



Tidings

FROM ASSOCIATIONS AROUND URANTIA

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

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"heart" digital collage.mc

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President's Message

Dear Friends of UAI,

WE HAVE JUST BEEN through a month of renewal, indeed most of us might have taken a short break from our regular Urantia activities during the holiday seasons and have gone back to normal in January. This small episode of time, emphasized by other group activities, has made me reflect on the danger of isolation and the benefits of study groups or any other activities that promote group participation and fraternity within our community of readers.

Last weekend, while participating in the annual general meeting of the local association to which I belong, the outgoing president remarked on how much those reunions kept the flame of service and dedication burning in his heart. He shared that without regular meetings with like-minded individuals his commitment and enthusiasm would probably be very weak. How fortunate I thought I was to be able to participate in regular weekly study groups, attend workshop conferences every third month and participate actively in the affairs of the local association. Without those opportunities to meet and share with other readers, I wonder where I would get the enthusiasm and energy to meet the greater challenges of life and keep the flame of service going.

Before the general meeting, we had a preparatory reunion of the board members and after the reunion, our host shared with us many pictures taken many years ago of readers that were part of the growing readership in our part of the world. I was surprised to note that the majority of them are not part of the association or readership any more. I asked my host, Pierre Routhier, what happened to all those readers. Some died, he said, but some others just disap-



peared in the crowd and a very small minority are still active. How close are we sometime to let go of everything? Will we be part of the crowd one day with no more interest in the mission that the Revelators left us? Or will we be hosting or attending a study group where we will keep the flame of service burning in our heart?

I believe it is important to meet as often as we can to replenish our energies, while sharing our own life experiences. We need each other even more so if we spend a lot of energies in service oriented activities.

The month of January has witnessed the passing of Rosalyn Armstrong, wife of Lee and mother of Ozanne Rose. Let us offer our prayers for the ones that are afflicted and who need the comfort of our support.

On the Representatives Council level, there has been the election of the three members who will form the Election Committee. The three members are Olga López, Michel Rouanet and William Wentworth. The election of new International Service Board members will happen in March. The next item of business of the Representative Council will be the adoption of the Charter and By-Laws under the new registration of UAI. The next item to follow will be a resolution submitted by the International Service Board consisting of three parts necessary for the implementation of the coming strategic plan. This will be followed by another resolution to decide the next location for UAI international conference that will happen in 2009.

On the side of the International Service Board, there has been a recommendation made to the Representatives Council concerning the status of non-voting members of the Representatives Council. This recommendation is a follow-up to the

TIDINGS

From Associations
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.

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

request made by a non-voting member to the Representatives Council. The RC will now have to decide if non-voting members should have rights other than the one of being an observer.

There is, at this time, ongoing talks between Urantia Foundation and UAI for the acquisition of 2,000 books that would serve to seed Africa. If any of you would like to contribute to such a project, you can send your donation to UAI and specify to what purpose your money should be used. UAI has had the approval of the Representative Council to create a restricted fund for dissemination projects and activities.

We will keep you informed on the upcoming election.

Good reading. □

Gaétan G. Charland
President UAI
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Getting to know the Trustees: Gard Jameson

Gard Jameson
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AT THE AGE OF SIX my family moved to the beaches of San Diego. I recall vividly kneeling and gazing into a tide pool near to my home wondering about the amazing creatures I discovered there. My life has been blessed by such a sense of wonder. It has opened many doors to some great adventures.

The greatest of these adventures was the profound inner experience of a God of Unconditional Love followed by the subsequent discovery of *The Urantia Book* as a freshman in college. In an enchanted bookstore close to campus I overheard a conversation about the early life of Jesus which I knew was not canonical. When those voices slipped away, I investigated the book they were referring to. I brought it back to the book shelf at the dorm where it remained dormant until a knock on my door. A fellow student had had a religious experience and heard that I had interest in such things. I lent him my new book; a week later he knocked again. "Do you know what you have here?" To which I replied, "no." "You have a revelation!"

That statement took me on a wondrous journey. Every week I would drive an hour north to Berkeley to attend a study group of readers, led by Vern Grimsley, a radio broadcaster who was bootlegging the truths of the revelation over the air ways to many, many people. After graduating in 1975 with a degree in Religious Studies, I chose what I felt was the highest path possible and that was to affiliate with The Family of God Foundation and its radio ministry. For my tent-making, I chose the profession of accounting, obtaining a Masters degree.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This is fourth in the five-part series, "Getting to know the Trustees." The March issue of Tidings will feature Georges Michelson Dupont. -Cathy Jones



Gard and Florence

During my tenure with The Family of God Foundation I was privileged to be able to travel to Saudi Arabia and India with my accounting firm. In those countries I discovered other cultures and religions which drew my fascination, becoming involved with interfaith work. In 1988 I attended the first gathering of the North American Interfaith Network (NAIN) in Wichita, Kansas, with Bettina Gray, Peter Laurence and other Urantia students. I continue to serve on the board of the NAIN, having hosted a national interfaith gathering last year at the University of Nevada in Las Vegas (UNLV).

After my time with The Family of God Foundation, I became more involved with Urantia Brotherhood serving a number of years on the Executive Committee. Also, after leaving The Family of God Foundation, I became more interested in Contemplative Prayer, what a Urantia Book student might call "worship." I became a student of Basil Pennington and Thomas Keating, who helped to start a network of individuals interested in inner work through what they called "Centering Prayer." I serve now as the Area Coordinator for Contemplative Outreach in Southern Nevada. Last year we hosted an event with Thomas Keating at the local Diocese, which has resulted in a number of Contemplative Prayer groups forming in Southern Nevada. We continue this work.

In 1998, I was given an opportunity to change my tent making activity, which I did. I moved from being a partner at a

large regional CPA firm to teaching Chinese and Indian philosophy at UNLV. I had taught at nights for many years but was now given a more substantial opportunity to teach. I went back to school, myself, earning a PhD at Pacifica Graduate Institute in Santa Barbara.

1998 proved to be a turning point in another direction as well. Upon the request of Richard Keeler and Georges Dupont, I agreed to serve as a Trustee and Treasurer. It has been a most rewarding time of service. I am deeply privileged to know and to work with many fine people, the current trustees, past and current staff, past and current associate trustees.

Along with my duties at Urantia Foundation, I also serve as Chair of the Children's Advocacy Alliance in Nevada, the Southern Nevada Interfaith Council and the Boulder City Community Foundation. I spent seventeen years as trustee helping to start and grow The Nevada Community Foundation and recently became an Emeritus Trustee, being properly put out to pasture!

The greatest joy of my life, more than any of the above, has been my wife, Florence and my two children, Michael and Julia. My wife's career as a physician has also been an exciting and challenging pathway for both of us. And, of my children, I can only say that I am as proud of them as a father could be! They have both learned a sense of honor and value and respect, as well as a sense of humor, that I know emanates from the Spirit of the universe. For that I am eternally grateful.

Carl Jung once said that "enchantment is the source of real healing." From that six year old peering into the tide pool to the current moment, I have been blessed by the experience of enchantment. Yes, difficulties and challenges along with way, but, underneath, enchantment. That enchantment has only grown exponentially as I have explored the inner world and work of the spirit through contemplative prayer, meditation and worship. Thank you for your commitment to the exploration of that wondrous inner world! Enjoy the enchantment that it brings! □

How *The Urantia Book* found me

ALCIDE PARADIS
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 Association Urantia du Québec

DURING AN ENCOUNTER with a student in the first night of an adult class on poetry in 1979, I was introduced to the most extraordinary book that I found to be the most inspiring and exalting book on the planet, *The Urantia Book*.

At the end of the class, this student asked me if I had read *The Urantia Book*, because the subject content of this first class was, for him, touching the same fundamental notions as those revealed in the book.

I think it would be beneficial for other readers to know the content from that first class that made me gain access to the treasure, *The Urantia Book*. I will be brief since space is limited. Before I address the poetry itself, I will try to determine the place occupied by poetry in the vast field of human knowledge.

To achieve my goal, I draw upon the Lanza del Vasto canvas, which illustrates the spiritual trinity that ensures the dignity of man. The three florets of human noblesse are: Intelligence, Sensitivity, and Willpower. Through Intelligence, we accede to science, therefore to TRUTH. By Sensitivity, we accede to the arts (including poetry), and BEAUTY. Finally, the Willpower, resulting in Free Will, leads to virtue, and therefore GOODNESS.

TRUTH, BEAUTY, GOODNESS. All values are enshrined in them. Nothing else matters in the universe. How can you not be filled with wonderment and dumbfounded by this spiritual trinity forming the human being.

After this splendid revelation concerning the grandness of man, the young man who had carefully listened to me logically concluded that I had read *The Urantia Book* in which TRUTH, BEAUTY and GOODNESS are named more than a hundred times. God himself is nothing else than infinite TRUTH, infinite BEAUTY, and infinite GOODNESS.



That is why this 24 year young man came to see me after the class and asked me if I had read *The Urantia Book*. After hearing my negative answer, he asked if I wanted to read it. Of course I said. I want to read everything that can enrich me. I have only one fear, I added: that is to die ignorant. Then, said he, I will bring it to you next week. Which he did, but without adding anything whatsoever. He was totally silent concerning its content, its author, and its source.

I therefore had to figure this all out by myself. I also admit that, even if I was immediately subjugated by the original content, the first thirty pages had me reading with skepticism, suspicion and fierceness. It is always painful for the ego to be duped or made a fool of. Isn't it also a bit of wisdom to be suspicious of the first cries from your judgment? I thus had to establish self control and squarely ask myself this question: "Alcide, I said to myself, you will set aside your fifty years of brainwashing, you will read these two thousand pages, without skipping even one, using the greatest possible objectivity. Once you will have completed it, you can then formulate a judgment. After all, it is not a very great sign of intelligence to judge a work that you don't know or that you partly know." That is how I challenged myself!

And it was, from that moment on, a serene rising frenzy until the paroxysm of intellectual and spiritual ecstasy. I saw, to my delight, the venerated taboos fall, the crumbling of sacrosanct dogmas, the fracas of the falling monuments of errors erected in good faith based on consecrated ignorance. I was the second Archimedes who would have wanted to shout "Eureka" to the world. I had finally found what I had searched for all my life, and a lot more. My

enthusiasm as I read each of these pages was only equaled by my impatience to consume the next pages. Instead of waning, this inner feeling was accentuated throughout this ascension and crowned by the purest apotheosis in the last pages.

You too, dear reader, can experience that truth is liberating. You will understand clearly and profoundly why life is not easy, but that it is worth the effort of being lived. You finally understand what boat you got into, what you are doing here and why. Simply stated, where is this boat going? At that time, you will be invaded by serenity. You will confront life with passionate dynamism. Death itself will no longer be perceived as a catastrophe, because we get to know what is really happening after our death. It is to die for! After all, "death is only a process invented by God, our Father, to get us to pass from the material to the spiritual." Terror, fear and panic are eliminated.

This book offers us a new and better path. This book answers our most serious, most anguishing and most intelligent questions. And it answers our most profound questions, always with a muscular logic, which lends it suprahuman credibility.

When it is not indifference, it is fear that remains the greatest of handicaps to overcome the challenge of these two thousand revelation pages. What are we afraid of? Fear of being bothered! Fear of the effort! Fear of being a victim of a nasty trick! Fear of daring to think by ourselves! FEAR OF FEAR ITSELF!

WHO IS THIS BOOK ADDRESSED TO?

To you, who dares to think by yourself.

To you, who are a sincere soul and a seeker of truth.

To you, who may have had bad experiences with the facts of religion.

To you, whom the institutionalized church has not always been able to show the real face of God.

To you, who has been redirected away from God because they had carved into your brain that God, morale, religion, practices, rites, formulas, rituals, sacraments, peni-

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How *The Urantia Book* found me

CHRISTIAN RUCH
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 Switzerland

WHEN I WAS ABOUT 20, I discovered the fantastic music of Karlheinz Stockhausen. This German composer, born in 1928, is regarded as one of the most important modern artists worldwide (see www.stockhausen.org). The Beatles honoured him with showing his face among other celebrities on the front of their famous Sgt. Pepper-Album.

When Stockhausen turned 60, a new biography about him was published. And there was a funny story to read: After Stockhausen had given a very successful concert in New York on the 25th February, 1971, a weird guy called him, shouting "Stockhausen, I've to talk to you!" Everybody stepped aside. Stockhausen agreed, and the man – it is said that he had a long beard, was bare-footed and had a long shepherd-like stick in his hand – played something on a flute he had torn out of his rotten coat. Stockhausen was amused, even as the man sold him a thick blue book: *The Urantia Book*. Stockhausen paid, got the book and took it back home.



Christian Ruch of Switzerland

Some years, later *The Urantia Book* became very important for Stockhausen's opera LICHT (Light), a 25 hours long mega work, being composed between 1977 and 2003.

When I read this in the Stockhausen biography I asked myself: What is this *Urantia Book* about? I had never heard anything about it. As I always have been curious, I ordered the thick, blue book at Amazon. But I had to realize that it was very difficult to read, though I seem to



Photo: Christian Ruch

Karlheinz Stockhausen, German composer, 1971

speak and understand English quite well. Nevertheless, it kept on fascinating me...

I was lucky to find another book which helped me to understand it a little bit better: the big *Concordex* by Clyde Bedell which made it possible to find the key words which I was mostly interested in.

One day, I heard that a Swiss pianist, Mr. Urs Ruchti, was translating *The Urantia Book* into German. I was lucky about this news, though I still had to wait several years until "Das *Urantia Buch*" could be finally published. But there it is now, and I am glad to read it now in German and to tell other people about this wonderful book.... Thanks, Mr. Stockhausen!! □

How *The Urantia Book* found me

Continued from page 4

tence and holy water are all made from the same flour. No wonder the final product resulted in an insipid platter! God, THE REAL ONE, causes, by essence, enthusiasm! Would it be normal to remain indifferent in the face of infinite TRUTH, infinite BEAUTY, and infinite GOODNESS?

CONCLUSION

This book will not resurrect you to get you to set aside your suspicions and encourage your adhesion. But, be careful! Its reading, its attentive study, with an open heart, could quite well spiritually resurrect your whole august person! □

Matching Funds Report

As announced in last months' Tidings, three generous supporters contributed \$9,000 to UAI and challenged the membership to match that amount. To date we have received \$670 and we are very grateful, yea, even to the anonymous donor who sent a \$20 bill. No amount is too small, and of course no amount could be too large! The matching fund drive extends through March so you still have time to check your budget and see if UAI fits into your charitable giving. Thank you all for caring and for supporting this work.

James Woodward
 UAI Executive Administrator

Christmas at the Urantia Foundation

RICK LYON
rlicklyon@tctc.com

AT LEAST 65 PEOPLE attended the annual Christmas party at the Urantia Foundation on December 9th. The theme for this year was "Celebrating Old Friends... Making New Memories." All readers of *The Urantia Book* were invited to attend the party that was sponsored jointly by the Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association and the First Society of Chicago. The second floor of the Foundation was brightly decorated with gold trimmings, crystal lights, garland, white poinsettias and the beautiful tree shown in this photo. Even the second floor balcony was brightly decorated for those passing by to enjoy.

Guests began to arrive about 3 p.m. and enjoyed a social hour before James Woodward opened the program with his music. James sang a song written for his mother who graduated this past year to the mansion worlds. Guests were welcomed and the speakers were introduced by Michael Tanesky who served as emcee for the evening.

Those who spoke were asked to remember someone from the Urantia community that had influenced their lives. Ken Keyser, Vice President of First Society, and Benet Rutenberg, President of GLMUA, extended a formal welcome from each organization. Benet asked the guests how far they had come to attend the party. Connie Wolcott traveled the furthest as she was from Idaho. Benet went on to remember the unknown person who introduced him to *The Urantia Book* as he "passed by". Susan Grzeskowiak began by reading a lovely poem she wrote remembering Barbara White. Barbara was a study group partner of hers for many years. Michael Tanesky remembered Don Boyd who originally introduced him to the book. Michael shared the spiritual journey that eventually led him back to



The Urantia Book. This was followed by the playing of an excerpt from the "The Words of Jesus" CD by Pato Banton titled, "Instructions for Teachers and Believers." This is a beautiful reading of the words of Jesus set to a musical background that is really moving. This CD is available through the Urantia Foundation.

The main speakers for the evening were Carolyn Kendall of Chicago, Rick Lyon of Crawfordsville, Indiana, and Jay

Peregrine also from Chicago. Carolyn shared her memories and photo of Dr. William S. Sadler and the study group sessions they had in the very same room that we were sitting in. She described how Dr. Sadler would sit in the corner and after each person spoke about some part of *The Urantia Book*, he would tell them how wonderful their discussion was even if

they felt it really wasn't. Rick Lyon gave a presentation titled, "The Teachers Among Us" that shared characteristics of the many people who had influenced his life, many of whom were in the room that night. After introducing each person and offering a quote from the book that described each individual, Rick said in closing, "Why are these people the most influential people in my life? Because they are living examples of what is in this book."

Michael then opened the floor to the guests allowing them the opportunity to remember someone from their own lives. Cece Forrester remembered Marian Rowley and many others from the original forum that she had studied with. Jonah Vise, a young new reader from Battle Creek, Michigan, who was making his first visit to the Foundation, expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome and the love he felt from the Urantia family that evening. Andre Traversa, a former radio talk show host, also shared some of his memories



Tamara Wood of Chicago and
 Connie Wolcott of Idaho



Rick Lyon presenting
 "The Teachers Among Us"

including reading the first Braille copy of *The Urantia Book*. Several others took advantage of the opportunity to share or remember.

The final presentation of the evening was given by Jay Peregrine. Jay discussed the origination of gift giving in our cultures and the importance of how we receive gifts from others. He said that how we receive a gift is just as important as how we give a gift. When we receive a gift, it allows the giver the opportunity to fulfill the statement that, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

The program for the evening was closed with everyone partaking of bread and wine as Tamara Wood offered a remembrance of Jesus. This was followed by a wonderful buffet dinner. Many guests brought appetizers, side dishes and desserts that completed the main courses of ham and turkey.

After dinner the guests shared in a "Revelation Trivia" game. Team captains Tamara Wood and Chris Wood chose participants from the guests. In the style of Family Feud, each contestant was asked a trivia question and received "Urantia Bucks" for correct answers. Chris' team won a very close game and received some really nice gift bags with a Urantia sweatshirt, a study group kit, postcards, a copy of the Tidings newsletter and of course bragging rights.

Once again Bob Solone blessed our event with his magical music as the guests sang Christmas carols. Bob filled the rest of the evening by playing requests and entertaining those who stayed into the night while they enjoyed after dinner desserts and drinks. This completed an evening filled with the love, fun, and friendship that occurs whenever Urantia Book readers get together.

Susan Grzeskowiak of GLMUA and Cece Forester of First Society chaired the party committee. Our thanks to them and the other volunteers who helped set up the decorations and the food as well as the Urantia Foundation for allowing us to host the party at the 533 again this year. ■

News from Asociación Urantia Colombia

OSCAR A. MORALES
oscar@consulteching.com
 Vice President, Asociación Urantia Colombia

FINISHING 2006, the Council of Presidents and Vice-presidents from the local Associations in Colombia, aware of the importance of engaging Colombia again into the international scenario of the UAI, voted several matters that were in motion. Oscar Morales from Asociación



Jairo Franco, new president

Barranquilla was elected as the temporary Vice-president of the Colombian National Association. Jairo Franco from Asociación Eje Cafetero was confirmed as the President of the Colombian National Association. They both will hold office until August 2007. The Council approved Medellín as the home for the next Colombian National Conference to be celebrated in August 2007, which will have the leadership of Tamila Ragimova from Asociación Medellín . During the upcoming conference a new election for the national governing board will take place. The council also offered its unrestricted support to Alberto Sarmiento as President of Asociación Bogota , who is making his best effort to restore order in his local association.

Both Jairo Franco and Oscar Morales committed to participate in the RC discussion list, so Association Urantia Colombia



Oscar Morales, vice president

can get out of its anonymity. We really hope that these decisions let us surpass the difficulties experienced in our national association for the last two years, and we take this opportunity to express our commitment to the UAI and to the Revelation.

As soon as the organization of the upcoming conference provides us more information, we will share it with you. It would be very important that many of you visit our country and enjoy our warm hospitality. □

In Memoriam Roselyn Armstrong

Roselyn began her eternal journey on Saturday, January 20, 2007. She was a founding member and the first president of Virginia Carolina Readers, a local association of UAI, serving two terms. She subsequently also served as treasurer.

Roselyn will also be remembered as a hero. At a beach retreat sponsored by VCR, she smelled smoke and alerted 13 attendees to escape the fire. Smoke detectors had not been installed. She saved a number of lives that night.



Photo: Ozanne Armstrong

Roselyn is survived by her husband Lee Nathaniel Armstrong, their daughter Ozanne Rose Armstrong, a senior at South Central High School, her brother Lynniel Q. Van Benschoten of Castle Rock, Colorado, and Eric J. Van Benschoten of Quebec, Canada.

We will always love and miss you, Roselyn.

Donations can be made to the Roselyn Armstrong OTA Scholarship Fund, with checks made to the Pitt Community College Foundation. Please specifically note the "Roselyn Armstrong OTA Scholarship Fund" on the memo line of the check or money order. Roselyn's scholarship will afford books and tuition for deserving OTA students and may be sent to:

Tommianna Haithcock, acting chair,
 Occupational Therapy Department,
 Pitt Community College,
 P.O. Drawer 7007,
 Greenville NC 27835

UAUS conference coming up in July 2007

THE URANTIA ASSOCIATION of the United States (UAUS) Conference will be held in Washington State in the Seattle/Tacoma area on **JULY 26 – 29, 2007**.

Theme: **“The Magnificent Synergy of Seven”**
Hosted by Washington State Urantia Association
At the Dumas Bay Retreat Centre



View from the Dumas Bay Centre

A full Conference Center is reserved for our enjoyment, in a lovely setting complete with a view of Puget Sound to the west, and the Olympic Mountains to the northwest. RV and camping are only a few miles away in beautiful Dash Point State Park. Now is the time to make your plane and accommodation reservations. It is Seattle Seafair week!

For those of you who are planning on attending the **“early” minimum due is \$399 by February 15th, 2007**, covering full basic fee, bed and meals. Your registration packet will have more options, including an extra night, Wed July 25, for those attending the UAUS meeting, Thursday, July 26.

To reserve your place and get the registration packet, **send your basic fee check of \$399 (payable to ‘WSUA, Conference 2007’)** and your return address to:

W.S.U.A.
PO Box 82694
Kenmore, WA 98028

You may be interested in more extras, including the Airport Bus on Thursday & Sunday at \$10/each, and a Sea Cruise to Dinner on Saturday for \$75 on Blake Island at Tillikum Village. Blake Island was an ancestral camping ground of the Suquamish Indian tribe, and legend has it Chief Seattle was born there.

—UAUS 2007 Conference Committee
Washington State URANTIA Association
“Uni Diversity” udiversity@gmail.com



“face” digital collage, mc

Impressions

Led by your own intuition,
Through the jangle of nerves in the brain,
Get in touch with your feelings,
Your heart is a scout moving silently,
out in the rain.

Know the pulsing of your heartbeat,
Use the compass engraved on your skin,
Communicate with that silent presence,
Then proceed to a space deep within.

Impressions, Impressions
Listen to your impressions.

Maybe, these feelings aren't real,
That's not the impressions,
I get when you're near,
The sound of the vibration,
When you whisper in my ear,

I got your message,
So I listened in part
As you left your impressions,
Deep in my heart.

Impressions,
Listen to your impressions!

—Rita Charmaine Gum
ritacgum@aol.com
President, Urantia Association of Utah