



Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

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

Nº 39 ■ MAY JUNE 2009

"Jazmin II" Oil Painting by Carlos Rubinsky



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President's message

Dear Friends of UAI,

SUMMER IS NEARLY KNOCKING at our doors and with it, many Urantia activities will take place. Some of those activities will be conferences, while some others might be more like social events.

Any of these activities are a good opportunity to meet with other readers and offer a pleasurable experience where we can share our common love for the same book and its teachings. A few members of the ISB and myself will use the opportunity that the Boulder Conference offers us, to have our first planning meeting for the 2011 Leadership Seminar that has just been approved by the RC. Regarding the Leadership Seminar, some of you might wonder about its goals and purposes. To plan for such an event and to organize such an undertaking requires some very important decisions based on very real needs. For some of us, the cultural complexity of our organization is more apparent than it is to others. While our cultural differences are a real challenge, they offer us an unlimited potential for social, intellectual and spiritual expression and growth in relation to our mission to disseminate the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

It all comes down to our mission and how each and every one of us interprets its meaning, value and unfolding. If, as members and leaders of this international organization, we understand our mission clearly, then might we better succeed at being ready for the next era when men will have won the fight for liberty and be ready to embrace expanded truth, such as is contained in *The Urantia Book*? This is why such a seminar is needed, so that every leader in our organization understands the history and destiny supporting our mission. Then the leaders will be better able to plan and organize the dissemination activities of *The Urantia Book* and its teachings to all the world cultures.



Over fifty years ago, we were instructed by the revelators to foster and create thousands of study groups, to train leaders and teachers. To this day many leaders in many different associations are still debating the authenticity and value of such mandates. Many of us are arguing about the meaning of words like leaders and teachers, and worry about the perception the words might generate in our own members or in people outside our organization. Many of us would like to change those words, so nobody would be offended by their suggested meanings. Truth always brings changes, no matter how we try expressing and living it. Many of the first Christians faced similar challenges and gave their life for their faith, what are we ready to give for ours?

As members of UAI, I suggest that we meditate on why we have become a member of this association. Is it to participate in its various projects or just be a by-stander attracted only by the social interaction that different gatherings, such as conferences, are providing? These are questions that the Leadership Seminar will explore. We should strive to be a dynamic organization - focused actively and entirely on a mission we all agree on and endorse - a mission we fully understand and are committed to. So if you feel a desire to belong, to be active, to be part of a team, then this seminar will be for you.

At the last ISB teleconference meeting, it was decided to work on and present a resolution to the Representative Council that would address the issue of validity of all policies and resolutions that were passed before IUA was registered as a new corporation in 2006 under the name UAI. It will take a few weeks to gather and investigate those records of past resolutions and policies and once done, a resolution validating those policies and resolutions will be submitted to the RC for ratification.

TIDINGS

From Associations
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.

Editor: Marian Hughes,
tidings606@gmail.com

Spanish Translation: Olga López,
olopez65@gmail.com

French Translation: Line St-Pierre and collaborators
line.stpierre3721@videotron.ca

Page Layout: Verner Verass

COVER: "Jazmin II" Painting by Carlos Rubinsky. You may submit images for possible use on the cover to:
vern@designnd.com.au

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.



The International Service Board (ISB) also voted on a resolution that will be presented to the RC to authorize the ISB to form an ad hoc Interfaith Committee, chaired by the UAI Vice-President, to plan and participate in the 2009 Parliament of the World's Religions, from the 3rd to the 9th of December 2009.

On the part of the Representative Council, besides approving the 2011 Leadership Seminar, the RC was busy discussing the addition of an approved modification to the By-Laws of UAI. Some minor problems were reported concerning the inclusion of such changes and discussions should resume once the corrections to the By-laws are properly made. Have a great summer and please feel free to join some us at the exciting Boulder Conference.

Gaétan G. Charland President UAI
gaetan.charland3721@videotron.ca □

Planning a UAI Conference



OLGA LOPEZ
President
Urantia Association of Spain
olopez65@gmail.com



Group photo of those that came to "Bridge the Gap" – attendees at the International UAI conference Malaga, Spain

FOR THE URANTIA ASSOCIATION OF Spain, the sponsor of this event, it has been a long road to get here. A road of hard work and learning, which began as an idea in 2005, turned into a project in 2007, and today it is a good memory. We, readers of the book, know that there are no accidents, and to prove this I would like to tell you briefly about the developments which induced us to assume the sponsorship of this international conference.

The idea of organising an international conference in Spain was brewing in our minds in 2005. At that time, the 2006 Sydney (Australia) conference was looked forward to, and two years later, in 2008, the conference would take place in Mexico. We were thinking that perhaps the next host thereafter could be Spain. Shortly after the Sydney conference, in the summer of 2006, we learned that the Mexico conference would not materialise. This news was like an admonition. We asked ourselves, why shouldn't we volunteer to sponsor the next conference?

Spain is a very touristy country, witnessing several millions of visits each year, and since accommodation of every category is available, that aspect was not going to pose any problem. But we wanted a site where readers of the book would feel at ease, and it seemed to us that big cities like Madrid and Barcelona would not provide this ambiance. In September, making use of the summer holidays' being around, I went with my family to Malaga to see a number

of reader friends there. That very day I had acquainted myself with a reader, who was working in a hotel as the chief receptionist. As is often habitual when readers meet for the first time, some one of the company asked this reader, how she had found the book. She then explained that one day a young man had approached the hotel's reception desk where she was on duty and had asked her to give him directions to the meeting room. She did this for him and asked why he wanted to see the room, which was a place with nothing particular to see. He replied that the name of the room had caught his attention; it turned out that it referred to a book which he considered very important in his life. The name of the room was "Urantia".

She became curious, sought out the book and settled down to read it. She was so impressed that she spoke about it to the director of the hotel, with whom she enjoyed a friendship. He told her then and there that he too was reading *The Urantia Book*, and that as a homage he had given the name "Urantia" to the meeting room.

Just my listening to this part of the story it soon dawned upon me that even if we still had not volunteered to organise the conference, we nonetheless had found the hotel which we had been looking for.

It so happened that the very next year, in 2007, the Representative Council of the UAI voted to hold the international conferences every third year, instead of every second year. This implied that the next conference would take place in 2009. That year we spoke to the director of the hotel about the possibility of our holding the international



Circle Tile on Malaga Sidewalk

conference of 2009 in the same place. He told us that there was no problem and we only needed to decide on the dates. Calling the fact that we find ourselves in the south of Spain, that in summer the temperatures can be very high, and the lodging prices are much more expensive, we thought that spring would be a better season to hold the conference. That is why we the next week chose the Holy Week as possible dates for the conference.

In the summer of 2007, it was finally decided that we would be assigned the sponsorship. When I received the formal note on that decision, I could not help my feeling intensely emotional. It finally appeared that the developments had brought us to a point where it was us who would be in charge of this task, and from that moment on, it behoved us to turn up our sleeves and organise all that's necessary.

For almost two years, the international conference has been a matter of much work. There have been so many details which we have had to take into account, many tasks had to be discharged, and many problems had to be settled. But it's been worth all those efforts, because we believe this conference served its purpose, which is getting together readers throughout the world to celebrate a unique experience of sharing our passion for the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

Here I would like to thank all the people who contributed to the success of this conference. There is no little contribution; they're all important because there are many details to take into account, and all those people made sure that the activities and preparations of the conference ran smoothly. This conference has been a proof of team working and just this made us learn a lot with this experience.

Olga Lopez. □



Permanent sign on building opposite the Hotel Vistamar (manager is a reader)

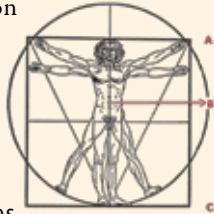
Comment on Cover Painting:



CARLOS RUBINSKY
President of UA Argentina
Buenos Aires, Argentina
carlosrubinsky@gmail.com

Sacred Geometry

IN THIS PAINTING, I'VE TRIED TO MAKE the viewer become aware of this proportion by drawing a golden mean rectangle on the background.



This particular and unique rectangle is made up of successive growing squares that always keep between themselves the same rate: the Golden Mean Proportion. *The Urantia Book* teaches us that in Personality and also in Art the maximum achievement is the "unification of contrasts"(646:4). In this painting the attempt is to unify two very different aspects of reality: geometry and nature. The hard lines and mathematical facts of geometry, with what the Infinite Spirit through his many agencies has finally created, a beautiful flower with its soft texture, the soft lines, and all the other attributes that you can name, but obeying to the pattern out of which it was created, which most probable includes the Golden mean proportion. The attempt has been made, now it is up to the spectator to determine if the artist's goal has been achieved... Thank you.

Carlos Rubinsky □

New Arrival

Born to Nathan Strumfeld and Tamara (Wood) Strumfeld



Bettina Fe Strumfeld

ON MAY 19, 2009 AT 2:41 AM, TAMARA gave birth to a healthy 5 lb 15 oz, 19 inch baby girl.

Bettina Fe Strumfeld was born two weeks early in Chicago, Illinois.

Congratulations can be sent to Tamara care of the Urantia Foundation at 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois, 60614 □

Urantia International Conference In Malaga–April 2009



HARA DAVIS
Author
Devon, England
hara.davis@yahoo.com



Hotel Vistamar – conference venue

BRIDGING THE GAP' IN MALAGA WAS my first international conference and I had a wonderful time meeting members from all over the world.

About 120 people attended from 50 different countries although, not surprisingly, Spanish were in the majority. Imagine our surprise to arrive at the 4-star hotel on the coast to see a huge permanent sign 'Urantia Salon' visible from the road over the windows of our meeting room! The hotel manager is a reader and persuaded the owner to name the function room after the Book.

I was really grateful to have the opportunity to present my contribution – the Study Aids booklet – to the conference and everyone responded encouragingly with many delegates buying it. I also had fun introducing 25 people to Sacred Circle Dance on Saturday evening.

Good food (a bounteous buffet three times a day), good conversation (a hotel full of people talking about God), lots of sun (I swam in the Med and the hotel pool), music & singing by ACL Halsema, a brilliant classical piano concert by Urs Ruchti, and trips out (a cable car up the mountain and a coach tour of Malaga including Picasso's birthplace). An exhilarating and sociable week left me with many new friends. Thank you to the Spanish team.

If anyone wants to buy my Study Aids, please email me on hara.davis@yahoo.com. They cost £10 plus postage. I am now coordinating a Spanish translation which may be ready in the not too distant future.

Hara Davis (UK) □



Grand Universe diagram, one of series by Hara Davis



Welcome cocktail in the foyer



Gaétan Charland, UAI president, welcomes attendees



Hara Davis, presents her Study Aids



Attendees enjoying a study group session



Richard Keeler US, conversation with friends in the cafeteria



Urs Ruchti setting the mood with a beautiful piano recital

International Study Day Reports

May 23–24, 2009

THE CALL FOR A DAY OF INTERNATIONAL group study originated in an email sent out to the Urantia community in late May from ANZURA:

"We in Australia and New Zealand have an annual National Study Day. This helps the readers in our vast geographical nations feel a little closer to one another. We all get together on the same weekend, and read the same paper. This year, we are meeting on the weekend of 23rd / 24th May, and are reading: Paper 100: Religion in Human Experience

We extend this invitation to the community of International readers to share the study day with us similar to events we have held in the past. Please invite your study groups to get together over the weekend of 23/24 May, and study paper 100 with us.

From small seeds big things grow – imagine in 100 years each reader setting aside one day to join with others and reflect on the refreshing truths contained within these marvelous papers.

"Spiritual growth is mutually stimulated by intimate association with other religionists"

[p.1094:2]

In loving friendship, Merindi Belarski □

The Great Plains Study Group – US



Great Plains study group

The Great Plains association in Overland Park formed a new study group a couple of months ago. We met at the house of Mike Wood. Our study group in Overland Park, Kansas met in conjunction with the International Study Group Day. I was struck by the sentence on p. 1095 that began "Spiritual progress is predicated on intellectual recognition of spiritual poverty"; that seemed to encapsulate the state of mind I was in when I found *The Urantia Book* 17 years ago. □

Argentina Study Group

Carlos Rubinsky and his wife, Maria Ines, hosted a dedicated group of readers in their Buenos Aires home. Their group met on May 23 and went through the whole Paper 100 and had a great experience, and a wonderful



Argentina study group

feeling for knowing that many other readers around the world were also studying that same paper on the same weekend. □

ANZURA Study Groups – Australia

The Towamba Study Group, all three of us, met at Pam and Dave Bradford's on Sunday to read a favorite paper, paper 100. We first commented on that by now well known surprise that example is not a lasting lesson for children, and that they notice mostly loyalty. This was followed by a hearty laugh at the tadpole and frog passage as we remembered that it is the favorite quote of one of our favorite people (clue—he's in the Sydney Study Group). We were impressed to read, "**There are present in all normal mortals certain innate drives toward growth and self-realization which function if they are not specifically inhibited**". We feel that this is a comforting message as it implies that growth is the natural state of affairs, rather than something that has to be inculcated. After re-affirming our conviction that "**The goal of human self-realization should be spiritual, not material.**", we fell to discussing meaning and value, and the difference between progress and growth. This difference was not immediately apparent to us, and was complicated by the statement on page 1094 that "**Growth is not truly indicated by mere products but rather by progress**".

So we concluded that while growth is unconscious, it may be indicated by progress. But we remain unclear about this whole matter and would welcome input from anyone who has a better grasp of it than we do. We enjoyed reading again the story of the cave man facing the saber-toothed tiger, and being reminded that we cannot love our fellow man by an act of will. We talked about our personal experiences with this, and how we have all found that understanding a person's motivation is the key to loving him.

We felt that the Melchizedek indicates that he does not think much of our theories of the mind as he introduces his discussion of it with such an equivocal statement—the one which begins "**If one is disposed to recognize**

a theoretical subconscious mind...". It really seems as if he prefers a concept of a unified mind, but makes a concession to our (erroneous) view. However, the point he makes is something we all validate from our personal experience, as we dabbled in the "weird and wonderful" before coming to *The Urantia Book*, and know it for the fruitless exercise it really is. We enjoyed being reminded that while loyalty and good intentions impart genuine religious experience, it is revelation that applies loyalty and good intentions to excellent ends. This makes us think of the revelation our Thought Adjusters bring to us. And, of course, all we could do was wonder at the inspiring portrayal of Jesus as the acme of religious living. It was a most enjoyable study of one of our favorite papers.

Sincerely, William Wentworth □



Canberra study group

The Canberra Group had our National Study day last week with a meeting at the Verass residence, 17 Wyangala St DUFFY. Attending were Nigel Nunn, Harald Jacobsen, Maria Jacobsen, Dylan Robertson and myself.

The transformative potential of religious living impressed us from the onset, how the mediocre individual can blossom into a personality of idealistic power. The acme of religious living we can all refer-to as we seek to better ourselves is, Jesus. Let us, "**Behold the man!**" He has set a pattern of a perfectly unified human personality along whose lines we can emulate our own. His transformative power is ever available; "**It is literally true: If an man has Christ Jesus within him, he is a new creature; old things are passing away; behold, all things are becoming new.**"

Sincerely, Verner Verass □

The Sydney group had 10 attendees who shared a wholesome lunch after studying a couple of chapters and then sat down eagerly for the rest of the paper. A reader then suggested to look at the very last chapter in the book — 'The Supremacy of Religion' — which I did in quiet the next morning at home — a very strong statement once more indeed. I think I like to learn that 'by heart'!

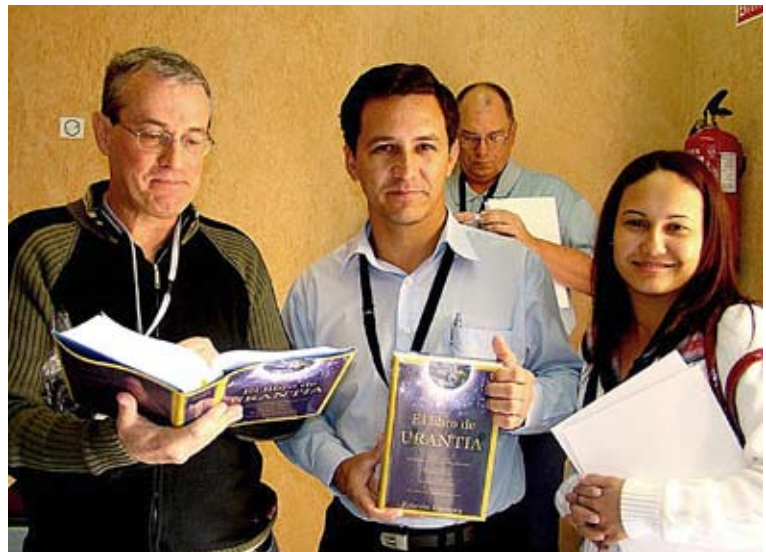
These 'last words' to us from the revelators want to impress I think, all the very important bits they want us to go away with — **and when all is said and done.... the Father idea is still the highest human concept of God**

Sincerely, Rita Schaad □

How *THE URANTIA BOOK* found me



NEMIAS MOL
President – UAI Brazil
nemiasmol@gmail.com



Nemias with other Brazilian readers at the Malaga conference, April 2009.

MY SEARCH STARTED VERY EARLY when I was a child and my Grandfather gave me a Bible. I was 7 and it was my first year at school, and this Bible was my first book ever.

I grew up in an evangelic home, grandparents, aunts, uncles, everybody used to go to church, and I was educated in that environment — biblical study, spiritual meetings, church days. In the mean time, many things didn't fit with my idea about God. It made no sense to me at all thinking of a God full of anger and vengeance. That loving Father revealed by Jesus in the New Testament didn't relate to the Jehovah of the Sinai desert as described in the Old Testament. How to explain such a change in the type of God, when He was the one to say in the beginning that "I DON'T CHANGE"?

I had many discussions with pastors, church workers and congregation members. At times I felt uncomfortable with my controversial question, so I left the church because I doubted everything I was being taught. I reached the point that when someone asked me if I believed in God, my answer started to be – "not the same God you believe in."

I remember the first book I read when I got out of church. "The Gods were Astronauts?" by Erich von Däniken. I started to open my eyes to other truths besides the bible. New realities started to open before me. I read everything I found from von Däniken, and best of all was to find that I had become a seeker. For me, it no longer mattered if what I was reading was absolutely the truth, what really mattered was that I was in the right way – the search way.

Once, I was discussing with someone about the possibility that Jesus may have been an alien and this person told me that he had a book at home and that I surely would like it. I asked him for hundred times for it before

he brought me the book. It was a book from JJ. Benitez "Trojan Horse." That was the door for all his books afterwards. I approached the book as a good fiction — sure. But I didn't resist for too long. The words of Jesus, all those wonderful speeches attracted me. That was everything that I wished to believe in, it was to that GOD-FATHER that I identified myself with. I was right; no man could talk with so much knowledge as that Jesus. How was it possible that a fiction book could bring such real and truthful words, words that could transform me in such powerful ways?

Then I found other readers from the OCT TV series on the Internet. Some believed that time travel really happened, others not at all, but there was mystery in the air: Where did Benitez find all these wonderful words? One day in a chat room, someone said to me that the book was written based on another book — *The Urantia Book*. That was the year 2001. So I searched for "Urantia" on the Internet and I found some papers translated into Portuguese by volunteers. Papers from 119 to 124. These papers were hosted on a web page that doesn't exist anymore. I copied all the papers I found. Step by step other papers were translated. Also I signed up for Internet study groups with no more than 10 persons. After a while the web page disappeared but I had everything saved, and when someone asked for one of the papers, or articles, I would just send it by e-mail. It was then when the idea of creating a new web page came up, a place where we could upload all this material, and so the ELUB site was created (Urantia Book Students from Brazil) together with a discussion group list. At that time we had all of the 4th part translated. On the June 10th 2003 we founded the AUB — Association Urantia Brazil — and the full Portuguese translation of *The Urantia Book* was made available. On

February 28th of 2004 I was invited to be the vice president of AUB and on July 19th of 2008 I was elected president.

This is just a part of the story on how *The Urantia Book* found me and established itself in my life. The best part is still to come, because the work has just started.

Nemias Mol



Urantia Singles Net

BART GIBBONS
Webmaster
urantia-singles.net

URANTIA-SINGLES.NET IS A FREE website where single Urantia Book readers can post their personal profiles, as well as search profiles like other dating sites. Members can also contact each other by e-mail within the site.

The site also offers bloggers space to discuss Urantia Book topics. In addition, there are three links to the Urantia Foundation's website; the first is to [read The Urantia Book](#), the second is to [about The Urantia Book](#), and the third is to "Thoughts to Ponder" (quote of the day).

The site is 100% free to register and use. Registration is required for either dating or blogging; a "Blog only" box is available for those who only want to blog.

My hope is that by enabling single Urantia Book readers to meet other like-minded people, the personal relationships formed will energize *The Urantia Book* community as a whole.

In spirit, Bart Gibbons
Webmaster urantia-singles.net

UK Health Fair 2nd–5th July 2009

Devon, England



GARY RAWLINGS
UAI – Membership Chair
Garyurantia@aol.com



Rainbow over Devon, England

THE URANTIA ASSOCIATION FOR THE United Kingdom & Ireland warmly welcomes you to their stand at the forthcoming Quest Natural Health Show that will be held at Newton Abbott Racecourse in glorious Devon, England the 2nd to the 5th July 2009.

There will be a work shop given by Hara Davis on her incredible Urantia Study Aids. Also the dynamic new Urantia Book will be on sale with Thought Gems and other Urantia items from the Urantia Foundation.

If you would like to join and be part of our team or visit us on the stand No 8 then go to the web site – www.questuk.co.uk/ and contact me at Garyurantia@aol.com

We look forward in seeing you there and its going to be a great show, so please do not miss it.

Gary Rawlings
President Urantia Association for the United Kingdom & Ireland ☐

Greater Lakes Michigan Urantia Assoc.



venue – the Hilton Garden Inn

FALL STUDY 2009 September 25–27

Chesterton, Indiana

THE GREATER LAKES MICHIGAN Urantia Association invites you to join their Fall Study Session which will begin with a social evening and dinner (at guests own expense) on Friday September 25th. Saturday the 26th will be a full day of study and presentations ending with dinner and an after dinner presentation. Sunday will be half a day with study and a worship period. All meals Saturday and Sunday are included in registration fee (Usually about \$100) Room rates are usually about \$99 per night with our discount. Our theme this year will be “The Revelation of Jesus”.

The hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn in Chesterton, Indiana, which is about an hours drive east from the Foundation. It is near a train depot so those coming from O'hare airport or the Chicago area can get there easily by train. The Hotel is outside of the Chicago traffic and easy to find by car.

The hotel is nice and modern and they take good care of their groups. The food is great. Other hotels are within walking distance or very short drive. There is a wetlands conservation park nearby that is great for meditative strolls and the Indiana Dunes State Park on Lake Michigan is about 6 miles away.

GLMUA has been kind enough to let The Urantia Association of the United States hold its annual Council of Local Presidents and Vice Presidents meeting on September 25 the afternoon before the festivities begin. A tour of Urantia Foundation can be arranged either before or after the meeting. We appreciate being able to piggyback on to the GLMUA study session. Many of us plan to attend both meetings and tour Urantia Foundation also. What an autum treat for those of us who could not attend the International Conference in Spain this Spring. This will be a great chance to visit with our Urantia siblings and study the Revelation.

Contact Rick Lyon ricklyon@tctc.com ☐

view of the “Flatirons” at the foothills of the Rockies – Boulder



Urantia Youth-Sponsored Conference

June 25-28, 2009

Boulder, Colorado



University of Colorado – Boulder

WE HAVE A WONDERFUL PROGRAM developed featuring both well established and up-and-coming speakers and workshop leaders. Evening entertainment will include a planetarium show, a private patio party with one of the most breathtaking views of Boulder and the mountains

I hope you can all make this conference. It just so happens that the 18th annual Zimbabwean Music Festival will be going on the same weekend at the same university. The campus will be filled with great live music for our entire stay. (for more info on this, google zimfest.org)

June 25–28, 2009
University of Colorado – Boulder
\$260 early registration
(\$300 standard registration)

For more info you can visit the UAUS web-site www.urantiausa.com, our Myspace page www.myspace.com/urantiaconferenceck or register online at https://www.regonline.com/63367_694721J

Questions? Contact me. Chris Wood
cwesquire@hotmail.com ☐

Announcements — What is UAI doing and how can you help?



URANTIA ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL



RICK LYON
UAI Executive
Administrator
[uaicentraloffice@
urantia-uai.org](mailto:uaicentraloffice@urantia-uai.org)

REGULAR MONTHLY CONTRIBUTORS are the basis for our strength as an organization that is bringing man closer to God, introducing God as the loving Father of all mortals, and all mortals as the brotherhood of man. We do this by sharing the teachings of *The Urantia Book* with people around the world.

Regular monthly contributions, no matter how small or large, enable us to be wiser in our budgeting and planning for the coming year. We have many contributors who contribute \$10 per month by credit card. Several contributors give more. Currently, less than 1% of our members contribute to UAI at the international level. I have no way of knowing what this number is within the local associations.

Our contributors enabled us to purchase books from the Foundation and then offer them for only \$8 per book to our members and associations. Our contributors allowed us to produce the new "What is UAI?" brochure in three languages. We introduced this new brochure at the Spain conference and it was very well received. I am in the process of distributing this wonderful tool to all associations for their use.

Our contributors enabled many people from far away places to meet their brothers and sisters in Malaga. I cannot tell you with words how important that was to these people and to all of us. Contributors paid for an upgrade to our database that allows us to do nearly all the maintenance of the database ourselves. The database is critical to our ability to serve readers. Contributors helped us to send leaders to Malawi, Zambia, and Korea to meet readers there and create new associations (Gaétan and Gary committed a lot of their own time and income to this effort). In just a short time, Zambia has grown to 64 readers and their president, Joel Mvula attended our conference in Malaga. Joel is an exceptional leader who is doing great things in Zambia.

We have other associations that will be coming along soon as they achieve the 10 full members needed to form an association. As you

all know, our local associations are servants to all readers in their areas. So, the more associations we form, the more people we serve and the better job we can do by serving them with local people.

Your contributions allowed us to send 6 books to an interfaith study group in South Africa that is studying *The Urantia Book* as part of their research. Our relationship with this group is growing because of this. Contributors could help us to provide for expenses as our study group chairman, James Woodward, travels to visit with study groups in many countries to strengthen existing groups and to create new groups. We will be attending the World Interfaith Conference in Australia this year and our associations in Australia are leading the way on this. This is our opportunity to get our message out to the leaders of all the major religions of this planet which can only benefit the spiritual growth of this world. We need your financial support in order to do things like this.

The International Service Board is in the process of developing an intranet that will provide another great tool for our local associations to be more efficient and to reduce the amount of work needed by sharing information among all our associations. This intranet will provide local associations a place to store documents without fear of losing them to a computer crash or a change of staff.

We are also planning a leadership training event in 2011 that will bring leaders of the Urantia revelation, both in and out of UAI, together to share methods and problem solving solutions with each other and to receive training that will benefit their local dissemination activities and their personal growth.

Your contributions allow us to provide study group starter kits at no cost to those wanting them in order to create new study groups. Your contributions allow us to continue our support of Urantia Foundation both financially and with reader services. And, let me while I am at it, mention the need for an office and a full-time staff person to handle the many emails, phone calls, and daily needs of running UAI.

If you would like to become a regular monthly contributor or an occasional "one time" contributor to what we are doing, please call the UAI office at 773-572-1180 with your credit/debit card information. Add +1 for international calls to the USA

You may contribute by check or other written instrument by mailing your contribution to:

Urantia Association International
559 W. Diversey Parkway, #351
Chicago, IL 60614-7640
United States

You may certainly contribute by using your online bill payment through your bank by sending such contribution to the above address.

Use your name as the account number. The bank will then send a paper check to us. You can support our activities through PayPal by visiting our website at www.urantia-uai.org and clicking on the word "Donations" just below the picture on the home page. Our mission is spiritual but we live on a material world. So, material means are often required for spiritual purposes. I find it difficult to ask people for money but what we are doing is important. You are important to what we are doing. If you can only afford one dollar, one euro, one pound, one peso, or one of whatever is your form of currency per day, that is a great contribution to bringing light to this dark world.

We especially want to encourage our brothers and sisters in the international community to contribute as well. Great things are happening in South America, Africa, Europe, and Asia. We encourage you to first fund your local associations activities with membership dues or contributions and then help us at the international level to fulfill our responsibilities as part of the UAI team. Never hesitate to call the UAI office if you have any questions. □

MAKE A DIFFERENCE CHANGE THE WORLD ONE BOOK AT A TIME

UAI AND URANTIA FOUNDATION are committed to disseminating the teachings of *The Urantia Book* around the world by donating free copies of the book to libraries and other places where new readers may discover it. To date, thousands of books have been placed in public libraries around the world. For individuals and groups who want to participate in our library placement program, contact Urantia Foundation for book sale terms: Suggested placement settings include:

- a. College and university libraries;
- b. Public libraries;
- c. Religious libraries (seminaries, churches, ashrams, synagogues, etc.);
- d. Hotel, youth hostel, cruise ship, and other libraries provided for travelers;
- e. Hospital libraries;
- f. Highly trafficked private libraries;
- g. Coffee shops with "free book" shelves;
- h. Waiting rooms and other places where people may be looking for something to read.

It is important to obtain permission from the librarian or shop owner before placing the book at a site. If permission is not received the book may be discarded. □