



Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL ■ [HTTP://URANTIA-UAI.ORG](http://urantia-uai.org)

Nº 35 ■ SEPT—OCT 2008

"Happening at the Jordan River" Oil Painting by Carlos Rubinsky



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President's message

Dear Members and Friends of UAI,

THIS LAST SUMMER WAS REALLY full of interesting happenings in the world of UAI. No doubt, some of you have participated in many diverse activities organized by your national or local association. I also had the opportunity to participate in a few conferences and other activities related to *The Urantia Book*. When reflecting on all those activities, one lasting impression comes to my mind - the culture of UAI.

Wherever I went to participate in those activities, the idea or the expression of a specific culture germane to UAI was truly manifested, whether the participants were aware of it or not. In some instance, many readers clearly expressed the fact and the feeling that UAI has its own culture. In the dictionary, a broadest definition of culture by the UNESCO organization is regarded as the whole of its distinctive features, which are spiritual and material, intellectual and emotional, which characterize a company, a social group or an individual. In other definitions, culture is characterized by the values that it represents and expresses.

What are exactly the distinctive features and values that characterize the culture of UAI? Is this culture, evolving into something that is appealing to new readers, or is it more restrictive in its appeal? Is it expressing the values of the teachings that we so much cherish and defend or is it merely a culture about a book? Is it truly the emerging expression of an evolving spiritual brotherhood or the budding emergence of a new religion? What could we do to improve how this culture reflects truly what the Revelators had in mind for an organization like ours? While I am asking myself all those questions, I cannot help but meditate on the passages of *The Urantia Book* that exemplifies the values of a spiritual brotherhood and its far reaching consequences. One other thing comes to my mind when I think about the values expressed in these passages; the only way to preserve them is by living them.

I am inviting you to meditate on those important questions and find your own answers and once you do, share them with



all the readers of this newsletter by writing to the editor. You can learn more about the spiritual brotherhood by reading papers relating to the subject starting at page 597 and on throughout the book; study them with the help of your study group where I believe the brotherhood is taking root and evolving without the hindrance of any political pressure, as it should.

Getting back to more material and organizational matters, UAI is still in the process of receiving nominations for the position of secretary, study group and dissemination's chair. Sadly, if I can express such a feeling, we have not yet received any nomination for the position of secretary, so I am making a strong appeal to all of you, for someone to come forth and serve in this capacity for a short period. This is an opportunity that should enthruse many of us, for it provides many avenues for personal growth. Please contact your local board members and offer yourself for service to your fellowmen.

During the last month on the Representative Council (RC) front, a motion (Item 63) was put forth and adopted to make eligible, the nominations of certain board members, excluding the president and vice-president, from national associations to the positions of board members to the International Service Board (ISB). This motion, that was adopted by the RC, reflects a lack of willingness on the part of the membership to volunteer for positions of responsibility and service. This will put a heavier workload on an already very busy minority of servers. We hope that the call for nominations for the next election of ISB members, coming up in March of 2009, will reflect a greater sense of service on the part of the membership.

The International Service Board has been working on the 2009 budget and our Chief Financial Officer (CEO), Mark Kurtz, with the help of others, has been hard at work at building a budget that will be reflective of the true financial needs of UAI. We are now in the final stage of getting it ready for approval by the ISB. The budget should be presented to the RC early next month. The CEO, with the

TIDINGS

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Around Urantia

Tidings is a bi-monthly publication of Urantia Association International, whose mission is to foster study of *The Urantia Book* and to disseminate its teachings.

The Urantia Book online:

<http://www.urantia.org/papers/>

You may submit articles about *The Urantia Book*, news about your association, stories, photos and poems to the editor. All articles are subject to revision.

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COVER: "Happening at the Jordan River" Oil Painting by Carlos Rubinsky. You may submit images for possible use on the cover to:
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Tidings archives:

<http://urantia-uai.org/tidings/>

Submissions limited to 700 words (one page) or 1400 words (1½ page) plus one or two photos. Deadline by the 15th of every 2nd month.



help of two other members of the ISB, has also produced a set of policies to regulate expenditures made by ISB board members or any other board members from national or local associations, those expenditures could cover traveling expenses or any other expenses permitted by our By-laws and the budget.

I hope that you will enjoy reading the present edition of this newsletter. It is being provided to you by a hard working team of volunteers. This newsletter, like the UAI journal, is always in need of articles to publish, so I invite you to contribute stories of your study group's experiences, Urantia related gatherings that were held in your region or personal experiences of how you found *The Urantia Book* and how you share its teachings.

Good reading

Gaétan G Charland

President UAI

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ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 22ND, THE BUENOS Aires Study Group had a very nice celebration of the Master's birthday at the home of Carlos Rubinsky and his wife, Maria Inez. Twelve readers shared a nice dinner and read Paper 120, The Bestowals of Michael on Urantia. □



Maria Inez and Carlos Rubinsky, standing left, in their Buenos Aires home with other Argentinian readers



Brazil
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THE URANTIA ASSOCIATION OF BRAZIL HAD A very nice meeting on the 21st of August celebrating Jesus/Michael's birthday at our home, where we meet every Wednesday to read and comment about *The Urantia Book*.

In the photo, you will see me and my husband, Sabino, in the center. Most of the others are members of our reading group.

At this occasion we read some paragraphs of Michael's last bestowal and had some minutes of meditation in communion with the Father and Michael. We also had a moment of art with Sabino's brother and his wife (Vidal França and Mazé) playing guitar and singing for us. We began and finalized the meeting with some soft drinks and cookies.

We have maintained this reading group in São Paulo since 1994, even before the translation of the book to Portuguese was started. Luiz Dolabella, the translator, got in touch with the book at our meetings and we worked together with the translation/revision for about 10 years.



Sabino and Susana Huttner, seated centre, with other Brazilian readers

Jesus' Birthday Celebrations Around 606

We are very happy now that we have the Portuguese version of *The Urantia Book* enabling all the readers to have the book.

The book is selling very well by Livraria Cultura. We are looking now for an importer/distributor.

Nemias, the president of UAB (Urantia Association Brazil) will have some news with the *Tidings* readers regarding his plans and happenings in the other parts of Brazil. He is based in the city of Brasilia in the middle of Brazil.

Fraternally
Susana Huttner □



Colombia
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THE FOUR LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS OF COLOMBIA had a Jesus Birthday celebration. Our local Association of Medellin had celebration and dinner. I cooked for the 40 people attending, a Russian meal. Everybody liked this dinner.

Sincerely,
Tamila Ragimova □



Tamila, seated at head of table with Colombian readers



USA-Connecticut
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ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 16TH, URANTIA Association of New England gathered with readers from the Connecticut Society and other non-affiliated New England readers to celebrate the Master's Birthday. There was a good turn out for this annual event with about 20 readers from the area.

The gathering was held at Hopkinton State Park in Massachusetts. This was a



Beautiful Jesus 2,014th birthday cake from Marian Hughes for the Hawaiian readers



New England readers at Hopkinton State Park in Massachusetts

social event with great food and barbeque and finished off with a cake inscribed with the Master's instructions "Love one another." Polly Friedman ended the gathering with a beautiful prayer.

Afterwards UAONE announced the completion of their new website - www.uaone.org along with a newly initiated strategic plan which will focus on serving all Urantia Book readers of New England by fostering personal relationships and cooperative service. Our new motto is "Unity of purpose through cooperation and service." □



USA-Illinois
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AT NOON ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH GREATER Lake Michigan Urantia Association (GLMUA) and the First Society for Readers of *The Urantia Book* in the Chicago area sponsored their annual joint picnic in honor of Jesus' birthday. The event was held at the Duneside shelter located in the lovely Indiana Dunes State Park. We were blessed with a sparkling day and although we had a smaller turnout this year, it proved to be another meaningful opportunity for fellowship and cooperation between the two organizations. >>

Jesus' Birthday Celebrations *continued*
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Front Row L to R: Sheila Lyon, Rick Lyon, Cece Forrester, Bill Martin, Phyllis Martin, Bill's girlfriend Sarah, Andre Traversa. Back Row L to R: Deb Moss-Anderson, Dave Anderson, Benet Rutenberg, Pete DeCamp, Karen Kurtz, Emily Deam, Mark Kurtz, George Philosophos, Danny Casco, Barb Newsom, Jimmer Prieto, Susan Grzeskowiak.

The afternoon began with Benet Rutenberg reading a quote from the UB describing a special meal which Jesus shared with his apostles. They began their meal with a song from the Psalms of the old scriptures, so Benet read through the Psalm as our prayer of remembrance. While all who were gathered there together watched, the candles on the lovely cake were lit and we sang "Happy Birthday" to the Master. There is such a deep feeling of awareness when we turn our minds toward the spirit, and we are promised that in such times of remembrance that the Master is truly present.

Our picnic was planned as a potluck meal this year and, as usual, our locals came out with a wonderful feast for everyone to share. Our sincere thanks to Bill Martin who generously donated the meat and grilled for the entire group again this year. He definitely spoils us!

After dinner, we enjoyed the usual intriguing conversations, some participated in yard games, while others took a hike to the beach where the water was just breathtaking.

We continue to hold these events to give everyone the chance to fellowship and to experience the joy that is only discovered when sharing truth with other like believers.

A sincere thank you to Cece Forrester for her dedication and leadership on behalf of First Society, and our appreciation to Rick Lyon and Michael Tanesky for their efforts at making such a memorable afternoon for all of us! I encourage everyone to attend your local events whenever possible, I'm sure you will be glad you did, and who knows how you may make someone else's day!

Susan Grzeskowiak ☐



USA-Hawaii
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ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 2008, THE HAWAII Urantia Local Association (HULA) gathered at the home of Matt and Marian Hughes, Tidings Editor-in-Chief, in Kamuela, Hawaii to celebrate Jesus' Birthday. Sadly, three of our members were ill and unable to attend.

SOJURN SANTORINI



Pio Park

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I'VE SPENT A PRODUCTIVE DAY TODAY, having gotten up early, dropped my daughter off to school and for a change doing multi-tasking, against the advisement of my meditation Guru Eaknath Easwaran to slow down and do one thing at a time well!

In fact, I had to multi-task since I was packing to go on business travel the next day, when Marian Hughes out of the 'blue' Hawaii emailed me and inquiring how my trip to Greece turned out. I won the trip in a bid at the WSUA conference last year... she asked whether I'd be interested in writing an article about it for the UAI newsletter! So, here goes...

I'm a relatively a newbie TUB reader, having been given the book in 2001 while attending the FIFA World Cup games in Korea. I put it aside (being a bibliophile) thanking the nice new age lady in Korea and forgot about it until I hopped on the Northwest flight home and I realized I did not buy a book to read for the long flight. Then I remembered the awfully small print, onion skin, and dull (no pictures!) looking blue book was in my canvas carry on satchel. Over the North Pacific I started from the beginning and did not pause until I finished the book the following Halloween night.



Santorini hill overlooking the Caldera

Since then, I've joined my spiritual sister Janiece Hoggatt and her husband Douglas' group every Sunday to re-charge my batteries and, yes, I've gone back to the Catholic Church for Sunday Mass, which I left back in 1969! Because TUB said toward the last section that when people gather in religious ritual (and Catholics have plenty of it) there is his True Spirit present.

You may say, get on with it, what does this have to do with my travelogue... well you have to bear with me because that's how I ended up in Greece, O.K.?

Janiece asked me to M.C. the UAUS/WSUA summer gathering in 2007; normally I would have declined due to my general laziness, and erratic travel schedules, but the TUB did say it's important to socialize with like-minded spiritual seekers and communing is important and loving service. It's corny but that's why I did it!

So, there I was after two days of "rolling, rolling, rolling, keep them doggies rollin'..." (tune from Rawhide, sung by Frankie Lane) trying to round up the conferees from all over to keep time, etc., sitting in a hot, sticky dining hall in July, sipping wine and waiting for the dance to happen and I was stuck in the "auction"!



Left to right: Miguel Salmoiraghi, Tom and Lori Benton, Marian Hughes, Greg MacIsaac, Marian Fieldson, Matt Hughes, Shirley Pelland

But we had eight hours of study, feasting, and socializing. Several members prepared a Timeline of Michael's Bestowal on 606. It was a hard assignment but now we have glimpse into the difficult job the Midwayers must have had in editing the story of Jesus' life. Everything seemed so important and worth mentioning. We made it up to his 29th year when hunger pangs overcame us. So we took a break for dinner which was preceded by the sacrament.

No specific dishes were pre-assigned but it worked out that all parts of the meal were perfect and complete. We enjoyed delicious cake and coffee while listening to new CD's by Pato Banton and Steve Shinnall. Dues were happily paid and we passed on our share to UAUSA. We appreciated those who drove several hours to reach our part of the island. Greg MacIsaac, whom you may know as Michael MacIsaac's dad, won the Kona Coffee Calendar door prize. We count ourselves fortunate to have such a strong and dedicated UAI group. ☐

USA-Ohio



Pictured is retired Catholic Priest Robert Schuer, who led the group in singing happy birthday to Jesus and conducted Jesus' Remembrance service. Left is Istvan Hargitai, secretary for OSUB, and in the center, Michael Berry, Membership Chair for OSUB and UAUS.



Santorini house where Pio stayed



Richard Keeler! Boy, some multi-talented individuals in the TUBfamily! What an auctioneer with his banjo! I suspect it was in the third hour of the auction and Richard's voice was getting hoarse, numerous

items, from coffee to cases of wine... when suddenly I heard in my stupor... "Villa in Greece" huh? Where, where? I rush over to the auction table, it's a print out from a villa rental web page... it belongs to one of the conferees... I look around to find Costas from the U.K.; the bidding is fierce... after \$575... I scream on top of my voice "666!" All look at me as if I'm Cali or Dali or something... somebody bids (I guess out of necessity to get out of that number); I win it at an astronomical amount of... \$678! A villa

in Santorini, can sleep up to 8, with private pool, sitting on top of a hill overlooking the Caldera (according to Marian - once a centre of Minoan civilization before it blew up also mentioned in TUB - I call it Atlantis); I get it for a week the following summer.

Switch to 2008, dear Brother Costas remembers and we schedule June 21st arrival (I told my daughter Jinnie to cut school for the last day before summer vacation); long Delta flight to Athens, connect that night Olympic Airways to Santorini, Costas arranged rent-a-car already there; we drive the coastal road, pitch dark (unlike us they believe in darkness by turning off the lights at night); ferocious winds blowing from South I believe Sahara; meet a stranded young couple from San Francisco who ran out of gas on their four-wheeler, take them to a gas station; ask directions finally find a small tavern... Captain Dimitri's Taverna, get the key



Pio with Taverna owner, Captain Dimitri

from the Captain, crawl exhausted into the villa with wife Min and Jinnie after 27 enroute.

Me, I can't sleep and walk out into the night, naked.... Bright hazy moon rises over the cliff of White Beach.... Trees bend in the wind, the Mediterranean is glistening with the Moon beam; I look up and there's the Big Dipper... let's see the North Star is 45 degrees from the ladle of the dipper... there it is! Wait what's that hazy stream in the sky... must be the dust from the Saharan (hello it's night!) it actually is the Milky Way! Sweeping across the moonlit sky; what did the book say about the direction of Paradise?... beyond the constellation Orion... how would I know what that looks like! I go to bed.... Long dreamless and deep, deep sleep.

I'm awakened by the silence, the wind died down, through the bathroom window I hear Captain Dimitri's rooster crowing, chickens clucking, a dog barking, the sounds are quickly absorbed by the silence... so quiet, crystal sunshine, the villa whitewash turns to gold, the water is deepest blue around the Caldera, the city of Thira glistens like snowcap on top of mountains. I walk, vineyards everywhere (much to my pleasant surprise Santorini is renowned for its local vintage - sold straight from the barrel at roadside stands), stop by Captain Dimitri's, he's up already, cigarette hanging from the corner of his mouth on his third cup of Greek coffee, he offers me a glass of chilled goat's milk he squeezed that morning (his main diet - goats milk, 8 cups of coffee and cigarettes.) I look into his deep Greek eyes hidden in the salt and pepper bush of eyebrows... I say to myself "I'm appealing to your T.A. hi!" A habit I picked up since I became a reader, do it all the time in work, in travels, everywhere, try it you'll like it!

I stayed a week, wish I had more, came back totally relaxed, totally tanned, totally Hellenized, and now totally sold. I'm going to all TUB conferences and participating in the auction! I thank my brothers and sisters for tolerating this run of the fingers but I wanted to share with you honestly what's in my memory which I hope to take with me when I zoom up to the Jerusem satellite! Bless you all, peace and Love in Christ Jesus Michael, thank you! □

USA-California

SUSAN OWEN

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SURF HELD OUR CELEBRATION OF JESUS' birthday on Sunday August 17th at the home of Meredith VanWoert in Vista, CA. We gathered for a scrumptious potluck dinner and socializing with old and some new friends. Larry Neff and Mario Marioncelli then brought out their guitars and led us in a moving rendition of "Michael." We ended our day by reading the "Faith of Jesus" which prompted some very inspiring discussions. We were all blessed to feel that special nearness to our Creator and to have spent such a wonderful and full day together."

Susan Owen
SURF Secretary □



In conversation, John and Jane Ploetz, seated centre



Playing and singing his praise, Mario on left and Larry Neff on the right.

How *THE URANTIA BOOK* found me or the secret Love Affair



RITA SCHAAD
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Rita in her garden in Newcastle just North of Sydney.

WELL THERE IT WAS, *THE BIG BLUE* with its brilliant white cover in a neatly fitted plastic protection, wedged in between other 'scrolls of prose' in the section 299 of the Dewey classification system at Newcastle Regional Library.

There it was—waiting or rather looking to find someone to attract. The particular shelf with works of "Comparative religions and other religions" was situated well to the back against a wall—a sort of a quiet and contemplative corner—and not too far from the children's corner also. So if there was not a lot of action and fumbling amongst the books next to it from sincere searchers and passers-by one could easily peek over to the left where the young earthlings enjoyed the selection of colourful and alluring visions of a fantastic world.

Or—one could simply nod off to sleep, have a bit of introspection and ponder its own far reaching implications and lose itself in worshipful contemplation..... well until of course one got roused from this quiet existence—this time by some gentle woman's hands—feeling oneself get pulled out and practically getting dropped into a lap.—Ahh—here we go then!

And that is how it came to pass, one clear day in mid 1987—just about 21 years ago- a good time to reflect on such a momentous event. Since then a 3 times 7 year cycle has been completed and in our civilized terms this calls for a 'grown up' celebration.... ♪twentyone today♪!

My four children were at the primary and pre-school age and just a year earlier I felt comfortable enough to engage a babysitter one evening per week so I could attend a Catholic Charismatic Prayer group.

Growing up in Switzerland I attended and participated—as did my whole family—in all activities in and around our Catholic Church. Our parish understood well how to celebrate community and the mystery of God with elaborate rituals of

artistic beauty and musical contributions from our outstanding choir and organist. Thinking back I can see now how such forms of expression have nurtured a deep reference for 'what is behind the veil'.

In the teenage years various youth missionaries and a dynamic parish priest have ignited the faith of my generation with a practical reality. We were a confident lot that emerged from those shores.

Finding myself half across the world soon after, in a foreign and conservative setting, I just did the *pioneer thing*, supporting the husband in his restaurant ventures and bringing up and managing a family-house-dogs-garden-cultural changes- school-life, etc.

When the inner fires started to burn fiercely I began a search that led me via earnest discussions with some Jehova's Witness callers and a Pentecostal faith meeting to this charismatic group. It was such a relief and like coming home in a sense. Soon I was strumming along in the music group and felt that praying in song and with my own words was very uplifting and satisfying. But after a while I recognised the limitations that were put on 'the interpretations of the moving of the spirit' by the 'elders' and attending clergy. It made me so sad to see genuine hope and personal revelations (of others) put into the old 'catholic box'. There must be another way!

I had read small bits of two German theologians that had impressed me—Hans Küng and Karl Rahner—and finally got myself to the Library in town, hoping to find something more substantial from these celebrated religious writers.

And there I was! finding indeed a book by Hans Küng. As I browsed further along the titles, I remember having my head tilted to read the names on the spine of the books. What is this big white one—*THE URANTIA BOOK?* (nowadays I say that intuition drew me to that name, I kind of knew it). Pulling it from amongst the others

I was surprised at the utter weight and size of it and thought—"I'm just looking, it's much too big for me now. I hardly get to read anything anyway."

Central—Super Universes, *our world* (are there any others)—hmm—Jesus (what's he doing in here?)

So—in crouching position I opened at random and read a paragraph—wow, how beautiful. Can anyone believe it when I say that there and then a hush fell over me, a shaft of light somehow found its way into my consciousness and gave me an inner jolt.

My thoughts went: Who wrote this—hmm, a Divine Counselor, Mighty Messengers—oh dear must be something Indian, uhh..... better put it back—no use to get all mixed up with such stuff now. And on the Dustcover: *our commission hails from.....* oh dear. No this is really too way out, better put it back.

That is what I did. Put it back on the shelf! Took the other books home and opened them up once—maybe twice—not finding anything that grabbed my mind. Thinking of this URANTIA Book constantly, I figured that if it was still on the shelf when I returned the others in a couple of weeks it was meant for me. And so the big white spine was standing out boldly from the library shelf when I returned the other books and came to borrow the *THE URANTIA BOOK*.

Reading it from the front or the back – never entered my mind! I opened it up at random time and time again and found myself both in magnificent spheres and familiar territory. I would study a paragraph—just one—over and over again, fall asleep over it, cry about it, be filled with 'joy everlasting'. My life was changed in a 'twinkle of an eye'—I was enthralled, bewitched—in love. I found a treasure, a revelation! Thought—*no one knows about this? How can this book be in the library and no one has ever said anything about it? Who knows about* >>

How *The Urantia Book* found me
continued from page 6

this? Does the Pope know about it?? Who can I talk to about this?

I hid the book on my bedside table under something else for fear someone could ask: what's this you're reading? Just knowing it was waiting there for me made my heart beat faster. I kept extending the loaning period and then re-borrowed it for weeks.

I think I turned red at first when I started to mention things to others about what book I was reading, when I mentioned the name *The Urantia Book*.

It was like being in love! I was in constant communion withJesus? my Thought Adjuster?

Once it felt like *He* took me by his hand (fantastic feeling) saying: come I'll show you something—and led me from my 'downstairs' world into the 'upstairs' places. Up the stairs, going into rooms—this is what we do here, this is how it works. Pointing to others, some closed doors—there is even more to know—all in it's time, all in your time. We all belong together. *All* this is *our* home. You do downstairs as we do upstairs. There is no 'better than' just doing your best in the place where you are.

A sister who lived in San Francisco sent me my own copy. I did not know how to purchase a Urantia Book here until I found my first contacts, Kathleen and Trevor Swadling in Sydney, through the reader services at the Foundation in Chicago, but that is another story all by itself!

Since then more copies of the *The URANTIA BOOK* have found their way into my home, but no other publication with their fancy new look covers have had quite the same impact than the original one with the white dust jacket.

Since then the 'internal look' of the Book has also found many expressions in my 'downstairs' existence and has made it -my earthly life with its daily normalities, mundane chores and at times rocky paths—a very happy and negotiable position. Belonging to the bigger 'House' makes me secure and this in turn engenders a willingness and commitment to act on what I perceive to be important.

And when things get foggy or just too painful, that hand seems to appear once more and takes me to higher ground where we can see the bigger picture and clear the mind—and then cheerfully continue on the Journey—onwards..... inward. □

Happy days upon Dinard (France)



Dominique Ronfet

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ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A French Urantia Book Readers Association, AFLLU. This small community shared their interest for a certain Blue Book. Upon every six months, our readers meet in a town, always different, in order to juggle with strange concepts, to share this feeling of being rowers on the same ship sailing towards ever clearer skies. But this community has its administrative duties. The President, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer are regularly elected to manage the occasionally blurred energy emerging from this dissimilar array of individuals.

So, our association met in the seaside resort of Dinard (Bretagne; a district of France), from the 22nd to the 25th of May (this year).

(For the perspective of the picture, one has to know that for a Frenchman, these "Bretons" are to their country what the Frenchmen are to the rest of the world; proud and stubborn people whose rich culture sometimes seems to grant them a feeling of self-fulfillment that may get on the nerves.)

Our readers had to go through a complete election process for all the key seats in this mild month of May. They were host to distinguished travellers: Gaéтан and his wife Line. The former being the UAI president, had to contact his stubborn and dynamic cousins.

The backstage of this gathering was made of reflections and statements related to the theme: "The personality of individual" from the cycle launched two years ago: "The origins of individuals." This community has to be credited for its amazing resilience.

Regardless of the vast array of extractions, of cultures and tempers; it

always lands on its feet, even though the shoes may swap.

The board members were thus naturally elected in that mood, but not without debate (including your servant as president).

Was it the vicinity of St-Malo harbour, city of seafarers, that made easy the exchanges with our UAI globe trotters Gaéтан and Line? Was it that particular location, old land of migration towards an inviting Eldorado across Atlantic? In any case, the exchange was lively, candid and warm; a forerunner of serene, responsible and happy involvement, all the while respecting every one's particularities, gaining ground in the search and understanding of Truth. In that brainstorming, particular interventions of female readers were most appreciated. Claire, organiser of this event, and Anne-Marie, wife of your servant, were able to humbly pinpoint the meaning of having personality, of having the awareness of existence. By the same token, loneliness means that one doesn't exist. Everyone was challenged by this feminine approach – vibrant, sensitive and requesting immediate interpretation. Finally Chris, by a far reaching approach, in the wake of the Book, was able to stir a few doubts in the mind of several amongst us. Our session would be incomplete without the mention of Georges' intervention, our Trustee, who brushed up news of the Urantia movement. As in a sentence, there was for everyone, spaces, breaks that peppered this session and without which meanings cannot flourish.

Remembrances precious stored in the suitcases of this strange convoy.

Engagements were taken for the next stop; Paris on the 21st of November.

Sincerely yours,
Dominique Ronfet

AFLLU President. □

Reflections from the Québec Gathering



Line St. Pierre

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The theme of our conference was: “The Human potential, discovering sonship with God.” This joyful, pleasant and fraternal event took place in the magnificent surrounding of Bishop University in Lennoxville, from August 14 to 17.

The talks and workshops were obviously deeply searched, accurate and of high standard. The exchanges of the first day dealt with the physical nature of man, consciousness, the evolution of the soul and man’s development. The following day was opened with an exposé on “free will” and its manifestation, followed by personality in movement and the modus operandi of our spiritual guides. The presentation on “The school of half-Gods; man’s true nature” was served to us in the format of rich and meaningful images, aimed to foster our understanding of our genuine nature and our destiny.

The evenings were enlivened with a 19th century organ concert executing baroque plays and afterwards with everyone gathered in the Cleghorn room for the quiz: “Stairway to Heaven.” Guy Perron hosted this parlour game in a skilful manner and we all had a good laugh.

Here are a few comments from the attendants:

“This weekend together was delightful and fantastic. It broadened our spiritual horizon and allowed us to realize that all these truths and facts we may read about or intellectually understand will never be worth the marvelous, unsuspected and irreplaceable personal experience of living them.”

“Sunday, on the way back, pampered in my reflections, I realized that fraternal and disinterested love is really the genuine, true, real and powerful love



A devoted group of readers on the front steps of Lennoxville Bishop University Hall, UAI President, Gaétan Charland front right

that is generally lacking to this humanity; it grows unceasingly and we will endlessly experience it.”

“The gathering was marvelous, fruitful, and diversified with a relaxed atmosphere. Thanks to your generosity, your time, your involvement and your dedication, our group was able to share and create a fraternal atmosphere we could feel. The talks hit the target and were instructive.”

“The weekend can be summed up in two ideas and four words: Spiritual fraternity and human warmth. And human beings can taste and feel both of these two notions as we have witnessed throughout this conference.”

“The conference allowed me to really grasp the real meaning of “fraternity.” I have met marvelous people with whom I exchanged ideas and from which I have learned a great deal. Four days of deep recollection, void of usual superficial things. An opportunity to receive many answers to my questions and to formulate new ones.”

“This event was a genuine whiff of freshness brought from the youth and it was a true discovery of the competencies which surround us. It takes less and less time to initiate communion. A foretaste of Heaven.” □

The Foundation Of Fellowship

WSUA 2008 Columbia River Advance Featuring Halbert Katzen-UB-the-News

Orondo, WA

August 22-24, 2008



KEVIN GOODMAN
Conference Chair—
Washington State Urantia
Readers Association
(WSUA)
kgbus1@yahoo.com



The dedicated few having a rewarding experience, Kevin Goodman seated front left, Pio Park standing front right.

DESPITE THE LOW TURNOUT, WE STILL HAD A fun and rewarding experience. We rented a house alongside the Columbia River. Looking across the river, there were apple and cherry orchards. It was a beautiful and relaxing location.

Personally for me, the best part of the weekend was meeting and spending time with Halbert Katzen, producer of UBtheNews. What a treasure. He can act like a giggling little kid one minute, and the next, he can have a deep scholarly discourse on the Supreme.

Halbert spent Thursday night with me, and then we rode to Orondo together Friday morning.

It was just the two of us for most of Friday. There was a pinball machine and a hot tub at the property. Halbert is quite the "Pinball Wizard." (Hence the little kid giggles). We spent so much time in the hot tub we looked like prunes when we got out.

During the day, "yours truly" wasn't too careful about closing the doors to the house. Once night fell and we went inside, we were attacked by thousands of no-see-ums! It got so bad, Halbert started vacuuming them up. I learned my lesson!

Pio Park arrived late Friday night. What a Force Organizer! Pio could walk in a dark room and the lights would pop on. He was bursting with pride that the South Korea Baseball Team was going for the Gold Medal in Beijing. We found out later that they did win it. Go Pio!

Jim Nelson drove up in time for Saturday breakfast. With coffee and eggs! Yes!

So far it looked like it was going to be a "Men's Retreat." But thankfully, Teresa Bradley and her friend Beth showed up in time for Halbert's presentation mid-morning.

Twenty months ago, Halbert sold all his possessions and hit the road in his trusty van. He is on a "Mission From God" to share scientific discoveries that have happened since the U-Book's 1955 Publishing that corroborate things the U-Book stated as fact, but that were not known in 1955.

It was very interesting and inspiring. He has had good results at many of the Universities he has visited. He also has had positive responses from Unity Churches and other like-minded groups.

The ladies left before dinner for their "Girls Night Out" reunion with other friends. So once again it was just the guys. We behaved ourselves, really! Just pinball, hot tubbing and QUICK swims in the chilly Columbia.

For dinner, Pio brought Korean-marinated beef and Jasmine Rice. It was GREAT! Melted in your mouth.

After working all day at their Hair Salon, Janiece and Douglas Hoggatt drove the three hours to join us late Saturday night. We had managed to save some of Pio's dinner, so JandD were not quite as grumpy because of their long day.

Sunday morning, Halbert gave another presentation. This time he concentrated on sharing his "Outreach" experiences. I learned many useful techniques that I hadn't considered before.

Sunday morning, we had a meeting to discuss WSUA's future retreats, conferences and other gatherings. We all want to get that great "Northwest Spirit" that we once had up here to manifest itself again. We came up with some exciting new ways to "Get Together" from now on. Stay tuned for future announcements!

Kevin Goodman
WSUA Conference Chair ■

New York— Pennsylvania Held Sixth Annual Fall Conference September 6 and 7, 2008



BETTY ZEHR
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Association
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AS WE FREQUENTLY DO, WE USED THE THEME of the upcoming UAI Conference in Spain, 2009. In selecting three subtopics we were able to experience a taste of the international conference even though most of us will be unable to attend. The overall theme, "Bridging the Gap" is a very powerful, inspiring, and challenging. Several study groups in our association facilitated the various discussion sessions. This required many hours of focused study group work in preparation for the conference. References were distributed by each group prior to the conference so that all attendees could prepare for participation in the discussions.

Attendees wrote the following concerning the conference:

"The topic 'Bridging the Gap' between mortals and celestial reality was covered from various angles and the most poignant point from my perspective was this: All the spiritual direction, much of actual creation and the life of Joshua ben Joseph were for the express purpose of helping us to bridge the gap between our physical >>



A close-knit group enjoying the moment

New York–Pennsylvania sixth
annual Fall conference *continued from
page 9*



Betty and Ralph Zehr

reality and the true celestial and cosmic reality. This is a humbling and comforting bit of knowledge." Mark Post

"I was struck by the realization that the Universal Father, the Eternal Son and the Infinite Spirit provided for bridging the gap at the very instant they proposed to create the gap between Creature and Creator. When our Father made the earth shaking proposal, "Let us make mortal creatures in our image" he provided for the placement of a fragment of Himself within the minds of mortal creatures, to expand across the gap between time and eternity, mortality and immortality, earth and heaven, and the worlds of space and the Isle of Paradise."
Ralph Zehr

"The 2008 Fall Conference inspired our group to increase our understanding of The Urantia Book by encouraging us to read through the entire book in order to enhance understanding and achieve full membership. We know that some of these readings will require serious study but look forward to time shared in this spiritual journey and are raring to go. The conference is such a great opportunity to meet with people from other areas of the country and share uplifting and enlightening study opportunities. It is wonderful to get together and share knowledge and fun." Akron Group

Serious discussions were interspersed with an informal evening of music, "A Celebration of Goodness, Beauty, and Truth," and an early Sunday morning group walk and/or run along the Chemung River. This was followed by a worship experience around the piano including readings from *The Urantia Book* that was led by one of the study groups. As a rule, all conference activities are conducted by study groups allowing for a great deal of experience with teamwork.

Now that we have sampled this topic of "Bridging the Gap," we are looking forward with eager anticipation to attending the UAI Conference in Spain next spring.

Ralph and Betty Zehr □

MP3's and *The Urantia Book* make a GREAT TEAM



BETTY LOU
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WITH *THE URANTIA BOOK* WE come to realize our constant and immediate access to the guidance of all these celestial hosts who help make possible the wonders of God's experiment of love and free will. This Master Universe is filled with all levels of beings working for us. ... for us. ... for God and for us. In understanding this, how can we not go out and do all we can do — at our own personal levels of existence — toward service in this work of the kingdom and for this grand eternal God who brings us here for this incredible journey of learning and teaching; personal growth and ministering; communing with our Father and socializing his love among all our Urantia siblings and among all who we encounter in the vast worlds of God's Master Universe. Thus, the first Fruit of Divine Spirit: Loving service.

"So, you read that book?"

I found *The Urantia Book* in about 1985 and immediately took every word as absolute truth — I'd found my manual — and it certainly has changed my life. Coming into this community of readers I desire to offer any skill I have to the progress of the revelation. Now, with membership in this grand association of readers, teachers and seekers and aspiring to become an elected officer of my UAI Local Association, I realized I may not have, in 20 years, covered the entire *Urantia Book*. I certainly had not gone from cover to cover. Although I've studied topically, listened to cassettes while driving and read large chunks, I knew there was a good chance that I'd missed parts of the book. So, I received the MP3 version (thank you, James) and charged up my portable MP3 player (thank you, son). I was on my way out of the 1900's.

I clipped my MP3 player to my belt loop and *The Urantia Book* became part of my very existence. Yard work; house work; the evening walk; body work; kitchen duty; to the zoo; in the garden; fixing the plumbing . . . you get the picture. I am sure some of you can relate! Awesome. It's been a lot quieter around the house lately, too, in the absence of my chatter. As long as you're not doing TV, reading,

talking or driving and the like, this works really well. At night, I would curl up with my airplane neck pillow and my little red buddy: my MP3 player. Most mornings I would burn battery life "rewinding" back to the point of falling asleep. . . . But, I'd generally get through about a Paper and a half of this magnificent mental mini-series called, *The Urantia Book*. I must say I woke up a few times wondering, "Who is in my room talking to me? It's really late."

As we meet readers of *The Urantia Book* in our lives, we come to understand that everyone has different ways of absorbing and manifesting its teachings. One reader who said he's read *The Urantia Book* 11 times wondered how we hear God speak to us? Another woman, at the Miami Book Fair engaged her first conversation about *The Urantia Book* and returned to ask how Michael's other worlds know and benefit from his bestowal and teachings on Urantia. "Wow." To understand and follow the text? "A big picture." Absorb the big picture and endeavor to apply it to our every day lives? "Priceless." This certainly is augmented by experiencing this big blue book from beginning to end, whether by listening or reading.

Well, last night I finished *The Urantia Book* — OFFICIALLY! "I HOPE EVERYBODY'S HAPPY, NOW!!" (just kidding, of course) I certainly am happy about it! Now, I can move forward in service for the Urantia community content that I read the book in its entirety. But so much more, I am refreshed and renewed in my personal spiritual journey and recharged to go out into the world, going about the Father's business here, on our precious little Urantia.

And, yes there were parts of Part IV that I don't remember covering. I also gave some favorite Papers an additional listen, and look forward to . . . The Foreword again. So, do not let this big blue book frighten you out of service to the Urantia community. *The Urantia Book* and the iPod do make a great team. Actually, I have a less expensive version that works great. I recommend this new-age combo for every serious Urantia Book enthusiast. (Just find a kid somewhere to show you how to load the MP3's.) It may also make a nice gift for someone you love.

Betty Lou, Urantia Association of Florida □



Gabrielle's Binders



BETTY LOU
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HERE'S A JOYOUS LAUGH FOR ALL OF US.

I wanted to use 3-ring binders for the Locals Packets – at least during the planning stages for samples/drafts — although I acknowledged they are too expensive for me to purchase myself.

Guess what?

"Your Father knows what you have need of even before you ask him." The Urantia Book page 49

Knowing I love projects, my son's girlfriend, Gabrielle, asked me if I could use some 3-ring binders. Hmmmm Would Bettylou want 3-ring binders?

A few days later she arrived with her station wagon literally FILLED with white 3-ring binders.

I adapted approximately 1/2 of the lot. The rest are too large to store!

28 - 1/2" 6 - 1" 32 - 1 1/2" 23 - 2" = 89 ring binders for Urantia Association!

They came in as binders from Joseph's girlfriend, but . . .

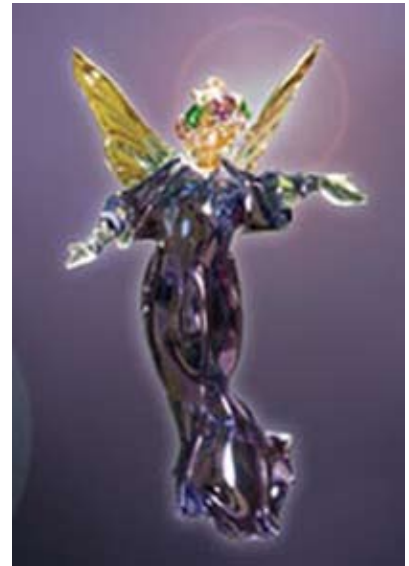
Now, they are Urantia binders !

BettyLou
UAI Florida □

Artist profile: Marian Fieldson Medium: glass Location: Big Island, Hawaii



MARIAN FIELDSON
marian@mlfieldson.com



I LOVE TO WORK WITH SHINY, GLOWING, LIQUID glass. I make platters inspired by the awesome lava flows that are all around me here on the Big Island of Hawaii. Originally from Pennsylvania, I moved to Hawaii in 1970 and into a tiny cabin tucked in a tropical gulch on the island of Maui. The previous tenants had left everything in it for a comfortable camp, including a well-used copy of a very unusual book. *The Urantia Book* was just what I had been searching for.

I feel very fortunate to have discovered the book so early in my life. I met my future husband on Maui; we married and had three children. I wanted to stay home with my young family, so I learned to make blown glass figurines for local gift stores. When the children got to middle school in 1989, we moved to the Big Island. I opened

a kiosk at the mall in Hilo and all of us worked making and selling blown glass.

The most popular piece I made is an angel with graceful hands and golden wings. I listened to the audiotapes of the Urantia papers many hours as I dipped in and out of the fire sculpting each one. As the family grew up and moved away, my work began to shift into bigger glass pieces made by fusing glass shards together in a kiln. The process involves breaking apart sheets of glass and then melting and recombining them into another form. I use textures taken from the lava flow and make platters, sinks and even countertops. It's a chance to handle some lovely, glowing, liquid glass

I invite you to visit my website www.mlfieldson.com to see more of my work. □



Marian showing some of her fine glass platters

Announcements

New President and Vice-president for UAI Colombia



TAMILA RAGIMOVA
President
Urantia Association of Colombia
urantiamedellincolombia@yahoo.es



ANDRES RODRIGUEZ
Vice-president
Urantia Association of Colombia
andromantia@gmail.com

ESTEEMED MEMBERS OF THE Council, On August 21st, Tamila Ragimova was elected to the presidency of the Urantia Association of Colombia. She reports that she has many working plans to serve the Urantians from Colombia and from the whole world.

The newly elected president and vicepresidente de Asociacion Urantia Colombia are president, Tamila Ragimova and the vicepresidente, Andres Rodriguez.

Tamila Ragimova lives in Medellin and Andres Rodriguez lives in Bogota. □



Majorca study group. Catalina Covas is seated first from the right

Tidings update Greetings Tidings Readers,



MARIAN HUGHES
Hawaii Urantia Local
Association (HULA)
ellanora606@gmail.com

TIDINGS IS NOW IN ITS THIRD YEAR of publication. Our goal is to keep Urantia Book readers and members of UAI connected and informed. Our readership has expanded world wide thanks to the dedication of our fabulous translation team, Olga Lopez for the Spanish, Line- St Pierre for the French and now Ricardo Machado for the new Portuguese issue.

Without your stories, reports, articles and announcements, there would be no news to publish. So we encourage you all to keep us informed concerning your study group and association happenings. As often as possible we want to feature our talented artists, photographers, writers, musicians and those involved in service projects. We all share a love for *The Urantia Book* and its teachings, this unites us and binds us together in the UAI. Jesus said *"In the kingdom of heaven, which I have come to declare, there is no high and mighty king; this kingdom is a divine family"* page 1676

Please help us keep this divine family conjoined and send your information to tidings606@gamil.com. Your email address and a head shot photograph needs to accompany your submission. To share is God like.

"When there is so much good truth to publish and proclaim, why should men dwell so much upon the evil in the world just because it appears to be a fact? The beauties of the spiritual values of truth are more pleasurable and uplifting than is the phenomenon of evil." Page 2076

Marian Hughes Editor in Chief □

Majorca study group



CATALINA COVAS
Majorca, Spain
catalinacovas@telefonica.net



IN APRIL 2006, FIVE READERS FROM Majorca took the decision of attending -for the very first time- the Annual Meeting of Readers in Spain, which was held in Segovia. From that first contact, the idea of creating a study group in Palma (the main city of Majorca Island) arose. Our first meeting was the 2nd July of that year and nine people attended. Thus, once a month we got together. Some people go and some others come, so eventually we were seven readers.

In November 2007, we thought it would be a good idea to talk to other readers about our existence, and this is why a little advert was published in a free monthly newsletter distributed in bookstores, natural products shops, etc.,

in Majorca. The advert was concise: "Study group of *The Urantia Book*. We meet once a month. Phone number and e-mail." Cards were produced to put in some notice boards in a number of places, and to hand them to whom might be interested. We got five calls, and three people came to meet us; two of them joined our study group.

Later on, and thanks to other readers, I was called to organize another study group, with 12 members nowadays. Making known our existence and giving the possibility of new readers join our group made it grow, as much as the creation of a new one. Thanks to that, other lonely readers knew of our existence and they will be welcome anytime.

Catalina Covas
Majorca, Spain □