

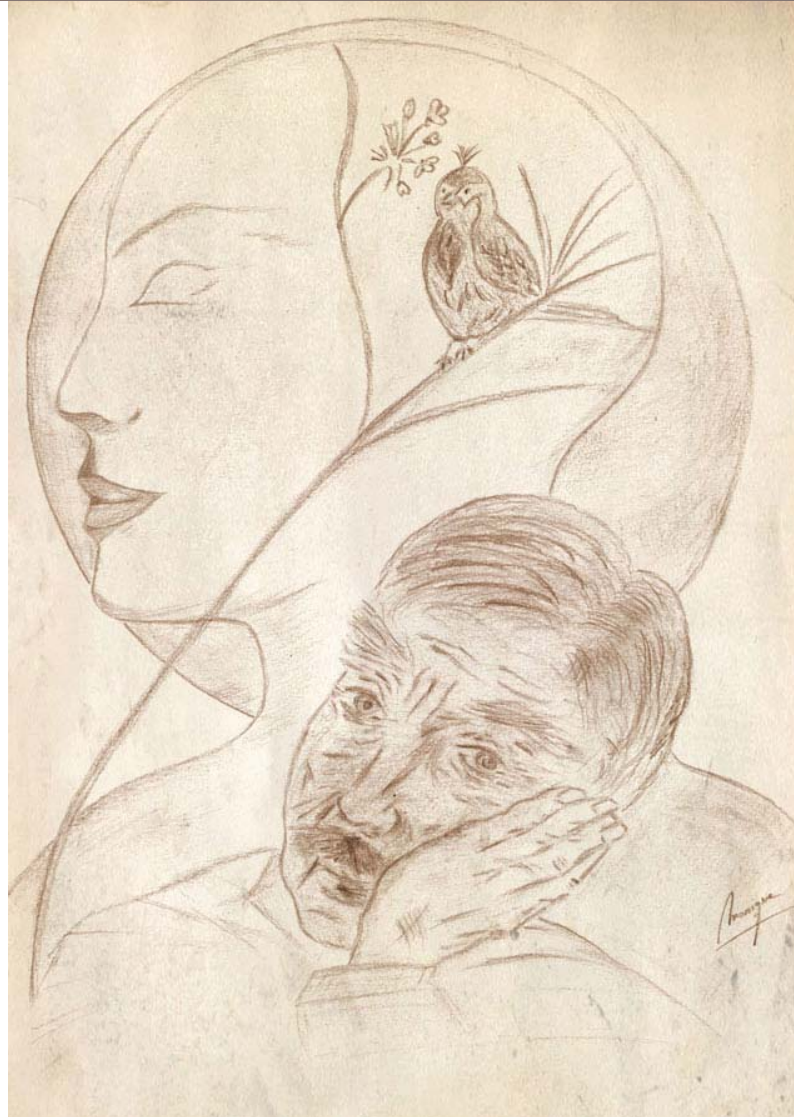


Tidings

FROM ASSOCIATIONS AROUND URANTIA

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL | [HTTP://WWW.URANTIA-UAL.ORG](http://www.uran-tia-ual.org)

Nº 10 ■ MARCH 2006



"The melody of soul" drawing by Monique Fennes, Spain

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President's message

Dear members and friends of UAI,

LAST MONTH I TOLD you about the 2006 UAI Budget being put in the hands of an Ad Hoc Committee. This has been accomplished and this committee has been convened and its members are working hard to find solutions to some very important issues. One subject that this committee will study is the financing of an executive administrator for UAI, while keeping the budget under reasonable operability.

As most of you know by now, Cathy Jones, a founding member of UAI has stepped down from her position as executive administrator. It is with



feelings of sadness and nostalgia that members of the ISB are witnessing the departure of such a dedicated labourer. She will remain for many of us a true example of dedication and loyalty to the mission of *The Urantia Book* and UAI. She has assured us that she will always be available to help in any situation and will keep her position as Editor of the magazine *Tidings*. She is also very involved in her own local association by being a member of its governing board. We wish her and her family a long and happy life, Bravo! Cathy.

In the wake of this departure and for reasons of insufficient funds, the ISB has long debated the issue to keep the position of executive administrator open. The ISB came to the conclusion that without an administrator, UAI would be left in a very strenuous position that could contribute to weakening its cohesiveness. On the 24th of February the ISB voted positively on

a resolution to keep the position open, and on the recommendation of Cathy Jones, James Woodward was hired as her replacement.

The hiring of James as executive administrator of UAI is very welcomed by the ISB and is a positive addition to our team. James has extensive experience in the affairs of UAI and has worked for many years at Urantia Foundation in the Reader Services area. His knowledge of both organizations will be very helpful in accomplishing his new position. Please extend to him a warm welcome.

The RC is now in process of voting on a resolution to make minor changes to the Charter and By-Laws. One change relates to the new name that UAI has adopted and the removal of all references to Urantia Brotherhood Association (DBA). Those changes are necessary so our organization may be registered properly as a charitable organization in the State of Illinois, USA. Another change, which is not covered by this resolution, deals with the discrepancy of translations when compared to the original English text. This will be implemented at the same time as the change-of-name resolution. The Spanish and French translation will be corrected as needed.

In the wake of certain remarks made by members concerning various projects of Urantia Foundation regarding translations and distribution of books, an invitation and an offer was sent to, and accepted by, Urantia Foundation Trustees to use *Tidings* as a medium of information to the readership. The offer is an open invitation to use space in *Tidings* as needed to inform members of UAI of the ongoing projects of the Foundation and their progress. We hope that this initiative will become a positive solution to answering some of your questions and that you will continue supporting the Foundation. This month's edition is featuring the first article of this interrelationship.

Good reading

—Gaetan Charland
President

TIDINGS

From associations around Urantia

Tidings is a monthly publication of Urantia Association International, whose mission is to foster study of *The Urantia Book* and to disseminate its teachings. UAI supports Urantia Foundation.

The Urantia Book online:

<http://www.urantia.org/papers/index.html>

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. **Submissions limited to 2–3 pages (about 1400–2100 words)**. A one-page article is about 700 words with a photo or graphic image.

Deadline: By the 15th of every month

Editor: Cathy Jones, cthjon@aol.com

Spanish Translation: Olga López,
olopez65@gmail.com

French Translation: Line St-Pierre & Gilles Lozeau,
line.stpierre3721@videotron.ca

Layout: M. Caoile

COVER: "The melody of soul" drawing by Monique Fennes of Spain. She writes: "The face in the moon represents the soul of man and the nightingale is his inner voice".

You may submit images for possible use on the cover to admin@urantia-uai.org.

Tidings archives:

<http://urantia-uai.org/tidings/index.htm>

Editor's Note:

Tidings is now being presented in French. Line St-Pierre and Gilles Lozeau of Quebec, Canada are now translating our magazine. Thank you, Line and Gilles.

—Cathy Jones

News from the Foundation

Portuguese translation and distribution in Argentina

STATEMENT BY THE TRUSTEES OF URANTIA FOUNDATION

A NUMBER OF READERS have asked about the status of the Portuguese translation and about the distribution of *El Libro de Urantia* in Argentina. We have prepared this statement to answer those questions.

THE PORTUGUESE TRANSLATION

In 1997 a team of devoted readers launched the Portuguese translation project with the Foundation's approval and sponsorship. The team was led by a novelist whose books had been published, and over the years the team announced seven or eight times that they had completed their work, and that the Portuguese translation was ready to be published. In each case, however, they withdrew this announcement because they discovered errors or desired to make refinements in the translation.

Urantia Foundation has a moral and spiritual duty to publish translations of *The Urantia Book* that are accurate and beautiful — translations that reflect the literary excellence and spiritual inspiration of the original English edition.

In 2003 the Portuguese translation team informed the Foundation that the Portuguese translation was in reasonably good shape and could be made available in electronic format. After the Urantia Foundation staff obtained independent assessments that were encouraging, even laudatory, the Foundation made the Portuguese translation available on the Foundation's website and released it on CD. In 2005 the leader of the Portuguese translation team submitted the translation to the Foundation for publication; the staff and volunteers started formatting the text for publication. During this process we found a number of errors in spelling,

punctuation, and hyphenation. Therefore the staff organized a small team of Brazilian readers, requesting that they check the work one more time for errors. At about this time the staff began receiving emails from a group of three readers who had downloaded the Portuguese translation from the Foundation's website and had noted omissions and other mistakes in the translation. This group sent the Manager of Translations a detailed analysis of the translation of the Foreword, explaining the errors.

As a result the Trustees decided to stop the formatting of the translation and asked this group to continue their analysis of the translation. If anyone would like to learn more about the translation's current shortcomings, the Manager of Translations would be happy to provide a 14-page analysis of the problems in Paper 1. To receive it, e-mail Seppo Kanerva at: seppo.kanerva@mediakoti.fi

DISTRIBUTION OF EL LIBRO DE URANTIA IN ARGENTINA

Since the Spanish translation was published in 1993, the Foundation has participated in numerous book fairs and has engaged the services of numerous distributors in Spanish-speaking countries. Some distributors went out of business, some lost interest in our book, and some chose not to pay their bills. The Foundation has limited resources and cannot afford to ship books to distributors who do not pay for them. In some recent years we have had to write off invoices of a considerable sums of money as a loss.

Some readers have identified Argentina as a country where El



Libro does not seem to be available in bookstores. Distribution in Argentina and many Latin American countries is difficult and complex. Because our invoices to the distributors have not been paid in full, the staff and the Trustees are trying to work out better methods to collecting money owed the Foundation by distributors in Argentina, and are looking for more responsible, dependable, and reliable distributors. We are open to suggestions from readers in Argentina.

IN CONCLUSION, we ask readers to bear in mind:

1. Urantia Foundation has a moral and spiritual duty to publish translations of *The Urantia Book* that are accurate and beautiful — translations that reflect the literary excellence and spiritual inspiration of the original English edition. The translation into Portuguese needs considerably more work, and we ask for your patience as the Foundation cooperates with trusted advisers to correct and refine it. This effort could possibly take a few more years.

2. Commercial realities make it difficult to distribute *El Libro de Urantia* in Argentina and in a number of other Spanish-speaking countries. The Foundation cannot afford to give books away, and we are doing our best to improve the situation. We welcome your help and practical suggestions.

The Trustees of Urantia Foundation

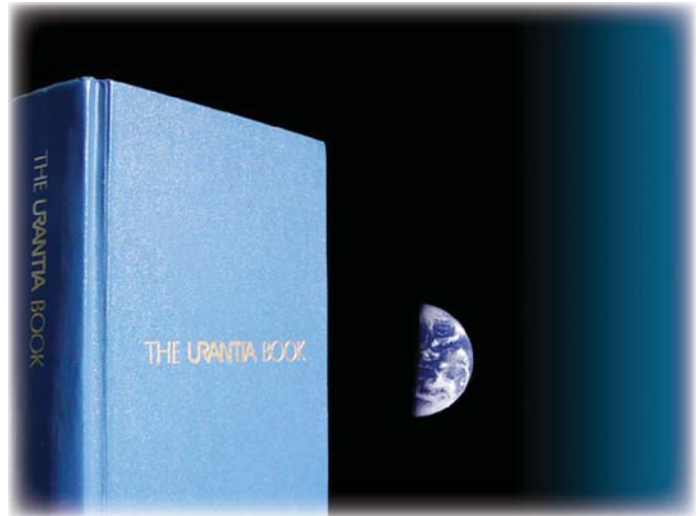
—Gard Jameson Seppo Kanerva
Richard Keeler Georges Michelson-Dupont Mo Siegel □

News from the Foundation

continued from previous page

No SANCTIONED HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

The teachings speak for themselves



WE HAVE DECIDED THAT URANTIA Foundation will not publish an official history of events that occurred before *The Urantia Book* was published in 1955. Instead, the Foundation will continue to emphasize that the teachings speak for themselves. We based our decision on the following four reasons.

A DESIRE FOR HUMAN HEROES

We recognize that publication of an official history by Urantia Foundation could cause human beings to focus

Publication of an official history by Urantia Foundation would not prove that the teachings of *The Urantia Book* are true and valid, for no argument from history or logic could possibly do that.

on or venerate the lives and character of individuals who played prominent roles while the revelators were developing the contents of *The Urantia Book*. This increased focus on human personalities could distract from the study of its transformative teachings. On Urantia the desire for heroes is stronger than on a normal planet because the Caligastia betrayal and Adamic default left us with no visible representatives of the spiritual government. We wish to avoid any action that could eventually turn highly regarded persons into “saints.”

RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY

Urantia Foundation has no interest in asserting authority in religious matters. In the Western tradition, sponsors of institutional religions and spiritual movements have often used accounts of historic events to proclaim doctrinal or disciplinary authority. In contrast, we do not wish to use the history associated with as a potential source of any kind of religious authority.

THE TRUE PERSPECTIVE

Publishing an official history would attract attention to human facts and circumstances that are not sufficient to give a true perspective on the reality problem that the fifth epochal revelation represents.

Even in the study of man’s biologic evolution on Urantia, there are grave objections to the exclusive historic approach to his present-day status and his current problems. The true perspective of any reality problem — human or divine, terrestrial or cosmic — can be had only by the full and unprejudiced study and correlation of three phases of universe reality: origin, history, and destiny.

[A Divine Counselor, 215:3]

An official history would be incomplete and misleading, for it could not possibly provide accurate information on the revelation’s origin and destiny.

SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

Publication of an official history by Urantia Foundation would not prove that the teachings of *The Urantia Book* are true and valid, for no argument from history or logic could possibly do that. To the contrary, an official history could detract from an individual’s personal experience with the teachings. “Reason is the proof of science, faith the proof of religion, logic the proof of philosophy, but revelation is validated only by human experience.” Since personal experience with revelation is the only truly convincing proof, we are convinced that the teachings of must speak for themselves. □

Sincerely,

The Trustees of Urantia Foundation

—Gard Jameson Seppo Kanerva
Richard Keeler Georges Michelson-Dupont Mo Siegel

February 23, 2006

News from the Foundation

continued from previous page

ANNOUNCEMENT ON APPOINTMENT OF ASSOCIATE TRUSTEES

Ringling in the new year

ASSOCIATE TRUSTEES, ALONG WITH the Trustees Emeriti, are a liaison to our readership. They act as a sounding board for the Trustees to expand group wisdom on policies to disseminate and promote *The Urantia Book* and its teachings among the peoples of the world.

Up to five Associate Trustees may be appointed for one calendar year, with a maximum of two consecutive reappointments. Their duties include attending four Board Meetings a year, participating in ongoing e-mail discussion, and serving on committees such as fund-raising, public relations, legal, financial, education, and ethics. Although they cannot vote on motions put forth by the Trustees, they can make suggestions and proposals. Their opinions are warmly solicited and seriously considered.

With deep gratitude we say farewell to two Associate Trustees who had already been reappointed twice: **Carolyn Kendall** and **Kathleen Swadling**.

Carolyn's historic perspectives, wise counsel, and years of experience made a significant contribution at our meetings. Kathleen blazed the book distribution path in Australia while managing our international expansion via the Foundation Representatives. Both of them always came to meetings prepared, thoughtful, energetic, loving, uncomplaining, and ready to work. We will miss their energy and devotion.

We now extend a warm welcome to our new Associates:

René Hagenaars from the Netherlands, and

Sue Tennant from Canada.

In addition, the Board has reappointed Associate Trustees **Nancy**

Shaffer and **Jane Ploetz** for the second time for this calendar year.

We deeply appreciate the willingness of all the Associate Trustees to selflessly work at a time when the Board feels renewal, hopeful anticipation, and a growing sense of commitment to our tasks. They represent you at the table. Please feel free to get in touch with any or all of them with your comments and concerns so that we may be more aware of your ideas and views.

Associate Trustees:

Nancy Shaffer nschaffer@sbcglobal.net

Jane Ploetz jfploetz@sbcglobal.net

Sue Tennant sue@ubretreats.ca

René Hagenaars rene@urantia.nl

Trustees Emeriti:

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Neal Waldrop

nealwaldrop@mfire.com

Trustees:

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Richard Keeler rkeeler@allwest.net

Seppo Kanerva seppo.kanerva@mediakoti.fi

Georges Michelson-Dupont georges.michelson-dupont@wanadoo.fr

Mo Siegel msiegel@capitolpeaks.com

Executive Director:

Jay Peregrine jperegrine@urantia.org

A helping hand with scholarships

FIFTEEN PEOPLE HAVE applied for scholarship assistance to register and attend the UAI 2006 Conference in Sydney, Australia. The people are students of the Fifth Epochal Revelation and leaders in their region or Urantia Association. They share a common interest in *The Urantia Book* and are in need of funding assistance.

Attending the Australia conference will be a lifetime highlight for many readers, but consider the profound joy of one with limited funds who will gain a great new experience of inspiration.

Readers who would like to help them are invited to share this great travel and study opportunity by sending money to the UAI 2006 Conference Scholarship Fund. The total of need in AUD is over \$42,000 (about US \$32,000) if all travel expenses are to be taken into account. The Scholarship Committee will allocate funds according to need and even assist grantees with travel plans and visa applications as required.

Readers "down under" may send their contributions to ANZURA,

PO Box 609 Narrabeen NSW 2101, Australia by Visa or Master Card or by a check in Australian dollars. Other members and readers are asked to send funds quickly to

UAI Conference Scholarships,
P.O. Box 82308, Phoenix, AZ
85071-2308.

Please have your contribution in the box by March 20.

—Kathleen Swadling
ANZURA

How The Urantia Book Found Me

Love, service and *The Urantia Book*

BY SHEILA SCHNEIDER
Greater Lake Michigan
Urantia Association

I WAS BORN IN CHAMPAIGN, Illinois, where I currently live. But the voyage in between my moving to Chicago in 1981 when I was 23 years old and back to Champaign in 2004 has been an interesting one, to say the least.

I was raised in an Irish-German Catholic family of 11 children, 7 boys and 4 girls. Things were much easier then because all we had to concern ourselves with was going to school, going to church, playing in the park, riding our bicycles, or finding out who did what to whom. The things that seem to form your personality and spirituality begin in your early days but as you journey through your life, everyone hits those bumps and detours that make you pause and wonder if you are making

There was a period of about 12 years when I had absolutely nothing to do with God. It was during this 12 year period that I began working at Urantia Foundation.

the right choice. This is how my bumps and detours got me to *The Urantia Book*. I believe that my search for the something that I felt was missing from my Catholic roots began when I was 16. I think that I always knew that something in my religion was not fulfilling me at all but it was just a stop gap along the way. I stopped attending Mass just after my 16th birthday and let me tell you my parents were not thrilled but they did understand that I needed to find my way. I dabbled in Scientology and fundamentalism which were both



Heather and Sheila at their graduation on July 30, 2005. The graduation was when Heather was officially handed over to Sheila after their training together.

serious mistakes. But I believe that I learned from my experiences.

When I first moved to Chicago I was not attending a regular religious service. I had a job working first at a large insurance company and then a public accounting firm until June 1984 when I was offered a job in Los Angeles, California. I took the job and moved and began working for a drug and alcohol rehab facility. It was during this time period that I became involved with Fundamentalism. Yet again, this was not a fulfilling route and I felt as if this was a very controlling and stifling environment to worship and understand God's plans for us.

During this time period I was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa. This

is a genetic disorder that comes in many forms. I have what is known as the "autosomal recessive" type. This means that both of my parents have the recessive gene that carries this disorder and that they had a 1 in 4 chance of having children with the disease. My older brother and younger sister also have R.P. This was a quite devastating diagnosis for me and fundamentalism didn't help me through this period at all. I was being told, "It's God's Will that this has happened." I thought, "What a crock! Why would God will this disease on anyone?" At

this point, I decided that as the doctor told me I was legally blind and should not be driving a car, I would return to Chicago.

In June, 1985 I packed my apartment, bags and came back to Illinois. I got my job back at the CPA firm and pretty much had turned my back on God. I was at that point in my spiritual life that I truly could not deal with the idea that the Fundamentalist's had been driving into my head about everything happening because it was "God's Will." There was a period of about 12 years when I had absolutely nothing to do with God. It was during this 12 year period that I began working at Urantia Foundation. It was August 1988 and I was coming into this company that

Love, service and *The Urantia Book*

continued from previous page

was a non-profit and was a “religious” organization but I truly only took the job because I had been out of work for 3 months and needed to pay my rent.

Imagine, working at a religious organization and not really believing if there was an Infinite Being out there that was responsible for this whole universe, nay universes. But that was the truth of it. I walked to work everyday, answered the phone, worked with various people that read *The Urantia Book*, but had no clue what any of it was about. Then, in September, 1989 came the split between Urantia Foundation and Urantia Brotherhood. I was the only employee at the Foundation for one month and I truly was befuddled by everything that had gone on during this time period. I kept wondering, “These people are supposed to be spiritual and look at how they’re treating each other.” I was really glad that I wasn’t involved, spiritually in anything.

Then the Trustees began to work and create the “Urantia Brotherhood Association” to take over the duties of Urantia Brotherhood. I met some really interesting individuals and had some really interesting conversations about

The Urantia Book but it still did not ‘click’ with me. Many of you reading this will remember my dear friend, Helen Carlson that lived on the second floor of the Foundation. She was a member of the Forum

and a volunteer at Urantia Foundation in the early days when all they had were volunteers. Martin Myers’ wife, Diane Elder, asked me to speak with her one day about losing her eyesight because she thought I might be able to give her some encouragement. I went to speak with Helen and we both cried and laughed about losing our sight as we chatted. She told me that she could no longer write her own checks or really take care of any of her financial things and I told her that I would be happy to help her out. That was the beginning

of my education about *The Urantia Book*. Every chance Helen got, she would make some comment about me reading the book but never really insist. She always would make references to the book. She’d say, “Calm down, impatience is a spirit poison,” or “*The Urantia Book* says.....” and after a while, I began to listen. As Helen’s health

what she meant although it took me a long while to actually pick the book up to read. I’ve now been reading *The Urantia Book* for 7 years and have never regretted my choice. It has helped me to come to terms with my possible total blindness and has also made things clear about those things I found wanting in the other avenues that I traveled.



On vacation with old Russ in Maui, flanked by Steve and Tonia Baney.

My journey continued with my working for the Foundation until April 2004 at which time I moved back to Champaign. My decision to leave the Foundation was not made lightly but I felt that it was necessary for me to help my sister take care of my then 85 and 83 year old parents. I also chose to return to college and get my Bachelor’s degree in Fine Arts. After I moved back, I continued my work on the Conference Committee for URANTIA 2004 which ironically was centered on the theme “The Mind Arena of Choice.”

Today, I am living with my 88 year old mother in the house in which I grew up. My 86 year old father has been in a nursing home for a year after a fall broke his neck and it is something that is very difficult for all of us. He has always been the person that has encouraged me to continue on, even when I thought all was lost to me because of my vision loss. I am now 2 years into my Bachelors degree and upon my graduation I will be opening my own studio and would like to teach art to disabled children. Trying to do God’s Will means to me that we should all love each other and do for each other as much as possible and that one way I could do this would be to help others as someone once did for me. Thank you, Helen for all you gave me and allowed me to learn by being of service to you. □

deteriorated, I became her lifeline to the first floor. I would go and talk with her at night or call her on the phone and we would have long discussions. Never once did she tell me that I had to read the book.

When I went to New York to get my first guide dog, Russ, she was very supportive and insisted that she would be alright while I was gone. I tried to call her at least once a week just to make sure she was okay. When I got home, she was the first person that met Russ. From that day on, Russ was her best buddy. Helen graduated on January 1, 1997 and it was almost a year later that I had a dream about her and in that dream she told me that it was time to start reading. When I woke up I knew immediately

I would go and talk with her at night or call her on the phone and we would have long discussions. Never once did she tell me that I had to read the book.



Mark with Hawker jet

How The Urantia Book Found Me

A poor day for flying

BY MARK KURTZ
Greater Lake Michigan
Urantia Association

URANTIA WAS A STRANGE SOUNDING name to me in 1968 when my cousin, Russell Miller (now deceased) told me he was mightily influenced by *The Urantia Book*. His eyes grew bigger and he talked with increased emotion and pleasure as he said he did a one hundred eighty degree turn (aviation parlance) after he read the book. He was my boss and owner of Airgo, the aviation business at my hometown airport at Goshen, Indiana USA.

"Yes, you would expect new information about our Cosmos to be difficult at first."

It was a cloudy day with poor visibility, one that was not conducive to flying lessons, my responsibility as instructor in the early days of an interesting aviation career. We were loafing and talking superficially, when suddenly Russ asked me if I had ever heard of *The Urantia Book*. What's that, I said. He told me his outlook on life was doom and gloom before reading the book, that when you die, "that was it" he said. He believed the book and was relieved to have found something substantial that explained life purposes and destiny. A

mutual uncle to he and I had told him of the book. And he was happy to do a "U" turn in life.

His description of his experience aroused my curiosity enough to go look for the book and I found it in the local library. I soon decided I must have the book because it was too big to read in the limited time allowed to have the copy checked out from the library. They only allowed one renewal and I knew I needed a year!

I found the book "too deep" for me, but cousin Russ kindly encouraged me to keep reading, to run a finger down the Table of Contents and find something interesting. This I did and I began to read more. WOW! Fireworks! Even though much of the book was new teaching and difficult, I soon realized there was good stuff here!

Later, in the early 1970's, after promotion to the charter department of another aviation company, I had a trip assignment to the Chicago Meigs Airport (now closed) to take a passenger there, wait for several hours, and then return him home. Intense curiosity

moved me to take a taxi that day to the Urantia Foundation to see what this book and the Foundation is all about. A kind lady met me at the door and ushered me into an inner office to meet Emma "Christy" Christensen.

I told many people since that Christy was the most angelic person I had ever met. In our conversation I complained a bit that the book was so difficult to understand. She was very gracious and kind, simply saying, "Yes, you would expect new information about our Cosmos to be difficult at first." She was comforting in her understanding manner, but yet kindly firm that this book is needed in the world.

Still later, I was employed for a short time as a photojournalist at the local newspaper and was reading the book late into the night and many hours on off duty days. The truth, beauty and goodness teachings caused a profound religious experience one day as I realized the inside of one's body must actually be beautiful. I realized that I was defiling my lungs and body and I soon felt a strong and impelling desire to quit smoking. I removed the pack of cigarettes from my shirt pocket and never smoked since. I attribute this strong desire, and strong resolve also, to the Thought Adjuster within. That was in 1969 and I'm thankful daily for having surmounted this ugly habit.

There is something good about a bad weather day for pilots: We get to talk more and relax and even get to know one another better. Thanks, Russ. And thank you, Thought Adjuster! □

Québec, Canada

Ste-Sophie study group

Part 2

BY GAËTAN CHARLAND
L'Association Urantia du Québec
On behalf of the Ste-Sophie's study group



Line St-Pierre doing a presentation on Faith during the February Thematic conference held in St-Jérôme

LAST MONTH I TOOK you on a little tour on how we had organized our study group in order to prepare the next thematic reunion of our association. For us this exercise has been a tremendous help in gaining valuable experience in the area of teaching and improving our leadership skill. If you remember, our chosen theme was about faith and each participant (6) had to prepare a 15 minutes presentation on one aspect of faith and facilitate a workshop of 7 persons.

... no one was allowed to debate or criticize, only to augment and enhance on the comprehension of the others. This way of doing, permitted everyone to share their own view without being afraid of criticisms.

The last session of our study group we had before our thematic reunion was used to polish our presentation and acquire better comprehension of the chosen subject.

On the first Saturday of February our thematic reunion started at 09:30 with the welcoming of the participants. All together we were 36 persons attending the reunion, some of the attendees were not readers and wanted to have first hand experience with readers from the UB, others were new peoples, readers for many years with their first time experience with other readers. It is always very good way to recruit new

members and attract new readers but our goals in those reunions are always to enhance the spiritual perception of the participants.

The conference started with a welcoming message from the president of the association Alain Cyr, after which the first speaker made an introduction on the chosen theme. This introduction introduced people intellectually to faith by exemplifying some chosen passages from *The Urantia Book* about faith. Each speaker was then introduced and each had to present a different level of faith in their expose. They each build their presentation on a chosen passage of the UB and supplemented their expose with personal insights and experiences.

During the second part of the conference, people were invited to participate in 5 different workshops. To help peoples enjoy a better sharing experience and prevent the same people from always being together, each participant had to draw from a bag the name of a workshop facilitators and only a fix amount of tags were available.

The workshop was done the same way that the study group had been done. Participants had to work with the same text that the presenters had to work with and while each one was welcome to share their comprehension, no one

was allowed to debate or criticize, only to augment and enhance on the comprehension of the others. This way of doing, permitted everyone to share their own view without being afraid of criticisms. Volunteer from each group were also ask to take notes of all the insights and ideas that merited being share with the whole assembly.

At mid term, we had a plenary were those insights were share with everyone, it also gave us the occasion to start the next session of workshop with a rotation from the facilitators to different groups. This rotation ensured that each group would enjoy the opportunity to study a different aspect of faith. When the whole conference was over, people were welcomed to share their impressions or voice some comments; these permitted us to gain valuable insight on how to improve our future conferences.

We concluded the whole project by having a post mortem meeting the following Monday to assess all the commentaries that were made and to evaluate each other. From the account of everyone we concluded that this had been a very good conference and a magnificent way of gaining teaching and leadership experiences. □

Arizona local association holds annual meeting

ON FEBRUARY 5 the Urantia Brotherhood Association of Arizona held its Annual Meeting and election of officers.

This is a fairly new group and the members are widespread throughout Arizona. The meeting was held in Phoenix to fill two offices and make plans for the coming year.

The governing board is:
President: Dr. Judyth Shamosh
greenfingersherbs@copper.net
Vice-President: Cathy Jones
cthjon@aol.com.
Secretary: Toby Fox
tobyfox@netzero.com
Treasurer: Michael Maddocks
smikeymao@cox.net
Membership: Troy Spence
TroySpence@hotmail.com

Cathy Jones, vice president and Dr. Judyth Shamosh, president, UBAA February meeting

UBAA has been successful in placing both English and Spanish Urantia Books in local libraries and have pledged \$300 to Urantia Association International.

—Cathy Jones



Spanish readers to meet April 28 to May 1

THE URANTIA Association of Spain will hold its 6th Annual Meeting at the Monastery of San Juan de la Cruz, placed in the ancient city of Segovia (near Madrid), from the 28th April to the 1st May 2006. The price per person in double room is 105 € (about 126 USD) and 93 € (about 111 USD) in single room, all meals included.

This year we want to take one step beyond and we're going to discuss about these subjects:

- How to disseminate the teachings.
- How to study the teachings: study groups.

- How to live the teachings in our daily life.

Each discussion will be preceded by a brief introduction to the subject.

For further information, please contact our Association at urantiaesp@gmail.com

We're looking forward to seeing you at the Meeting. Enjoy the experience of sharing the UB teachings with other readers!

Fraternally,

—Olga López, President
Asociación Urantia de España



Monastery of San Juan de la Cruz in Segovia near Madrid

God's embrace of glory

With God's divine gift
of
Blessed assurance
We are empowered
to trust God
Even enough to stop thinking
any time we so choose

With God's divine gift
of
Free will
We are empowered
to consciously choose
Simply to love everyone
God loves

With our supreme human desire
and God's divine gifts
We are empowered to be
glorified mortals
Simply by willing to "Be"
in God's glorifying presence

Our thoughts bow, pale, fade,
and disperse

In the light...

We take flight...To God
belongs all glory



"Christ Praying in the Garden"
Marco Basaiti, oil on panel, 1516

—*Unitia*, January 2006
Southern California

*To my beloved Mother-Father and family
Without whom I would truly be, simply nothing*