



# Tidings

from Associations around Urantia

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

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"Maui roses" painting by Tonia Baney



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## President's message

Dear Friends of UAI,

**I**N LATE MAY AND EARLY JUNE, my wife and I were on a three week trip in Europe where we had the opportunity of meeting with readers of many different countries. It has been a very profitable adventure if I can call it that and it should probably have very beneficial consequences for UAI and its mission.

We arrived in time to attend the French association annual conference and business meeting, the whole event lasted a full weekend and was held in the small city of Dinar. The conference was attended by at least forty readers from many parts of France. We have to remember that France was the first country in the world to benefit in the early sixties from a translation of *The Urantia Book*. The Urantia Association in France is very well organised and has benefited from a very good strategic plan produced by the ex-president Michel Rouanet.

During their conference, a period for questions had been planned so members could ask me questions about UAI, its mission and its strategic plan. This was a great opportunity for me to invite some of them to put in their nominations for the next ISB elections. During that weekend the association held its regular elections for new board members, Dominique Ronfret was elected as the new president.

After the conference, we had been invited to stay at the house of Claire Mylanus who is a Trustee associate. We had a wonderful visit while staying there and had the opportunity of meeting Clair's husband, Hank, and her daughter Samantha, who is very much involved as a leader in the Dutch (Holland) Urantia Book reader's community. The few days we spent with Clair's family were used to explore the history of the French, German and Dutch Urantia movement in Europe. It was very interesting to learn that everything started by a few study groups with strong and good dedicated leaders who had each evolved their own and unique ways of teaching. The dedication and timeless efforts of those few leaders produced most of what is striving now as a community of readers in those parts of



Europe. It is amazing to witness those facts and imagine what thousands of study groups could produce.

We left France for Belgium with a promise to return and an invitation to meet in Spain next year. We arrived in Brussels, Belgium on Friday evening and were met at the train station by Jean Annet who took us to his home in a beautiful countryside. On Saturday afternoon, a meeting with the members of the Belgium association was arranged and we had the opportunity of meeting twelve readers and answered many questions about UAI and its mission. During that afternoon, we heard a very touching story on the part played by one of the founding members of their association, François Dupont, who is now in his eighties and suffering from Alzheimers but lucid enough to participate in this gathering. Once again it all started with a regular study group that François started and which persisted throughout the years. We got to know Jean Annet and his wife Isabelle a lot better by staying with them a few days and exploring many ideas about *The Urantia Book* and UAI.

We left Belgium to travel to Switzerland where we stayed with Doris Calmel, a long time reader and a professional therapist. She introduced us to a group of ten persons some were readers and others non-readers. They all had one thing in common, they were interested in spirituality and it was an occasion for us to question them on their beliefs and their search. Most of those people were professionals and others scientists. While they were not all readers of the Urantia Book, some of them, after having met Doris and her friends, started reading *The Urantia Book* while others did not show the same curiosity.

After that first meeting, another one was arranged with two long time readers coming from a different part of Switzerland. We spent a whole afternoon exchanging ideas about the UB, UAI and Michael's plan project. They both participated in a study group but said that it was far too early to start an association in Switzerland. We then traveled to Zurich and met a group of six readers for lunch, old and new and some from Germany. Again

## 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.

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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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we made the best of our time by answering questions and promoting the mission of *The Urantia Book* and UAI.

I only regret we did not have enough time to go to Finland and attend their annual conference, but this will have to wait another year. All in all we had a very productive trip where we were able to promote UAI, its mission, the next UAI international conference and witness the slow but progressive process of the dissemination of *The Urantia Book* in this part of the world and most of all make new friends. We also noticed the strong desire for a united community of readers.

Meanwhile for the last two months, the ISB has been through some internal changes, James Woodward has resigned from his position as executive administrator and Rick Lyons was voted as his replacement while he too resigned from his position as Chair of the Study group committee. Judy Van Cleave is also leaving her post as secretary as she became a new trustee of Urantia Foundation. Jimmy Mitchell Chair of the dissemination Committee has also resigned for health



DOROTHY ELDER  
Director UBIS

## The Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) Story

IT ALL BEGAN TEN YEARS AGO. IT WAS 1998, and around that time people were beginning to contemplate the times ahead.....not only the arrival of a new century but the advent of a **new millennium**. It was invigorating and exciting to contemplate what lay ahead for Urantia in this new era of time, and positive anticipation was in the air!.... Also occurring at this time was the blossoming of the World Wide Web. Suddenly everyone could talk to everyone! Instant communication around the world became a reality. Wonderful new things were on the way!

These two factors, coupled with one man's contemplation and focus on potential opportunities in the field of Education for the readers of *The Urantia Book*, were the seeds from which **The Urantia Book Internet School** sprang.

UF Trustee Georges Michelson-Dupont began to ponder these three factors and then envisioned and designed the format for an educational outreach service for the growing global readership, a project which would be presented in English on the Urantia Foundation website. Georges needed someone to put the project in motion, and that's where I came into the picture. Cathy Jones suggested that

### President's Message *continued from page 2*

reasons. Rick and Judy will keep working at their positions until elections are held in the early fall. So if you feel you have the desire to serve at higher service functions, you are most welcome to submit your nominations when they are called for.

New developpements occured in the Web activities of UAI, Bill Martin was chosen as the new administrator for the UAI forum. He will be ably assisted in this position by a strong and dedicated group of moderators. As for the Web Site, a much needed replacement to Mario Caiolo as Web master has been found, Joe DiMaggio from Florida will take over and will be assisted temporarily by Mario himself.

On the Representative Council side, it was vacation time for the last two months and this honorable body will soon be called in to the election process for new members of the ISB.

In teaching friendship with God  
Gaétan G. Charland  
President UAI

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The global classroom – location of our students

I might be the person he was looking for and I was invited to attend a meeting, meet Georges and learn about the project. What a day that was! Little did I know what an impact it would have on my life. Georges carefully and at length explained to me the project's concept, purpose, philosophy and format, and I was immediately and tremendously **inspired**. I recognized the soundness of it's approach, it's service aspects to the growing and far-flung readership, and I was particularly invigorated by it's future potential. My response that day to Georges was, "Let's get started!"

It was clear to me that such an undertaking shouldn't be launched without adequate preparation, so a year of practice, experience gathering, learning and preparation ensued. I prepared a practice/test course, found 12 readers to serve as student/evaluators, and a lot was learned from that experience. Also at that time, Jay Peregrine appeared on the scene, truly a blessing to the project all through the years to come. Jay, (the then UF Website Administrator) joined our efforts and spent many long hours and weeks preparing the UBIS pages on the UF website. In January 1999 I went in search of Teacher/Facilitators and put out the call to persons I knew and to the different membership organizations. Al Lockett was the first person to respond to my call for teachers, and he went on in service to the UBIS for many years. All readers were welcome, and in all, 12 Teacher/Facilitators were found for our initial year. Our year of preparation was arduous, but it reaped tons of experience and many new insights. We

were finally ready! *The Urantia Book* Internet School was launched in July, 1999 with Jerry Prentice's course titled: "Personality". The courses were presented (email format) on the UF website, each course having a dedicated email address.

### The rest is History.....

By 2001 we were ready for some organizational structure. A "Mission and Purpose Statement" was prepared, and we created a 5-member Board of Directors as the decision-making vehicle. This was done in order to progress with group wisdom and practice teamwork. This group has now grown to 7 members and is designated the UBIS Board and Staff. In part, our purpose statement says:

1. The purpose of UBIS is to provide the individual with a medium to increase his/her personal experience through expanded comprehension of *The Urantia Book*. The methodology employed for achieving this will be the technique of questions and responses through a non-interpretive pedagogy.
2. The UBIS also has a subsequent purpose of serving as an effective vehicle for training future teachers.
3. Embodied in this dual purpose is a real potential for advancing brotherhood on Urantia. *The Urantia Book* Internet School is therefore dedicated in all of its guiding principles to conduct its efforts in ways that with exemplify and promote good will. >>

UBIS story *continued from page 3*

The UBIS strives for the Jeasonion approach to Education. it is not always easy, and it requires dedication, practice and experience, but the examples of Jesus are always there to show the way.... as demonstrated in these words of Jesus to Ganid on the road to Rome: "The true teacher maintains his intellectual integrity by ever remaining a learner." [1433]

Years 2002 – 2004 saw the UBIS presenting a minimum of 10 courses a year. The Board and Staff (all volunteers) contributed their time in many ways, such as Recordkeeping, Archives/Course Library, Course Review Committee, T/Fs and service to the new teachers as Mentors. Vitally important is our **Teacher Training Program**, initiated in 2003. A T/T class is now offered annually, and has become one of the most noteworthy features of the UBIS program.

In January of 2006 the UBIS moved from an email-based format to a web-based format. The website offered several advantages, but as it is relatively new it is annually evaluated and upgraded.

July, 2008. All in all, in it's nine years of operation, the UBIS has presented 81 English courses to the ever-growing world-wide readership. Courses have also been presented in Finnish, Spanish and French. During this period of time **31 dedicated readers** have served the UBIS as Teacher/Facilitators, and it really is a wonderful experience. It is indeed heart-warming to meet readers from all around the world...from 27 countries spanning five continents.... participating together in a course of study.

I think it can be seen that the UBIS is an example of a grassroots organization. We started with a concept, three people, and an idea with a future direction. Over the ensuing years we learned through experience and continued to progress and grow. We are looking forward to the next ten years with equal enthusiasm and lots of ideas for new progress and growth.

I close this article with words from a student in Australia, sent to the UBIS at the conclusion of his course. These words just wrap it all up for me. They fill me with great joy, humility, and tremendous gratitude for the opportunity to be involved with the UBIS. This student wrote:

"My comprehension of the course topic was definitely enhanced as the result of the class. I particularly enjoyed the friendly "feel" and was impressed by the fact that students from all corners of the planet connected with each other. **The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man in action!**" □

## International Study Day 22 June 2008

*In anticipation of exploring together Paper 111 in October, groups across Australia and NZ launched into a fresh study of the Adjusters with Paper 107. Here are a few reports.*



### William Wentworth

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#### Towamba, NSW

**T**HE TOWAMBA STUDY GROUP MET at Pam and Dave Bradford's place to study paper 107. We took note of the fact that "Every mortal who is consciously or unconsciously following the leading ...", as none of us in the group are conscious of our adjusters' leading.

And as all three of us are over forty, "the age of discretion", we assume that our adjusters are all referred to as Thought Controllers – though we don't have any clear idea of what this means.

We also took note that even high spiritual beings like solitary messengers have only limited understanding of thought adjusters. They really are mysterious, and the term Mystery Monitors is quite justified.

We discussed the hope of all adjusters to achieve personality, and this led to that intriguing discussion of how a non-personal entity can hope, express will, plan and generally behave as if they are persons, even while depending on us mortals to provide the personality they lack. And even though they seem to exhibit will prior to indwelling a mortal mind, they are totally subservient to the will of their human subject during that indwelling.

This led naturally to discussion of the origin of adjusters, and the fact that while God

the Father controls their fragmentation from absolute deity, they are actually fragmented from a level of deity which is causally antecedent to Fatherhood. The Father becomes a father by bringing the Eternal Son into existence and separating the spiritual reality of the Son from the material reality of Paradise. But the adjusters are fragmented from the deity level at which spirit and matter are still combined. So that when the papers describe the adjusters as "spirit plus" on page 1182, we can see that their origin is from a deity level which contains the potential for both spirit and matter. Even so, it is still the Father himself who controls the whole process. They really are "Father fragments". And we enjoyed being reminded that the adjusters travel on material circuits, not spiritual ones.

We finished with a discussion of how it is through our response to our adjuster's indwelling that we contribute to the growth of the Supreme, and how it is only through the experiential deities that God can possibly expand his existential nature. God is fixed in absolute existential perfection until the experience of genuinely free willed beings produces something extra for him. So just as we need God, so he needs us, for it is only the experience of God seeking by free willed personalities which can ever add anything to his absoluteness.

A thoroughly enjoyable study.



The Sydney Study Group met at the Swadling's, Trevor (seated with book in hand) and Kathleen (seated 1st left)

**Sydney & Newcastle, NSW – Rita Schaad**

In NSW both Sydney and Newcastle readers met on the day. The small groups in each case afforded closer connections and intimate thought exchange.

There was a certain phrase which startled and touched us alike – the notion of the Thought Adjuster being imprisoned in our minds.

We wondered – does the TA suffer *“in all your afflictions I am afflicted”* [p.53:4]. The idea of this ‘Pilot Light’ struggling each day brought out a huge compassion and changed attitude towards our innermost reality.

**Canberra, ACT – Nigel Nunn**

*“Can you really realize the true significance of the Adjuster’s indwelling? Do you really fathom what it means to have an absolute fragment of the absolute and infinite Deity, the Universal Father, indwelling and fusing with your finite mortal natures?”* [p.1181:3]

*“... the Adjusters are undiluted and unmixed divinity, unqualified and unattenuated parts of Deity; they are of God, and as far as we are able to discern, they are God.”* [p.1177:3]

One of our group pointed out that before the 5th epochal revelation, there was no way for us (humanity) even to begin to think about our Father in Heaven “fusing” with us, let alone truly to fathom the significance of all this. But in the frame-for-thought spun by the Urantia Papers, the truth of the Adjuster’s indwelling is simply the breathtaking culmination of the revelators’ answer to the poet’s question to God, *“What is man that you are mindful of him?”*

*“In the last analysis, the Father fragments must be the gift of the absolute God to those creatures whose destiny encompasses the possibility of the attainment of God as absolute.”* [p.1178:0]

*“When mortal man fuses with an actual fragment of the existential Cause of the total cosmos, no limit can ever be placed upon the destiny of such an unprecedented and unimaginable partnership.”* [p.1181:3]

We also noticed that, in the preceding paper (106), it’s almost as if the Melchizedek author forgot to whom he was speaking: **“Universe Levels of Reality”** is so far beyond the **“full philosophic limit”** of our old frames for thought, that it is almost silly for us to consider trying to understand such things. But as we tried to **“fathom what it means to have an absolute fragment of the absolute and infinite Deity”** indwelling and fusing with us, we realized that only in a **“post-master-universe-age”** context, do we Finaliter children of eternal and infinite Dad really make sense:

*“At the inconceivably distant future eternity moment of the final completion of the entire master universe, no doubt we will all look back upon its entire history as only the beginning, simply the creation of certain finite and transcendental foundations for even greater and more enthralling metamorphoses in uncharted infinity.”* [p.1170:1]

Having mapped out the “Universe Levels of Reality” in paper 106, the authors immediately offer us a glimpse how we (loving, serving and personal) fit into such a daunting picture. Paper 107 helps to make real to our minds the truth that our Father will have us absolutely with Him, and that Adjusters are his flawless technique to make it so.

We were also intrigued by the pre-matter, pre-personal status of Adjusters. This puts them in absolute relationship to the prime branches of reality: the personal and the mathematical:

*“for Adjusters are fragmentations of God on an absolute level of reality which is not only prepersonal but also prior to all energy and spirit divergence.”* [p.1181:4]

*“It is a fact that the Adjusters traverse space over the instantaneous and universal gravity circuits of the Paradise Isle.”* [p.1182:6]

*“The Adjusters are fragments of the ancestor of gravity, not the consequentials of gravity; they have segmentized on a universe level of existence which is hypothetically antecedent to gravity appearance.”* [p.1183:1]

Our attempts to fathom something of this led to a notion that Adjusters come from a place that ‘pre-echoes’ the master universe, in the sense that the absonite is a *“pre-echo of the finite”* [p.1159:6]. From beyond the place where God the Sevenfold shapes qualities into the finite, from beyond the space where triunities and triodities condition the ultimate, the Adjusters subinfinitely penetrate us, and draw us back to stand beside Dad, upon “certain finite and transcendental foundations”, gazing with anticipation into His unfenced fields.

After all this exertion we looked again at the essence of this Essence of God:

*“The Adjusters are saturated with the beautiful and self-bestowing love of the Father of spirits.”* [p.1182:4]

If the Adjusters are saturated with something, does it mean that the reality from where they come is saturated with that something too? We reached out to touch the idea that the **I AM** is saturated with love – that love is the essential energy motivating the whole show. Is this why Jesus could say:

*“But I declare to you that my Father in Paradise does rule a universe of universes by the compelling power of his love. Love is the greatest of all spirit realities. Truth is a liberating revelation, but love is the supreme relationship.”* [p.1608:1]

We decided happily that **Love is the business of persons**, and then departed, happy to be about this business!

**New Zealand Corner  
Auckland – Neville Twist**

Five of us in Auckland gathered together on June 22 for the National Study Day, and studied paper 107 – The Origin and Nature of Thought Adjusters. We were pleased to welcome back Ian Campbell who has returned from the UK.

This is such an amazing paper. It is one of the most fundamental (new) truths of the fifth



The Buenos Aires Study Group – Argentina

epochal revelation. To think, as the Solitary Messenger says in his final sentence, *“There are no created beings that would not delight to be hosts to the Mystery Monitors, but no orders of beings are thus indwelt excepting evolutionary will creatures of finaliter destiny.”* [p.1184:2]

To think that each and every one of us is indwelt by a Divine fragment from the Universal Father himself in Paradise. Surely this is what Jesus referred to when he said **‘the kingdom of heaven is within you’**. We also discussed the conscious and unconscious realization of this fact and decided that mostly we were of the latter state. We learned that **“the Thought Adjusters truly and divinely love us”**. That they are our prisoners of spiritual hope.

We discussed the paragraph, where the Solitary Messenger asked us *“Can you really realize the true significance of the Adjusters indwelling? ... When mortal man fuses with an actual fragment of the existential Cause of the total cosmos, no limit can ever be placed upon the destiny of such an unprecedented and unimaginable partnership”* [p.1181:4].

These are such sublime teachings not found in any other literature on our planet!

We all had a wonderful and stimulating time together, followed by a shared lunch and fellowship.

Praise be to the Universal Father.

**Argentina  
Buenos Aires – Carlos Rubinsky**

13 readers met in Buenos Aires to read Paper 107 to celebrate The International Study Group Day, June 21st. We had a great time and a couple of good insights, plus we attained more understanding on the subject, nevertheless there are still a few unanswered questions so maybe we’ll get to the answers next year.

The knowledge that many other readers around the world where studying the same paper made of it quite a special experience... and our Thought Adjusters were probably all very happy also. :-)

It was indeed a good meeting !!. □

## How *THE URANTIA BOOK* found me

WILLIAM WENTWORTH  
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The joys of being a grandparent, William delights in his grand daughter, Woonona.

IN 1970 I WAS 31 YEARS OLD, AND very confused philosophically. I had been raised a Christian, but became an atheist at university, and after a decade or so of a kind of sour nihilism I was beginning to wonder about meaning, since trying to live as if there were none seemed rather pointless.

I had traveled a bit in Asia, and had come into contact with with a number of eastern metaphysical traditions, but I couldn't really understand them and had failed to undertake the discipline which is required for them to be meaningful. So I was reading books on Theosophy, the occult, metaphysics, science fiction and indeed any subject which seemed to offer some kind of approach to a meaningful existence.

One day my father came to see me because he was concerned that my young brother had become involved with some kind of new age cult, and he feared that he was going off the rails. He asked me to visit the cult headquarters to see what was going on, and if my brother was being misled, and to extricate him if necessary.

I did this and discovered that the "cult" was a harmless enough gathering of idealistic young people, meeting at the

house of Stephen Carthew, and following the teachings of an elderly philosopher called Fred Robinson. Fred had them all fasting and purifying their bodies so that they would be fit receptacles for spiritual enlightenment.

As things went at that time, this was a very tame and positive approach, compared to some of the more extreme agendas current, and I could see that my brother was in no danger. But while I was there I had an interesting talk with Fred. He was a kindly and articulate self-taught philosopher, and he was familiar with much of the material which I had been studying, and I arranged to return the following week for a further discussion. He mentioned the high regard he had for *The Ohaspe Book*, a radical new age tome, which had been published late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by an American dentist.

I read *The Ohaspe Book*—I thought it was nonsense—and upon returning to my meeting with Fred I avoided the subject. But I was nevertheless impressed with Fred. He seemed too good for *The Ohaspe book*, and as I listened to his teaching I could see that there was much more in his discourse than could be explained by it. He talked about the local universe, and the superuniverse, and how evolution

led us mortals to increasing levels of service, while God, Himself, served the entire creation. And he mentioned a book which explained all this in depth—*The Urantia Book*.

I lost no time in finding *The Urantia Book* in the Public Library of NSW, and it astonished me. I began with the Foreword, making very little sense of it, and then did a bit of browsing. When I came across the notion of the Thought Adjuster I was electrified, and returned night after night to the library to learn more. Unlike many other new readers I was not interested in Jesus. I had come to think of him as rather a wimp, who was so busy being gentle, meek and mild that he let the world walk all over him. (I have changed my mind since!!) But I was fascinated by the book's description of the way God runs the universe, and of the process of evolution in which we are involved. My approach was intellectual rather than spiritual, but the book spoke to me as no other. It spoke with an authority which I could neither deny nor explain.

So I found that the Theosophical Society Bookshop could order the book for me from Chicago, and by early 1971 I had my own copy. I have been studying it ever since. □

# Reflections Upon Emergent Occasions



**Mark Philip  
Bloomfield**

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## Africa Seeding Mission Update #16

IT'S FOUR O'CLOCK ON A COLD FROSTY morning and this is the one you dread getting out of bed for. We're in a cheap guest house in the guts of Bloemfontein, South Africa and the taxi will be here in half an hour to take us to the bus station in the wrong part of town. The one bus a day to Maseru, capital of the tiny mountain nation of Lesotho in the middle of South Africa is where we'll seed the last 24 books of the last southern Africa shipment. Central Park bus station however, where I need to catch the bus is the one place every white local I've asked about tells me to avoid at all costs if I wish to live to a ripe old age, but my only alternatives, taxi or flying are both outrageously expensive.

Peculiarly perched on the rooftop of a shopping mall, I wheezed my way up the stairwell to the entrance, a box of books in each hand and my luggage over my shoulder. There he was at the door. A great lumbering black guy seemingly selling cigarettes.

Bidding the fine fellow the top of the morning, I enquired as to the whereabouts of the Maseru bound bus to which, as the perfect gent, he ushered me to the appropriate bay while it occurred to me that should any trouble arise, this guy would immediately spring to my aid. From sitting duck to sitting pretty in ten seconds dead.

But it didn't stop there. Though as the only white in the whole neighbourhood, everyone else was equally pleasant that morning as the bus made it's way through the outlying townships towards the border.

Disembarking the bus at Maseru Bridge border crossing, one of the women bus passengers who saw me struggling with the books towards immigration grabbed one of the boxes, and balancing the fifth epochal revelation x 12 on her head, followed me over the bridge into Lesotho. A

share taxi was taken to the Anglican church centre in the hope of accommodation but no room at the inn, so instead to a small Christian outdoor leisure centre on the banks of a large reservoir just out of town that was apparently funded by English school children.

So then for four days of seeding, commencing with a visit to the U.S. Peace Corps headquarters library, then the Assembly of God Bible College and a memorable visit with a limbless woman at the Christian Council.

My favourite however was on day three when I walked straight into the House of Parliament to find myself in the inner chamber suddenly surrounded by several exceptionally large men in black overcoats and sunglasses, each with a funny little wire sticking out of their left ear and whispering into their sleeves. I've always wanted to ask one of those guys if they were born with that bit of wire in their ear or whether it sprouted during a pubescent growth spurt but never quite plucked up the courage to do so.

No matter. Five minutes after the book plus intro letter were spirited to presumably either the president or king in the next room, word apparently filtered back that the donation to their library had been accepted and that by either presidential or royal decree, I would on this occasion be allowed to live.

Visibly dejected, the terminators as if by shared consciousness simultaneously lost interest in me which was my cue to scuttle away with a sigh of relief.

A longish walk the next morning, bag on shoulder, took me from my room back through town and out the other side to be re-stamped back into South Africa, then on to an old mini bus, more rust than metal back to Bloemfontein. Electing to take the overnight bus back to Pretoria so as to save on accommodation, the next twelve hours

were spent aimlessly killing time and dosing myself up on coffee to the point that by the time the bus arrived, I practically levitated on board.

With only one single empty page left in my passport a visit to the British Embassy in Pretoria revealed that it would take an absurd 7 to 8 weeks for a replacement which made me decide to bump my return flight back to Kampala, Uganda to a few days hence so as to see if the embassy there could replace it any quicker.

So back to Kampala with the \$50 single entry visa issued upon arrival filling my last passport page and the good news a day or two later that the embassy there could issue me with a new one in just seven working days. Though costing the equivalent of \$250, much of that has since been recouped by virtue of Uganda's lower cost of living compared to South Africa.

Meanwhile however, delays beyond my control have plagued the dispatch of the 400 English books from India that even when they finally get under way may take up to 90 days to reach Ghana by sea. Though significantly cheaper, sea freight can sometimes be a false economy if one isn't careful. Stranded in Uganda as I am for the moment without enough funds for a one way ticket home to England as I carry no credit or debit cards, the financial top up I need to get home has apparently just now been sent by long suffering Tamara, (a.k.a. Monneypenny) at the Urantia Foundation. When it arrives, I'll be on the first cheap flight to London, the first time back in England in long years so as to visit family and friends as well as to assess my situation.

What will try to be avoided during this interim period of waiting will be any unnecessary dipping into already nearly exhausted seeding mission funds so to that end, one of two things need to happen:

Either a shipment of French books can be airfreighted into West Africa soon so as to get me started whilst the English books are in transit, or your fieldworker needs to indulge in a little casual work in England so as to offset his living expenses whilst waiting for the English books to make Accra. So that is the plan if no French books are forthcoming as this man in the field will need to sustain himself for a few months.

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

PS – If you are interested in helping with Mark's Africa seeding project please contact Tamara at Urantia Foundation.

[tamara@urantia.org](mailto:tamara@urantia.org) □

# Announcements

## UAI Administrator



**RICK LYON**  
President Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association GLMUA  
[ricklyon@tctc.com](mailto:ricklyon@tctc.com)

**W**E ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE that Rick Lyon has been appointed as the new UAI Executive Administrator. His track record follows him. He has shown loyalty, reliability, and creativity throughout his years of service in the UAI and his work in *The Urantia Book* Internet School. UAI is very fortunate to have Rick at the helm.

He replaces James Woodward. We offer the profoundest appreciation to James for his service as UAI Executive Administrator and all his years of service to the revelation. UAI was enhanced by James' years of service and dedication.

Thank you both for all your energy and efforts in our wonderful international service organization of dedicated Urantia Book readers ☐

## Associate Trustees



**OLGA LOPEZ**  
Associate Trustee  
[olopez65@gmail.com](mailto:olopez65@gmail.com)



**JAN BERNARD**  
Associate Trustee

**T**WO NEW ASSOCIATE TRUSTEES have been appointed by the Urantia Foundation based on their long time commitment to promoting the teachings of *The Urantia Book*, Olga Lopez and Jan Bernard.

Welcome to you both and may you work tirelessly to uphold the Declaration of Trust to keep *The Urantia Book* whole and inviolate for the benefit of all readers now and into the future. ☐

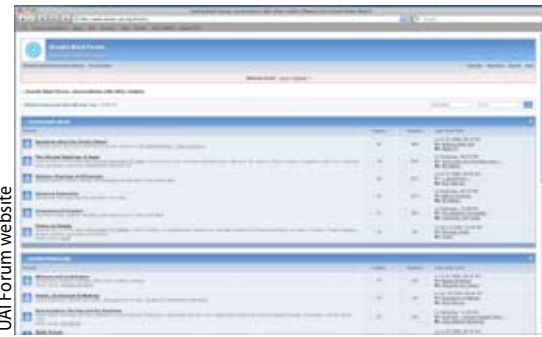
## UAI Forum Administrator



**BILL MARTIN**  
Administrator UAI Forum  
[sageofsalem@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sageofsalem@sbcglobal.net)

**I**T IS A PLEASURE TO ANNOUNCE that Bill Martin has accepted the invitation to be UAI Forum Administrator and gather around him a team of moderators to ensure the smooth functioning of the UAI Forum.

Bill will be ably assisted by Joe DiMaggio who has excellent IT skills. Their vision is to make the Forum a modern meeting place on the web for the exchange of ideas and enhancement of ideals in



UAI Forum website



**JOE DIMAGGIO**  
UAI IT Administrator  
[joe@deepbluwebtech.com](mailto:joe@deepbluwebtech.com)

the spirit of brotherhood, a purposeful consequence of our study of *The Urantia Book*.

Bill has already initiated the first steps to this end and gathered around him a team of competent moderators.

We are sure you will extend Bill and Joe a warm welcome and take time to visit and contribute your thoughts and enter one of the many discussion streams on the UAI Forum. Make it your Forum.

[www.urantia-uai.org/forums/](http://www.urantia-uai.org/forums/) ☐

## UAI 2009 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



**D**EAR FRIENDS, IT'S REALLY TRUE that time runs fast, so if you are interested in attending 2009 UAI International Conference, which will be held in Malaga (Southern Spain) from April 17th to 21st next year, I remind you that registration period is still open.

Deadline for registration is December 15th 2008, so don't leave your registration for the very last day! After that date, even though we can be flexible, registration will depend on the number of available rooms.

I remind you that we need sponsorship for some applicants coming from around the globe, so I appeal to your gener-

osity to help these people. We are sure that many of them would be able to promote and activate the movement in their area when going back, so helping them is a way to disseminate TUB teachings. If you want to make a contribution for sponsorship, please contact us at [uai2009en@gmail.com](mailto:uai2009en@gmail.com)

We are aware that the Euro is a very strong currency now, so please start saving your money to attend the 2009 conference. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to meet TUB readers from around the world and visit beautiful Malaga!

In brotherhood,  
Olga Lopez  
Urantia Association of Spain ☐

# Greetings from the Finnish Summer Conference in June!



RAIMO ALA-HYNNILÄ

Finnish Association Governing Board members, of whom seven were present. Persons from left: Raimo Ala-Hynnälä, Martti Vanninen, Tuula Parviainen, Kalevi Eklöf, Helena Juola, Kari Kippo and Eija Seppänen-Bolotinsky



**U**RNATIONAL ASSOCIATION arranges local meetings for Urantia Book readers several times per year. Events are open for all readers, irrespective of whether they are members of the association or not.

Usually there will be lectures on the Urantia Book and on life itself. Over twenty years we have held conferences twice a year, one in the end of January and the other in the beginning of June. In the Helsinki area we arrange other lecture several times per year. Besides these reader events, we participate in different types of spiritual events and book fairs.

The Conference Committee of our Association organized this year's summer conference in Espoo, near Helsinki. The conference lasted for two full days and about 40 Urantia Book readers were participating in this conference. The theme of the conference was "The Desire To Be Like God" – Spiritual Gravity". Lectures were dealing with the theme beginning from the personal circuit of God and continuing down towards the finite level through the spiritual gravity of the Eternal Son and the mind gravity of the Infinite Spirit. Usually there are smaller groups after the lecture dealing with the subject in question and this time there was also a "philosophy walk" out in nature, which relaxed people and gave them new ideas.

In the panel discussion during the Saturday afternoon the public received information about the current issues of UAI from the president of the association and the information concerning Urantia Foundation from it's president Seppo Kanerva. I wrote down that since 1955 a total of 650,000 Urantia Books, including translations have been sold. Finnish language books have sold 6000 books since 1993. As a representative of a small language group we are happy about the active translation work, which has made it possible that the Urantia Book is available nowadays to so many new readers in different areas of the world.

On Sunday we had an opportunity to listen to three very interesting lectures, the last of which dealt with the topic "How God is understood in the year 2008" and what do the Finnish citizens believe in? The Research Center of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland is now researching beliefs and faith of the citizens, and will make the results public in a few years. Maarit Huhti will let us know the results concerning the topic.

In Finland 10-15% of the citizens are atheists (totally without religion). In 2007 the percentage of Finns, who are the members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, was 81.7%. In the year 2000 the rate was as high as 85%. Much less than half of the citizens believe in the kind of God that the Lutheran Church teaches is a loving Father while at the same time is also

stern and strict and will punish the people for every wrong act. Such attributes are not comprehended to be the attributes of God anymore. Our Lutheran Church bases its activities on traditions and is afraid of new ideas. One good thing is that since 1986 the authorities of the Church have accepted woman as priests, and nowadays there are about 1000 women priests in Finland.

Once a year our Association has its annual meeting. On Friday evening twenty members, of our seventy six members, met for the purpose of accepting activities of the former period. We chose new members of the Governing Board and select committees to plan the activities for the year ahead. The Governing Board consisting of nine members met to select two members as new board members. They take the place of the retiring members. All association members must pay a membership fee of 40 euros per year.

We can be grateful that we have the Urantia Book in our own language. In such meetings we can share our experiences with each other and deepen our knowledge concerning the information in the book. We are also receiving wonderful spiritual energy, which will help us to meet challenges of the future.

Our warm-hearted regards to the friends of Urantia Book around the world!

Raimo Ala-Hynnälä □



Class room session during the Summer Conference 2008

# Urantia Association of the United States National Conference



PATRICIA SNYDER  
UAUS Secretary  
[PSnyder@manatt.com](mailto:PSnyder@manatt.com)

## Kansas City Here I come!

Pato Banton Reggae singer  
and UB reader from  
England lifted the tempo



THE URANTIA ASSOCIATION OF THE United States conference that was held July 24th through the 27th at the University of St. Mary's, and it was a blast! The CLP meeting was a success, we met quorum and discussed, rather than debated, a few controversial points. By the time the Governing board meeting was finished – later than expected – dinner was in full swing. The food was lovingly prepared and tasty and gave way to a solid spiritual lift of music and dance provided by Pato Banton and his lovely singers.

A good time was had by all! We were lucky to have two National Conferences two years in a row to get on track with the new UAI Strategic Plan. One can never meet too often with other Urantia Book readers. This was a wonderful tribal gathering this summer. The "youth" did a great job with this conference in presenting speakers and providing an ambiance of brotherhood and camaraderie. It was indeed a treat to hear them open up their lives and impressions of life in such realistic, down-to-earth, yet full-of-hope terms. Every "baby boomer" in the house was impressed. We are reassured that there will be willing hands to whom to pass the torch, as many of the older folks graduate out of 606.

The Foundation was very well represented by Tamra Wood, who courageously packed and lugged all those UB's to sell at bargain prices! Next time remember to buy a case for your friends! I wish I had.

There was an art-focused-worship that resulted in creative music (violin and keyboard), interpretive dances by Alison Vopel and Henry Wood, emergent poetry by Bert Cobb and Patti Snyder, and three magnificent paintings produced by two very gifted painters: Julia Mignard, who did the "Word Impressions" and the "Seraphic Transport" (a painting in two stages, the first of which remains only as a photograph)

and "Jesus Gazes Across the Universe" by Stelios. Oh, what an experience of fulfillment and beauty.

There was a group meditation that rested and lifted us to a deeper communion of love and a presentation on the conspiracy theory that—despite fears—was enormously entertaining and full of hope and assurance of God's care. There were two formal dinners with delicious gourmet food. After the first dinner, which began with an inspirational prayer, we were treated to beautiful violin and piano concert by Bob Salone and Cristina Seaborn, which knocked our socks off! And, the venue! which was a beautiful dark oak accentuated space, the columns and painted beams and wonderful aged atmosphere was as mesmerizing as the music, which left us all in a state of blissful awe.

The workshops were poignant and very exciting. From potential solutions for abandoned children and foster-care homes based on a parenting model of ethics and morality, to conditions of the Absolute and analyses of Urantia defaults, they were engrossing, informative and left lasting impressions of hope.

We learned a song in Swahili (and English) during our Sunday morning worship service. The translation is: "We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God." It was sweet and fun, it stays in your head. Everyone wore badges of smiles that touched the heart and bonded us with an indelible mark of joy and accomplishment.

And then, there was a wedding! Ohmygosh, two beautiful angels joined their hearts and families in a superb offering of love and joy. The service, officiated by Bert Cobb, was so touching—of course I cried—and reflective of divine values, so shinning out of Alice and Chris' angelic faces that we were filled with concepts of loving

origins, new beginnings and unbounded destinies in progress to eternity.

Conference attendees were picked up and shuttled to and from the airport, with grace and smiles. Our host Mike Wood, was impeccable! And oh, what an experience I had on the way home! I was sitting in the middle seat, first row, no space to put things under, so everything must go overhead, my purse, carry-on bag and the big hard cover UB I got in French. Just after take-off, a passenger opened the overhead bin and the UB fell out, hitting the passenger next to me on top of her head. Everyone was immediately concerned, but I laughed! What are the odds the UB will hit you over the head! I said to her, "God is really trying to get your attention." She laughed. It turned out, that she is a truth seeker. We talked about the UB for the next 3.5 hours; she was so excited; it was electrifying! I gave her the UB, in English, ( don't leave home without one!) We had lunch together when we got to LA and one of her friends joined us, who also is a truth seeker. It was magical and thrilling. I was so swept into the excitement of discovery, that I have started reading the French one from the beginning. Hmm, feels like a new experience, and it is!

Unfortunately, there was no group photograph, but Wow, was there a group, and wow was it poignant.

Patricia Snyder □



Conference audience listening to Chris Wood speaking

# Wedding of Chris Wood and Alice Arkins



TAMARA WOOD  
[tamara@urantia.org](mailto:tamara@urantia.org)



# Rick Lyon Engagement



*It is with great pleasure and excitement that we announce the engagement of Rick Lyon and Shelia Jackson. Rick says that Shelia is the most wonderful and love filled person he has ever met and it is his great honor to become her husband some time in August of 2008. No date or location has been set at this time.*

*They both thank God for helping them to find each other and for this opportunity to spend the rest of their lives together forever. All of us in UAI wishes them joy and happiness in their union.*

If anyone wishes to send a greeting to Rick and Shelia please do so to:

7217N 100W  
Crawfordsville, IN. 47933 USA □

**A**FTER THIS YEAR'S UAUS NATIONAL conference held at the University of St Mary's in Leavenworth, Kansas, a big, exciting event was to follow: the wedding of Chris Wood and Alice Arkins. The ceremony was held on campus in the impressive Walnut Room which was beautifully decorated with floral arrangements created by Yvette Wood. Bob Solone played the piano and entertained us while we waited for the lovely bride.

In the presence of many family members and friends, these two second generation readers were married by long time reader, Bert Cobb. Christiana Seaborn and James Woodward played music, vows were exchanged, and the crowd cheered as the elegantly attired newly weds kissed.

After a fabulous toast by the best man, the festivities began. We were treated to great food, good wine, and live music performed by Alice's brother,

Landon Arkins, and his band from Madison, WI. It was a joyous celebration with many of their friends contributing their musical and creative talents. Chris and Alice chose the time and location in order to have as many Urantia Book reading friends gathered as possible, and it made for a truly magnificent evening.

Many blessings and a progressive life of love and happiness to the newly weds!

Tamara Wood □



Friends gather to celebrate with the happy couple



Bob Solone played the piano and Christiana Seaborn accompanied on violin

# Great Beyond CD Story



STEVE SHINALL  
[www.steveshinall.com](http://www.steveshinall.com)



DEAR FRIENDS, FOR WHATEVER THE REASONS, I've always had a soft spot in my heart for Andon and Fonta and the lives they led. What began as one song humorously sketching the life and times of these little savages, very quickly morphed into a song cycle about the twins and on to the golden age of primitive man when Onagar, the first truth teacher, lived and taught in the settlement of Oban.

No long after finishing the first song about Andon and Fonta, I found myself writing another song about Sontad, their first born. Drawing upon memories of our own son's enchantment with butterflies when he was very young, Sontad and The Butterfly began to emerge. Knowing full well that I was romanticizing any notion that their son actually might have found time to "run, laugh, sing and play," and do so while chasing butterflies, seemed to matter not.

And so it went. Ideas for songs would come, lyrics and music would take various

shapes and a song cycle began to appear in earnest. I found myself working on four or five of them at any given time. What to do with them?

It was my wife's idea to record them. I thought, if nothing else, our son might enjoy them and feel moved to share them with his children when and if that time comes. Who knows, they might wish to find the book that inspired the songs. My original intent was to record them for my son and my immediate and future family members. It was then that I began to consider that the songs might even provide some educational value in an offbeat (no pun intended) sort of way. Maybe other readers might enjoy them.

We live in a small town in northwest Georgia. Not exactly a place that is known as a music recording haven. And besides, THAT kind of thing costs money. I would need to enlist the talents of other musicians. I wondered if some of them might think I was a bit crazy when they realized I was writing songs and singing about a long ago spiritual awakening that concerned primitive man. The reality of the challenge began to sink in.

With all the wants and needs of the world, I actually found myself praying (rather casually) for a recording studio, someplace nearby and affordable (how crazy and selfish was that!?). A week or so later, at a music event for a friend's son, I was introduced to a man who taught at the same high school with my wife. Within five minutes of conversation it became known that he had a small recording studio in his home and lived on the same road as I did, only five minutes away. He gave me his card and said to call him if I ever knew of any local musicians who might need a recording facility. I was, to say the least, amazed by the turn of events. The entire recording process seemed to go that way, as well. Musician friends and strangers alike would tell me that I had called "at just the right time" and were able to come in and record their parts before they had to leave town or the country, as was the case for some. A couple of them asked about the 'message' and were interested in the finding the book.

At the last recording session, I gave the female singer her own copy of the book after she had expressed a repeated desire to go to a bookstore and buy herself one. I have a very vivid memory of her curled up in a large leather



Michael Duval

Michael Duval has passed away. He was president of the Nevada Urantia Association (NUA) from 2003 until his recent death, he had been a reader of the book for almost 40 years, having found it in the '60s.

He is survived by his teenage son and daughter, who live in Colorado. He died following a stroke, and will continue to be missed by all his Urantia friends. □

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Marcelle Soutif

Unfortunately, in unexpected circumstances Marcelle Soutif has passed away on Sunday the 13 of July 2008, while she was visiting the south of Bolivia, with a French friend who came from Brazil. In a tragic accident a tourism mini-bus turned upside down in the Salar de Yyuni.

Marcelle Soutif was a French Professor and educator, she resided permanently in Chile. She was 58 years old and single. She was an integral part of and an active participant in the Urantia Association of Chile ( AUCH)

The circled photo is Marcelle in the 2007 Conference of AUCH. Her Urantia family in Chile miss her dearly. □

chair and reading while the recording process continued on. She smiled at me and said, "I like this book." I read once that coincidence is God's way of staying anonymous. Maybe that's true in some cases, I don't know.

The Urantia Book teaches us that there are "no accidents in the cosmos." I do know and believe this: these songs and this story would not have been possible without the help and encouragement of so many others, friend and stranger alike, seen and unseen. So, to all who participated, one way or the other, I offer my sincerest thanks and appreciation.

These songs were conceived, recorded and put to disk for people just like you, my extended family. If you ever have a chance to give them a listen, I hope you find something you like.

Inspiration moves all of us in different ways. Sometimes you just feel like singing.

Warm regards,  
Steve Shinall □



## Steve Shinall THE GREAT BEYOND A URANTIA Book Inspired Song Cycle

- Bouquet (Prelude)
- Monkey See, Monkey Do
- Sontad and The Butterfly (for Keegan)
- Fonta's Lament/The Fire Song
- Travels with Andon (Misshredded Maidens)
- The Great Beyond (Onagar's Prayer)
- Letter from Fonta
- Onagar Dream Song
- Bouquet
- Distant Skies