Some look only for the quick fix or the magic pill but many more want to go in depth. It is here that we made several friends. We sold 30 books with proceeds going to Urantia Foundation. Some who bought the book, said they had put off getting it because they heard it was tough to read. We encouraged these people to trust the spirit and the Father to bring the teachings alive for them. We left many smiles among refreshed souls who have taken an important step in their journey.

On Saturday, James Woodward gave a one hour public lecture on the content, cosmology and structure of *Urantia Book*. This presentation was received well and with great interest. Many came by the booth later on to speak with us further and some bought the book. It was especially interesting when one woman asked about reincarnation. James fielded the question honestly and candidly. Though the woman appeared disappointed, James presented it in such a way as to refocus the conversation on the progressive lives we would all be living leading up to the presence of God. Those in the room stayed on with questions and commentary until we were moved along by the next group. The manner of the presentation was even, informative, educational and yet friendly and down to earth. Well done James!

It was indeed a pleasure to add a few more readers to the revelation. Some of them, who asked, were invited to study group. One man and woman, who already had the book and bought another one, said they didn't believe in study groups. There was some cult fear which we listened to and invited them anyway. It was suggested that after they read a little more they might want to start their own group. He appeared surprised but the thought took some root.

Witnessing all the interest from attendees that stopped by the booth is proof that *The Urantia Book* has a place in this environment. Our presence at this event offered the opportunity to share and/or clarify the significance of the revelation. The many people came away with a deeper understanding of the teachings. This is factual confirmation that there is a segment of the New Age demographic that is ready for more than superstition and quick fixes. This was very encouraging to observe and it was satisfying to see all of those who participated in this opportunity to share the teachings energized by the experience! It is quite apparent in attending an event like this that there are thousands upon thousands of hungry souls looking for deeper truth. We would do well to be prepared when when these opportunities present themselves. Who cannot benefit from knowing God as their Father and all people as their spiritual family? These things are already true though many have yet to realize it in their lives. Let us always be ready to serve.

THANK YOU to all of you who participated and assisted with the Body, Mind, Spirit Expo. Everyone that staffed the booth agreed that it was a very valuable experience. Personal interaction with diverse spiritual seekers forces us to define and refine our own convictions, and as one of those who manned the booth expressed: exposure can also lead to an increased a sense of tolerance for those who may be seeking an easier path.

Each one of our staff contributed something personal to booth visitors, and without our supporters at Urantia Foundation we wouldn't have been able to fulfill our role in the social mandate of IUA.

Those staffing the booth are spiritually fragrant souls who truly loved those they met at the expo. People could tell this and many of the exhibitors kept coming around, over and over. Working this expo was challenging and a learning experience, plus it was a lot of FUN. Another good project of progressive spiritualized teamwork and wonderful friendships.



Namukale and Chita from Zambia

took them to Panera for lunch on Friday. It was rainy so they went to Guitar Center as Chita wanted to check prices on gig bags for the electric guitar he had been given while visiting in L.A. James helped Chita clean up the guitar and put new strings on it. James and Chita played music while Namukale read, went over to Border's bookstore and browsed the stores nearby. On Saturday, they went biking along the lake shore. Namukale and Chita had interesting conversations about the Foundation and the book with those they met at the Foundation. Many misconceptions were cleared up and they appreciated learning the history of the Foundation and the UAI. Here is what they experienced in their own words:

“URANTIA FOUNDATION EXPERIENCE

[Namukale]My most memorable moment in Chicago was when Chita and I decided to walk to Lake Michigan one evening. We got to the harbor and decided to see a few streets too. After having seen enough we decided to get back to the Foundation using a different route. We could not find Diversey Parkway and we could not see the tall buildings that had previously acted as a guide. After all the searching and asking, we decided to book a taxi to the Foundation and to our surprise, we were there in about five minutes. Before I came across *The Urantia Book*, I had a lot of concepts about God, some good others questionable and these concepts left me at a crossroad, not knowing which way to take. The taxi was like *The Urantia Book*, saying this is the way. “Truly, ...in every dark hour, at every crossroad in the forward struggle, the Spirit of Truth will always speak, saying, “This is the way.”

[Chita]I still now could not believe what happened. I mean being in America and at the Foundation, was this real? Hey somebody wake me up. It was all like in the flash of the second. I felt such peace the days I spent at the Foundation, surely *peace on earth and good to all men*, a place as I know all (literally) happened there.

There were times I could picture ‘the 70’ when I sat in the forum room, peaceful place. I treasured every second at the Foundation which I now realize had I not, oh what sad thing it could have been. The memorable fact is that I was at the Foundation and it has given me more peace than I ever would have had, I feel as if I was part of the ‘forum’ what ever people say about *The Urantia Book* and stuff affects me less. When I found *The Urantia Book I* believed the very first statement, even now. Chicago was one of the places we spent more



approach the stabilization of maturity.

Jay Peregrine, James Woodward, and Chita shipping books. I am the type that hardly believes in special things but I believe this was a very special experience that celestial and fellow Urantians gave their best to up lift my soul, to see more, to experience more. The trip arrangement was full of downs but it all happened. We were denied visas but a day after we reapplied, which was also a battle during the interviews, South African Airways was on strike.

We got stranded but it all worked out. A gazillion thanks to everyone that made this happen. How I wish I could name each one of you but send me an email and I just do that chita606@yahoo.com / namukale2000@yahoo.com As Namukale has put it always the Spirit of Truth speaks my son “*this is the way*”. **Chita Nonde and Namukale Kaliwanda, Morontia Mota Study Group (MMSG), Ndola – Zambia**

Jay Peregrine, James Woodward, and Chita Nonde loading books at the Foundation

DEAL OF THE CENTURY-SO FAR!

Here’s a deal for anyone beginning new monthly and automatic contributions to the Urantia Foundation or the UAI:

Sign up for the Urantia Foundation Dollar-A-Day program and get one item of choice listed below. Sign up for the Urantia Foundation Dollar-A-Day program AND give a Dollar-A-Day to IUA and get three items of choice listed below. All items have the Circles logo on them.

When your contribution is set up, send an email to Rick Lyon at ricklyon@tetc.com or call 765-339-4708 to make your selection. This is the last of these types of items as the Foundation will not be purchasing any more for resale. To set up Dollar-A-Day contributions with the Foundation, call 1-800-URANTIA (international calls: 1-773-525-3319) or contact Richard Keeler at rkeeler@allwest.net . To set up contributions to IUA, telephone in the U.S. 1-602-938-9163 or visit the website at www.urantia-iua.org/paypal.html

The items available are:

“Inevitabilities” white T-shirts with Urantia logo – Adult small, medium, and XX.

“Urantia” heavy weight cotton white Polo shirts – Medium, Large, and XL

“Urantia” light grey hooded sweatshirts with zipper – Medium, Large, XL

“Urantia” light grey hooded sweatshirt pullover – Small, Medium

days walking with James Woodward and shipping of books in the basement with wonderful Urantia Foundation staff. I really felt at home on Urantia when here. P.1777 -*§1 I repeat, such inspiring and ennobling association... And thus, if you can build up such trustworthy and effective small units of human association, when these are assembled in the aggregate, the world will behold a great and glorified social structure, the civilization of mortal maturity. Such a race might begin to realize something of your Master's ideal of "peace on earth and good will among men."* While such a society would not be perfect or entirely free from evil, it would at least

“Urantia” baseball caps – green with blue denim bill
“Urantia” baseball caps – cream colored with black bill
Books written by Dr. Sadler. Not Urantia related.

To all Readers of *The Urantia Book*,

As readers, as believers, we all celebrate the fact of the revelation and that 50 years ago was the First Printing of *The Urantia Book*. Our lives were forever changed! Ne Obliviscaris!

The Committee for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of The Urantia Book

Most cordially invites you
to an evening of dinner and dancing
Sunday, October 16, 2005
5 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Embassy Suites Hotel
Rivernorth Ballroom
600 North State Street
Chicago, Illinois

Cash Bar
Music and Dancing
Evening attire suggested
\$150 per plate

October 12, 1955. This celebratory day of America's discovery, heralded the first printing of *The Urantia Book*. That this day was chosen can hardly be considered a mere happenstance, as if anything effected by our revelators could be considered happenstance.

Nor should this important date be ignored or forgotten by those whose very lives had suddenly changed for eternity, after being exposed to this epochal revelation.

And what of Chicago !... this growing city in the middle of a developing continent that would see physical, financial, mercantile and yes, spiritual forces merge to create

a near ideal and hospitable location for the reception of this revelation...not to mention the receptive human beings who carefully and lovingly fostered it.

"and the Word was made book..."

50th Anniversary Celebration of *The Urantia Book*
Sunday, October 16, 2005, Embassy Suites Downtown, Chicago, Illinois

Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____ Email _____

**I would like to purchase _____ tickets at \$150.00 each
My food choice is (number of)**

Filet Mignon Salmon Vegetarian

Regretfully, I cannot attend but please accept this donation for the further translations of The Urantia Book \$ _____ (Note: All donations go to The Foundation's Translation Fund)

*Check enclosed _____ payable to The Urantia Book Anniversary Account
*Please charge my credit card _____ Master Card _____ Visa _____ Discover

Number _____ Exp date _____ Authorized signature _____

R.S.V.P. by October 1, 2005. For more information, please call John Hales (877) 288-3772

Call for reservations or mail this form to:
Urantia Book 50th Celebration, P.O. Box 63, Kenilworth, IL., 60043

Hotel Reservations

Rooms in Chicago are limited due to various conventions being held. You will need to make reservations if you are staying overnight. We recommend the Marriott Suites. The rooms at Marriott are very nice and well priced. The train is conveniently close (walking) to the Marriott and will drop you off one block from the Embassy Suites Hotel. Groups will be taking taxis. If you wish to stay at the Embassy Suites Hotel, they have only a few rooms, but they are at a premium. It is recommended you make reservations soon.

Contact information:

Marriott Suites Chicago O'Hare -
6155 N. River Road,
Rosemont, IL 60018
1-888-236-2427

Mention you are with the Urantia Book event to receive best rate of \$99.00, plus tax.

Embassy Suites Hotel Downtown Chicago -
800 N. State Street
Chicago, IL 60610

Some rooms may be available, no special rate.

50 Years of The Urantia Book – A History

By Barbara Newsom

Think of the time you first opened The Urantia Book. Think also of how you began to realize that the teachings of the book are what they purport to be: the Fifth Epochal Revelation of truth to our world, Urantia. Long isolated from the universe through no fault of our own, we learn that mortals on our sphere are just as “lovingly cherished and just as faithfully watched over (p. 1259:2)” as on any other world. God loves us each of us personally, sharing our lives by indwelling our minds, while fully respecting our free will choices. We are destined for a life of loving service, eternal service, as ascending sons of God!

What has this gift of revelation meant to you? Most readers say The Urantia Book changed their lives. As we give thanks to God for the truth, beauty, and goodness of this revelation, think how the Contact Commissioners and Forum members must have felt on October 12, 1955, when the first printed, hardbound copies of The Urantia Book were delivered to 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois. For almost 50 years, since the first contacts began no later than 1906, these early pioneers had labored to make that day possible.

For the first time, these devoted men and women could read their own copies of the book in their own homes, having read until that day only type-written copies at the Sadler home and offices on Diversey Parkway. Parents could tell their children, along with other loved ones, friends, and neighbors, where they had been going on Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. Of course, some of them had attended the open social gatherings of the Forum, and some had joined the Forum, which is how it grew from 1923-1956 to include over 500 people, many of whom had moved away from Chicago by the time of the 1955 publication of the book.

October 12, 1955, was a Wednesday evening, so the members of The Seventy, an intensive study group Forum members started in 1939, received their first books at their regularly scheduled meeting. Everyone wanted to get a book that day! The “momentous transaction took place—the publication of the Fifth Epochal Revelation.” Appointments were interrupted, overseas telephone calls were made: the great day had finally arrived!***

It has been described by those present as a “thrilling” and “awesome” moment. One said, “I still remember men excitedly leaving the building with boxes of books carried on their heads.” One woman recalls mixed feelings including “sadness.” She said, “I felt an era was ending and none of us knew what we were facing.”***

Until the time of its publication, The Urantia Book had been under the direct guidance of the Revelatory Commission.* Think how the revelation came into the world: through a slow and gradual process, the revelation evolved. Service was always required from the human partners who followed the guidance of the revelators to bring the Urantia Papers into the world to be published in book form. The documentary evidence of the history of the Fifth Epochal Revelation details the following highlights of the first fifty years.

Preliminary Contacts: 1900-1924

From the first decade of the 1900s until 1924, medical doctors William and Lena Sadler, and their family members Anna and Wilfred Kellogg along with other colleagues, studied the phenomena associated with the human subject through whom the Urantia papers were eventually transmitted.*

During this time, Dr. William Sadler writes, “We were introduced to many new and, to us, somewhat strange concepts of the universe of universes and as concerned man his life on earth.” These “new ideas of cosmology and philosophy” included a new concept of a far-flung cosmos, millions of other inhabited worlds, and introduction to scores of different and varied echelons of celestial personalities.” “Numerous theologic concepts were presented to us, including terms such as the first Source and Center, Havona, superuniverses, the Supreme Being, and Thought Adjusters.”*

“The midwayers,” an order of personalities midway between humans and angels (p. 864-86), “were very real to us,” he wrote. “We frequently talked with them during our varied ‘contacts.’ We fully understood that the secondary midwayers supervised the contacts.” He continued, “We gained the impression that there special reasons for Jesus’ bestowal on Urantia...” and “listened to occasional references to Jesus’ life and teachings. ... While we did not hear the term ‘Corps of The Finality,’ we did pick up a hazy idea that Paradise might be the destination of surviving mortals.”*

He concluded, “Our superhuman friends thus spent upward of two decades in extending our cosmic horizons, enlarging our theologic concepts, and expanding our overall philosophy. We never realized how much our religious thinking had been expanded until the Papers began to arrive. As the Revelation progressed we came to more fully appreciate how we had been prepared for the vast alteration of our religious beliefs by these preliminary contacts extending over a period of twenty years of pre-education.”**

The Development of The Urantia Book—1924-1942

The period of preliminary contact, described by Dr. William Sadler as “our apprenticeship training for subsequent service” and “thoroughgoing testing of the contact personality, rehearsing the technique of communication, selecting the Contact Commissioners,” ended in 1924.* On February 11, 1924, Machiventa Melchizedek announced to the contact group, who had been joined in 1923 by E. L. Christensen (Christy), that the revelators had approved a plan to initiate the Urantia Papers for eventual publication as a book.***

The first five Contact Commissioners were designated at that time. Christy had moved into the Sadler’s third floor home, socially accepted as an adopted daughter of Drs. William and Lena Sadler, although at age 23 she was too old to be legally adopted. The doctors’ son, William S. Sadler, Jr., became a Contact Commissioner when he returned from home from U.S. military service. He lived with his family on the second floor of 533 Diversey Parkway, upon which was located the large room on the front of the building facing north that was used by the Forum for their meetings. Anna and Wilfred Kellogg lived in the apartment above the garage, adjacent to the 533 building.

Only the Contact Commissioners had direct contact with the Revelatory Commission from that time until those formal contacts ended on August 21, 1952. The identity of the human subject was protected by physician/patient privacy during the preliminary contact period, although both the doctors and The Urantia Book (p. 1209) state that the health of the subject was good. The Revelatory Commission directed the Contact Commissioners that the identity of human subject, identified in The Urantia Book as a male, remain anonymous, and they took an oath never to reveal his identity.*

At the invitation of the Sadlers, a group that came to be known as The Forum had begun meeting at their home since January 1923 to discuss various topics.

In the course of delivering a series of talks, Dr. William Sadler, who by now had begun to specialize in psychiatry, mentioned an exception to cases of delusion or fraud in psychic phenomena, which intrigued the group.***

“It was while those informal discussions were going on from week to week that the challenge came to us suggesting that if we would ask more serious questions, we might get information of value to all mankind,” he reported. * The Contact Commissioners told the Forum about a challenge issued by the revelators and Dr. Sadler invited them “to join us in the presentation of questions. We decided to start out with questions pertaining to the origin of the cosmos, Deity, creation, and such other subjects as were far beyond the present-day knowledge of all humankind.” *

On the following Sunday, “several hundred questions were brought in. We sorted out these questions, discarding duplicates, and in a general way, clarifying them,” he said. “Shortly thereafter, the first Urantia Paper appeared in answer to

these questions. From first to last, when Papers appeared, the questions disappeared. This was the procedure followed for many years of the Urantia Papers. No questions, no Papers.”**

The first Paper was read to the Forum on January 18, 1925. The Forum continued to ask questions. Fifty-seven Papers were received by this method from 1925-1929. The Revelatory Commission then suggested that since the group could now ask more intelligent questions, the superhuman agencies and personalities responsible for transmitting the 57 Papers would expand the Papers in accordance with new questions. The first three parts of The Urantia Book, 119 Papers, were completed in 1934 (p. 648) and 1935 (p. 1319). Throughout the process, the revelators would revise the Papers after a Contact Commissioner read them to the Forum, which met on Sunday afternoons, from three to five o’clock.***

There was a delay of about one year in reception of the “Jesus Papers,” Part IV of The Urantia Book, while the midlayers waited for an answer to their petition for permission from universe courts to publish this new narration of Jesus’ life. The Uversa court ruling not only assured them they “were not in contempt of court,” but also granted them “a mandate to perform this service and admonishing any and all persons connected therewith to refrain from interfering with, or in any way hindering, the execution of such an undertaking.”**

The Forum asked questions about the Jesus Papers from 1935 to 1942, following the same procedure they had for the preceding Papers. During that time, the Forum also completed their third and final reading, with minor revisions by the revelators, of the entire 196 Papers of The Urantia Book.***

Dr. William Sadler asserts, “The Papers were published just as we received them. The Contact Commissioners had no editorial authority. Our job was limited to spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.”**

Organizational Development—1930s to 1950s

As custodians of the manuscript of The Urantia Papers, the Contact Commissioners made inquiries to the copyright office of the United States in 1932 and proceeded with the necessary steps to copyright The Urantia Book internationally. Typesetting of The Urantia Book began in 1941 and continued, including extensive proofreading by Contact Commissioners and Forum volunteers, until the plates for The Urantia Book were made ready and funds for publication were raised. Dr. Lena Sadler was especially instrumental in fund-raising until she graduated to the mansion worlds in 1939.

The revelators continued to guide the Contact Commission and the Forum during this period, advising in 1946 that “we cannot expect widespread acceptance of the Urantia revelation until 90% of the followers attain unity of purpose, just as there will not be peace in the world until 90% of the

nations want peace.*** Unity was often a theme of the counsel given by the revelators to the Contact Commission and shared with the Forum.

At long last, the permission to publish The Urantia Book was given by the Revelatory Commission to the Contact Commission. The introduction to this mandate reads:

“We regard The Urantia Book as a feature of the progressive evolution of human society. It is not germane to the spectacular episode of epochal revolution, even though it may apparently be timed to appear in the wake of one such revolution in human society. The Urantia Book belongs to the era immediately to follow the conclusion of the present ideological struggle. That will be the day when men will be willing to seek truth and righteousness. When the chaos of the present confusion has passed, it will be more readily possible to formulate the cosmos of a new and improved era of human relationships. And it is for this better order of affairs on earth that The Urantia Book has been made ready.

But the publication of the book has not been postponed to that (possibly) somewhat remote date. An early publication of the book has been provided so that it may be in hand for the training of leaders and teachers. Its presence is also required to engage the attention of persons of means who may be thus led to provide funds for translation into other languages.”**

Upon receipt of these instructions, the Contact Commissioners entered upon the task of publishing The Urantia Book and preparation of plans for its distribution*

The plates of The Urantia Book constituted the basis for the formation of Urantia Foundation, the organization approved by the revelators to succeed the Contact Commission, and was created on January 11, 1950. The first Board of Trustees, appointed for life, consisted of three men and two women, William M. Hates, William S. Sadler, Jr., Wilfred Kellogg, Emma L. Christensen, and Edith E. Cook.***

The Contact Commissioners created the draft of the constitution for Urantia Brotherhood in 1937 and presented a revised draft to the Forum for the first time in 1939. The first draft of the Declaration of Trust Creating Urantia Foundation was formulated at the same time. In 1942 the Revelatory Commission advised the Contact Commission about protecting the name Urantia as registered trademark, which was accomplished and is maintained by Urantia Foundation.***

After receiving further instructions from the Revelatory Commission about the organizations and publication of The Urantia Book, the last of which was received on August 21, 1952, Urantia Foundation proceeded to publish the book. On January 1, 1955, a full five years after the founding of Urantia Foundation, the authority for the functions of Urantia Foundation was assumed by the Trustees when they met to proceed with plans to publish The Urantia Book. They announce their “Declaration of Intention to Print The Urantia Book” on the following day, immediately following the formation of Urantia Brotherhood. On February 11, 1955, formal arrangements were made for the production of The Urantia Book.***

Urantia Brotherhood was founded January 2, 1955, when 36 Forum members became the charter members and the first General Councilors of Urantia Brotherhood, to govern the Brotherhood for its first nine years, after which the Brotherhood would be ordered by the action of the Triennial Delegate Assembly composed of delegates of the various societies. Urantia Brotherhood had thus been functioning for nine months before The Urantia Book was published.

The Forum continued to meet as a study group until First Society was chartered on June 17, 1956.*** Advice that had been given by the revelators over the years was recorded in organizational memoranda and various histories produced by the organizations over the years. Original handwritten and typewritten copies of the Papers and other communications were destroyed as instructed by the

revealers. As Dr. William Sadler said, "It was the design of our unseen friends to prevent the appearance of an 'Urantia Apocrypha' subsequent to the publication of *The Urantia Book*."*

Thus the ship of the revelation left its protected harbors to set sail upon the seas of high adventure. The Contact Commissioners and Forum members continued to read and study the book, charter societies, and set to the task of forming the first of "thousands of study groups" that the revelators instructed us to establish.

In 1957, a year after the death of Wilfred Kellogg, William S. Sadler, Jr, known as "Bill," gave his report as the first president of Urantia Brotherhood: "This is a historic period of considerable moment in the evolution of religion on this planet. Never before has a group of human beings organized themselves by deliberate action into a social vehicle for the promotion of religious truth." Bill passed on in 1963, followed by his father in 1969. Anna Kellogg passed on in 1960. Christy continued as the last Contact Commissioner until 1982 when she passed the torch to younger readers.***

Extraordinary Trust—2005

Today The Urantia Book has been translated into many languages and study groups have been established in many nations, among readers from all walks of life and all faiths. Our numbers are still small, but in a short fifty years, we have a worldwide family with numerous local, regional, and international conferences.

The early leaders were told by the revelators that:

"You are spiritual explorers, cosmic citizens engaged in the fascinating adventure of searching for God and dedicated to the supreme passion of doing His Divine Will."

"Of all the emergency corps of mortal selectmen on Urantia, none is charged with a more solemn obligation than your group. You have been called to a great work of taking the first step in offering to mortal man a new light, a new revelation, of the love."

And from the Melchizedek serving as Personal Regent to the Vicegerent Planetary Prince, Machiventa:

"I admonish you to be alert to the importance of the extraordinary trust which has been placed in your hands."***

This trust remains with us even today. "The religious challenge of this age is to those farseeing and forwards-looking men and women of spiritual insight who will dare to construct a new and appealing philosophy of living out of the enlarged and exquisitely integrated modern concepts of cosmic truth, universe beauty and divine goodness. Such a new and righteous vision of morality will attract all that is good in the mind of man and challenge that which is best in the human soul. Truth, beauty, and goodness are divine realities, and as man ascends the scale of spiritual living, these supreme qualities of the Eternal become increasingly co-ordinated and unified in God, who is love." (p. 43:3)

References

*A History of the Urantia Movement by William S. Sadler, M.D., published by Urantia Foundation, www.urantia.org.

**Birth of a Revelation by Mark Kulieke, third edition, 1994. Morning Star Foundation, P.O. Box 9343, Green Bay, WI 54302.

***The Golden Years: The 50th Anniversary Commemorative History of Urantia Foundation, published by Urantia Foundation, 2000.

[Editors Note: Barbara Newsom began studying The Urantia Book in a study group in Wichita, Kansas, in 1965. In 1975, she moved to Chicago to work for Urantia Brotherhood and Urantia Foundation. Now a training consultant, she lives in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, a Chicago suburb. A member of First Society and Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association, she co-hosts the Western Suburbs Study Group.]

BECOME A MEMBER OF UAI

Membership in the Urantia Association International includes membership in the appropriate national and local associations. To become a member of UAI, UAU, and GLMUA in this area, you may complete the membership form online at www.urantia-uaa.org or by contacting any GLMUA officer. UAI is a service organization developing teachers and leaders to disseminate the Urantia teachings. UAI serves all readers of *The Urantia Book*. Annual dues are \$40 per person.

The Mayonnaise Jar and the 2 Cups of Coffee . . .

A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he picked up an empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed that it was.

The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous "yes."

The professor then produced two cups of coffee from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar effectively filling the empty space between the sand.

"Now," said the professor, "I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things--God, your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions--and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else--the small stuff."

"If you put the sand into the jar first," he continued, "there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you. "Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Play with your children. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls, the things that really matter, first. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand."



One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the coffee represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a cup of coffee with a friend."

UAUS NEWS

UAUS National Conference 2005

By: Rick Lyon



[Editors note: This article was written before Hurricane Katrina. The photo above was the city of New Orleans when last we saw it. We are all heartsick over this devastation. After visiting this beautiful city and getting to know many of its warm and friendly people, it is hard to think back on our time there and not cry. We see pictures of the city and point out the places we were standing just a few weeks ago. I close my eyes and try to imagine what it now looks like inside the hotel room we had. We see pictures of the devastation and remember those we met there and wonder about what happened to them and how their lives have been destroyed. So many faces come to mind as I watch the news about this area. I wonder about the doorman that held our cab while I went up to the room to retrieve more luggage, the maids who straightened our room each day, the taxi and shuttle drivers, the waiters/waitresses, the Cajun band members we listened to while we ate, the fellow that made his living running air boat tours in the swamps, the three men who sang harmony to a delighted crowd on the street across from the Hotel Monteleone for tips every night, the boutique and shop owners and employees, and on and on...wondering if they are okay. Were they and their families able to evacuate in time and with their lives? Remembering and praying constantly for all those sweet, hospitable

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people whose lives have been blown and swept away by the ferocity of nature. Such a life on such a planet... The proceeds from the auction we had at the conference will be sent to the victims of this tragedy. Many are sending money and we are preparing to go there and join the relief efforts in Mississippi. Please remember these people in your prayers.]

The national conference of the Urantia Association United States began with the annual meeting in New Orleans followed by a Caribbean cruise. Several members arrived in New Orleans early to enjoy the city. Kat, my daughter, and I arrived Monday afternoon. Our first goal was to eat in a real seafood restaurant. We found a place called "Deannie's Seafood" where we had the best shrimp I have ever eaten. Another evening we ate at a Cajun restaurant, enjoying alligator nuggets and a huge platter of crawdad nachos followed by a sampler of red beans and rice, gumbo, jambalaya and other Cajun foods. The crawdad Nachos were the best in my opinion but Kat enjoyed the alligator the most. It really does taste like chicken only better.

We had a day to ourselves before the conference actually began so we took the city bus tour. We went to the highest elevation in New Orleans which the bus driver said was one foot above sea level. We visited the levy that surrounds the city and could easily see the ocean on one side was a lot higher than the houses and buildings on the other side. All rain water must be pumped out by massive pumps that have pipes large enough that our tour bus could drive through them. Of course we had to visit the cemeteries and see the above ground burial vaults that slowly cremate a person's remains so that other family members can be added to the same tomb later.

After that we took an airboat tour of the swamps and watched our guide feed marshmallows to the alligators. Airboats are noisy but what a blast they are to ride! Way back in the swamps is a natural beauty that is hard to describe. I think I could learn to love the peace and quiet of the swamp except the tranquility would frequently be broken by me screaming after seeing a snake. Even though I know that it wasn't really a snake that tempted Eve, I still prefer that snakes stay on the other side of the planet from me.

The UAUS meeting went well. Benet Rutenberg, president of UAUS, led the meeting with his usual good humored but business like manner. The discussions included the then pending name change for IUA, plans for the next UAUS conference, and funding of translations along with committee reports. Cathy Jones presented an official Urantia banner to Marian Hughes in recognition of their IUA local as the first UAUS local and the second IUA local created. The meeting was very well attended and many people contributed to the discussions.

Many of those attending the UAUS



Judy VanCleave-Secretary, Benet Rutenberg-President, and David Linthicum-VP



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meeting also went on the conference cruise. Boarding the Carnival Cruise ship went quickly and easily. The cruise experience begins with a required life boat drill. Everyone dons a life preserver and proceeds to their assigned muster station. Once the drill is concluded, the party begins. Well, for some people the party apparently started much earlier than for most of us. At first the ship seemed confusing but we quickly caught on to the layout of the ship. Topside is up. Cheap seats are down. Bow is front. Aft is rear. Starboard is right and Port is left. All I really wanted to know was where the food was. It wasn't hard to find as there was plenty of it. The dinner each night was a four star affair for sure. A variety of excellent meals and fine desserts were repeated each night and in some cases each meal. You want two entree's? OK. Two desserts? No problem.

Our hosts, Marian and Matt Hughes from HULA, the UAI local in Hawaii, welcomed everyone to the 2005 UAUS conference. John Ploetz gave a brief introduction that set the tone for the conference sessions. Matt entertained and enlightened all of us with a fantastic PowerPoint show of "Recent Astronomic Discoveries." The first day concluded with an auction of donated items that raised money for the printing of the Portuguese translation of *The Urantia Book* and the playing of a new CD by Rebecca Oswald titled "Singing with the Angels". You may remember Rebecca as the lady playing piano at the Urantia 2004 conference. The music was a beautiful conclusion to our first evening and will be a great addition to the music of Urantia.

Day 2 gave us an opportunity to enjoy the teaching style of Jane Ploetz. Jane is one of those rare individuals that can take advanced cosmic ideas and present them to you at such a level that makes difficult subjects suddenly amazingly simple. With simple household items, Jane had us construct the Grand Universe. Marian Hughes followed with a PowerPoint presentation about the evolution of man and the life of Andon and Fonta. John Ploetz gave an enlightening and sometimes humorous discussion of Midwayers. Marian challenged everyone to think up a project for a Midwayer that would advance this planet toward light and life. Each night ended with a session of star gazing on the upper deck of the ship.

Saturday was our free day in Cozumel, Mexico. Kat and I went off on a Jeep tour of the mainland that included snorkeling in an underground lake and swimming in the ocean at a private beach. Driving a Jeep in Mexico was a thrilling new experience. Anytime there was more than one car length between vehicles, someone would jump in to fill the gap regardless of how many stripes were on the centerline or the volume of oncoming traffic. It was a unique and fun experience to snorkel in an underground cavern and this was the first time for Kat or me to swim in the ocean. We loved it.

Most of the other cruisers enjoyed visiting with fellow Urantia Book readers from Mexico while having lunch and swimming at the beautiful Cozumel beaches. They boarded an air conditioned bus under the expert guidance of Brad, a long time UB reader. After a short 20 minute ride to the middle of the island, they arrived at the San Gervasio ruins. The ruins date to 100 BC. A Mayan guide gave



Building a Grand Universe

everyone a tour of the ruins. He had a wonderful sense of the Mayan culture and emphasized several important points. The Mayans believed in one god that oversaw the work of many sub-deities. They were also very in tune with the mathematical rhythms of nature. The temple was built to conform to the timing of the moon and the sun and also included elements that incorporated the number of days in the human gestation period. San Gervasio was dedicated to the Mayan goddess Ixchel, deity of midwifery, fertility, medicine and weaving. Many women from the inland Mayan settlements made the pilgrimage here to Ixchel's shrine at some point in their lifetime. A graceful arch protects an altar on a sacbe (ancient road) leading into the ceremonial center. Many statues to Ixchel were found here. It is believed that a large ceramic image of Ixchel delivered oracles spoken by a hidden priestess for pilgrims with questions.

After leaving the ruins, the group visited a beach on where several people enjoyed snorkeling and body surfing. The next stop was the Cozumel Museum. This is a beautiful museum that displays the opulent history of Cozumel, along with exhibits of the island's ecosystems. There is a restaurant with a beautiful view from the second floor terrace. The service was great and the food was excellent. Everyone's favorite appetizer was the delicious homemade taco soup. Margaritas were enjoyed by many. The rest of the day was devoted to shopping. Cozumel is a great place to pick up Mexican pottery and other crafts. All in all everyone wished that we had more time in Mexico. It was really a treat to connect with Brad and his partner Annie.

The last day of the cruise treated us to some very practical thoughts concerning the Urantia teachings. Cathy Jones shared her personal notes of quotes written the back of her Urantia Book that guides her daily life. Will Sherwood discussed "Quality Thinking" that I will describe as "Garbage in, Garbage out". If you fill your life with negativity, don't expect to have a positive outlook. Matt apparently stayed up very late every night putting together a slide show of the cruise for our remembrance ceremony that concluded the conference. Of course the 50th anniversary of the printing of *The Urantia Book* was included.

For myself, I can say that attending conferences reinvigorates me. I get reacquainted with friends and pulled back to the study of the teachings. Too often daily life and other projects pull me away from reading the book regularly and from praying and worshipping as I should. Every time I meet with other readers, whether in study group or at a conference, I get my priorities readjusted and rediscover what is really important about this revelation. There were many blessings received and shared at



UAUS Conference at Sea. It was great to have Gaetan Charland, Line St. Pierre, Atillio and Sophia from Puerto Rico and Gary Rawlings all the way from the UK.

ISB NEWS

Resolution 2005-9 was approved by the International Service Board concerning the required name change that resulted from our new legal status as an organization. The ISB voted to stay with the name International Urantia Association but proposed to the Representative Council that they consider whether we should stay with the name IUA or adopt the name Urantia Association International (UAI). The RC changed the name in a later vote.

The Urantia Foundation has shut down two email discussion lists, UrantiaT and Forum, for several reasons. The UAI has accepted those lists however, they are shut down until a plan is approved on how to operate and maintain them. The ISB is looking at ways to re-establish these lists in such a way as to prevent many of the previous problems.

The ISB recommended to the RC that two new restricted funds, an UAI Conference fund to receive and disburse funds contributed toward the process of conference production; and the IUA Conference Scholarship Fund, to receive and disburse funds contributed for the purpose of making grants to individuals who need financial assistance to allow them to attend conferences. Since it may take some time for all policies and procedures enacted under this resolution to be put into place within the UAI, ANZURA is authorized to solicit funds for the 2006 International Conference and place those funds in their own scholarship/sponsorship account or in the UAI account. The Conference Chairperson, shall establish procedures for scholarships or sponsorships for the 2006 event. The board is discussing changes to the Charter and Bylaws resulting from the name change.

DISSEMINATION COMMITTEE

Rick Warren, chairman of the ISB Dissemination committee reported that on April 12th, they received 128 reader referrals from the Urantia Foundation: 4 from Australia, 1 from Bolivia, 7 from Canada, 3 from Colombia, 2 from Ecuador, 1 from El Salvador, 1 from England, 1 from Ivory Coast, 7 from Mexico, 1 from New Zealand, 1 from Philippines, 1 from Russia, 2 from Spain, 94 from the US including one from Guam, and 2 from Venezuela. These were sent to Member chair, Gary Rawlings.

The DC also received 23 prison inmate inquiries from the Foundation. These will be handled by the P.I.R.T. subcommittee.

On-going Dissemination Committee activities include: Membership Referrals, Library placement, Translation support, Book fairs, and Prisoner inquiries. The Referral network is already established and functioning smoothly. The goal of Library placement is to have *The Urantia Book* in every public, private and educational library that will have it. Developing translations insures wide dispersion through the major languages. There is no more effective tool and no more worthy project for this generation than making sure this revelation is available in all major languages. Book fairs employ a method of dissemination that is well respected and organized. Book fairs have a unique role with much potential for dissemination of the teachings in a relatively low profile, low cost venue. Technical and material support is available for those who present the revelation at book fairs. Urantia Foundation has a booth kit it is willing to loan and the Foundation also provides materials for booth displays (Books, translations, brochures, etc.) upon request. P.I.R.T. [Prisoner Inquire Response Team] initial results are very encouraging. Inmates almost always ask for a book donation. A team of IUA members (six at present) responds to these inquirers by mailing them instructions on obtaining a free "damaged"

Book. Prison inmate placement fills a values void and provides a path for rehabilitation and social integration of the revelation.

UAI STUDY GROUP COMMITTEE CREATES STUDY GROUP STARTER KIT

The Study Group Committee of the Urantia Association International has completed assembling a starter kit for people wishing to create a study group of *The Urantia Book*. The kit will include information on how to find potential members, set up your first meeting, how to have a successful and long lasting group, and various group activities that enhance the study group experience.

The kit includes a list of readers in the host's area as potential members of the study group along with other nearby study groups. Information about how to stimulate discussion, how to be a good facilitator, and several different ways of conducting a study session are also part of the kit. Everything you need to establish a group in your area is in the kit. We are asking for a donation of \$19.95 for the basic kit to cover the cost of printing and shipping the kit. However the kit will be supplied with or without a donation to anyone who creates a study group. We are now accepting requests for the English version of this kit. Translation of the kit materials into other languages will begin within the next few weeks. Watch for announcements in the UAI Journal as they become available.

Here is a list of items the starter kit would include:

A welcome letter

How to have a successful study group.

Step by step checklist of creating and hosting your first study group

How to solve problems that arise in study groups

List of names from your area to contact

List of other study groups in your area

Invitations to send out to area readers

Announcements to send to other area study groups

How to submit study group info for the UAI database

Group activities outside study group

A form for sending study group news to the UAI study group committee

A guest speaker invitation card

None of this material is needed or required to create your own study group. The only thing required is the desire and commitment of at least one person dedicated to the success of the group. All you really need to start a study group is a copy of *The Urantia Book* and a bag of cookies. We hope that this kit will assist you in getting a group started in your area.

To order your Study Group Starter Kit, send your request for the kit to Cathy Jones, UAI Administrator, by mail to: Urantia Association International, PO Box 82308, Phoenix, AZ 85071-2308 USA. You may also order by phone (602/938-9163) or by fax (602-938-9187) in the United States or by email at: info@urantia-iaa.org. Tell Cathy you would like a Study Group Starter Kit. Be sure to include your name and address so that we can send the kit to you and locate potential group members in your area for you to contact.

Please send any news about your study group and group activities to Rick Lyon, UAI Study Group Committee, at: ricklyon@tetc.com or P.O.Box 397, Linden, IN., USA.

IUA NEWS (now UAI news)

On August 29, 2005 the Representative Council announced the following:

As the result of a vote by the Representative Council, it is resolved that the motion made by the President of the Urantia Association United States and seconded by the President of the Urantia Association Canada on item 33: (Proposition for name change of our organization) is passed. Therefore:

Effective August 29, 2005, the working name of our organization is:

Urantia Association International

Because of the new agreement between IUA and Urantia Foundation, the IUA will need to re-register as a non-profit organization under its own incorporation. Therefore, this was the best time to consider a name change. The Urantia Association United States made a motion that the name of the organization be established as International Urantia Association doing business as Urantia Association International. (IUA dba/UAI). The reasoning behind the "doing business as" was to satisfy the perceived need for a name that had the word 'Urantia' first for greater visibility in website search engines and also to prevent the need for nationals and locals in other countries who registered as non-profit organizations under IUA, to not be forced to send time and money to re-register for non-profit status. UAUS President Benet Rutenberg stressed the need to be mindful of the needs of groups in other countries when making decisions that affect everyone.

Kathleen Swadling of the 2006 IUA Conference Committee announced that the registration booklet and visa information for next year's IUA Conference that's being held in Sydney in July 2006 is now available on the conference website at www.uran tia.org.au/anzura/iuaconference2006. Registration before the end of November, 2005, will receive a discount. If you plan to attend, be sure you apply for an entry visa right away. Everyone needs a visa of some kind to get into Australia.

The national conference of the Urantia National Association of Colombia in San Jose was truly a success and an example of leadership as the presentations were of the highest quality. The presenters showed that our Colombian brothers have achieved a strong grasp of *The Urantia Book*. The conference focused on evolution at all levels. It was truly a demonstration of spiritual brotherhood as the whole town of nearly 5000 inhabitants was very welcoming of the participants at this conference. More than 50 members of the 4 different local associations participated in this conference. This was a time for them to meet with brothers and sisters from many other parts of their beautiful Country. The setting was most inspiring as San Jose is a little town situated on the crest of a mountain at 1,700 meters above sea level where the eye can explore deep green rich valleys surrounded by beautiful coffee plantations on the slopes of numerous mountains. In the evenings, groups of young and old people entertained with folkloric dances and song of their country. Colombia has a great spiritual heritage and potential. The leaders who organized this conference showed dedication and maturity and will certainly be a major influence in the dissemination of the teachings of *The Urantia Book* in South America and the world.

A new page has been added to the IUA website www.uran tia-ia.org/newsletters/. This page will allow you to read the several newsletters of UAI associations worldwide.

URANTIA FOUNDATION NEWS

ITALIAN TRANSLATION HEADED TO THE PRINTER!

An independent fundraising effort of Urantia Foundation Associate Trustee Jane Ploetz and Saskia Raevouri has successfully raised over \$43,000 for the printing of the Italian translation of *The Urantia Book*. This money will be presented to Urantia Foundation to cover the cost of 2000 hardcover and 3000 soft cover copies. Jane and Saskia have worked closely with Urantia Foundation to help prepare the Italian translation for publication. This is the culmination of a two-decades-long labor of love for the Italian translation team, headed by Guglielmo (Memo) Zago and supervised by Trustee Seppo Kanerva. For the inspiring story of how the Italian translation came about, visit website: <http://www.squarecircles.com/articles/italiantranslation/fundraiser.htm#transtory>

Sixty million people speak Italian worldwide, and there are about one million native Italian speakers in the United States. With its large Roman Catholic population, Italy is undoubtedly full of seekers looking for an expanded revelation of Jesus of *The Urantia Book*. **THANK YOU** to all who made this happen. Now that the Italian book is headed to the printer, perhaps we can all start pitching in for the PORTUGUESE book, which is nearing the final stages of translation!

GLMUA members have donated \$500 to the Portuguese translation fund as have other IUA local organizations. Bert Cobb reports that the 15 members of the Idaho Urantia Association have donated \$750 to the Portuguese printing fund in addition to a previous contribution of \$500. According to Jay Peregrine, the director of the Urantia Foundation, the total donations now amount to about \$10,000 of the \$42,000 needed to print 5000 Portuguese books. *The Urantia Book* printing fund is a high priority for all of us who are seeking the unfolding of this revelation to the world. There are already over 1,000 Portuguese speaking people in Brazil waiting for a copy of *The Urantia Book* in their language as well as millions of Portuguese speaking people around the world.

It would be very meaningful to have a wide reader base supporting this effort, not only with their money but their prayers as well. This is our chance to really make a difference. There are several other translations ready or nearly ready to go to the printer. No matter what happened in the past, we have it within our power to make up lost time *within our lifetime!* *It's time to put down our swords and pick up our ploughshares!* Won't you please give whatever you can? No gift is too small. Both large and small amounts are needed for the success of the revelation in Italy.

There are two more translations in the works that are also worthy of our attention. The Chinese and Japanese are nearing completion. When the Portuguese, Japanese and Chinese translations are printed, another third of the human race will have access to the Revelation in their native tongue.

Donations can always be made directly to the Foundation at 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL., 60614 or on the web at www.uran tia.org or by calling 1-800-URANTIA. Jane and Saskia have set up a special bank account, The Urantia Book Translation Fund (independent of Urantia Foundation) to receive contributions. To make giving easier, you may use PayPal at the Foundation website or at the website for Jane and Saskia at: www.squarecircles.com/articles/italiantranslation/fundraiser.htm or mail your tax deductible check, earmarked for the Portuguese Translation Printing Fund, directly to Jane at:

Urantia Book Translation Printing Fund
PO Box 3176

URANTIA FOUNDATION STATEMENT ON THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH IUA

In a letter from the Trustee's of The Urantia Foundation to the UAI, the Trustee's clarified the spirit and intent of their recent decision regarding the independent status of the International Urantia Association (IUA) [Now renamed Urantia Association International]. The Trustees stated that they greatly appreciate the UAI's unwavering support of the Foundation's mission, as well as the UAI's devotion to our common cause of promoting interest in, and study and dissemination of, the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

Several years ago the Trustees and a number of IUA leaders concluded that they had a common goal for the IUA to have the authority to manage its own internal affairs. The IUA has matured, and the Trustees believe that the UAI does not need their involvement, notwithstanding that the Foundation wants to remain actively associated with the UAI as a matter of conviction and common goals, not because of an institutional relationship that might be considered subordinate or dependent.

When the Board of Trustees met in October 2004, the Trustees adopted a resolution, which affirms the rights of UAI members to manage their own internal affairs. The Trustees said they value the Foundation's close association with the UAI, and believe that this relationship should operate on a moral and spiritual level and not as a matter of organizational linkages.

Several years ago, when the members of the IUA decided that they wanted their name to be the "International Urantia Association" – not "the Urantia Brotherhood" – it was decided that the IUA's legal name would be the "Urantia Brotherhood Association doing business as the International Urantia Association" because the "Urantia Brotherhood Association" already existed as a legal entity.

Having the word "Brotherhood" as part of the name is a problem in a number of countries outside North America where the word "brotherhood" is often associated with cults and religious orders. In some places these unfavorable overtones could create or intensify philosophic, social, or even political difficulties. That, in turn, could affect the willingness of readers to take an interest in a social or fraternal organization based on the teachings. Trusted advisers from other countries were emphatic about these concerns when the Trustees sought their advice in the mid-1990's. This is why, even then, the Trustees hesitated to allow the IUA to be exposed and associated internationally with a name containing the word "Brotherhood." Using "Urantia Brotherhood Association doing business as the International Urantia Association" was the quick, easy, and cheap thing to do.

The transition has administrative and legal implications. Since the UAI will no longer be part of the Urantia Brotherhood Association, it must form its own non-profit corporation and obtain a tax exemption in its own right. As a result, donations to the UAI by U.S. taxpayers will continue to be deductible on their tax returns. The IUA will need a period of time to form this new non-profit corporation and obtain tax-exempt status as a charitable organization. The Foundation will cooperate with UAI to smooth the transition. The UAI has already initiated this effort.

The UAI shall continue to be the only organization outside of the Foundation to licensed to use the Concentric Circles Symbol and to use the word "Urantia" in its name.

The Trustees want the leaders and all the members of UAI to know that they have the highest regard for the UAI, and that they look forward to continuing our cordial cooperation with the UAI. The Trustees expressed deep appreciation the loyal support of the UAI, and regard the members of UAI as

close colleagues in our common cause. We know that the Foundation's association with the UAI will remain active, friendly, and warm.

Urantia Book Internet School

The Urantia Book Internet School is pleased to announce that we are transitioning from an email-based format to a web-based format. The new website will be completed by September 1st. During the months of September through November, the UBIS Teacher/Facilitators will be engaged in testing and familiarizing themselves with the new format. Therefor, the UBIS will be in recess during the September 2005 Semester.

Several new courses are now being planned with which we will inaugurate our new website, and we look forward to an enhanced study experience with all of you, beginning with the January 2006 Semester. The dates to remember are:

- JANUARY 2006 SEMESTER Schedule of Courses will be posted here on the UBIS page of the Urantia Foundation website on December 5, 2005.
- REGISTRATION for the January Semester will begin on Monday, January 2, 2006 via the new website. The website address, as well as a link to the website, will be posted here on the UBIS page of the Urantia Foundation website.
- The JANUARY COURSES will begin on Monday, January 23, 2006

We look forward to having you join us in January.

The UBIS will be in recess for the September Semester, and while things may appear quiet, the school is presently engaged in moving toward a bigger and better future. UBIS is switching from an email classroom to a website based classroom. We have seen some of the proposed website and everyone is excited about getting it into operation. In September, staff and teachers will conduct a mock class to test the function of the new website classroom and to familiarize our teachers with the new format before our students are enrolled in any classes. Classes will resume in January of 2006, just three months away. Morris Kaplowitz has worked diligently with our website designer. His hours of work on this project are greatly appreciated. So too is the assistance of Jay Peregrine at the Urantia Foundation and our generous donors who contributed the funds for this new web classroom.

The new website will make conducting a class easier for both the teacher/facilitator and the students. The classroom will have the professional appearance and functionality of a first rate internet school. We will now have the ability to add visual and audio learning methods to our classrooms.

UBIS has created an archive for all teacher/facilitator classroom materials and a course library for future use. Of the 196 papers in The Urantia Book, 71 have been covered at least once in a UBIS course and most of the those have appeared several times in over 50 different courses. Over 800 students have taken courses since the beginning of UBIS in 2000. 2005 saw our first student from Japan and courses in Spanish, French, and Finnish are also offered each semester.

UBIS [English version only] has presented a total of 56 courses, given by 23 different Teacher/Facilitators. We anticipate the need for additional UBIS Board of Directors members as our work expands. Many more Teacher/Facilitators will be needed as the new format will undoubtedly increase the number of students.

Original Board members, Susan Bryner and Al Lockett, have resigned this year after having served loyally as both teachers and Board members for over five years. We deeply appreciate their long term dedication and contribution that helped shape the UBIS. Thanks so much to both of you.

All UBIS classes that have been offered have been filled with students. The demand for these study courses is plentiful but like most volunteer efforts, the workers are few. We need to recruit 6-8 new core teacher/facilitators willing to learn the UBIS method of education. Core T/F's conduct one class per year and have the freedom to develop courses within the UBIS methodology on topics of their choice, subject to review by the Course Review Committee. New T/Fs are assigned a mentor to work with them during their first class. The UBIS method of teaching is one of promoting student self-discovery, the Jesusonian approach. The Teacher/Facilitator leads the students to discover truth for themselves. Indeed, as Jesus said to Gamid on the way to Rome, "*The true teacher maintains his intellectual integrity by ever remaining a learner.*" [1433]

The UBIS has proven to be a worthy and meaningful service to students of The Urantia Book and will continue to be effective in it's worldwide outreach to people of all countries and cultures. UBIS is *not* partisan, political, or interpretive. The *Urantia Book Internet School* is a benign and loving educational outreach service, provided by the Urantia Foundation to all students of *The Urantia Book*, independently administered by volunteers. No other educational program has the worldwide reach of UBIS, which has in the past included students from every continent and many countries of Urantia often in the same course.

Registration will begin on January 2, 2006. A link to the new website will be on the "Schedule of Courses" page of the Foundation website at www.uranitia.org/ubis/. If you have an interest in completing the Teacher/Facilitator training, please contact Dorothy Elder at delider03@sprynet.com.

SINGING WITH THE ANGELS

*Father, I worship you for being in me.
I praise you for your gracious personality.
I thank you for your mercy, for your everlasting care, For in my hour of need I am sure that you are always there.*

And when I sing, I'm singing with the angels, with all my beloved friends, seen and unseen.

*Uniting our hearts, we lift our voices high To the First Source of Love and Creation,
Whom we honor and glorify.*

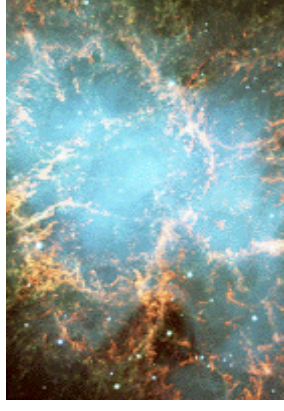
These are the words of Rebecca Oswald's new song, *Singing With the Angels* that is now available on CD. If you would like a copy of the CD, contact Rebecca at raoswald@aol.com. There is a small fee for purchase that includes shipping. Rebecca's "Pray, Tell Me How" CD in stock too.

Rebecca's works may help people desire a better relationship with the Father and may help people discover the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. Discovery of the teachings is by many different

methods. The CD could be shared with family, friends, and used at weddings or study group. This is certainly a valid method of inspiring our mission and attracting attention to the greatness of our Father.

SCIENCE AND THE URANTIA BOOK

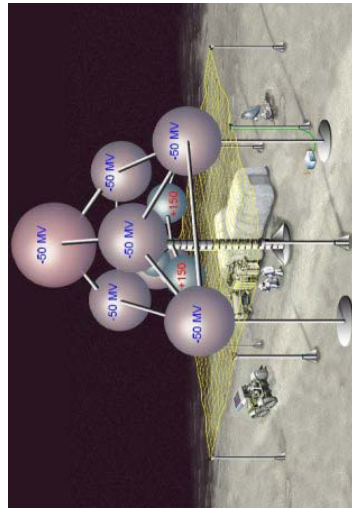
A Force Field for Astronauts?



June 24, 2005: Researchers are reviving an old but wild idea to protect Astronauts from space radiation. NASA's Vision for Space Exploration calls for a return to the Moon and journeys to Mars and beyond. Astronauts are going to be exposed to radiation, increasing their risk of getting cancer and other maladies. Finding a good shield is important. While there are several physical solutions such as lead and concrete shielding, these are not practical for space travel. There is another possibility, one with no physical substance but plenty of shielding power: a force field.

Most of the dangerous radiation in space consists of electrically charged particles: high-speed electrons and protons from the Sun, and massive, positively charged atomic nuclei from distant supernovas. The first lesson of electromagnetism is that opposite charges attract and like charges repel. So, why not protect astronauts by surrounding them with a powerful electric field that has the same charge as the incoming radiation, thus deflecting the radiation away? Charles Buhler and John Lane, both scientists with ASRC Aerospace Corporation at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, believe it can be done. They've received support from the NASA Institute for Advanced Concepts, whose job is to fund studies of far-out ideas, to investigate the possibility of electric shields for lunar bases. In Buhler and Lane's concept, a lunar base would have inflatable, conductive spheres mounted far overhead that would be charged up to 100 megavolts or more. Because there would be very little current flowing, not much power would be needed to maintain the charge.

Part of the challenge is that radiation comes as both positively and negatively charged particles. There are many scientific and engineering problems yet to be solved. An electrostatic shield on the Moon is susceptible to being short circuited by floating moon dust. Solar wind could cause problems, too. It may be that a different kind of shield would work better, for instance, a superconducting magnetic field, perhaps one day astronauts on the Moon and Mars will work safely, protected by a simple principle of electromagnetism even a child can understand.



Above: Artist's concept of an electrostatic radiation shield, consisting of positively and negatively charged spheres. Image courtesy ASRC Aerospace.

THE URANTIA BOOK - PAGE 563; 3 WORLDS OF THE NONBREATHERS

The majority of inhabited planets are peopled with the breathing type of intelligent beings. But there are also orders of mortals who are able to live on worlds with little or no air. Of the Orvonton inhabited worlds this type amounts to less than seven per cent. In Nebadon this percentage is less than three. In all Satania there are only nine such worlds.

There are so very few of the nonbreather type of inhabited worlds in Satania because this more recently organized section of Norfatiadek still abounds in meteoric space bodies; and worlds without a protective friction atmosphere are subject to incessant bombardment by these wanderers. Even some of the comets consist of meteor swarms, but as a rule they are disrupted smaller bodies of matter.

Millions upon millions of meteorites enter the atmosphere of Urantia daily, coming in at the rate of almost two hundred miles a second. On the nonbreathing worlds the advanced races must do much to protect themselves from meteor damage by making electrical installations which operate to consume or shunt the meteors. Great danger confronts them when they venture beyond these protected zones. These worlds are also subject to disastrous electrical storms of a nature unknown on Urantia. During such times of tremendous energy fluctuation the inhabitants must take refuge in their special structures of protective insulation.

Life on the worlds of the nonbreathers is radically different from what it is on Urantia. The nonbreathers do not eat food or drink water as do the Urantia races. The reactions of the nervous system, the heat-regulating mechanism, and the metabolism of these specialized peoples are radically different from such functions of Urantia mortals. Almost every act of living, aside from reproduction, differs, and even the methods of procreation are somewhat different.

On the nonbreathing worlds the animal species are radically unlike those found on the atmospheric planets. The nonbreathing plan of life varies from the technique of existence on an atmospheric world; even in survival their peoples differ, being candidates for Spirit fusion. Nevertheless, these beings enjoy life and carry forward the activities of the realm with the same relative trials and joys that are experienced by the mortals living on atmospheric worlds. In mind and character the nonbreathers do not differ from other mortal types.

You would be more than interested in the planetary conduct of this type of mortal because such a race of beings inhabits a sphere in close proximity to Urantia.

GLMUA MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual membership dues where due on March 6, 2005. The dues remain at \$25.00 per person per year. Dues for members under 16 years of age or for Associate Members (those who have not completed reading the entire Urantia Book) are \$12.50.

Membership dues may be sent to: The Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association, Inc.
105 Woodlawn Drive
Goshen, IN., 46526-5435

TODAY IN URANTIA HISTORY

OCTOBER:

- 1 P.1666 - §5 A.D. 28:** Jesus healed a paralyzed man who was lowered through the roof by ropes until he rested on the floor in front of him.
- 3 P.1668 - §1 A.D. 28:** Jesus, his twelve apostles, and a corps of 117 evangelists began second public preaching tour of Galilee.
- 4 P.1356 - §3 4 B.C:** Joseph had convinced Mary that it was best to return to Nazareth. Early in October, they departed from Bethlehem
- 5 P.1367 - §3 A.D. 3:** Three weeks after the birth of Martha, Joseph built an addition to their house. A workbench was built for Jesus.
- 7 P.1356-§4 4 B.C.:** In October, on the fourth day of the journey the Joseph and Mary arrived safely at the Nazareth home.
- 11 P.1624-§12 A.D. 27:** In October, Philip and his fellow apostles met some of the apostles of John at a chance meeting in a market place.
- 15 P.1354- §3 6 B.C:** The night before the massacre of infants in mid October, Joseph and Mary departed from Bethlehem.
- 18 P.1389-§7 A.D. 9:** One evening in October Jesus wrote out the prayer which became the standard family petition.
- 20 P.1420-§3 A.D. 21:** In October, Jesus returned to Nazareth to attend Martha's wedding. He was not again in Nazareth for over two years.
- 26 P.1617-§1 A.D. 27:** Jesus, alone with his apostles, spent September and October in retirement at a secluded camp on Mount Gilboa.
- 28 P.1788-§4 A.D. 29:** Jesus spent a considerable portion of October with Abner and his associates at Bethlehem.
- 30 P.1798-§7 A.D. 29:** Jesus and his associates left the city of Ephraim, where he had been resting in seclusion for a few days.

NOVEMBER:

- 1 P.1418-§2 A.D. 20:** In November a double wedding of James and Esta, and Miriam and Jacob occurred. It was truly a joyous occasion.
- 2 P.1626-§1 A.D. 27:** The apostles of John remained with Jesus and the twelve After John was executed. They broke up camp on this date.
- 4 P.1800-§1 A.D. 29:** Intensive training began for well-trained and experienced disciples from which the Master chose the 70 teachers

- 5 P.1800-§1 A.D. 29:** A few days after the return of Jesus and the twelve to Magadan, Abner and a group of fifty disciples arrived from Bethlehem.
- 15 P.1346-§1 8 B.C.:** Gabriel appeared to Mary about the middle of November, while she was at work in her Nazareth home.
- 18 P.1798-§6 A.D. 29:** In November, Abner and his fellows cast their lot with Jesus, laboring as one organization right on down to the crucifixion.
- 19 P.1800-§3 A.D. 29:** The 70 were ordained by Jesus on a Sabbath afternoon at the Magadan Camp. Abner was placed as the head.
- 20 P.1806-§2 A.D. 29:** Jesus and the twelve established their last headquarters in Perea, near where the Master had been baptized in the Jordan.
- 21 P.1832-§3 A.D. 74:** Abner died at age 89. To the very end he was a faithful believer in, and teacher of, the gospel of the heavenly kingdom.
- 30 P.1626 - §2 A.D. 27:** In November and December, Jesus and the 24 worked quietly. This was the period of taking over John's work.
- DECEMBER:**
- 2 P.1503-§4 A.D 25:** By December, John's fame had extended through all Palestine. Jesus spoke favorably of John's message.
- 3 P.1400 - §5 A.D. 12:** Little Amos, Jesus' baby brother, died. Mary at last recognized Jesus as the real head of the family.
- 5 P.1352-§3 7 B.C:** This year, extraordinary conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn occurred on May 29th, September 29th, and December 5th.
- 6 P.1806 - §2 A.D. 29:** The entire company of almost 300 left at daybreak to lodge near Pella at the same site John the Baptist occupied years before.
- 7 P.1414 - §5 A.D. 18:** In December James told Jesus that he was in love with Esta, a young woman of Nazareth, and they would like to marry.
- 10 P.1427-§1 A.D. 23:** Jesus said good-bye to Gonod and his son Ganid in the city of Charax on the Persian Gulf.
- 13 P.1503-§4 A.D. 25:** In December, James and John, the fishermen sons of Zebedee, had gone down and offered themselves for baptism.
- 18 P.1806-§3 A.D. 29:** David Zebedee left for the apostolic camp; in less than a week he was prepared to handle almost 1500 pilgrims.
- 25 P.1082 - §5:** The day of the most elaborate observance of all for the Mithraic cult on the annual festival of Mithras.
- 27 P.1626-§6 A.D. 28:** In late December, some of John's special friends brought the Master the last message he ever had from the Baptist.
- 30 P.1807-§0 A.D. 29:** Seeing men going out to spread the good news, Jesus knew his leaving would not seriously hinder the kingdom.

31 P.1808-§1 A.D. 29: Jesus said, "Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

FAQ

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ANSWERS FROM THE URANTIA BOOK

Why do people suffered from diseases and experience afflictions?

[page 1662] "My son, you do not comprehend the meaning of adversity or the mission of suffering. Have you not read that masterpiece of Semitic literature--the Scripture story of the afflictions of Job? Do you not recall how this wonderful parable begins with the recital of the material prosperity of the Lord's servant? According to the time-honored teachings of the children of Abraham such material prosperity was all-sufficient evidence of divine favor. But such material possessions and such temporal prosperity do not indicate God's favor. My Father in heaven loves the poor just as much as the rich; he is no respecter of persons. "Although transgression of divine law is sooner or later followed by the harvest of punishment, while men certainly eventually do reap what they sow, still you should know that human suffering is not always a punishment for antecedent sin. Both Job and his friends failed to find the true answer for their perplexities. And with the light you now enjoy you would hardly assign to either Satan or God the parts they play in this unique parable. While Job did not, through suffering, find the resolution of his intellectual troubles or the solution of his philosophical difficulties, he did achieve great victories; even in the very face of the breakdown of his theological defenses he ascended to those spiritual heights where he could sincerely say, 'I abhor myself'; then was there granted him the salvation of a *vision of God*. So even through misunderstood suffering, Job ascended to the superhuman plane of moral understanding and spiritual insight. When the suffering servant obtains a vision of God, there follows a soul peace which passes all human understanding.

The Circle Seeker

Newsletter of the Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association.
Rick Lyon, editor.

Submission of articles, news items, or any Urantia related material is always welcomed for publication consideration.


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