



Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

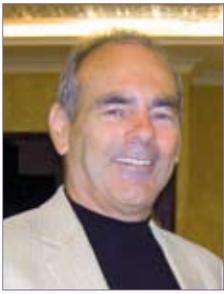
URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL ■ [HTTP://URANTIA-UII.ORG](http://URANTIA-UII.ORG)

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“Flowers in light” painting by Carlos Rubinsky



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President's message

Dear Friends of UAI,

IT HAS BEEN A COUPLE OF MONTHS since you read the last issue of *Tidings*. You might have even wondered if we forgot to announce an issue. Rest assured, nothing was forgotten. We are only going through a transition phase. Our beloved editor, Cathy Jones, is slowly transferring her responsibilities as chief editor to a new team. You will learn more about this as we progress in this transition.

Another notable change that will manifest itself will be the change in the publishing of *Tidings* from a monthly issue to a two-month cycle. This change is partly due to the overwhelmingly heavy workload that had to be addressed every month by the publication staff and the shortage of volunteers. Therefore, if you feel you are able to contribute in sharing the workload, we need writers, translators for English, French, Spanish and other languages as *Tidings* reaches new countries. We also need people for formatting the different languages, with skills in Adobe InDesign software. So there you are. You can address your willingness to participate by contacting the new co-editors, who are Robert Reno (robreno@hotmail.com) and Marian Hughes (ellanora606@gmail.com).

I do not know about you, but for some people, things are moving in the right direction in the world of *The Urantia Book*. On the weekend of the 9th of May, six members of the ISB and five collaborators from the US and Canada met in Chicago to review the ISB Strategic Plan. During our meeting, we reviewed with a lot of interest, the many reports of activities submitted by different associations of the UAI. All of those reports will eventually be published on the RC list as well as in different issues of *Tidings*. The size of the reports make it impossible to publish them all in one issue. We regret that some associations did not comply with our request for an activity report, but we hope they will respond in the months to come. Then we will know better how to serve them, and inform you of their progress.

From that meeting and the feedback that was given through the RC, we came to realize that the ISB Strategic Plan had been wrongly perceived as the UAI Strategic Plan. We, the members of the ISB, are very sorry if we gave that impression. We realized we made a



mistake by presenting it to the RC for approval. It should have been sent only as an information package with the intention to help each association willing to build their own strategic plan according to their culture and perceptions. We want to reiterate to the membership of UAI, that the ISB is there to serve the UAI associations and is not intending to dictate how every association should accomplish the mission of UAI.

We discussed many issues during that meeting and the participation of outside collaborators helped us understand more clearly the needs of the many associations. In revising the strategic plan, dissemination was one item that occupied a big part of our time. There is at this time in the world, a growing awareness and demand for *The Urantia Book* in many of the poorest countries of the world. In the last two months, we have received many requests from Africa and not all from the same region. We regularly receive requests from South America, either in the form of books or assistance in book fairs. The work that Mark Bloomfield is doing also requires our attention because he goes where none of us has gone yet. He is planting the seeds that will produce the harvest of tomorrow. One thing that is common with the majority of the dissemination activities is the growing need of financial support. In this regard, a new sub-committee was formed with Mark Kurtz as its Chair, to address the issues and uses of the restricted fund for dissemination. Therefore, we may wonder, "How much does having *The Urantia Book* mean to us when we are faced with the challenge of dissemination?"

During that meeting, Carolyn Kendall and Barbara Newsom were invited to give us a presentation about the "Michael's Plan" Project and answer all of our questions. It was very enlightening to hear from a former Forumite and one on-the-scene during that time. They explained the many directives left to us by the Revelators. When asked what the purpose of this initiative was, they both answered, "To promote dialogue between the diverse organizations surrounding *The Urantia Book*." After we heard what Carolyn and Barbara had to say, I believe, as did others, that sincere dialogue between readership organizations should be encouraged for the benefit of the Revelation and our world. There is a lot more that could

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.

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<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.



be said about our meeting and in due time, I will submit a full report to the (RC) that will also be made available to any members interested, through their representatives.

Regarding urgent needs, the International Service Board is looking for a replacement for the job of Secretary. Judy Van Cleave, the Secretary, was appointed a Trustee of Urantia Foundation. To hold two very demanding positions in two different organizations is too difficult and time consuming. Any regular member interested in such a nomination can contact Judy at: (jrvanclv@aol.com). Our Dissemination Chair, Jimmy Mitchel, is also leaving his position due to health problems. Anyone interested in such nomination can contact me at: (gaetan.charland3721@videotron.ca).

Many activities surrounding *The Urantia Book* are already planned for this summer and I will participate in some of them. I hope to meet a lot of you there. Starting in May, I will be attending the conference organized by the association of France (AFFLU). I will then go to Belgium to meet some readers from the Belgian Association and on to Switzerland to meet other

Buenos Aires International Book Fair Project

CARLOS RUBINSKY
Urantia Association of Argentina

IT IS WITH A FEELING OF ACCOMPLISHMENT that I write this report. The task has been achieved.

El libro de Urantia was present and offered at this year's Buenos Aires International Book Fair for the entire Expo. Thousands of visitors walked in front of the booth and learned about the existence of the Spanish translation of *The Urantia Book* 8 hours a day (9 on weekends) and two days of 13 hours, for a total of 21 days. The title of the book was prominently displayed on the main wall, together with the Three Concentric-Circles Symbol. Most of the people glanced at the booth and kept walking, although the word URANTIA caught their eye and probably penetrated their minds, while a few others wanted to know more. This year, these "few" others represented hundreds as this Book Fair has once again beaten its own records with 1,240,000 visitors . . . only the angels know how many walked in front of our booth and how many cannot get the word Urantia off of their minds.

The only measure we have to go by is the quantity of brochures that were handed out. In this respect, all of the 5,000 Foundation brochures brought by Tamara Wood were given away, plus 6,000 UAI brochures and a very similar amount of The Fellowship's brochures. The UAI brochure design team did a nice job and we were proud to pass out such a



Centre: Carlos Rubinsky and Marian Hughes show *El libro de Urantia* to visitors.

Left to right: Carlos Rubinsky, Tamara Wood, Costas Diamantopoulos, Marian Hughes.

President's Message *continued from page 2*

readers who are not part of UAI but could share an interest in our mission. Later this summer, I will be going to the Fellowship conference where I was invited to participate on a board to discuss issues of cooperation between our different organizations. I will also attend the UAUS conference where I will renew friendship with many readers. Finally, in my local association in Quebec, we are also organizing a summer regional conference where I will participate as a speaker and a workshop facilitator. You are all invited to attend. So "What are your plans for this summer?"

There are many more things I would like to share with you, but I have used all the space that I am allocated. Why don't you join me in some of these conferences happening this summer, so we can share our ideas and who knows, become good friends?

Have a great summer and may you enjoy your conference experiences.

In spirit of Brotherhood

Gaétan G. Charland
President UAI
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professional looking brochure. We have plenty of these remaining for next year's fair if it is the Father's will that we again participate.

You can imagine how many people we spoke to every day and how much talking we really did. It was a great privilege and effort to help to provide so many people with information about the Book on a daily basis, for 21 days. It was an experience that I still cannot qualify in my mind nor in my soul, but it has definitely been great. I think that it has been the same for each one of us that helped on this project. I need a few more days to pass in order to see this event in perspective. More time is needed to learn about the overall consequences, but at this point, there is nothing negative to report. I recall only four individuals that made some kind of confrontational remarks to us, two of them declared their atheism and the other two being very dogmatized and fundamentalist. The majority that stopped to talk to us were interested and thankful for the information that we offered them. A beautiful slide show with original art and divine music played on our plasma screen. We want to send a big thanks to the two men that worked so hard to create that lovely eye-catching show.

Concerning the good things, our experience at the Book Fair was an extremely enlightening one. To realize that the three main organizations behind *The Urantia Book* came together to work toward the same goal, the dissemination of the Revelation, without personal agendas or any other kind of interests, is a first. Being able to work in harmony with brotherly affection was just great! We also learned a few things that we need improvement after this experience.

An important feature of the booth was that we did not sell the Book but showed those interested to the bookshop that carried it, two pavilions away. We wanted to sell the Book but the legal conditions and requirements did not allow us to do so. This was an added advantage as we were completely free from dealing with invoices, money, and credit cards. This allowed us just to focus on introducing and talking about *The Urantia Book*. People enjoyed very much the fact that we were not just another booth trying to sell them something, but that we only wanted to share with them what we considered to be of great value. We gave the information that the Revelation was freely accessible on the Internet. This reinforced the fact that our intentions were non-commercial. >>

Buenos Aires International Book Fair Project *continued from page 3*

I like to think and imagine that our booth was at all times, protected from above, and that we always had the support and encouragement coming down from the celestial dimension so that nothing bad could possibly happen. Thus, it was so, and for that, I am truly thankful.

A truly special moment when a tourist from Holland spent quite a long time reading the Dutch translation, which Tamara forgot to bring with her to the airport. She had to return to Urantia Foundation to get it before departing from Chicago. The man said he was going to look it up when he returned home.

I should tell something about each one of the individuals that made up the "Urantian team" that helped staff the booth for these 21 days. Although we did have a few short-circuits in the communications, we quickly overcame the few moments of disharmony and found our way to work together in peace and love, with respect and acceptance for the other's point of view. It was a great experience and we all grew from it.

I would like to thank the individuals that deserve our gratitude and acknowledgment for making this experience possible. Thank you to those that were at the booth, those that gave their support in one way or another, and those that provided the funds with their donations. The individuals that helped staff the booth were many and of great value. Each one gave their best, and I would like to name them all: Graciela Bendedetti, Nélide Oliver, Marian Hughes, Tamara Wood, Agustín Arellano, Bert Cobb, Jorge Wilzyk, Alessandro Guarneri, Luis Miguel Morales, Horacio Rico, Nicolás Gelman, Costas Diamantopoulos, Pablo Pasi, and Rogerio Reis da Silva. Those that worked and gave from a distance: Vern Verass, Jan Bernard, Rita Schaad, José Alberto Wonsover, Yolanda Silva, Gonzalo Vilar Martinez. To those at the executive level that made this possible, Gaëtan Charland, James Woodward, Mark Kurtz, Jay Peregrine, Buck Weimer, goes our gratitude.

After this feast, we had a dessert, a post-book fair presentation. The fair ended May 12th and on 15th we had a public presentation about *El libro de Urantia*. We gave invitations to some of the visitors together with the brochures, especially to those that showed interest in learning more about the Book. We rented this nice theater and a great 2-hour show was offered to those that came. They were not many, just about 30, but a good study group will grow out of this encounter.

What I can say emphatically is that this experience deserves to keep on going; we should support the presentation of the Book again next year as well as in more book fairs around the world. It seems to be natural to present a book to a potential reader in a book fair. We should consider helping Brazil with a Book Fair for the new Portuguese translation.



A Heartfelt Thank you

Marian Hughes

HULA President, Vice President of UAUS, and co-chairperson of the BABFP
ellanora606@gmail.com

IT IS WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE THAT I give thanks to all who gave so generously of their time and money to make the Buenos Aires Book Fair Project a reality.

Four years ago Carlos Rubinsky and I conceived a five year plan for the dissemination of *El Libro De Urantia* in the Southern Cone. At first we were quite discouraged because we couldn't even find the book on the shelves of the Argentine stores. Only a few in Chile carried the book, which sold for \$80 when it could be found. We decided to take matters into our own hands, and in conjunction with a friend, who was a small book store owner, we began to import the books into Buenos Aires. The demand was strong, especially with Urantia book readers who had been anxious to find the book to give to their friends and relatives.

We soon discovered that the book stores only wanted to take the books on consignment and then they would take many months to pay their bill. But at least one could find *El Libro De Urantia* in Buenos Aires if you persevered. While all this was transpiring Urantia Foundation recognized the problems and began reorganizing their distribution channels in Latin America. This year should demonstrate the fruits of their new distribution system.

Since the beginning of the plan, Carlos especially wanted to participate in the large International Buenos Aires Book Fair which is held each year in a building complex as large as several football fields. But this would be an expensive and daunting project for only one organization. It came to pass that Buck Weimer a representative from the Fellowship for Readers of *The Urantia Book* happened

It is up to us to get this done as the Angels cannot do it, although I like to think that they can, and do, give us their support.

Our gratitude goes out to all those that made the Buenos Aires Book Fair Project possible. It is now an achieved goal. The act is ours; the consequences God's.

In brotherhood
 Carlos Rubinsky □

to pass through Buenos Aires. Carlos had already developed a working relationship with a Fellowship member, Nélide Oliver, from Ecuador. She often visits her mother in Buenos Aires and had worked with Carlos on several prior UB projects. Carlos decided to ask The Fellowship, Urantia Foundation and Urantia Association International if they might be interested in doing a joint dissemination project. The idea was to pool the resources of the three organizations as a way to share the cost of having a booth at the 2008 book fair. Costas Diamantopoulos was the first to stand up and be counted for support. Life was breathed into the project that became known as the Buenos Aires Book Fair Project (BABFP)

Because of my relationship with Carlos and my connection to the Southern Cone, I became the UAI representative on the project. Working closely with Tamara Wood of Urantia Foundation and Buck Weimer of the Fellowship and, of course Carlos, we hammered out the many details concerning booth construction and site rental fees. The truth of the matter is that Carlos worked on many of the intricate details and bids for the project and we rubber stamped most of his decisions since he was the man on the ground in Buenos Aires. He located and managed the connections to get the various jobs done, and well done indeed!

The booth looked lovely with its simple and tasteful design. Sure, as we worked in the space, we learned what we might change in the future but all in all, the stand was lovely and served our purpose well.

Vern Verass helped Carlos and I design a professional looking Spanish UAI brochure to be passed out at the fair. Even a last minute glitch of a large increase in paper cost did not prevent us from going to press due to the generosity of many individuals and a last minute donation from the UAI contingency fund. Many souls from different countries had the opportunity to be led to the Revelation because of the efforts and financial support of readers like yourselves and contributors to the UAI budget. I wanted to take this time to say a personal *muchas gracias*. You know who you are and you have helped in the seeding of our beloved Revelation on 606.

I hope we can all come together again in some future time to work together on other dissemination projects. Plans are being formulated to develop a UAI training and policies manual for future book fair projects. **"One of the most important lessons to be learned during your mortal career is teamwork. The spheres of perfection are manned by those who have mastered this art of working with other beings."** Paper 28

Marian Hughes co-chair 2008 Buenos Aires Book Fair Project □

Passing the Torch

STEVE SHINALL

DEAR READERS, CATHY JONES, WITH THIS issue, will pass the 'torch' of responsibility for producing and editing *Tidings* to Marian Hughes and Robert Reno.

Cathy's history of service toward the dissemination of the teachings of *The Urantia Book* is approaching legendary for her tireless labor and many travels through out the planet on behalf of so many readers, study groups and associations.

Cathy is the older sister many of us wished we had. She is the person you want next to you when you need a friend to lean on or you need a task, great or small, done and you need it done right and with sound judgment. I simply cannot remember a time when she wasn't up to her 'elbows' helping out with whatever job was needing to be accomplished 'at that moment' to advance the Jesusonian gospel of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

I recently spoke with Cathy and asked her to share with me the history of how *Tidings* came about. I was planning on putting her 'notes' together for an article for this issue. After reading what she had sent I realized that I simply could not improve on what she had written. As so often has been the case throughout the years, she had done the work herself.

And so I share with you this little known history of the origin of *Tidings* and also a little history of Cathy's various roles of leadership and involvement with the revelation through out her many years of service!



L'ASSOCIATION URANTIA DU QUÉBEC (THE URANTIA Association of Québec) is pleased to host it's second regional conference at Bishop's University in Lennoxville, between August 14th to August 17th.

The theme is; The Human Potential: Discovering Sonship With God.

Several presentations will be followed by workshops and there will be a lot of time for socializing at the conference.

For more information, visit our website at www.urantia-canada.org and click on **Le Potentiel humain, un fils de Dieu à découvrir Information et Inscription**

If you wish to extend your visit in Québec for a few days, local readers are opening their homes to conference participants.

Line St-Pierre
Vice president of AUC □



Cathy Jones, on a wind-swept beach.

Tidings

Tidings was conceived from the need for better communication between the "man on the street" members of the (then) IUA and their representative bodies, International Service Board (ISB) and the Representative Council (RC).

At that time there was (and is) a reader-list (electronic) which few used but for the most part it was negative, with sometimes very critical communication concerning the leaders.

In early 2005, seeing the downward trend of enthusiasm within the organization, as the Executive Administrator, I appealed to the ISB for permission to start a news magazine that was upbeat and positive – presenting information from the associations around the world, with a monthly message from the president, informing everyone on the issues coming before the RC and their resolutions.

After receiving permission, I pondered long and hard to think of a name for the magazine. Gaétan even inquired as to just when would I have this project in place. I said, "Soon." I turned to Roget's Thesaurus for a word meaning "news." There it was TIDINGS - my first thought was from the Bible and *The Urantia Book*. "I bring you glad tidings of great joy." As a member of the Press Club in high school I was a reporter (learning the who? where? and what?). Then working as a secretary for General Electric in Chicago, I did a company newsletter. As a Certified Professional Secretary I was pretty well equipped regarding spelling and punctuation. In reading *The Urantia Book* one sees the ultimate in proper English. I really like the Papyrus type; it seems so regal and right for the magazine.

It was just Mario Caoile and me. I gathered the articles and he did the layout

and what an artist he is. Later into the publication of the magazine, Olga Lopez started translating the Spanish *Tidings* and then Gaétan and Line Charland started the French translation.

It has been a rewarding experience, contacting members, asking for their articles. At times, it was a close call to be able to fill up the pages and at times having an overflow for the next month. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve. It is time to pass the torch to Marian, Robert and Sheila. I will always be available if they need me.

The Book found me in 1978 while waiting in line to pay a traffic ticket in California. It was a direct answer to a prayer asking for spiritual guidance. I immediately found other readers at the First Urantia Society of Los Angeles and after completed reading the book became a member, later serving as President of the Society and the first certified teacher with The School of Meanings and Values After the "split" in 1989, and living in Arizona, Urantia Foundation

President Meyers invited me to be a member of the seven-member Advisory Committee to the Trustees (ACT). When that dissolved I served on the Coordinating Committee, as President, while the Urantia Brotherhood Association dba IUA was being formed.

In 1996 I became a full-time employee of Urantia Foundation as IUA Coordinator and it was my honor to be instrumental in the licensing of many associations, nationally and internationally.

In 2003, when the IUA became separate from the Foundation I became the Executive Administrator, working as an employee of IUA from my home office in Phoenix until 2006, continuing as a volunteer as editor of *Tidings*.

To Marian Hughes and the staff of *Tidings* we offer our appreciation and continued support for the important task you perform with each edition.

And on behalf of so many friends, admirers and readers throughout the world, we send our love, blessings and well wishes to Cathy and her family. We look forward to her continued friendship and companionship as we journey together along the ascension pathway.

Dear Cathy, friend and sister, we wish you all the best. You are loved.

Many Blessings,
Steve □

How *THE URANTIA BOOK* found me

The lamps are different, but the Light is the same: it comes from Beyond

Rumi, Jalaluddin. Rumi: Poet and Mystic. p. 166

ROB RENO

robreno@hotmail.com

AROUND THE AGE OF FIFTEEN, I BEGAN TO wonder if there was a God. My spiritual quest began by studying Buddhism. Eventually I asked, "Who was this person Jesus and what did he teach?" I had already rejected Christianity due to the philosophical inconsistency of the atonement doctrine. I attempted to learn to meditate, but not to any great success. I even experimented with trying to achieve astral projection, to no avail, and learned this was not an effective way to achieve spiritual growth.

At that point in my life, my concept of God or Deity was of some great IT or impersonal Absolute, or some mysterious "non-self" reflected in Zen Buddhism. I had only vague inklings of what this thing called *true self* might be or how I might approach finding and experiencing this reality myself. In my studies, I surely could see common threads of what I perceived to be truth running through them, but I did not want just to intellectually know; I wanted to experience God personally. My dilemma was, how does one "know" an impersonal Absolute, or realize one's "non-self?" It was through concepts and teachings in *The Urantia Book* that this gulf between the idea of an Absolute and a personal God of infinitely loving and divine parental affection was bridged and synthesized into one and the same reality. Now I see clearly that this dual concept of the Divine is harbored in all the great traditions.

I was getting ready to travel to India to find a guru. Fortunately, prior to embarking on this adventure I discovered *The Urantia Book*. One day, while searching the bookstores for the latest works in religious studies, I came across *The Urantia Book* sitting on the shelf. I read the "Table of Contents" and my first thought was this is just another work of "new age" pseudo-religious, pop psychology full of "I feel good, you feel good" platitudes and "my truth is my truth and your truth is your truth" relativisms, but then my eyes fell upon the section on the meaning of the death on the cross. I read it; I was stunned; I literally broke into tears. I purchased it, took it home, and read it until late that night.



The next day I went straight to the YMCA where I was teaching gymnastics, and while meditating in the steam room and reflecting on what I had learned the night before about the indwelling presence of the God's Spirit and Jesus' Spirit of Truth, the simple yet profound truth of my faith sonship with God, burst forth into the joyous realization of the gift of eternal salvation. For the first and only time I experienced the presence of a Light, which I cannot really describe in words. I don't know how long I was enraptured in this experience, but when I opened my eyes I was overwhelmed with this profound sense of peace and joy. When I went home, I searched the various scriptures in my library for anything referencing light and found the following two quotations. The first from The Qur'an (Surah 24:35) has a beautiful description of what I experienced:

*Allah is the Light
Of the heavens and the earth.
The parable of His Light
Is as if there were a Niche
And within it a Lamp:
The Lamp enclosed in Glass;
The glass as it were
A brilliant star:
Lit from a blessed Tree,
An Olive, neither of the East
Nor of the West,
Whose Oil is well-nigh
Luminous,
Though fire scare touched it:
Light upon Light!*

The Urantia Book says the following about Thought Adjusters:

"There is a characteristic light, a spirit luminosity, which accompanies this divine presence, and which has become generally associated with Thought Adjusters.... this Paradise luminosity is widespreadly known as the 'pilot light'; ... it is called the 'light of

life!... this phenomenon has sometimes been referred to as that 'true light which lights every man who comes into the world.'" [*The Urantia Book*, 1181:1]

"Most of the spectacular phenomena associated with so-called religious conversions are entirely psychologic in nature, but now and then there do occur experiences which are also spiritual in origin. When the mental mobilization is absolutely total on any level of the psychic upreach toward spirit attainment, when there exists perfection of the human motivation of loyalties to the divine idea, then there very often occurs a sudden down-grasp of the indwelling spirit to synchronize with the concentrated and consecrated purpose of the superconscious mind of the believing mortal. And it is such experiences of unified intellectual and spiritual phenomena that constitute the conversion which consists in factors over and above purely psychologic involvement." [*The Urantia Book*, 1099:2]

It was while studying this Book that the references to the indwelling divine mind I had been reading about, that which in Buddhism is called the "Buddha mind" or "true self"; in Islam is called the spirit of Allah; in the Judeo-Christian traditions is called the indwelling spirit of God or Christ; and in the Bhagavad-Gita is termed the "atman," or "inmost timeless self" which is at the same time Brahman; became personally and experientially real.

Over time, I have come to understand meditation to be an attempt to achieve unbroken communion with the indwelling presence of God through balanced prayer, worshipful problem solving, and reflective meditation on cosmic meanings, culminating in an inner dialogue with the divine presence. (1095:3) Increasingly though, I am finding in my experience that, loving service brings one closer to God through actualizing divine love in wise service to one's fellows (1000:2). □

Exciting Times—then, now, & into the future



RICK LYON
President Greater Lake
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Association GLMUA
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AFTER BEING GONE FOR SEVERAL DAYS TO THE International Service Board meeting at the Urantia Foundation in Chicago, I was enjoying reading messages from the UAI list as I continued my never ending effort to catch up on my emails. (My email inbox exists on the absonite level of reality.) Someone on the UAI list had asked a question about a correction to the text of *The Urantia Book* and asked for input from anyone who might know the reason for the change. As a result, Bill Martin and others got to talking about times and events they personally remembered from the 1960's at the Foundation. Sometimes I think how exciting it must have been back in the 50's or 60's at the Foundation and knowing Christy or Dr. Sadler and others personally. I know it was a great time because when I hear Bill, Barb Newsom, Carolyn Kendall, and others talk about those days I can feel their excitement and the love that they still feel from that time. It must have been pretty exciting back then.

I realize that this period we are living today is also a very exciting time for this revelation, especially after attending the ISB meeting. A lot of good things are happening all across this planet and the people in all levels of UAI are working to make a lot of it happen! We are building upon the work of those who received the book and the first generation readers just as our children and grandchildren will soon be building upon the work we do today. Our generation has been tested and tempered by storms of adversity but now the sun is dawning on that horizon. Although there remains much for our generation to accomplish, the time of service from the next generation is beginning to sprout. We need to extend our hand and invite the younger readers to participate in the good works that we are doing so that when their opportunities to serve on a larger scale do come, they will benefit from our experience and hard earned wisdom. We talk about training teachers and leaders and I think we often fail to include our young readers in that effort. They are the future teachers and leaders of this revelation and someday soon it will be in their hands to protect, preserve, and disseminate these teachings. I want to encourage all UAI governing boards and committees at all levels to make a special effort to invite a young reader to join a committee or to help with some project or event. Nothing on this planet today is more important than the work we do for this revelation. I believe the Urantia revelation seeks to bring all people closer to God, seeks to bring all

people closer to each other, seeks to reveal God to all people, and by revealing our origin, history, and destiny brings love, hope, and peace to this troubled and confused world. These are things that appeal to all of us but I think especially to our younger generations. These are certainly exciting times now, but even more exciting times are ahead.

Mike Wood and his son Chris have done a wonderful thing in the Kansas City area, by getting a lot of young people there involved with this revelation. The young readers of the Urantia Association of the Great Plains, whose president is twenty-two year old Jeremiah Kinnamon, are hosting the UAUS national conference in July. This is a great indication of things to come as the next generations make their contributions to the socialization of this revelation and affect the future of this planet. They will soon be creating their own excitement and that will profoundly impact the generations that follow them. Let's show our support for our young readers by giving them a great turn out for the UAUS conference in Kansas this coming July!

Of course, I am hoping that as a result of this conference, more young readers will get involved with UAI. As a former young person myself, I understand that being part of an "organization" is somewhat counter to the free spirit philosophy of youth. However, UAI and other Urantia related organizations are great vehicles for accomplishing higher levels of service to all mankind that we as individuals usually cannot do on our own. Organizations are necessary to develop the teamwork that is given such high value in the Urantia teachings and plays such an important role in our own personal future.

Only by getting involved, by serving on committees or in positions of leadership within these reader service organizations or by volunteering your time and energy to the Urantia Foundation, can the young people bring about the changes they long for. As some of these young people become the teachers and leaders of the thousands of study groups that will prepare this world for the coming public awareness of *The Urantia Book*; as some of them become the leaders of the various organizations that serve readers around the world; and as they begin to raise families of their own with children who grow up with these teachings from the moment of their first breath, I think it is safe to say that even greater excitement and greater accomplishments will someday be the legacy of today's young readers of *The Urantia Book*. □

Report on GLMUA Election

GREETINGS! IT IS MY PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE the results of the annual elections for the Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association held on March 15, 2008.

Rick Lyon (myself) was elected President and Tamara Wood was re-elected to a second term as Treasurer. I want to thank Tamara

for her continuing service to GLMUA. I also thank our Vice President Michael Tanesky, our Secretary Susan Grzeskowiak, and all our members for their ongoing contributions of time and energy to GLMUA.

We wish to thank Benet Rutenberg for his 5 years of service to GLMUA as our president. We thank him for his inspiration, guidance, and leadership. During his time as president, GLMUA hosted an international conference in Chicago in 2004, began hosting annual Fall Study Sessions, increased our treasury, contributed to several UAI projects, and continued our traditional Jesus Birthday picnic and our support of the Urantia Foundation Holiday Celebration.

Nobody has become president of an organization at a better time than I have. We have a great team of officers and members, an established agenda of events and projects, and many opportunities ahead of us.

Sincerely,
Rick Lyon □

Report on UAUS Election



BENET RUTENBERG
President UAUS
RUTABL@aol.com

DEAR ALL CLP, GB AND COMMITTEES: I am pleased to announce the UAUS GB Officers effective today, April 1, 2008.

Marian Hughes of HULA continues as Vice President.

Patricia Snyder of SURF is elected as Secretary.

I thank all of our CLP Members who spoke in affirmation of our nominees. All votes were in favor.

Your newly constituted UAUS GB is:
Benet Rutenberg - President - second term expires 2009

Marian Hughes - Vice President - second term expires 2010

Patricia Snyder - Secretary - first term expires 2010

Daryl Berry - Treasurer - first term expires 2009

We will be requesting Roll Call presently and please look for some announcements concerning committees and upcoming events. If your association is planning anything in the coming season, please post on this list at your earliest convenience.

The agenda for our UAUS CLP Meeting in Kansas City will be forthcoming in a few weeks. Any items for that meeting should be submitted to me or on this list as soon as practical. This agenda will be a first draft and things may be added after subject to available time at the meeting.

In Service,
Benet Rutenberg, UAUS President □

Through the Long Rains

Africa Seeding Mission Update #14



**Mark Philip
Bloomfield**

mplmfd@hotmail.com



WITH THE 300 BOOKS FOR THE EAST African leg of the Africa Seeding Mission now in place, the principal cities of Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda respectively can now be considered to have been lightly seeded. But had 3000 books come my way for just this leg, doubt not that good homes would have been found for all of them. The usual dilemma is that never having sufficient funds to finish the mission and with the uncertainty of additional funds coming my way, how thinly or thickly to seed any given region, can only be a best guess.

As East Africa's most important city, Nairobi was seeded the heaviest and by the end of my stay there was done a real degree of justice by anyone's standards. The overnight bus from Nairobi west to Kampala, Uganda with the remaining books was however to take me through the epicentre of the recent tribal violence triggered by the badly bungled December elections, so it was to be another of those long trips that you like to get behind you. A bad start to it all came when not twenty miles out of Nairobi, shortly before midnight after an already greatly delayed start, the bus, like so many before it, broke down by the roadside. This is not a good situation for a lone white man weighed down with a heavy cargo to be in. An overfull bus stuck on the open road in the middle of the night inside a simmering semi-warzone.

I said to myself, "You've been in this game a long, long time so the usual drill: don't bring attention to yourself, wrap yourself in your light rain mack, hood well down, limbs in to conserve body heat, then with eyes closed, just retreat back into your own mind whilst waiting and hoping for the best under the moonlight of a clear sky and the loving watchcare of an otherwise friendly universe."

By dawn the fog had enveloped our little chicken bus, and the bus company support vehicle with the spare part we needed managed to finally reach us and an hour later we were on our way again. The further we went however, the more the evidence of the recent turmoil became visible. First it was the occasional burnt out house. Then came the occasional burnt out village, until whole small towns had been mostly

reduced to blackened, flattened rubble amid the smell of ash lingering upon the air. Refugee tents hastily erected amongst the debris served as makeshift shelters for some whilst most others just fled the region entirely.

Arrived late at night in the middle of Kampala, Uganda during a rainstorm. Then there was the usual search for a halfway honest taxi driver at journey's end whilst doing all I could to keep the books dry. This period of the year in this region is known as the second rainy season or the 'long rains' and I had arrived right in the middle of it. Four rain-soaked days following; the Easter weekend ensued as the city was seeded in the usual way -- on foot. Each day brings it's own special memories and Kampala was no exception with many happy encounters whilst seeding. One grateful librarian at a private university was so thrilled with her copy that she wanted to display it in the middle of the library in a glass display case!

Although keeping my eyes and ears open for a possible venue for a free evening school for impoverished children, similar to the ones I helped to open in India years ago, no time was otherwise wasted in buying a bus ticket to Kigali, Rwanda some 10 hours west of Kampala for the following day on the pretentiously named 'Jaguar Lines' bus with my last box of books.

Up there with North Korea, Burma and Cuba, Rwanda is after it's recent bloody history perhaps understandably a rather surreal nation to visit, though picturesque enough at first glance. To put the 1994 genocide in perspective, take a geographical area perhaps the size of your average American state and upon it impose the final death toll of '9/11' each and every ten hours continuously for three and a half months. And if that isn't enough horror for you, just hop across to the Congo next door, the original Heart of Darkness, and you'll be counting the massacred of recent years in the millions.

Each time I cross an international border out here it usually costs \$50 a pop for a visa except Zambia that charged \$120, but crossing into Rwanda was free. Furthermore, for all the attention Immigration paid to my passport details, had I have glued a picture of Darth Vader over my passport photo it wouldn't have mattered. Reaching their customs area however

where all luggage is searched and bizarre as it sounds, all plastic shopping bags are duly confiscated as they are strictly banished from Rwandan soil. The zeal with which this law was enforced, seemingly at the exclusion of all others, led me to believe I could have had a grenade launcher over my left shoulder and a sack of heroin under my right arm and I would have been casually waved through.

Though the Urantia Books were carried in my one water-resistant bag, my personal luggage 'sans le plastique,' was stored in the belly of the leaky old bus and was in for a dunking at each and every waterlogged pothole all the way to Kigali. Sure enough, upon my arrival at dusk and luckily finding a nearby guest house that wasn't full to the gunnels, I emptied my personal effects on to the floor in a single sodden clump.

Two and a half days was all it took to hand seed this little nation's capital and as Rwanda is known as 'Land of a Thousand Hills,' the fact that the centre of Kigali sits quaintly on a hilltop is no reason for us to get overly excited. The same bus back to Kampala, another \$50 for another mandatory single entry visa -- thank you very much -- and a timely top up of funds via the Urantia Foundation enabled me to buy a two month round trip ticket back to Johannesburg for two days hence.

It was a 5am flight back to Jo'burg via Nairobi from Entebbe airport some twenty miles from Kampala on the banks of Lake Victoria. I decided to sleep in the terminal so as not to risk missing it and to save on room rent. Nervous moments were spent coming back through South African immigration as I had so few funds on me after the outlay for the flight that they had a legal right to disallow me re-entry, but Lady Luck smiled on me once again.

Today sees me happily united with the 300 books that Simone Cox very kindly stored for me while I was away in East Africa as I prepare to re-commence seeding work with the block seeding of several remaining public library systems in South Africa together with drops in Swaziland, Mozambique and hopefully Zimbabwe if there's half a chance of a white Englishman getting in and out of there alive in the next few weeks.

With over a thousand books already in place across southern and eastern Africa, we are, numerically speaking approximately half way home but a lack of funds always risks cutting the mission short just like previous missions before it. If that occurs, with an indifferent shrug of the shoulders, I'll cheerfully grab the first job I can find so as to save what I can, in order to be able to return once again to this mother of all missions, this game of ghosts.

In search of the Father's will,
Mark Philip Bloomfield. □

Readership Blooming as Springs Arrives in Sweden



MIKE MACISAAC
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IT IS AN INTERESTING FEELING GONG TO the New Age Expo in Stockholm twice a year. Sweden being so secular in its thinking patterns, the expo is like coming away to another world where truly searching souls are looking for whatever they can find to satisfy their hunger.

It costs the equivalent of around \$600 to rent a small space at this expo, which is far beyond our means, but fortunately, Mike has developed a relationship with the owners – exchanging physical labor (setting up and cleaning up etc.) for a table at the expo.

In 2001 Steve Sycamore (another American reader living in Sweden) and Mike attended their first ‘inner-harmony expo’ in Stockholm, and Mike, often with help from Steve, Anna MacIsaac and others, has been holding the booth twice per year ever since. A handful of spiritual expos have also been attended in other parts of Sweden as well as in Oslo over the years. On some occasions, little fruit seemed to result from our efforts, which caused us to consider ceasing to attend – since attending the expos requires a great deal of time and energy – but fortunately we persevered.

Over the years, many of the readers that would eventually form the Urantia Association of Sweden (2007) came from the ranks of these curious expo visitors.

The expo that we attended this spring seemed particularly fruitful. Mike and Jacob Dix (having moved to Stockholm) were lucky not only to have the booth for the mere effort of their labor, but they were also given a time slot, printed on the expo leaflets, for a presentation of *The Urantia Book*. It was decided upon that a discussion of the heavenly worlds, angels, and how these teachings affect our lives would be appropriate for the expo visitors. The presentation was quite a learning experience and we felt that it went well. The booth-work also went quite remarkably. It was a great expo!

We had enriching discussions with lots of spiritual searchers. Quite a few of those we spoke with told us that they had already read some of the book online and some had even bought it through Amazon! People seem

Members of the Stockholm study group on an outdoor excursion



to be finding the book on the Internet in increasing numbers! Several individuals from this expo have already joined us at our first study group in Stockholm since the expo.

With the exception of summer breaks, our local study group has been meeting every second or third week for about two years. A solid group of regular attendees has developed and our email list of those who drop in when they find the time has grown to about thirty-five. The location we have been fortunate to be able to rent out for the past few months is large enough to accommodate the growing group and is such a charming and cozy place in an ideal, centrally located neighborhood.

A wonderful study group culture is maturing in our group. We usually begin with a bit of socializing and ‘fika’ (Swedish meaning coffee and cakes – often freshly baked by one of our members!). This is followed by a moment of silent prayer before we read. We have been in the habit of reading the papers (topically, as there are many new readers curious about different subjects) ahead of time, but we usually re-read those sections during study group also, and interrupt this with discussion and comments.

The group is quite diverse, members spanning an age range from 17 to 80 and comprising people of many backgrounds, who read the book in their native languages, such as English, Swedish, French, Spanish, and Finnish. We discuss the book in Swedish and read from the unfinished Swedish translation (one of our members having printed the whole translation onto regular printing paper, bound in ten volumes, she says!), while we consult the English version for translation difficulties and ambiguities. Occasionally someone will read in Spanish, while all others read along in their own language! What an enjoyable bunch of folks!

In order to better get to know each other and support each other in our efforts to live the teachings, we have developed a tradition of going around the circle now and then, after our reading is through, and sharing a little bit about what is going on in our lives just now, or what is on our minds, etc. This has been very edifying for the group and increased our cohesiveness.

Recently, about 12 of us had a wonderful time when we gathered to share in an Easter dinner. Traditional Swedish food was served: salmon, pickled herring, and potatoes. It is clear that our group is developing a real sense of community. Our new association is

also planning a weekend mini-conference to take place this May, for Sweden’s expanding readership. It will be held on an island not far from Stockholm, the whole island, with its farm and beautiful nature, is owned by one of our group’s long-time readers!

Sometimes readers ‘come out of the woodwork’ here too, which is always a joy – one contacted us recently who has been reading and keeping the book at his bedside since the seventies – although he has never socialized with other readers! Things were very slow for many years here, and it is so gratifying to see how a readership is beginning to bud and how our efforts are beginning to bear fruit. Things are happening in Sweden! □

Florida Association fostering teamwork

MINDY WILLIAMS
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THIS IS A GRAND TIME FOR THE ‘SUNSHINE STATE’ in 2008! Urantia Association of Florida has been quiet for about 2 years and now she’s refreshed and ready for service again. On April 26th and 27th, UAF sponsored two Urantia Spring Socials with a theme of “Teamwork and our New Directions.”

With these first two events, we accomplished more than we ever imagined.

- We have ample membership applications to move forward in UAI service.
- Readers came to both events, to meet fellow readers for the first time.
- We have volunteers to establish a UAF website.
- Dr. Sams is coordinating study group activity with the Jacksonville readers.
- We are working to bring Spanish-speaking readers together in Miami.

This summer, we expect to have our organizational meeting and elect our governing board. From there, we can establish committee chairs and begin to develop the goals and strategies the members want to pursue. Our family of Urantia readers continually grows, both socially and in service to the Kingdom. And, this is only the beginning... We’ve only contacted a fraction of the Florida Urantia Book readers! □

My Trip to Chicago



ALAIN CYR

I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU MY EXPERIENCES on a recent trip to Chicago, to participate in the International Service Board meeting.

First of all, this big and lovely city is worth seeing and although my short stay hardly allowed time for any sightseeing tours, nothing can beat a good cupful of change to stir up the senses. The most enjoyable part certainly was meeting people who are devoted to the Urantia cause and want to share their talents. At this meeting I was greeted as a guest, but I was treated like a full member. Everyone invited to participate was able to voice their opinions on all the subjects on the agenda. Our comments were regarded with the same importance as the ISB members. The only thing missing for some of us was the right to vote which was exclusive to our representatives.

What I particularly noticed during this meeting, is the demystifying phenomena which sets in with our increased participation. At first, we somewhat demystify the participants among us, and then we rapidly discover a new self within ourselves. I would call this the expansion of self within combined action. We leave the meeting as we initially came but with an added dimension. Also, to put faces on names and to better understand how these people function is uplifting for a personality in search of understanding. The greatness in the participants was palpable through their simplicity, their easiness and above all through their respect for others which so harmonized our discussions. I had no preconceived idea before participating in this meeting but now I conceive things a bit differently. This leads me to assert the following point, "Suffice to say, if we leave our comfort zone, we may discover a better wellbeing".

I think it is profitable for all our members to occasionally assist at a Board meeting, whether it is on a local, national or international basis. We often tend to work alone, yet our ideas can be amplified through group wisdom. And finally, this type of exercise allows us to clearly see that we are all equal, everything being only a matter of commitment.

On Saturday, May 10th, we were privileged to have a presentation from Carolyn Kendall and Barbara Newsom. Carolyn shared many facts concerning her participation on the Forum prior to the publication of *The Urantia Book* in 1955. I was very impressed. I thank the ISB for this invitation. I left in a vivified state of being. Also, allow me the wink of an eye to Jay and Tamara at the Urantia Foundation.

Salutations from Montreal, Canada,
Alain Cyr. □



Frank Lapka

This is not intended as an obituary, nor a eulogy, but rather a statement from a fellow Soldier of the Circles regarding a much loved

Brother who has graduated to the Mansion Worlds to continue his quest for perfection.

To begin, let me clearly state that in my 78 years of life on this planet I Frank Lapka was as near a perfect person as I have known. Having said that, let me offer a few observations about his life.

Frank loved and worshipped God the Father and often stated, "I want to leave this planet as a Faith son." He loved everyone and never in the 20 plus years of our acquaintance did I ever hear one unkind word about anyone from him. A prime example of that generosity of spirit was displayed when Frank fell and suffered a hip fracture and had to spend time in rehab center. Typical of Frank, each time [we] visited him he praised the nurses and rehab workers. He declared the food delicious and plentiful. What [a] guy to find joy and happiness in a rehab center!

Frank's love and devotion to his wife of sixty years, and his children, Cheryl and Jay, was generous and steady.

Frank was a design engineer for General Motors Electromotive Division his entire working life. Frank told a story about his days with General Motors and about the time a supervisor told him that he would be receiving an increase in pay at month's end. Frank typically replied, "I haven't received the last raise yet."

During World War II he served in the United States Air Force. He was a pilot and [flew] several kinds of aircraft. He was among those amazing men who flew C-47's on missions over the Burma Hump. Only a year or so ago Bob, my flight instructor son, related how Frank was still very good on the controls of Bob's beautiful Cessna 180.

Frank and Mary began studying the Urantia Papers in Chicago at the late Art and Inez Burch's home shortly after the disbanding of Dr. Sadler's Forum. They have been students and teachers since that time. I had the privilege and pleasure of studying weekly with them in their home for more than 20 years. Frank had copied most of the 2087 pages of the Urantia Book. He often stated, "Writing it down helps me better understand the meaning."

Frank and Mary were strong supporters of the Urantia Foundation and the Foundation's mission stated in the Declaration of Trust. That mission we know is to translate, publish and disseminate the teachings of the Urantia Book.

I mourn the loss of a Brother whose life was an inspiration to me. I praise the Lord that he was spared the suffering of a long and debilitating illness.

Jesus gave his apostles a "New Commandment" which simply stated "Love your fellows as I have loved you." Frank Lapka truly lived that commandment and his arrival on the Mansion Worlds has surely brightened the classes in session and rewarded the Father Fragment within his soul that guided him.

Farewell Brother until we meet again.

A Willing Soldier of the Circles

Bryan T. Snowden □



Patricia Sadler Mundelius

Dear Urantia Friends,
It is with deep sadness that I announce the passing of our beloved sister, Patricia

Sadler Mundelius on May 2, 2008 in Danville, California. Pat bravely suffered a two-year illness and had been in and out of the hospital since January.

Pat was the daughter of Wm. Sadler, Jr., granddaughter of Wm. Sadler, Sr., growing up at 533 Diversey Parkway in Chicago. She was married to Mandred Mundelius for 58 years. She is survived by Mandred, sons Matthew, Michael and John and eight grandchildren.

In 1990 Pat became a Urantia Foundation Trustee, serving as President from 1990 to 1997 when she resigned, later becoming Trustee Emeritus from 2003 to 2007.

For those of us who were honored to know Pat, she will always be remembered as a faith-daughter, a loyal friend, full of grace and charm. She was instrumental in the birth and growth of our organization.

Farewell for now, dear sister and friend.

With love,
Cathy Jones □



Registration is open for the national conference of the Urantia Association of the United States - Urantia Kansas City 2008. This conference will feature many younger readers in key roles and is priced to attract younger and first time conference attendees.

The conference will cost \$250 if you register early, \$275 if you register late. There will be scholarships available for first time conference goers, students, and those who need it. Most scholarships will be partial (say, half price or so) but we plan on distributing all the donations we receive. If you can, please contribute to the scholarship fund.

For more information, see:
<http://www.urantiausa.com/> □