



Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

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

Nº 51 ■ JUL-SEP 2011



“Welcome to the study group” by Carlos Rubinsky

<i>Gaétan G. Charland</i>	2	President's Message
<i>Dominique Ronfet</i>	3	Unity in Diversity
<i>Aida Diaz</i>	3	After the symposium
<i>Samantha Nior</i>	4	This year the UAI held a leadership symposium in Chicago
<i>Verner Verass</i>	4	<i>Tidings</i> has a new editor
<i>Normand Laperle</i>	5	2011 Chicago Symposium on leadership
<i>Lourdes Pizarro</i>	5	My experience at the leadership symposium
<i>Susan Huttner</i>	6	Jesus' anniversary
<i>Line St-Pierre</i>	6	Celebration in the rain
<i>Jean Annet</i>	7	Activity report on the Chicago Symposium
<i>Gaétan G. Charland</i>	8	About the cover painting
<i>Carlos Rubinsky</i>	9	Welcome to the study group
<i>Tamila Ragimova</i>	10	VIII International Conference, Colombia 2012
<i>Rick Lyon</i>	11	Comments and feedback on the symposium



President's message

Dear Friends of UAI and readers of Tidings,

IT HAS BEEN MORE THAN a month now since the Leadership Symposium happened in Chicago and many are still under the spell of this historical event. Never before have we seen so many leaders from so many countries, more than 25 countries who were represented sometimes by more than one or two representatives. We had a full house and I doubt we could have accommodated more people.

This event has been historical in a way that it will change how UAI will organize and set a standard for its future international conferences. Many things were experimented with the organization of the symposium, for the first time, the theme was totally focused on our mission and all activities were coherent with this goal. The group dynamic was another thing never tried before in one of our conferences and it was a huge success for it provided enough interaction between the participants for them to bound in friendship. It was a bit like being part of a study group for a long period of time.

The speakers provided enough material in their speeches for the participants to grasp the essential of our mission and the history supporting it. More emphasis was put on the "WHY" of our mission than on the "HOW" to achieve it. The different cultures and type of leadership should not be constrained by uniformity of doing their projects but encouraged to have unity of spirit and purpose. We believe that if leaders know WHY they should be doing things, they should be able to find HOW to do them in their own ways. Many promising cooperative initiatives have already been started by our friends from South America, most of them inspired by the Symposium.

Shortly there will be a report published on the work accomplished during the many workshops; the team who put together the group dynamic is compiling this summary. There were also speeches given at the symposium, which will be published in future editions of the UAI Journal. Every speeches were recorded in video and should be made



available sometimes in the future, much work need to be done in order to make them available.

The amount of work and cooperation that was necessary to organize such an event is unsurpassed in the whole history of UAI. It is a necessary big step

in trying to reach unity of spirit and purpose toward achieving our mission left to us by the Revelators. Many grateful thanks to all the people that have helped make this a memorable event for the majority of us and sincere gratitude to all the celestial helpers who were in many ways helping us while being busy doing our things.

During this short period of time, many other things were happening to enhance the experience the participants could have with their visit to Chicago. Thanks to the staff and trustees of Urantia Foundation, two tours were organized where the readers could go and visit what I would call our fraternal home. The whole event would not have been completed and as satisfying without such a tour. Many small meetings happened during the off hours that allowed for better cooperation between similar cultures.

I am sure that this edition of *Tidings* will contain many more descriptions and impressions about the Symposium from different readers who attended this event. For the ones who could not attend this event, I wish you could have, just to have the experience of meeting so many readers from so many parts of the world. Truly we are becoming a worldwide spiritual brotherhood.

Since it was summer and the period for vacations, not many things were on the agenda of the ISB. At this time some members of the ISB are cooperating with our friends in Colombia for next year international conference. We are also working on the resolution about a mentorship program that was presented earlier to the RC and that needs to be better documented. One important item on the ISB agenda is the budget for next year. We are working hard to make this budget more in line with predictable income based on past years figures. But as you might guess, there

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/en/urantia-book/read>

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: Federico Folchi

federicofolchi@gmail.com

Spanish Translation: Olga López,

olopez65@gmail.com

Portuguese Translation: Ricardo Machado,

mail@ricardomachado.eu

French Translation: Line St-Pierre and collaborators

line.stpierre3721@videotron.ca

Page Layout: Federico Folchi and Verner Verass

COVER: *Welcome to the study group* painting by Carlos Rubinsky. You may submit images for possible use on the cover to:

federicofolchi@gmail.com

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.



are always insufficient funds to finance all the projects necessary to pursue our mission, so we pray for your generosity and your help.

As for the RC members, they were also in the vacations period and soon new items will be put before them for ratification and approval.

I hope you had a great summer and invite you to reserve some time for next year international conference and also take time to register your study group on the new portal dedicated to this activity at:

<http://www.urantiastudygroup.org/home.php>, the portal is now in English and French and soon to be in Spanish and Portuguese.

Have a good reading.

Gaétan G. Charland

President UAI

Gaetan.charland3721@videotron.ca □

Unity In Diversity



DOMINIQUE RONFET
AFLLU, France
aflu@urantia.fr

IT IS WITH THIS TITLE THAT I WILL summarize our warm and friendly international meeting of association leaders, which took place on July 13 through 17 in Chicago.

Unity through the will of bringing together dispersed energies toward a common goal: how to be more efficient in the spreading of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, how to revive the initiatives and recharge our batteries in this period of troubled times so as to tackle a new phase of work.

Diversity through the variety of countries represented there with their cultural differences, such variety allowing us to elaborate a global reflection on our objectives.

A lovely meeting, sure to bear fruits.

It sprouts on me as a starting point.

Friendships were established.

Thought sharing is en route thanks to the world wide WEB but as of now, they have a common memory; the real and authentic human exchanges during this sojourn.

I heartedly thank the whole team, which for two years, has worked intensively to actualize this gathering which in all aspects was a success.

And of course most particularly our president Gaétan who puts himself out with all the energy we recognize in him within his revitalization of our purpose and the sense of common direction in the attainment of our goal; to propose to isolated but thirsty truth seekers a better knowledge of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

Dominique RONFET
President, AFLLU
France □

After the symposium



AIDA DIAZ
Dominican Republic
aydiaz@yahoo.com



HOW DO WE MAINTAIN THE TIES OF friendship with 157 persons that we have just met? That's a question I asked myself after looking into the overwhelming flow of comments on the uileadership@googlegroups list which transcended our feelings and emotions.

When the joy of being together overflows, it is possible that we lose some sense of proportion. This unusual happiness was the result of the meeting of 25 countries in the Techny Towers during the unforgettable 2011 UAI Leadership Symposium in Chicago. Recognition, virtual hugs and thanks were abundant and this makes it difficult to explain the deep feelings of brotherhood and friendship that arose from the presentations, workshops, lunches and the unforgettable moments of socialization which impregnated the atmosphere with the Love of the Father.

It is normal that within an international environment, in which many languages are spoken, the Spanish-speaking community feels naturally attracted together and this is, simply, due to the great similarity between our cultures. From the beginning, the Latin-American presence was felt with so much force that on the day preceding the official opening of the symposium, we were grouped spontaneously in a round table, discussing different topics and making notes of everything. People from other countries were surprised by this instantaneous Hispanic empathy, but others, ignoring the nature of our discussions, approached the group with a great smile of

acceptance as if they were saying: in this place, we will overcome all obstacles.

My work group was perhaps the most heterogeneous group of all. Babylonian was a small sample of races, cultures and continents, but also ages. Ukraine, Korea, Malawi, Hawaii, Switzerland, Dominican Republic, United States, all with different professions and interests. The three days of discussions went by quickly. The third day of work was so intense and exciting and we were so much identified with each other that we considered the idea of creating a virtual group to continue the Babylonian talks after the symposium!

I will leave the final analysis of the results to the scholars and intellectuals. For me personally, the experience exceeded my expectations and theories. When minds and hearts are united around the Father's business, the culture of peace is an axiom, native language is replaced by the Kingdom of the Father's new language and fellowship is expressed within the opportunity to serve.

Back home, sharing the experience is imperative. The Symposium was a consistent event, its message was beautiful, good and true and the vortex of the consequences will attract anyone who is honestly searching the Truth.

Aida Diaz
Dominican Republic □

This year the UAI held a leadership Symposium in Chicago!



SAMANTHA NIOR
UAI Association Netherlands

I WAS FORTUNATE TO ATTEND THIS Symposium and what an experience it was!

The three days were programmed with in the morning several speakers and in the afternoon dynamic discussion groups. On the fourth day, we had a summary of the previous days, accompanied with prayers and songs. We were approximately 150 readers from about 25 different countries around the world. We were dispatched into the dynamic discussion groups of 6 to 8 persons and the groups stayed the same during the three days. In the evenings there were different social events planned, with a performance from Pato Banton one night, a tour of the Foundation on another one, and the last night a beautiful concert in the chapel by Bob Solone and Christina Seaborn.

The speakers were really wonderful and inspiring with great topics, which of course meant we had really good questions to think and discuss about. The coming together in the evenings was a joy and the prayer circle with everybody there, was heart- warming. How wonderful it was that they organized a tour at the Foundation to see the building and meet the trustees and co-trustees.

The openness and love of all the people there, was truly inspiring. All those readers coming together at such an event, having the same view and dedication, all taking the trouble to come from all parts of the world!



The love and dedication put into the organization of this Symposium is truly inspiring and motivating. I also have to say that the discussion group I was a part of, was a true blessing and a meeting of kindred souls.

I can say it was a taste of what it would be like after this life. An eternal brotherhood. I left Chicago with a clear view of how to proceed and in which direction to go.

Thank you to everyone.

A special thank you to all the ministering spirits.

God bless
Samantha Nior ☐

Tidings has a new editor



VERNER VERASS
UAI Communications Chair
vern@designnd.com.au

AT A TIME WHEN THE JOBS ARE MANY and the workers few, it's particularly appreciated whenever someone steps forward in service. Federico Folchi has agreed to be our new *Tidings* editor. He is a reader of *The Urantia Book* since 2005 and lives in Argentina. He also serves as moderator in the UAI Spanish forums. Father of two young girls. He is very happy to be a part of the *Tidings* team.



Federico Folchi

Congratulations and welcome to the *Tidings* group, Federico. ☐

2011 Chicago Symposium on Leadership



NORMAND LAPERLE
Levis, Quebec, Canada
nlap@videotron.ca

IF YOU WANT TO HAVE AN extraordinary activity, invite extraordinary people, no matter the activity. In Chicago, it was not the speeches that marked the event, it was the people who gave them, and it was the people we met during our morning walk, those we met at the table during meals or on a bench in the church before the show. Exchanging with people nourishes the soul. Extraordinary people are basically very ordinary people from which potentials transpire.

It's impossible to write everything here in this limited space. But I must say that I felt like if I was with the apostles in Jesus time. All I was hearing around me was: "Here is what we do at home to promote this revelation." The art of being, of becoming and doing".

I still think of the Chinese girl (the only from her country) with whom I spoke in the corridor during a break and talking about her experiences in China. I think of this Brazilian who tried to explain, by all possible means to make himself understood, in broken English, the experiences they were living with their study groups. I also think of these young people, in the mere 20s, with whom I spoke, asking in their own way how to better accomplish themselves. I also think about the musicians who have managed to "touch our souls" during their presentation on. Music is definitely a language...

Contact with other people challenges us, and at the same time it allows us to fulfill ourselves. Oriented in the direction of this new revelation it can only give good results. Thank you to the organizers for having succeeded in creating rewarding circumstances at all levels, while setting the tone for future liabilities for the Urantia Association.

Normand Laperle
Levis, Quebec, Canada ☐

My experience at the Leadership Symposium



LOURDES PIZARRO
Peru
feluum2004@yahoo.es

THE SYMPOSIUM WAS A GIFT FROM the Father. It was a very profound experience for me; with such a strong and revitalizing impulse that it raised every cell and atom of my Being.

I spent five days sharing with brothers and sisters of different parts of the world. ALL united under the same purpose, the same ideals and the inner strength to spread the teachings.

In this symposium each of the invited speakers, conveyed the strength for action, the enthusiasm, the communion (common-union) with the Father and also allowed me to vibrate in very elevated levels of consciousness. Personally, I felt the second day (the 15th) was the most deep one; both morning and afternoon presentations were very complete.

We had the great opportunity to participate in this symposium. It gave us the strength to jump into conscious action and impersonal service towards the expansion of TRUTH.

I experienced the Father within in many occasions, I recognized myself in others from different parts of the world and I felt the strength that comes from union. It was very beautiful to experience brotherhood at its fullest. I felt a very strong uplifting force within me.

This symposium has been the answer to my being's claim; to work for the Father's Masterpiece as part of a team. Alone, there's almost nothing I can do, but as a team there is plenty we can achieve.

It was a beautiful and insightful event. I believe it should be repeated every two years in order to get to know each other more, share experiences and come up with more ideas to expand the teachings.

Lourdes Pizarro
Peru ☐

Comments from Brazil



NEMIAS MOL AND SUSAN HUTTNER

Brazil
nemiasmol@gmail.com
zsu@uol.com.br

PARTICIPATE AT UAI'S LEADERSHIP Symposium, meet with the Urantia Foundation Trustees was the fulfillment of a great dream.

We had days of great joy and confraternization, the opportunity to be in comunion with readers and leaders of many other countries. Only an event of this grandeur could give us the chance to meet friends of whom we only had notice through emails.

This Symposium permitted us to get in touch with our real mission today regarding the Fifth Epocal Revelation.

Events like this feed our souls and strengthen us, stimulate us to proceed with confidence knowing that we are not alone in the big work of dissemination, knowing that there are strong arms being prepared all around the world of people from the most diverse places who are acting in favour of the establishment of the Kingdom of God in Urantia.

Nemias Mol
Brazil

THIS LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM upstepped us to the Morontia Worlds, we lived moments of deep extasis feeling the true brotherhood and love from all organizers and from all participants.

We had moments of service, of work together, of studies, of delights, of worship, and could feel all the time the presence of God and of all His hierarchy blessing this magnificent event, to enable us and to help us to continue disseminating The Revelation to the people of Urantia.

Susan Hüttner Palaia
Brazil ☐

Jesus' anniversary



SUSAN HUTTNER
Urantia Associação do Brasil
zsu@uol.com.br

THE SÃO PAULO URANTIA BOOK STUDY Group celebrated the Birthday of Jesus/Michael on Sunday August 21st as of 17 hrs.

This was a moment of gathering of *The Urantia Book* readers and interested persons within a simple commemoration based on Jesus' Teachings and on the Revelation, pointing out some spiritual values: Gratitude, Compassion, Forgiveness, Humbleness, Comprehension and Courage, which are found in some passages of the Book at the Life and Teachings of the Master that served as guide and example for our progressive spiritual steps.

There were 37 participants from many different cities within a climate of Friendship, mutual admiration, love and Joy.

The celebration was concluded with some snacks, juices, to enable confraternization, talks. It was a very pleasant moment where people met, exchanged ideas, addresses. We had some musical presentations by some readers playing piano and guitar.



We also announced the VI National Urantia Readers Meeting to take place in the South of Brazil, Porto Alegre on December 2-3-4, 2011.

Susan Huttner
Brazil ☐

Celebration in the rain



LINE ST-PIERRE
UAI Association, Quebec
line.stpierre@gmail.com



A MEETING UNDER A MAKE-SHIFT shelter took place Sunday 21st August in Parc Angrignon in the Town of LaSalle, Quebec in honor of the 2017th birthday of Michael, our Creator Son.

Early that morning, Alain, Pierre and Maurice raised a make-shift shelter under the trees and held it together with paintbrush handles. At 10 o'clock sharp, participants began to arrive and we met around thirty brave souls happy to meet and to socialize. Three new participants, unknown to us, also took part in this celebration.

We all shared a meal in a large buffet with juice, wine and lots of rain water!

Together, we toasted Michael and to end the meal, we all shared a magnificent and delicious cake decorated with concentric circles.

Gilles Lapierre directed the Choir with a song to the tune of *Gens du Pays* with the following words: **"My dear Michael, it's now your turn, to let us tell you about LOVE"**

It goes without saying that Quebec readers never fail to celebrate this occasion, regardless of the weather.

See you there next year!

Line St-Pierre

Association Urantia du Québec ☐

Activity report on the Chicago Symposium



JEAN ANNET
UAI Association, Belgium
jean@arpegemedia.be

LAST JULY, ISABELLE AND I ATTENDED the Leadership Symposium in Chicago. Other than the Symposium itself, there was a “before” and an “after” that I would not want to omit, for they were so rich and productive.

We arrived 2 days early and were lodged at the Foundation itself, in Chicago. This had many advantages. First, it gave us this opportunity to relax and adjust to the time zone difference, then it strengthened our friendship ties with our French peers who came with us (or us with them) and finally, it allowed us to soak in the atmosphere of the original dwelling where *The Urantia Book* originated.

I confess that I went to the Symposium with a quest in mind, which was to find out about the origins of the Book of Urantia. This question stayed present in my mind before, during and after the Symposium. I asked many questions, I met the highest leaders, conferred with those nearest or longest standing members of the Forum still living today. In fact, the more I questioned, the more I realized that I would never obtain satisfactory answers to my questions. In short, the answer to my questioning came from Carolyn Kendall, the last Lady of the Forum still alive, whose response was: “I don’t know.” Of course, I knew more than before, but fundamentally, I wasn’t much more advanced. The origins of *The Urantia Book* will remain a mystery (so planned by the Revelators) so that we will concentrate on the Book itself.

I would also like to elaborate on the post Symposium events. While impinging on our private sphere, they were for us an obvious application of *The Urantia Book*. Isabelle, my spouse, had told me: “If we go to Chicago, I hope we will be invited by some of the participants. I cannot conceive that we will talk of Brotherhood for 3 days without experiencing it afterwards.” The answer had come many months prior.



Group photo of Leadership 2011 Symposium attendees at the entrance of conference venue, Techny Towers, Chicago USA.

Gaétan and Line, the UAI president and his spouse, invited us to spend about ten days in Quebec. As I said, this enters a private life sphere and these ten days gave us the opportunity to strengthen a friendship which begun a few years previously when they travelled to Belgium. In addition to our “Guest Stars” visit of parts of Quebec and without wanting to bruise their humility, I would simply like to say that I really met people who live the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. If the Symposium was the theory, these ten days with them were the practice of it. Jesus said: “You shall be seen as my disciples in your manner of living.” We were able to see the fruits of the Spirit. The warmth, the love, the joy, the deep discussions for hours (fully exposed to the sun and without protection which resulted in a sunburn) their availability, their service, the unplanned and warm encounters, the serenity, the strength of persuasion, a strong but mild character, an inner peace. This stay was more than vacations, it was practical training. They know we are not soon to forget!

Back to the Symposium. Or, rather, to my perception of the Symposium. I am not aiming to make an activity report of the Symposium, day to day, but rather to give my impressions, my actual experiences. I should first of all mention that I was carrying some apprehension. First, I don’t speak English and I understand it very little, especially when spoken by Americans. Also, I am rather

solitary by nature. To live for 3 days with more than one hundred fifty unknown persons incurred for me some degree of stress. Of course, I knew many of them, my spouse was with me and all the participants were brothers and sisters, there was nothing to fear but although we might wish to be a leader, we have to face our own inner fears. And this went well. I must say that I was very favourably impressed by the warmth and the typically North-American welcome. It was simple, without fuss, adequate. I immediately felt at ease and this allowed me to be very relaxed throughout the Symposium. Many thanks to Rick Lyon, Susan, Line and all the others (...) for your kindness, your smile, your welcome. These first moments were determinants for the 3 days duration. And what three days! Condensed, rich, emotional, also touching. In the morning, the briefings were packed, often too compact for the translators who could not always follow. It waned from soft, to strong, once even too strong, American evangelist style, but generally accurate, personal, each with its distinguishing note. I shall remember those of Carolyn Kendall on the history of the Book of Urantia, Line St-Pierre on her meeting with God and through Moussa Ndiaye, from Sheila Keene-Lund whose book in French I await publication impatiently, of Betty Lou Wallace for her enthusiasm in creating study groups in Florida. Other strong moments of these meetings have been for me, the >>

Activity report on the Chicago Symposium cont.

conclusion by Gaétan Charland, the UAI president, the meeting with the Vice-President of the Fellowship and the president of the Urantia Foundation, Mo Siegel. And last, the other strong moment was the Thanksgiving ceremony and the Remembrance Supper. If I remained unfulfilled by the morning meditations which I found too passive, I was much more impressed on Sunday morning. It was the moment of the Symposium I was waiting for: how to celebrate Thanksgiving together, how to pray, how to connect with the Spiritual World, how to remember Jesus' Last Supper as he had asked us? How to, also, not succumb to a religiousness we no longer want, to a symbolism empty of meanings, in an obsolete ritual? In general, I'm easy to please, I enjoy the Show (concert, film or ceremony...) however I also have a good instinct which makes me react immediately if it's wrong. There, I let myself get carried and reach the heights in connexion with the Spiritual World, the medians and even Jesus in the Remembrance of the Last Supper. It was food for the soul. In my Study group, before the Symposium, I tried to introduce moments of prayer to counter the mental approach in the study of the Book. Thanks to that ceremony, I feel reinforced to develop spirituality, prayer and worship.

What remains to be said? That these three days were a fabulous occasion for sharing. Not only in the afternoon during group meetings but also during the meals, the coffee breaks and in the evenings. Although the language barrier did not permit me to meet everyone, I have had numerous encounters, at least at my level, and I come out greatly enriched.

I believe that the first Symposium will mark the history of the UAI. It will call for other such meetings, riding on the success of this first one. Nevertheless, it has, personally, spurred me in wanting to participate again.

Jean Annet,
Belgium

CONTRIBUTE TO UAI

To support the work of UAI please send your contribution to:

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

About the Cover Painting — created by Carlos Rubinsky



GAÉTAN CHARLAND
President UAI
Gaétan.charland3721@videotron.ca

THE PAINTING TITLED “WELCOME to the study group” was the work of the reader and artist painter Carlos Rubinsky. Early this year when invitations were sent to leaders of UAI around the world to attend the UAI leadership Symposium that was held in Chicago, I commissioned our friend Carlos to create a painting that would represent one part of our strategies to achieve our mission, “Study groups”

I knew Carlos could paint something beautiful that would reflect the spirit of our mission for I had previously seen much of his work while visiting him last year at his home in Argentina. I gave Carlos some ideas of what I was looking for and was confident that his imagination and creativity would find a way to express this important spiritual aspect of our work with the Revelation.

When I first saw the painting in Chicago and heard the explanation of the symbolism attached to it, I fell in love with it but did not know what to do with it. I did not have the space to put such a big painting in my home and UAI does not have an office or building where such work could be hanged for all to see. After a night of sleep and much meditation, the idea came to give it to Urantia Foundation where it could hang on a wall on the second floor as a testament and vivid reminder of the importance of study groups as part of our mission for all readers to see and meditate upon.



On the morning of the last day of the Symposium, after the worship ceremony, Mo Siegel graciously accepted on behalf of Urantia Foundation the painting “Welcome to the Study group” as a gift from UAI in the spirit of its mission.

If you ever go to the Foundation, you will be able to see this beautiful painting and maybe in the following years we will be able to publish a poster of it so anyone could have a similar picture hanging in their home.

Gaétan G. Charland
President UAI

Welcome to the study group




CARLOS RUBINSKY
UAAR Argentina
carlosrubinsky@gmail.com

WHEN GAËTAN AND LINE WERE IN Buenos Aires in 2010, as part of their trip visiting the readers in South America, they came to my studio to see my art works, and they acquired a couple of them for their home and a couple to give as presents. At this point I was even happier with Line and Gaëtan's visit. The final satisfaction that an artist receives is when someone appreciates so much his work that feels the desire to acquire it and hang it on one of his walls... And even more satisfaction is when the one that acquires the painting is someone that you know and love. This is for me the perfect situation.

Then it came along an extra satisfaction, and a challenge: A "commission". Few months latter, when Gaëtan learned that I had applied to attend the upcoming Leadership Symposium, he asked me to paint a picture that will depict the idea of a Study Group... He didn't give me an exact idea, only some concepts and ample freedom for me to decide the image.

My challenge was to find such an image that will be a unification of many different concepts. An abstract concept with a real representation, it had to be nice and attractive to make someone be willing to hang it on a wall, so it had to be well constructed, well designed according to what for me makes a picture well structured, for this is a base on the so called Sacred Geometry. Then it had to be well painted according to the principles that I choose as mine, these being the colour rules of the Impressionist. Then was the task of finding an image and the symbols.

How do you represent a Study Group? mmmm...

The first idea is what we know because of our experience, this is a bunch of brothers and sisters sitting at a table or in a living room in comfortable sofas reading a book... Nice, I like it... but I'm not good in painting



The artist receiving some help from his granddaughter

human beings... this I leave for Tonia Baney © she is great at that! ... Besides I needed to express a feeling... How can you express those magical moments that can be lived in a Study Group when the reading itself is transcended and we are exposed to live the emotion of the Spirit... those moments that the Master promised when two or three came together in His name...

Those who actively participate in a study group know what I mean.

So I kept thinking ...waiting for an inspired image to come to my mind... And it finally came. It had to do with other of my previous paintings, but now with an outstanding happening, the Study Group in its mist. So some sketches were made, and the idea of "floating books" on a circle became real, having each book a shining light of itself. The thought is that the books are there; just waiting for those that will read them to come. There is no one visible holding the books, so one could be YOU.... Then, to transmit the idea of what these books are about it is painted in the grass the perspective view of the Three Concentric Circles Symbol. Becoming the central circle more lighted than the others, from where it ascends a bright column of light to the sky. Or it could be seen that the bright light descends from the sky into the circles on the grass... The focal point of the light in the sky is represented with a very subtle almost invisible couple of letters of the Hebrew alphabet which represents the word God (Iod and Hei). This light coming down will meet with the horizon where it will reflect on

the water illuminating the horizon line, so we have two columns of light, one vertical and one horizontal that determine a cross, and this could be seen as a luminous being with open arms ... this for me represents the Creator of our Universe; Michael of Nebadon who hails from the Father and arrives to the earth at the very centre of his Circles Symbol...

Another image that this picture brings is the concept of the desire age of Light and Life, being the life represented by the forests and flowers that surrounds the circle of shining books. This garden also represent a feeling of well being that could be felt at a Study Group when it transcends its physical place and the time becomes sacred, those moments when the energy and the power of the group makes us feel the truth of what we are studying. This utopian place depicted in the picture could be a representation of a real feeling for those enjoying a study session with their siblings.

Then we can see a symbolism in the number of books in the circle, they are 7 books, having the number seven lots of meanings... you know.

There is more in the picture for each individual to discover by himself. I believe that the goal was achieved. I'm very satisfied with the outcome, I hope you too. I can only say that there were moments while painting the picture that I felt high emotions.

There is one last story to tell : At first, after I decided about the image and the size of the painting, I began to paint a study of it in a smaller size, a first approach of the idea to see if it worked. At some point I saw >>

VIII UAI Urantia Book International Conference

COLOMBIA



“IN THE LIGHT OF LOVE”

Information: www.urantiacolombia.com



Welcome to study group cont.

that it was OK so I left this smaller unfinished canvas on a side and began with the bigger one. After I finished a first step I went back to the small one and continued it. In this process I realized that I could make some improvements compared with the other one, so I did these improvements to the small one and then transferred them to the big one. And again new changes were made and reflected on the other painting, until both were finished and quite alike... And then both travelled to Chicago, and were delivered into the hands of the “commissioner”. By the end of the Symposium the big one finally became a present from the President of the UAI to Urantia Foundation, and the small one was also presented in the name of the UAI to the Fellowship’s Vice-president as a token of friendship and in acknowledgement of our common goal regarding the fostering of thousands of Study Groups around the world...

This is the story of the creation of the “Welcome to the Study Group” painting and also of the smaller “Welcome to the Study Group, study”. I can only say that I’m happy and proud and hope that this image will worth the famous thousand words, and be able to transmit to the viewer the inspiration and the joy of being part of a Study Group.

Thank you Gaétan for given me the wonderful opportunity to create this painting.

In brotherhood

Carlos Rubinsky

September 2011 □



DEAR URANTIAN FRIENDS AROUND the world, The Urantia National Association of Colombia and the UAI, invite you to participate in the VIII International Conference of Urantia Association International. This International Conference will be held from 28th April to 1st May, 2012, at the Intercontinental Hotel in Medellín, Colombia.

The success of any Conference depends upon the presentations and workshops. Those wishing to make a presentation should send us your articles. Deadline for submitting

articles for the Conference proceedings and inclusion is 1st December, 2011.

The two official languages at the Conference will be Spanish and English, with the simultaneous translation of each presentation by official translators. Those who wish to serve as translators in the Conference, please let us know by e-mail.

We invite you to pre-register for the Conference in order to calculate the number of participants and reserve the rooms at the hotel. Pre-registration deadline is 1st October, 2011.

email: urantiacolombia@gmail.com □

Comments and Feedback from the UAI 2011 Leadership Symposium



RICK LYON
UAI Executive Administrator
uaicentraloffice@urantia-uai.org



THE UAI 2011 LEADERSHIP symposium was successful in many regards. The event was sold out. We had leaders of this revelation from 24 different countries attending.

The group dynamic, which was a first time format for a Urantia event, was greatly received by those participating. The love and friendship and the connectedness of all the Urantia family from the worldwide community of *Urantia Book* readers was... Well, it just brought tears to our eyes to watch it happening and to be part of it. The number of "young readers" there was an encouraging blessing as well.

Personally, I think the greatest thing to come from this event is that 160 people came to realize that this truly is a worldwide community of *Urantia Book* readers and that we really are a global family. This really was an historic, unique, and very productive event. Great things were accomplished by those who attended and even greater things await their efforts that result from their participation in this symposium. Several of you reading this sent contributions to make it possible for people from far away places to attend. We thank you for that. I only wish that you could have been there to see the fruits of your contributions and how greatly they were appreciated and the difference that you made in someone's life. I could go on and on but I will let our guests tell you more. We created a Google Group email list to make announcements and to share travel plans among those attending. After the symposium, our guests used this email group to share their thoughts about their experience at the symposium. Here are the comments from some who attended:

"I am amazed at the level of energy that still remains even after this event has concluded; I've never experienced anything like this in all my years of involvement in the

Urantia movement! Job well done indeed to all of the symposium committee!"

"Just for the record, I think that our gathering was the best I have ever been to and my congrats to all of you who worked so hard and lovingly for all of us!"

"We were between heaven and earth, they have been full days and to have shared all this personal experiences has given a touch of life to my life. I take them in my heart forever. Thank you and now is the moment to put that strength into action grasp by the hands."

"It was my greatest experience of joy, peace and togetherness on the planet Urantia for such a period of time. Indeed let me exclaim my sincere appreciation to the presidents of UAI, Foundation, Fellowship and above all to all the organizers and participants for making such a wonderful and divine meeting. I can't really find words to thank you all for the warmth and fatherly love that you accorded everyone me inclusive. I was at home with bros and sis from S. and N. America, Australia, Europe, Asia and Africa. Indeed we experienced a fraction of paradise peace."

"The quality of beings who gave the speeches was so high, and of inspiration to all of us to become servers in the expansion of the teachings."

"I agree wholeheartedly that the Symposium was a blessing from our Father."

"Felt like I was home when I was with everyone."

"Thanks to the Father and to each one of you for the wonderful days lived in the pleasure of the soul. Thank you for the marvellous opportunity of meeting in the level of commitment of the being. And now we are together in the action of the expression of the Father in every moment and wherever we are to expand the light that we are. It been an inspiration the work done with the clear purpose of doing the will of the Father. This is the beginning. There are no barriers, not even

the languages. Thank you and a big hug in brotherhood to each one of you."

"The purpose, the effort and loving work of the organizers, the warmth and disposition of the attendees, the program and the way everything flowed was truly great! And to complete the experience, we had art on Saturday evening, and worship on Sunday morning...Allowing the Adjutant Mind Spirits of Wisdom and Worship to inspire and connect us, as one family..."

"Connections between people and insights about various matters are already deriving in creative actions."

"On Wednesday, before the program started, readers from Latin America spontaneously gathered to share experiences and more. It was extremely inspiring to listen to our very active siblings from Brazil and Colombia, who enriched us all with their perspectives, tools, and many activities. I am touched and thrilled that we all met, and that new platforms, both international and regional, may be created.

This interaction will undoubtedly help us to grow as persons, and to improve in our skills, and work. It feels as if a seed has been planted, which will take shape in time."

"All this would've not happened if it was not for the real and loving service of the board members of the UAI, and their efforts to bring together readers from so various countries. I am now more aware of how important it is that readers from different latitudes attend international conferences."

"I am still assimilating the experiences of this wonderful days. They have been a magnificent spiritual overcharge. I want to thank everything and everybody. Now I understand the importance of this type of experiences."

"I really feel the symposium struck a balance between the intellect and the spirit. There were some truly amazing >>

Comments and Feedback from the UAI 2011 Leadership Symposium cont.



and moving spiritual balanced by challenging intellectual concepts and conversations.”

“Great things are happening in the Urantia Movement! We definitely had a need to focus more on the training of teachers and leaders. And I was really happy to hear that the leaders of Fellowship have supported the same. We are in the same boat and should create more coherence between readers belonging to different organizations, the past is over. And that meeting fitted these needs very well. Seems we all loaded our spiritual batteries. I have attended several conferences in US but that was really special. Lot of love, service and good will, if to put into one sentence. That certainly can inspire us dealing with local issues, especially with study groups. I hope that symposium will not stay the last one.”

“We seem to feed off everyone’s energy lifting us in a Supreme way endearing us to the brotherhood of mankind.”

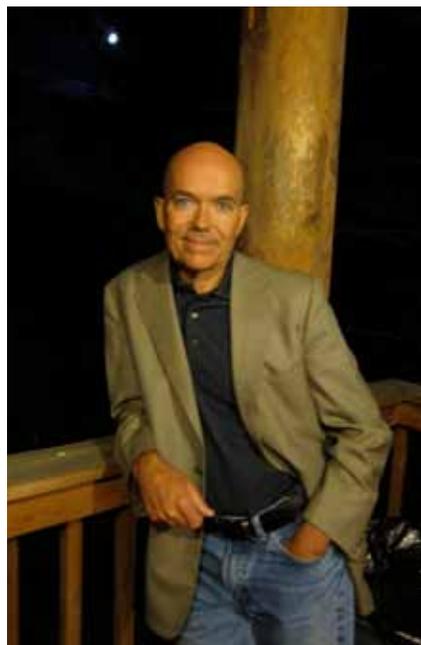
“I am very grateful for this meeting with a clear and inspiring purpose and the pleasure it gave to my soul. Thank you for been so careful to all the details and necessities we had, you have shown us your love and brotherhood. Always together in this common purpose, which is the reason of our existence. I thank the Father, the UAI and all the ones who collaborated in the organization of this first symposium of leadership in Chicago, where the first lines to guide the revelation were given. This was a wonderful experience and there are no words to express so much beauty, because we and them (our spiritual guides) enjoyed this meeting of races, languages, cultures, religions, philosophies and ways of thinking. This was a real Carnival, where we all shared and learned a lot. They have made us vibrate and made us feel one with our spiritual guides. They made these moments a compromise with the purpose of the Father. We will see each other in the international conference in Medellin, Colombia, in 2012.”

“Several days have past in time, but our hearts still keep the spirit that touched our souls. The mansion worlds were shown to us where the real purpose is the glory of a marvellous Father. I have the assurance that the brotherhood is a reality, and this is just the beginning, as there is a long way to walk. A thousand times thank you is not enough to express what my soul feels for what everybody gave in this meeting.”

“I will admit to having some trepidation about going as I have only been a member of the UAI for a few years and was not sure what to expect. What I found was a lot of loving and generous souls that are intently committed to the revelation. It is easy to see that we are all on the same path and just want to work together for the betterment of humanity.”

“It was a fantastic event! It has definitely set an important precedent, in many regards. Most of us are not the same as when we arrived to Techny...”

“I’m coming down today from a great high at Techny Towers! The feeling is a great and good one---thinking about you and the synergy in planning and execution. It was highly rewarding as people walked up to me and gave substantial compliments about how you planned and executed the symposium event. [One person] told me it was the best “conference” he had ever attended. I overheard others tell others it was superb. Thank you for your supreme dedication, tolerance, and patience. I hope you all came away with good feelings about the symposium. I hope our unseen friends are pleased.” □



Daryl at Camp Brotherhood during the 2010 UAI Conference in Washington taken by James Woodward.



IN MEMORIAM



Daryl Berry
Columbus, Ohio

FROM THE FIRST TIME MEETING HIM, I could feel the radiance of his spirituality, the gentleness of his character, and the sincerity of his clear teaching. Then, as years passed and I got to know him, each step of the way brought new respect, new enthusiasm for him, new discoveries of his gifts and accomplishments, of things we share, and new hopes for our teamwork.

After Robert Scheuer left for the mansion worlds, Daryl took on additional responsibility for leading the Columbus, Ohio study group, and he was the Treasurer for UAUS. There is a natural (and cultural) tendency to grieve when a cherished friend is heading into the great mortal transition, but most of all, I give thanks for the blessings already received, and I rejoice to anticipate what Daryl’s universe future has in store for him.

Jeffrey Wattles

Our dear friend Daryl Berry passed away this morning 9 September 2011. His study group was able to visit with him Tuesday evening in hospice care.

Daryl was a contributor to this revelation in many ways. He often led workshops and sessions on meditation at our events. Daryl was also a pilot and successful businessman who lived in Ohio, USA. He was also a wonderful person and a great friend. Please remember Daryl and his family in your thoughts and prayers. A truly unique and special person.

Rick Lyon

He emanated such a powerfully contented energy; I think it was unwavering faith plus loving service plus genuine friendliness.

James Woodward

Daryl Berry from Ohio has graduated.

Stephen Caruso

I knew Daryl Berry. We had a few great phone conversations!

A great mortal who put service before self. He will be missed.

Pat Sonti □