



# Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

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

Nº 24 ■ MAY 2007



"Kamuela" oil on linen painting by Tonia Boney, Hawaii

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## President's message

Dear Friends of UAI,

WHILE WORKING ON THE strategic plan of UAI and assisting the president of my local association in creating one for our local association, it gave me the opportunity of asking myself many questions about our mission and the role of UAI in it. For some of us, this work might seem unnecessary and very complicated, for others it might have interesting values and potentials, and for a smaller group it does all the difference between progress and stagnation. But there might be more to a strategic plan than a first glimpse might give; it can open new avenues of thinking, help redefine the role of UAI and the part each of us has to play in it.

It gave me a sense of direction and a greater understanding that UAI is not an end in itself. It is a means by which we can coordinate the activities of many in order to accomplish our mission. Without the service workers, without study groups, without opportunity to train ourselves as disseminators, leaders and teachers, UAI is just an organization that exists to promote its own existence. This is the main reason why we have to keep our organization structurally simple and light. UAI is only a scaffolding to foster the emergence of spiritual qualities in its growing membership. Those qualities have to do with loving service, for if there is no love, nothing is worth doing, having or being.

In a recent book I was perusing, the author was saying that studies show that experts are not born, they are made. He went on to say that it takes at least ten years of devoted work to become expert in any field. If some of us want, or are to become expert



disseminators, expert leaders and expert teachers, then we need an expert plan to do this. Jesus was a master in all those fields, so we should take his life as an example if we are to become an expert in the field we choose. Carolyn Prentice has written a marvelous series of articles in the UAI Journal that constitutes a program to train us in becoming better teachers. This program takes its source in the Master's life; give it a try for the next ten years.

During the month of April, a new UAI local association was created, the Urantia Association of Sweden. It is with joy and pleasure that Gary Rawlings, Membership Chair and I participated in the inauguration of this new association. This last month also witnessed the conclusion of the International Service Board

election. New members came in, and out of Australia, Vice-President, Merindi Swadling and Communications Chair, Vern Verass. As Dissemination Chair, Jimmy Mitchell from United States, as Charter Chair, Travis Binion from United States and as Study Group Chair, Rick Lyon, United States, re-elected.

I also want to take this opportunity to give many thanks to the outgoing ISB members who so devoutly and willingly gave their time during the last four years to help UAI become autonomous. All my gratitude to Seppo Niskanen, Shirley Pelland, Will Sherwood, Jerry Prentice and Rick Warren for their loyalty, dedication and generosity. Also many thanks to the members of the RC who served as members of the Election Committee, Alain Cyr from Canada, Olga Lopez from Spain and William Wentworth from Australia.

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## TIDINGS

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Around Urantia

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

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



In the month to come, the ISB will be nominating two members to the UAI Judicial Commission. One member has resigned and the other position's term has expired and is due for election. After the nomination process is over, it will become the responsibility of the RC to elect the nominees as members of the Judicial Commission. The month of May will be a time of transition, so business should be quiet at the RC level. The ISB members will be meeting in Chicago on the last weekend of April to work on the finalization of the strategic plan and a few items that need immediate attention.

Good reading. ☐

Gaétan G. Charland  
President UAI  
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## The formulation of the UAI – Swedish local Association

GARY RAWLINGS

ISB – Membership Chair

THE DAY STARTED WITH the morning flight on April 13 from London's Heathrow Airport. I boarded the flight for Stockholm, Sweden, to formulate the new local Association under the named President, Michael MacIsaac, who for the past few months communicated frequently with me by e-mail to bring this very special day into being.

On the plane I started to talk to the passenger sitting next to me, his name was Bill, travelling from his home in San Antonio, to visit friends in Sweden. This provided me with the ideal opportunity to practice my Meet and Greet routine, for the introduction of *The Urantia Book* and its teachings. He was very surprised that he had not heard of the book before and was intending to order this on his return to the USA. So, on your travels practice this Meet and Greet exercise to spread the good word and provide the opportunity to others to discover *The Urantia Book*, whether you are travelling on a ship, train or plane.

The flight was excellent and the weather perfect, not like the snowy conditions experienced in America that week.

The plan was to meet up with Gaétan, whose scheduled arrival from Canada via Frankfurt Airport, was earlier than mine, however, due to bad weather conditions, his flight was delayed and I arrived first at Arlanda Airport. After the customary welcome we set off into Stockholm by the high-speed train, and before we knew it we were there, this is the only way to travel into the city of Stockholm. A brief taxi ride from the station took us to our hotel where we prepared ourselves for our 7:00 p.m. meeting with Michael at his apartment, for a meal and to be introduced to both board members and Urantia Book readers.

Having been warmly welcomed by Michael's fiancé Anna and the other guests, we enjoyed a leisurely discussion and delightful meal which consisted of the local delicacy of

Officers from left to right, Anna Mellander, treasurer, Michael MacIsaac, president, Riita Forsander, secretary and Jacob Dix, vice-president.



seal, which is a kind of pickled herring, Swedish cheese, followed by the main course of salmon. There was a great deal of excitement around the table, and rightly so, with the inauguration of the Local Swedish Association to take place on the next day. It was a very enjoyable evening with guests attending from various parts of Sweden for the forthcoming event.

Following breakfast on Saturday, Gaétan and I prepared for our meeting with Michael at 12:00, and to begin our journey to the venue for the ceremony in the north of Stockholm, a thirty

minute train journey away. The atmosphere of newly found Urantia friendships started to build to what was a memorable day for all who attended this momentous occasion. A brisk walk from the railway station to the venue followed where we

were greeted by our host, Michael MacIsaac, and then we sat with members to go over once again the responsibilities for their proposed positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, and after a question and answer session we prepared for the actual ceremony.

The introduction of the new President of the Swedish Association, Michael MacIsaac, and then Gaétan Charland, President of the UAI, was followed by the signing of the Chartering Agreement, by both parties, which was greeted by applause from all the guests. All the main speeches had to be translated from English into the Swedish language.

Gaétan welcomed the new local Association into the UAI family. A sense of relief was felt by all that this day had finally arrived and our new Swedish friends were taking their place within the UAI family.

Michael responded, thanking all those who had attended and for the ladies who prepared the place for the ceremony. At this point, Gaétan presented the board members with concentric circle pens and a number of Urantia pens were given to the guests.

I presented 10 wonderful Study Aids that were prepared by Hara Davis and Roberto Lara, which were received with excitement, and rightly so, as these will shortly be available at a minimal cost to other UAI members, contact me on [GaryR81@aol.com](mailto:GaryR81@aol.com) for more details on how you can purchase these.

Having concluded the official business with other board members having their say, it was suggested we form a circle and clockwise formation, allowing everyone to reveal how they had found *The Urantia Book*. You had to be there to understand the feelings of these readers from how finding the Book in God's own special way, to becoming a united family under the banner of the concentric circles, and this I am sure gave an added impetus to the future to their reading of *The Urantia Book*. We then proceeded to take photographs, and here are a few of these from both inside and outside the venue.

Our day ended sitting down to what can only be described as a Swedish feast, I can still taste the food today, it was excellent as was the company and at around 6:00 p.m. we said our goodbyes to our hosts to travel back to Stockholm. On returning back to our hotel we wished farewell to our new friends, most of these were setting off early the next morning to travel back to their various destinations with a common belief in all our minds of Mission Accomplished with the new Swedish local Association formed. The rest of the evening was very relaxing with Gaétan, Michael and me. Michael's enthusiasm was overwhelming for his new Association, and I am sure he will hold his new position with both passion and pride along with those board and founder members of the new association, well done and congratulations.

We know look forward to the next mission of forming both local and national UAI associations, and we will keep our brothers and sisters informed when this happens. □



Group photo. More pictures of inauguration at <http://www.urantia-uai.org/photos/index.html>

## Inauguration of the Urantia Association of Sweden

MICHAEL MACISAAC

President, Urantia Association of Sweden

[mmacisaac@gmail.com](mailto:mmacisaac@gmail.com)

ON SATURDAY, THE FOURTEENTH of April 2007, readers gathered in the suburbs of Stockholm to celebrate the inauguration of a Swedish local association, the Urantia Association of Sweden. Eighteen people came to the joyous inaugural ceremony and dinner that followed, some of whom traveled from the far corners of Sweden for the special event, not to mention Gary Rawlings, Membership Chair of the Urantia Association International and Gaétan Charland, President of UAI, who traveled internationally to conduct the inauguration and highlight the significance of the event.

Sweden's sprouting readership is a diverse bunch with multiple generations well represented. Many are relatively new readers, although some have been reading since the 60's and 70's. Many of us have come to Sweden from various parts of the world, mostly from the USA, Finland, as well as South America. We plan to soon organize study groups in English, Finnish, and

Spanish, to compliment those that currently take place in Swedish.

The unpublished Swedish translation is currently undergoing minor revisions. It is currently available digitally and we look eagerly toward, and want to do all we can to help bring about the day when it is finally published.

I am very happy and excited that we have formed this Swedish association. I spent many years endeavoring to find other readers, to help get the book into the hands

of interested truth seekers, to form a consistent study group and so on, and even though it seemed like virtually nothing happened for many years, thanks to perseverance as well

as help from friends who I made along the way, the efforts have finally begun to bear fruit. Now we have a team that will help us to work together and in harmony with each other all the more, and we are delighted that this team has been accepted into an international network of service-teams that includes many other countries in Europe as

well as on other continents. The new board of directors is composed of:

Michael MacIsaac - President

[mmacisaac@gmail.com](mailto:mmacisaac@gmail.com)

Jacob Dix - Vice president

[Jacob.dix@gmail.com](mailto:Jacob.dix@gmail.com)

Riita Forsander - Secretary

[rillukka@suomi24.fi](mailto:rillukka@suomi24.fi)

Anna Mellander - Treasurer

[annamarg11@yahoo.se](mailto:annamarg11@yahoo.se)

We want to extend a special thanks to Fabiola and Maria-Teresa who hosted the gathering. They not only arranged for and furnished a locale for the inauguration, but they also treated us to a delicious meal that they had lovingly prepared. We are also very grateful to Gaétan and Gary for coming and bringing inspiration and encouragement, and for all their sublime service to the revelation. It was a beautiful day, we had a wonderful time together, and the Urantia Association of Sweden could not have begun on a brighter note. □



## Newly elected International Service Board (ISB) officers

NOTE: Vern Verass (Communications Chair) and Rick Lyon (Study Group Chair) will be featured in the June issue of Tidings.



MERINDI SWADLING  
ISB VICE-PRESIDENT  
[merindi@hotmail.com](mailto:merindi@hotmail.com)

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE that I embrace the challenge of Vice-Presidency of our young organisation. As a second generation reader, I have observed my parents' involvement in Urantia organisation for many years now. I guess I always knew my future involved administration, organisation, and management of some kind.

I am from Sydney, Australia – temporarily living in Ontario, Canada. I am a member of the Australian/New Zealand association (ANZURA) and recently had the pleasure of leading the organisation committee of the 2006 International conference. Not long after the conclusion of the International conference I was given the opportunity to manage Silver Springs Retreat in Ontario, and work as a volunteer for FreeSchools World Literacy.

This change of lifestyle has also given me the chance to work with Gaetan and the ISB team on the UAI Strategic Plan – which I am very excited about.

I look forward to being your Vice-President and am confident that I will bring a considerable amount of professionalism, enthusiasm, wisdom, patience, and leadership to this role.



JUDY VAN CLEAVE  
ISB SECRETARY  
[jrvanclv@aol.com](mailto:jrvanclv@aol.com)

CURRENTLY RESIDE, WAS raised and have raised my family, in a small town named Boise, Idaho in the Northwestern part of the USA. In 1994 I became a charter member of Idaho Urantia Association (IDUA) in a ceremony in my home with Cathy Jones and Richard Keeler in attendance. Currently, I'm serving as president of my local association. Once before, from 1998 – 2002, I served IDUA in the same position, and served also as IDUA secretary for one year prior to this past one. At the national level, I served UAUS as secretary from 2002 – 2006.

I expect that my run as UAUS secretary was in some measure preparation for the responsibility of ISB secretary. In addition to recordkeeping, I look forward to teaming with the other members of the Executive Committee and ISB on UAI administrative matters. I am completely thrilled by the fact that Shirley Pelland wholeheartedly agreed to continue on as my committee member in charge of working with the RC. That fact had everything to do with my ability to serve UAI as secretary at this time. Thank you dear Shirley!

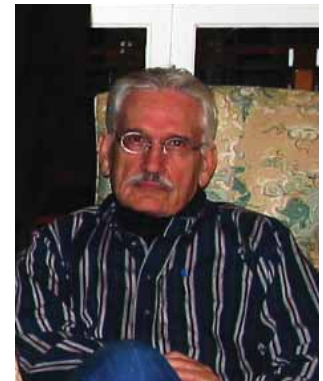


JIMMY MITCHELL  
DISSEMINATION CHAIR  
[jmubreader@msn.com](mailto:jmubreader@msn.com)

I HAVE RECENTLY RELOCATED to San Diego California for work and health related reasons and am currently a member of the Southwest Urantia Readers Family (SURF).

I have also served in the Washington State Urantia Association as President. I think that I was asked to fill this position because I am proactive and literal minded. I believe that the greatest thing we can do as believers of the revelation is to live our life in a way that will leave thousands of copies of the revelation in our wake. If we live our lives in this way we will have an effect on this planet far beyond our material lives. We can live the revelation now and exemplify it in our lives and this will have a positive effect in our local surroundings. This is the immediate effect of the revelation.

The books can live on for thousands of the years. We know this from our archeological findings. In modern times, with an immense population such as it is on our planet, we are asked to seed the planet with a duplicated revelation. A single farmer can seed a field and have a crop so abundant that it would take one hundred people to bring in the crop. So potentially, if someone was responsible for bringing 1000 copies of the revelation into >



TRAVIS BINION  
CHAIR, CHARTER & BYLAWS  
[gthb@earthlink.net](mailto:gthb@earthlink.net)

I LIVE IN MIDDLE TENNESSEE, USA, about 60 miles South of Nashville. I am a charter member of Southern Kindred Spirits local Urantia association and have served it and the UAI in several capacities since its inception. I have been elected to the International Service Board to serve as Chairman of the Charter and Bylaws Committee. During my term in that capacity, I plan to assure that the UAI Charter and Bylaws are translated into every UAI language, are posted on the UAI web site and serve the needs of the organization. I will also work to establish a cadre of committee members from the various countries to act as the UAI parliamentarians to discuss procedural questions, to provide assistance and make recommendations, as required. The committee will also work with National and/or Local Associations to review and improve the country unique Bylaws.

existence and disseminating them in their wake as they passed by, there might be as much as a million people somehow touched by the revelation. That is only if someone was willing to do the disseminating.

I am honored to serve.

## How *THE URANTIA BOOK* found me

SAMUEL HEINE

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Association Française des  
Lecteurs du Livre d'Urantia

**M**Y PATERNAL GRANDFATHER was a German of Jewish descent and was therefore incarcerated for many years in Germany's concentration camps. One day, he and two of his friends were able to escape and all three headed to Belgium.

My grandfather, who was suffering from a pulmonary infection, was taken in for treatment by a Catholic Convent in Belgium. My maternal grandmother, an orphan whose father and mother were of Spanish origin, was meant to devote her life to Christ and take care of my grandfather and other patients. I will not go into details but I think that you understand that shortly after they met, they married and had 13 children, of which my father was the youngest.

I was therefore born on June 1974 in Belgium in a family of open-minded believers. My father recited prayers at the table before the meal and we took turns reading a new chapter of the Bible. We did not adhere to any officially known religious belief, nevertheless, my father was adamant of religious comparisons. I remember in my childhood, having visited quite a few different organizations.

My brother and I lost our mother when I was three years old, and as a result, my father migrated to Reunion Isle and remarried shortly afterwards with a girl from the island originally from India. From the age of three until I was sixteen years old, I was brought up in Reunion Isle where existed a magnificent multiculturalism. The community in that island is Indian, Chinese, Muslim, African and European. All this, to tell you how much this



multicultural, philosophical and religious combination had determining influences on my life concerning my perception of God.

Having always been introverted and a loner, at the age of sixteen, I confided to my father my wish to go to the Merle School in the south of France where they trained shepherds to move their flocks to and from pastures, and I subsequently practiced that trade for seven years. These years of keeping and raising sheep allowed me ample time to think, observe and read. I

have always personally believed in God and I had moments of close communion and living interaction with Him. Nevertheless, one day, I felt an inner urge to look into the "why" and the "how to" of our existence. My first major revelation was the discovery of Sri Aurobindo's writings and the Theosophic texts.

Even then, an enormous amount of books passed through my hands without my being intuitively satisfied. In 1999, I decided to quit my job as a shepherd in order to return to Reunion Isle because I missed the place. It is on that island that I learned my present trade of selling fish and where I met my life companion, Adelaïde, who is from India.



Samuel in Réunion Island

One thing led to another and as I continued my readings, I discovered *The Urantia Book* while leafing through Spalding's "Life and Teaching of the Masters of the Far East" in an esoteric library of the island. I immediately wrote down the Paris Association's address on a piece of paper and tried, high and low, to contact the French reader's association of *The Urantia Book*.

In those days, Adelaïde and I had, within our local social circle, created a reading center of the diverse philosophic and religious views. When we so informed the AFLLU, (*The Urantia Book* Association of French Readers) we graciously received from them, ten free *Urantia* books.

The discovery of that book was for me the greatest gift that God could have ever given me, after that fragment of his divinity, which is within myself. As soon as we received this book, I immediately read the index and I knew then, intuitively, that I had found what I had been searching for. Our family has been studying *The Urantia Book* for the last seven years and we grow, day by day, towards new comprehension and applications.

I sincerely hope that the *Urantia* Brotherhood Organization will prove to be, in the future, the emerging trend for a new world. Here then is this short story, which shows that, in our lives, everything leads us to what we need to receive. □

Your brother in Jesus and for God,  
Samuel Heine.

# Letter

FROM  
Malawi, AFRICA



Dear Cathy Jones the editor,

IT HAS BEEN A LONG time without communicating to you.

I am a very active member of Urantia Book readers. I have been a member of Urantia Book readers since the year 2000 up to this date. I finished reading *The Urantia Book* in the year 2002. And in the year 2003 I formed my study group here in Malawi- Central Africa, to be specific. My study group is one of the fastest growing groups. It has 25 members and 10 of these members are University students. We normally meet three times a week (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). For the University students, I do visit them at the University Campus and give a lecture. I have tried hard to spread the teachings of *The Urantia Book* throughout Malawi.

I am happy to let you know that, I have been communicating by e-mail with Mr. Gary Rawlings of United Kingdom-Urantia Association. On top of that, I am happy to let you know that our study group will be transformed into a Local Association sometime in 2007. The transformation procedure or ceremony will be done by Mr. Gary Rawlings of The United Kingdom.

Attached is my photograph so that it may be put in the Tidings of this month, if possible. Besides, it will be something very special if that photograph can be put on events internet of Urantia. That photograph is for me, Grevet Moyo, the founder & leader of the Urantia Study group here in Malawi. I will be happy if the Tidings can be sent to me.

Frankly speaking, so many Malawians have benefited from me spiritually. My main aim is to spread the teachings of *The Urantia Book* throughout Malawi and beyond Malawi.

Lastly, I wish you all the best and Our Universal Father bless you all. I will be waiting for your reply of this e-mail.

Best Regards.

Grevet Moyo (Founder & Leader of Urantia Study Group in Malawi) Telephone: +265 913 8153



Picnic at Lago Todos Los Santos (All Saint's Lake)

## Resurrection Sunday picnic

Petrohue, Chile.  
April 8, 2007

MARIAN HUGHES  
President, Hawaii Urantia  
Local Association

SIX MEMBERS OF THE PUERTO VARAS UB Study Group met for a picnic and study session on the beautiful shores of Lago Todos Los Santos to celebrate the Master's resurrection.

It was a wonderful sunny autumn day with a clear blue sky in the southern hemisphere. The group was comprised of individuals who hailed from Scotland, Italy, Chile, Venezuela, and Hawaii but the love and appreciation of the Fifth Epochal Revelation had brought them all together to truly live the reality of the brotherhood of man.

After a tasty lunch of empanadas and turkey sandwiches, the adults read Paper #189 in Italian, English, and Spanish, while the children collected fresh water crabs on the beach. The group discussed why the women corps and the laymen were the most ready and willing to believe in the resurrection of Jesus before the apostles accepted the event. The apostles had been forewarned prior to the first morontia appearance and yet, they were reluctant to accept the message. This seems to indicate a collective state of shock; perhaps because of their intimate association with the Master. None of the picnic group could relate to the apostle's mental state and all identified with the followers of David who willingly spread the good news of the Master's return.

The loveliness and ambience of the setting made it easy to experience a joyful and reverent state of being. The group ended the session with hugs indicative of the camaraderie that all felt during the outing. It was a bittersweet end knowing that Matt and Marian Hughes would depart the following day for their Hawaii after a 40 day sojourn in Southern Chile. The study group is in the able leadership hands of Alessandro Guarneri and his wife, Ximena Campbell and they are looking forward to meeting on a regular basis in their Puerto Varas home.



## Southwest Urantia Readers Family Easter meeting

SUSAN OWENS  
Secretary, SURF  
[edowen@earthlink.net](mailto:edowen@earthlink.net)

**S**URF GATHERED WITH friends for an Easter topical and potluck at the home of Meredith Van Woert in Vista California on Sunday April 8th.

Jane Ploetz presented the topical on "The Easter Question." It was absolutely one of the best topicals I have ever attended. Jane led our group of 11 readers which just happened to be the same number as the remaining apostles. We thought that was rather cosmic. We each drew Easter eggs which contained the page number of one of the 19 post resurrection appearance of Jesus. Our assignment was to find the time, place, spirit stage and to whom the appearance(s) we picked were made. Jane then put our findings on a chart. She even provided maps referencing where each appearance took

SURF group, left to right:  
Al Turnbo, Meredith Van  
Woert, Karen Sullivan,  
Larry Neff, Lynne Holmes,  
Jane Ploetz, John Ploetz,  
Ed Owen, Jimmy Mitchell,  
Randy Holmes. Not  
shown: Susan Owen

place. We then listened as each person read Jesus' immortal words from each appearance and wrote down a word, a phrase and a prayer during each recitation. We then shared our words and phrases as Jane wrote them all down on a chart. Reading through the list was an uplifting and prayerful experience.

We took a break to have our potluck dinner which always seems to materialize as the perfect combinations of foods and



Jane Ploetz presents the Easter Question



personalities. The conversations were vibrant with the energy and emotion stimulated by the topical. We then regathered to share the prayers we had written down during the reading. What a wonderful way to end a glorious Easter celebration and gathering. □

## The Urantia Association of New England celebrates Easter

PHIL TAYLOR  
Secretary, UAONE  
[philtaylor@mingspring.com](mailto:philtaylor@mingspring.com)

**T**HE URANTIA ASSOCIATION of New England celebrated Easter together on Saturday, April 7. The eleven association members came together in a study of paper 194—The Bestowal of the Spirit of Truth to commemorate the life and resurrection of our Creator Son. The study began with a pot-luck dinner followed by a breaking of the bread and sharing of the wine in remembrance of the master's supreme service and devoted friendship. Each member spent a short period of time sharing with the group what they most admired in the master.

The gathering began with a brief business meeting of UAONE where the focus



of the discussion was what can we do as an association to serve the needs of the New England readers and how can we continue to foster more study groups. Polly Friedman put forth the proposal of a Urantia Book

store front in the Newport, RI area during the summer season. Nick Scalzo raised the idea of establishing speaking circuit for Urantia Book readers. The group will convene again in the summer. □