



Tidings

FROM ASSOCIATIONS AROUND URANTIA

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL | [HTTP://URANTIA-UAL.ORG](http://urantia-ual.org)

Nº 16 ■ SEPTEMBER 2006



"Bird of Paradise" oil on canvas painting by Carlos Rubinsky (Buenos Aires, Argentina)

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President's Message

Dear Members of Urantia Association International,

THE MONTH OF AUGUST has not been an idling month for the members of the International Service Board, neither for other members of UAI around the world. On the 12th of August a new UAI association was chartered. The Association Belge Francophone d'Urantia (ABFU) was started with 12 regular members, readers of many years and was sponsored by the Association



Francophone des Lecteurs du *Le Livre d'Urantia* (AFLLU). This new association consists of many long-time readers and has the potential of becoming a strong influence for our mission in this part of the world.

During my visit in Belgium, I also had the opportunity to meet with the new president of the National Association of France. Our meeting together has increased our mutual understanding of how to cooperate in our coming strategic plan for UAI. Michel is totally dedicated to rekindle the enthusiasm of many readers and old members in France to the mission of UAI.

August was also the celebration of Michael's Birthday and I am sure that many associations have celebrated this memorable day by many types of gatherings around the world.

The ISB has started the process for the coming election of ISB positions to be renewed in March, 2007. The nomination call has already been sent to the Representative Council, published on the UAI list and sent to many members email address through UAI's database program. Leaders of every association are invited to forward to their members the call for nominations. The Spanish version of this call should be available soon.

Following that, the RC will elect an election committee that will oversee the election process until its final resolution by the election of new officers.

The members of ISB have finalized their discussions and have voted on two resolutions that will be presented to the RC this coming month. One resolution has to do with the creation of a new category of members, Associate Members-at-Large. This new category, if approved by the RC, will permit new readers to join the ranks of UAI and have the opportunity of participating in study groups, dissemination activities or any other activities organized in UAI for Members-at-Large.

The other resolution that will be presented in September pertains to changing the two-year cycle for international conference to a three-year cycle. If this resolution is adopted by the RC, it will greatly accommodate the strategic plan now being elaborated by the ISB. Following the adoption of this resolution, a new item will be presented to the RC to choose the country for the next conference. More will follow on that.

I hope you enjoy this month's publication, good reading. □

– Gaëtan Charland
President UAI

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

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admin@urantia-uai.org.

Tidings archives:

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



The ABFU board, left to right: Guillaume Kalonji, François Dupont, Myriam Delcroix and Jean Annet

Left: a few readers of *The Urantia Book* gather in Brussels, Belgium. More photos at <http://www.urantia-uai.org/photos/>

Creation of the local Urantia Association in Belgium

ON THE 12TH OF AUGUST 2006, 25 people met in the center of Belgium to officially inaugurate the creation of the ABFU, the French-speaking Belgian Association of Urantia which gathered a dozen members of French expression in Belgium. Gaétan Charland, president of the UAI and Gary Rawlings, Chair of the Membership Committee were present. They reminded the persons in charge of the new association, the tasks for which they were responsible for and officially gave

There is no doubt that this new association will promote new friendship and the creation of new study groups in this part of Belgium...

them the Urantia flag with the three concentric circles to welcome them in the Urantia Association International. Michel Rouanet, president of the association of Urantia of France, the AFLLU, was also present.

This inauguration was the occasion to bring together all the actors of the Urantia movement in the French-speaking Belgium. Indeed, there has been in Belgium study groups of *The Urantia Book* for nearly 40 years. During all this time, several groups

were created, and then dissolved. Some still exist and new ones were created, but always in an independent way. Since 1998, there has been more than one Belgian representatives of the Urantia Foundation in Belgium, but the step to create an official Urantia association in Belgium had not been initiated yet. It was thus a true joy, this Saturday August 12, when, finally, certain people who carried the flame of the Urantia spirit for so many years could witness the realization of an official association of Urantia Book readers. Each one of the attendees could express their goals, their desires and their aspirations in relation to *The Urantia Book* and gave thanks to those which made it known in Belgium throughout all those years. One of the moments of intense emotion was when the person responsible for the oldest study group and a new reader attending a new study group, have testified how much this book had moved them and still moved them. It was a meeting of the old and the new where each one was conscious of belonging to only one family.

The cup of friendship which followed made it possible for these various people to meet or to renew their friendship and to share their experiences. There is no doubt that this new association will promote new friendship and the creation of new study groups in this part of Belgium, while awaiting in a not too far future, the creation of a Belgian national association which would join together the two distinctive parts of Belgium, the French-speaking and the Flemish speaking in one fraternal entity.

The following people were nominated governing board members of the ABFU:

President: Jean ANNET
 Vice-president: François DUPONT
 Secretary: Myriam DELCROIX
 Treasurer: Guillaume KALONJI

For the French-speaking Belgian Association of Urantia

—Jean ANNET
 President, ABFU ■

How *The Urantia Book* Found Me

CHRISTINE BAUSSAIN
Secretary, Association Francophone
des Lecteurs du *Livre d'Urantia*



Christine Baussain
of Paron, France

I FOUND THE BOOK in Paris about 1986/87. I was at the beginning of my spiritual path which has been diverse, ecclesiastic and thoroughly enjoyable since I am the type of person who is interested in everything. I love a spiritual challenge. But it was the thickest book I ever saw!

There seemed to be a "take it or leave it" aura about the revelation where the notion of accepting bits here and there and rejecting other concepts was an impossible situation.

As I flicked through it during my first sight of the book I certainly found it very complicated but I decided to buy it, basically out of a sense of pride since I was sure it would provide me with an intellectual challenge. And it has proven to be very much a philosophical quandary in various respects which I have had to address. For example, I was initially repelled by two major problems which the book presented.

Firstly, I felt there was a distinct lack of compassion; a cold matter-of-fact style which seemed to indicate a huge imbalance between the revela-

tory information in the book and actual human life and experience. For example, all those so-called spiritual beings in *Urantia* were like cattle breeders talking about the merits and demerits of cattle as they discussed the human species!

Secondly, I felt that material in the book dealing with topics such as energy, dreams and allied phenomena were at variance with my own experience of these states of consciousness, etc. The text, as far as I could see, had to be accepted as a coherent whole or a unified entity which made it difficult to "rebel" against.

There seemed to be a "take it or leave it" aura about the revelation where the notion of accepting bits here and there and rejecting other concepts was an impossible situation. One had to accept the whole package! But, despite these concerns, I persisted and after a great deal of personal endeavor and challenges I eventually reached the end of the book.

And by then the book had given me the most precious gift ever – the meeting with the living Jesus at the

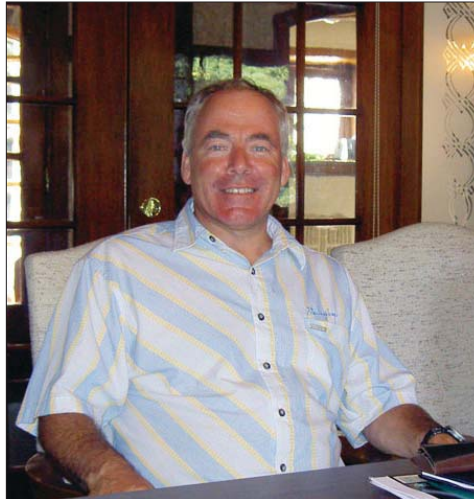
core of my being. Since that first complete reading of the book I have never stopped perusing the text.

I appreciate its slow but deep action on my mind; softening it and making it wider and more balanced. I let it work in me.

Other teachings help me overcome what I personally find as being debatable points and issues of the *Urantia* material. Be that as it may I printed the papers separately and always carry one in my bag. This book I formerly disliked has become a faithful friend on my path to spiritual fulfillment. □

How The Urantia Book Found Me

GILLES BERTRAND
Québec, Canada



Gilles Bertrand of Québec

HAVING BEEN RAISED in a family with a religious orientation and according to the traditionalist spirit of the Catholic Church, I attended all the common rituals in use... and more. Attending mass two or three times a week, daily rosary and all the hotchpotch of ceremonies prescribed by the authority.

From my early childhood to adolescence (1968), I was under the yoke of my parents and the ecclesiastical authorities. "Out of the Church no salvation", such was the maxim of my father.

The fear of sin and of hell and of other constricting beliefs confined me in a narrow labyrinth whose spiritual results appeared quite remote to me and from which only a saint could come out alive.

I was asking myself many questions (spiritual and scientific) which remained unanswered.

Unfortunately, the narrow, traditional and ignorant path of this time was anchoring me even more in my distress.

Between the age of 20 and 25 years old, to remedy this situation, I started to seek logical answers to all my interrogations. I visited several esoteric schools (cosmic sciences, Rosicrucian, various meditation techniques, hypnotism, dowsing, etc). But none brought me wholesome and fulfilling satisfaction.

It has been 22 years now that I have been studying *The Urantia Book* and I barely start to comprehend the great destiny to which we all have free access.

I therefore prayed. Ask and it shall be given you; knock and it shall be opened to you.

I therefore put my heart in the hands of God and this is when I received his blessings a thousand fold.

Here in short is how all this has occurred. One day, I was going to pay my accounts to my Master of cosmic sciences. In his office where thousand of papers piled up, there was, in the middle of them, a large open book, on which I glanced surreptitiously. It talked about planets and angels..... immediately, I was interested in this book, but my "teacher" retaliated by saying that I was surely not yet ready to receive these messages reserved only for the initiates.

That was not to stop me, I started searching for this book (in French), unfindable at that time (1975).

In the mazes of the Rosicrucian's library in Stoneham, where apparently, one could find there all the important books of the initiates, I thus sought *The Urantia Book*, because this rare pearl must be there somewhere.

The Master of the lodge noticed me snooping in the shelves and offered to assist me. His name was Yvon Gagné. With a tender smile, he confided in me that in this place I would not find

the object of my research, but that he knew a bookstore where I could acquire this book that I was so desperate to find. At the end of a half-day working at a court of laws (I was a police officer), I went dressed in uniform (in spite of me), with a fellow-member to the aforementioned bookstore. The salesman, when he saw us dressed in a police uniform, did not want to sell me this book, saying that it was not available in his bookstore. Through persuasions and with a little pressure..., I finally obtained the book so much sought after... *The Urantia Book*.

For the next three and a half months, I voraciously read this book which brought to me day by day more and more serenity. My wife having recently given birth to a baby girl (Marie-Claude), I read at night with Marie-Claude and her feeding-bottle in my left arm and *The Urantia Book* in my right hand. It is perhaps for that reason that today she is interested in the 5th Revelation.

It has been 22 years now that I have been studying *The Urantia Book* and I barely start to comprehend the great destiny to which we all have free access. It is certain that I will devote the remainder of my life to make this marvelous book known, which has delivered me from my fears and which has made me really free. I was oppressed, enchained by dogmas and this incomparable Book has given me back my freedom... to be able to really live. Now, I perceive an eternal career of service to my brothers in a great family where our father is one of UNCONDITIONAL LOVE. I regard myself now as a free faith son of God.

Nothing more beautiful could have happened to bring me happiness and personal growth. The research of the Truth infallibly brings us to discover God, Him who is BEAUTY, KINDNESS AND TRUTH. □



Carlos hosts celebration

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Just to let you know that in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 12 readers, (mostly old, just a couple new) met yesterday to celebrate our Master & Sovereign's 2012 birthday as the Son of Man. The meeting was at my house and we got together at 3:00 pm until 8:00 pm. We had a nice afternoon tea, with cakes and cookies, coffee and soft drinks, (no wine though, we keep the alcohol for the remembrance supper at Easter).... and I'm still high!! ☺

We read different parts from the Book, and we prayed and worshiped together. At certain points the emotions were truly deep and strong, you could hear the voice breaking and see the tears running on some faces product of the emotion that one gets when you feel touched by the Spirit... For many of us the Spirit of Truth was a real presence in that room, although others said that they didn't feel anything special, except for our mutual love and friendship. I conclude that many *Urantia Book* readers are able to enjoy the Book on their intellects, while others do it in their hearts... and I don't know why, but I guess it is a matter of characteristics of the character or the personalities, or because of different levels of spiritual evolution... (?) As I said, for me it was a BIG high and I wish that what I still feel today will last for many more...!!

*Cheers family!
Carlos Rubinsky*

In
Michael's
Honor

SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

We had a very nice meeting yesterday evening at our place in São Paulo-Brazil, with 28 persons, most of them readers and some new interested persons. We also had the participations of a new group of young readers who are meeting for about 10 months. We read some paragraphs about Michael/Jesus life since the decision of bestowal to the final importance of his teachings. It was touching. We had also music played on piano and violin that guided us to a deep meditation. Finally we had some snacks, cookies and fruit juices with everybody greeting each other. It was a memorable evening.

*Fraternally
Susana Huttner Palaia*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

In honor of our Lord, SURF gathered together to celebrate his actual birthday. We will also celebrate his Christian birthday in December and any other time or day. We had a heart felt and love filled afternoon of music, feasting and sharing our stories of how we first found Jesus in our lives. What a delight it is to be with other Urantia Book readers and know from the teachings that whenever two or more are gathered together in his name that he will be (and is) with us.

*Love to all from,
The SURF'ers*

At Meredith Van Woert's home





Picnic in Montréal

MONTREAL, QUÉBEC

To celebrate our divine Michael Creator Son's arrival on Urantia for His final bestowal in the flesh of a human being, here in Québec, Canada, the Association Urantia du Québec gathered on Sunday, August 20 in the lovely Park Angrignon on the isle of Montreal. 24 persons were at the rendezvous.

As this event occurred on a somewhat rainy day, volunteers were on the spot to set up a 20' x 30' canvas to shelter us. We shared food and a cake with the concentric circles drawn on it and lifted our cups at noon to commemorate this unique event. We were all lifted in a mutual desire to commune and progress in the Father's love. We took this time to deepen our vision upon the progression plan and how we can and do systematically apply it in our lives. We were also honored with the presence of a brother from Sénégal, Africa; our beloved friend Moussa N'diaye from Dakar who is presently in North America to share his vision of God and how we benefit from His interventions. We agree that much that has been done underlies much of what there is to do.

*In loving service,
Alain Cyr, AUQ.*

BARRANQUILLA, COLOMBIA

In Barranquilla we had this chance yesterday to be together in one of our member's house (Juan). We shared with 2 new members about our group.

We celebrated with joy, we drank wine and ate bread, we remember the last supper and we sang for Michael.

Then we had lunch with Chinese food and finally we sang the happy birthday song. We were very happy because we know that people around the world were celebrating just as we did.

May the Heavenly Father bless you
Kisses

Giselle Ramos Cano

KAMUELA, HAWAII

The Hawaii Urantia Local Association enjoyed celebrating Jesus' 2012th Earth Birthday together. We first gathered at a local restaurant for Sunday brunch. We had a separate dining room where we could share our Remembrance Supper privately. After our spiritual moments we also tried to keep the conversation centered on Michael's 7th bestowal. We indulged in eggs Benedict and Belgian waffles with fresh strawberries and whipped cream. The food was very yummy and the company was delightful. We then adjourned to my home where Marian Fieldson and I did a topical study on "What is teamwork and why the Apostles made an effective team?" Marian and I both commented on how much one learns when one goes to teach a subject. We are happy to announce that HULA gained 2 new dues paying members for our team.

*Marian Hughes
HULA President*

HULA gathers at Marian & Matthew's home



Call for Nominations

Dear Members of Urantia Association International:



IN MARCH OF 2007 election for different positions at the International Service Board will be held. This is the official announcement for nominations to the positions that are open for election.

The ISB will use all available means of communication to relay the pertinent information to the general membership.

The nominations should be sent to Shirley Pelland, secretary of the ISB at: shirleypelland@comcast.net.

The positions that are open are as follows:

- **Vice-President**
- **Secretary**
- **Communication Committee Chair**
- **Charter Committee Chair**
- **Dissemination Committee Chair**
- **Study Group Committee Chair**

Section 6.3.1. Election.

a. Nominations. Six months prior to expiration of any ISB term, or immediately upon the occurrence of a vacancy on the ISB, the President shall issue a call to the ISB and the RC for nominations to be submitted to the Secretary within 45 days. The call for nominations shall include the position title(s), the term(s) of office, and required or recommended qualifications for the office(s). The members of the RC shall thereupon call for nominees from their Governing Boards and their Councils of Local Presidents and Vice-Presidents, if applicable, and shall encourage the call for nominees to be broadly communicated within

their associations through available communications vehicles.

Nominations for any position on the ISB may be made (1) by any current ISB member, (2) by any member of the RC, (3) by any National or Local Association, (4) by a nomination signed by at least ten full members and/or members-at-large, in any combination of these two categories.

Nominations must state the position for which the candidate is nominated and certify that the candidate is willing and able to serve and meets the qualifications for the position. Nominations must also include background information regarding the candidate's administrative experience, references, language skills, prior UAI service, and any information pertinent to the candidate's qualifications to serve as a member.

Within 15 days after closing of the nomination period, the Secretary shall compile all nominations and present a list of candidates to the Election Committee of the RC along with the background information on each candidate.

Exception. If, prior to the receipt of other nominations to fill a vacancy, one or more current ISB members are nominated by a member of the ISB to fill the vacancy, then the RC shall vote on whether to proceed with the election prior to receiving other nominees. If the RC votes to proceed with an election and elects an ISB member so nominated, then a new vacancy shall be declared to exist as to the elected member's former ISB

position, for which nominations shall be sought as described above. If the RC decides not to proceed with elections prior to receiving nominations, or fails to elect the current member to the new position, then nominations and election to fill the vacancy shall proceed in the manner outlined in these Bylaws.

☛ VICE PRESIDENT

Section 6.7.3.2. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall assist the President in the discharge of his duties as the President may direct, and shall perform such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the President, the ISB, or the RC. If the President is absent from a meeting, incapacitated, or should the President so request, the Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President and, when so acting, shall have all the powers of and be subject to all the restrictions upon the President.

☛ SECRETARY

Section 6.7.3.4. Secretary. The Secretary shall:

a. Assist the President with preparation and distribution of agendas for face-to-face meetings of the ISB and the Executive Committee.

b. Assist the President with assembling quarterly reports to the RC of ISB activities, incorporating reports of each ISB member.

c. Cause all notices to be given in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws or as required by law.

d. Conduct a roll call at the commencement of each meeting of the ISB, Executive Committee, and RC. For regular ongoing meetings, a roll call shall be conducted at the beginning of each calendar quarter.

e. Record minutes of the meetings of the ISB, Executive Committee, and RC in one or more books provided for that purpose. For regular ongoing meetings, minutes shall be prepared at the end of each calendar quarter.

f. Maintain a register of the postal address, telephone number, facsimile number, and email address of each Central Administration member that shall be furnished to the Secretary by each member.

g. Ensure that ISB members and officers are given access to the online Internet meetings for which they are eligible and are removed from access at the end of their terms.

h. Maintain and have general charge of all UAI records and the seal of the association.

i. Record any approved changes to the governing documents of the UAI and provide copies of the amended governing documents to each ISB, RC, and Judicial Commission member. (Refer to Section 14.3.)

j. Perform all duties incident to the office of Secretary and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned to him by the President, the ISB, or the RC.

☛ COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

Section 6.7.3.5. Communications Chair. This officer shall perform the duties incident to chairing the Communications Committee and also shall be a member of the Executive Committee. (Refer to Section 6.9.4.b.)

6.9.4 b. Communications Committee shall oversee international publications and community relations as they relate to UAI members, the general community of readers of *The Urantia Book*, the media, and the public. Activities within the scope

of the Communications Committee may include:

i. Compiling information from constituent associations regarding their communications efforts in order to share experiences among associations worldwide.

ii. Coordinating with constituent associations regarding public relations matters of mutual interest.

iii. Upon request, providing assistance and support for communications efforts by constituent associations.

iv. In cooperation with other ISB committees, publishing international newsletters and journals, study aids, secondary works, and any other communications or publications, whether in print, digital, electronic, audio, or other media, including the Internet, as they relate to UAI members or other readers of *The Urantia Book*.

v. Collecting information regarding the history of the organisation and making such information available upon request to constituent associations.

vi. Working with the Executive Committee to respond to inquiries involving UAI from the media or the public at large.

vii. Developing brochures and other information resources to communicate with the non-Urantia Book reading public.

viii. Assisting other ISB committees with their communications needs.

ix. Overseeing and coordinating UAI web-based activities and other desired or necessary forms of printed and electronic communication media.

☛ CHARTER COMMITTEE CHAIR

6.9.4 a. Charter and Bylaws Committee shall oversee and coordinate the review and, when appropriate, the proposed amendment of UAI's Charter and Bylaws in order to ensure that governing documents are in place to serve the needs of the organisation, and shall serve as an information resource for associations regarding

their own governing documents. Activities within the scope of the Charter and Bylaws Committee may include:

i. Being in charge of the preliminary work of all Charter or Bylaws revisions, which are to be approved by the ISB and adopted by the RC.

ii. Upon request, providing assistance to an association in developing, reviewing, or revising its governing documents.

iii. Reviewing and recommending approval by the ISB of any governing documents adopted by a constituent National Association for compatibility with the UAI Charter and Bylaws.

iv. Overseeing the review and execution of Charter Agreements and any other necessary documentation with new National Associations or Local Associations in countries where no National Association exists following approval of the new association by the RC.

☛ DISSEMINATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

6.9.4d. Dissemination Committee shall coordinate the UAI international efforts to disseminate the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and to provide information about *The Urantia Book* and UAI to people who are not familiar therewith. Activities within the scope of the Dissemination Committee may include:

i. Compiling information from associations regarding their dissemination efforts in order to share experiences among associations worldwide.

ii. Coordinating with constituent associations regarding dissemination matters of mutual interest.

iii. Upon request, providing assistance and support for dissemination efforts by constituent associations.

iv. Working with Communications Committee to develop brochures and information resources to communicate with the public sector that does not read *The Urantia Book*.

Ireland Urantia Journey

MARIAN ELLANORA HUGHES
Hawaii Urantia Local Association (HULA)

I GREW UP HEARING ABOUT the beauty and the hardships of Donegal, Ireland from my mother who was determined to make a better life for herself. She left Donegal as a young woman, immigrating alone to the United States in the early 1920's. My mother's scrapbook contained a few old photographs of a bleak looking Donegal town with a square (actually diamond shaped) with a large obelisk monument in the center, my grandmother's tombstone (also an obelisk), and my 6' 4" stern no-nonsense looking Scotch/Irish grandfather who had raised 11 kids.

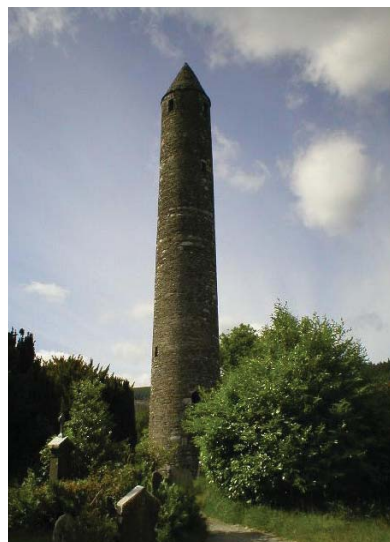
Not every new reader realizes that they have the Fifth Epochal Revelation in their hands and what kind of responsibility comes with that knowledge.

But I didn't feel the calling to visit there until I read a small book titled "How the Irish Saved Civilization" by Thomas Cahill. I was also drawn to the landscape after creating a slide show for the 2005 UAUS conference which featured some pictures of the early Christian monasteries in Ireland. When the IRA finally surrendered their weapons, after years of what the Irish refer to as "The Troubles," I decided it was time to make the trip this summer.

As always, I packed a few Urantia Books and waited to feel where inspiration would guide me to place them. The first book, a lovely solid 11th printing, (they just don't make them like that anymore), was donated to Trinity College in Dublin. Trinity

is one of the most important college libraries in the world and also happens to be the keeper and protector of the Book of Kells, one of the most valuable early Christian books to survive the ravages of time. For more information check out this site: [Book of Kells](#)

As I viewed The Book of Kells I wondered if in 1200 years people might be similarly lined up by the thousands to view one of the early Urantia Book Revelations. The Book of Kells are beautiful manuscripts written on sheepskin parchment by monks who lived in the most austere conditions and protected the manuscripts from the Vikings in towers much like this one in Glendalough.



Glendalough Tower



Concentric Circle Carving with the author



Trinity College, Dublin

Stairs of inner ladders were retracted upwards so the enemy could not reach the top. If you ever get to Ireland, you must visit this site, it is an amazing place. I was happy that Trinity College finally had a Urantia Book and prayed that some day all the university libraries on this planet might soon also have a UB on their shelves.

We had dinner our second evening in Dublin with Eileen Appleyard, one of the very few Urantia Book readers in Ireland.

I had met Eileen through emails and had developed a kindred spirit relationship with her prior to the trip. We spent many hours conversing about the book and its origin. She had brought along Wendy, a woman who had stopped reading the book for one reason or another. But, after learning more details and the history of the movement, Wendy has since picked it up once again. Not every new reader realizes that they have the Fifth Epochal Revelation in their hands and what kind of responsibility comes with that knowledge. Eileen and I decided that we would meet up once again at



Graham Family Gravestone

the end of our two week trip around the Emerald Isle.

The next day we set off in the rain for Donegal to find my roots. I found my grandparents grave and the farm my mother grew up on. I certainly regretted that when my mother was alive I hadn't asked her more questions about what her early life was like there. She obviously had to walk many miles to school in the same cold, wet and windy weather we were experiencing that day. I was determined to place

a few books somewhere in Donegal. I thought the story would go something like this.

During the course of the conversation we learned that like me, the Doctor was a history buff. I told him I had THE history book of all time ...

Young woman leaves rural Ireland in the 1920's. Making a new life for herself, she marries and gives birth to a baby girl in 1945. This child grows

up wondering about God and the universe, then rejects God for Science at the age of 13, becomes an atheist, then a seeker and then a finder in 1968 upon discovering *The Urantia Book*. That child, now a middle aged woman returns to her mother's birth place to plant the seeds of Revelation in the land of St. Patrick.

Heading further north to the town of Muff on the Inishowen peninsula we wanted to find one particular large standing stone that I had seen on a megalith internet site. The stone had three concentric circles carved on it. Since this is the symbol on our wedding rings and our favorite book, my husband and I were determined to go out of our way to locate it. Since

we only had GPS directions from the webpage and no GPS in our rental car, we knew it would be a challenge locating this stone. Would anyone in the town of Muff have any idea about what we were looking for? All we knew was that it was 1.5 miles north of Muff. Off we went on our quest completely confident that after coming so far we just had to find this bloody rock. We saw no standing stone from the main road but we did see an old timer on an archaic tractor.

"Ask that old guy," I said to Matt as he pulled off the road. We hit the jackpot. In a thick, barely understandable Irish brogue, he eagerly said, "Aye, I know it well for I once owned the land it is on." He then proceeded to give us excellent directions and told us there was a book written about it and to knock on the door of the owner's house and tell her Roddy sent you. We turned around and headed back down the road until we saw the "wee, white cottage" took a right and went up "two field lengths." There she stood in the middle of the field looking like the monolith out of the 2001: Space Odyssey.



Megalith of Muff

It felt so odd knocking on the door of this stranger's house, but I thought I must not be the first person to do so. A woman answered right away. "You probably know what we want, Roddy directed us here." I said. "No trouble at all, just follow the tracks that my husband has made with his tractor so you don't crush his barley. I am so sorry the weather is so bad. Now you go have a good look," the kindly woman replied. After traipsing out to the standing stone and confirming with our own eyes that indeed the concentric circles had been carved



Guardian of the Megalith

by some ancient Celtic tribe, we had a wee moment of silence, took some photos, and headed back to the car, cold, wet and hungry. But before we could open our car door the lady of the manor opened her front door and invited us in for a spot of tea. In the warmth of her lovely home we passed the nicest hour, drinking tea, eating cookies and experiencing Irish hospitality. My husband commented, "This must happen to you all the time." She replied, "Oh yes, three or four times." "A day?" Matt inquired. "No, a year." She said, "And I have never invited any megalith hunters into my home before." I told her how far we had come to see the rock that she was the guardian of and showed her our wedding rings with their blue enameled circles. I explained a little bit about why the three concentric circles were such an important symbol to us. I told her that they stood of Eternity, Divinity, and Universality. She said she had no idea and showed us the book that had been written about the megalith.

I told her I would send her some Hawaiian coffee and our "special" book with the circles. She is a retired school teacher who seems to have a lot of free time on her hands, so who knows, maybe that is the real reason we went on this crazy journey to this remote spot on Urantia. Stranger things have happened in many of our lives once we have become acquainted with Big Blue.

A few days later we later met a doctor and his wife from Sligo that were also celebrating their anniversary at Castle Durrow, about 2 hours south of Dublin. During the course of the conversation we learned that like me, the Doctor was a history buff. I

Ireland Urantia Journey

continued from page 11

told him I had THE history book of all time and that if he was interested I would get one to him. He said he would definitely be interested and so into his hands will soon arrive a Urantia Book via Eileen Appleyard's husband who often visits Sligo on business. We told the doctor that if it turned out that neither of them took an interest in the book to please donate it to the local library. Eileen has already called them and made arrangements for delivery. If they like it they already have Eileen as a contact.

I was also able to give a book to a massage therapist that I traded



treatments with, in hopes that it might speak to her soul. She said she would check it out and would pass it around her circle of friends whom she considered to be seekers. I couldn't help but think that maybe, in the future, Ireland might serve as the same staging ground for the Fifth Epochal

Revelation as it did for the Fourth Revelation during the Dark Ages. That is if these spiritual people are willing to break the shackles of ecclesiastical authority.

The day before we left Ireland, Eileen and I spent the afternoon reflecting upon this new spiritual movement and its potential for growth in Ireland. As I think back on the trip both my personal and spiritual quests far exceeded my expectations. Many thanks to our unseen cousins, you are the best travel agents ever.

As the Moody Blues sang years ago,

“Hand in hand, together we will stand

On the Threshold of a Dream.”

□

Call for nominations

continued from page 9

v. Coordinating participation by the UAI in international events sponsored by other organisations.

vi. Responding to inquiries received by the UAI from non-readers regarding the UAI or *The Urantia Book* and, if possible, referring them to constituent associations in their areas.

vii. Undertaking international service projects for the purpose of disseminating the teachings of *The Urantia Book* and for making *The Urantia Books* available throughout the world by, for example, library placement and gift book programmes.

viii. Working with the Education Committee to devise and develop means to educate UAI members regarding sensitivities to worldwide religious and cultural issues in order to enhance understanding and wisdom regarding such issues as they may affect the UAI goals in carrying the teachings of *The Urantia Book* to the diverse peoples of the world in a manner commensurate with individuals' intellectual and cultural development.

ix. Recommending funding for dissemination programmes.

✎ STUDY GROUP COMMITTEE CHAIR

6.9.4 g. Study Group Committee shall promote the formation and maintenance of study groups for readers of *The Urantia Book* worldwide and shall support national and local study group committees by promoting communication and sharing of methods, ideas, and experiences. It shall function as a resource guide to all study groups of *The Urantia Book*. Local Association study group committees shall have primary responsibility for creating and assisting study groups within their area and shall preserve and respect the autonomy of all study groups. Activities within the scope of this Study Group Committee may include:

i. Compiling information to share with associations and other individuals concerning the creation of new study groups and service to existing study groups.

ii. Produce a newsletter or newsletter articles sharing experiences, methods, and ideas about study groups with the study group community worldwide.

iii. Create and distribute materials to assist individuals desiring to create a new study group or enhance an existing study group.

iv. Coordinate opportunities for UAI members to visit local study groups in an effort to offer them support and assistance if required.

v. Working with other ISB committees and UAI national and local organisations to develop methods for readers to find existing study groups or other readers wishing to create a study group.

vi. Creating and maintaining a directory of study groups around the world. This information shall be shared only among UAI associations and shall not appear in any Web site or public communication. □

Gaëtan Charland
President

Conference in Uruguay



Uruguay conference poster

ALBERTO AND HORACIO BRUPBACHER
 UAI Members-at-Large
 Punta del Este, Uruguay
urantia@adinet.com.uy

LAST JULY 22ND we held a Conference at Cantegril cinema in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The title of the conference was “Origin, nature and destiny of man, according to *The Urantia Book*”. The entrance cost \$100 (about 4 USD), and all the benefits were destined to the 96th Juan Jose Muñoz School in Cerro Pelado. More than 800 children go to this school, where 450 of them eat in

In addition, the principal of the school will be starting soon with making known the book to all those children

the school due to their parents can not feed them. This school has construction problems that must be solved. Prior to the conference, everybody was able to be informed by email, radio broadcasting, TV programs, local newspapers, and web sites.

Showing images of our universe, physical reality of our planet and modern art, we started with the origin and center of all things and

beings, descending from the source of personality to man. We discussed about our nature, the implantation of life, explaining the natural genetic evolution through human races, the five epochal revelations and finished with the destiny of all of us, talking about the phenomenon of death, the survival of human self to the schools, faculties and universities, and to the Finality Corps in the eternity.

At the end of the Conference we raffled five copies of *The Urantia Book*, where people were able to consult all that has been seen and heard.

The Urantia Papers were mentioned at all the local media (also *The Urantia Book*), even in a TV channel, Canal 11, where it was mentioned several times. It could be seen all about the conference there for two days. We were 10 minutes in two TV channels, and 20 minutes in four FM stations. Of course, the theme of the Conference was the most mentioned.

We think that not only here, but in many places of our country and neighboring countries, they know about the book thanks to broadcasting of media and the more than five

thousand emails to Internet addresses that we sent at that moment.

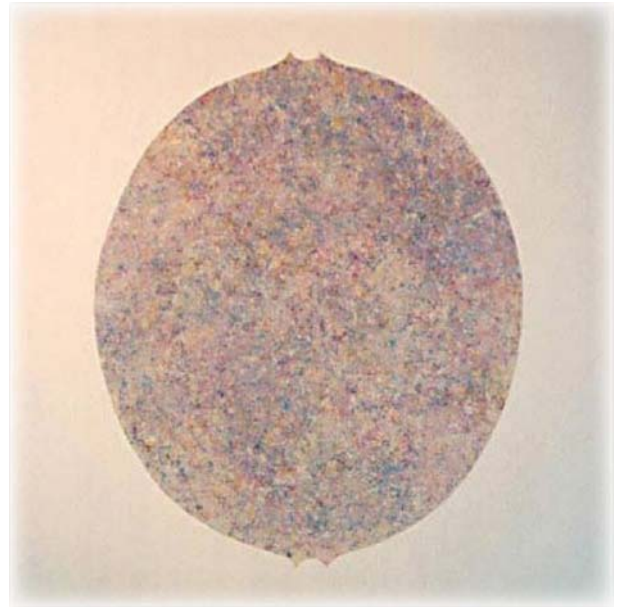
We received telephone calls and emails from Europe, Mexico, USA and Latin America.

We only felt that we must be doing something for those children and for the Revelation and went for that. We thank God for giving us this opportunity now and here in Urantia. In addition, the principal of the school will be starting soon with making known the book to all those children, who are the future of our country and maybe of our world.

The enduring state is founded on culture, dominated by ideals, and motivated by service. (806:1) □

ALL

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BEING
LOVE.....



"16" Carrol Cannon,
New York City

—Suzanne M. Kelly
Lone Star Urantia Association