

The Fellowship for Readers of The Urantia Book  
**Annual Report of the Charter Committee**

Robert Burns  
May 1998

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In 1989, Steve Dreier, as the Charter Committee Chair states: "The Charter Committee is charged with establishing the requirements for society formation and verifying that such requirements have been satisfactorily met by applicant groups. The Charter Committee is particularly concerned with keeping membership requirements sufficiently neutral so as to allow interested groups anywhere on this planet to join Urantia Brotherhood without experiencing indifference or insensitivity towards their local social and cultural circumstances. At the same time we must maintain a level of requirement which adds to our membership only those who are adequately prepared and willing to participate effectively in our organizational process."

To this end the 1997 Chair, Avi Dogirn and the Charter Committee created the Fellowship Associate status whose "formal inclusion of groups whose purposes are consistent with those of the Fellowship but who do not meet the requirements for society formation." In 1998, The Fellowship added another Fellowship Associate group, The Longs Peak Faithers from Loveland Colorado, which were approved by General Council on April 18, 1998. This new affiliation consists of I I readers who study and fellowship together and organizes outreach programs to share The Urantia Book.

And then in 1998, the effort to allow interested groups become a society saw further effort by the Charter Committee, led by Marvin Gawryn , to simplify the Society Charter standards while maintaining "a level of requirement, which adds to our membership". The recommendations for simplification of Society Charter standards are currently in review with the Judicial Committee and being additionally discussed in depth by the Charter Committee.

Groups of readers that would like to be more than an Associate status sometimes find it overwhelming to create a constitution on their own for their new society. The simplification process will offer a standard society constitution that can be used as is, which will speed up the process as well as simplify. Or a forming society can use the standard society constitution as a template and make modifications, which still simplifies the process, but

will then need to be reviewed by the Judicial Committee.

Avi Dogim stated that "Reaching out to individuals and to groups of Urantia Book readers all over the world and finding effective ways of working cooperatively with them is a continuing challenge for the Fellowship." And if we are to play a pivotal role in the social outworking of the Fifth Epochal Revelation on this planet, we need to look for new and varied ways of appealing to non-members." Our current Charter Committee echo's this sentiment as we actively proceed in our search for new ways to reach out and appeal to the world, while maintaining standards worthy of the Fellowships values and principles.

As the recently elected Chairperson (April of 98), I thank all the committee members for helping me get up to speed and their willingness serve. I also wish to thank Marvin Gawryn, who was the Chairperson for the first part of this year, for his work with the Charter Committee and sharing with me the tasks and challenges our committee has at hand.

In our Eternal Father's service,

Robert Burns, Chair

Larry Bowman

Robert Bruyn

Tom Choquette

Francyl Gawryn

Dale Sztejnberg

President's Annual Report to the General Council and Membership  
Janet Farrington Graham  
July 13, 1998

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During the past year we have made significant progress in our comprehension of diversity. We have endeavored to illuminate and articulate the reality and beauty of the Father's plan. We believe that an embrace of diversity will deepen our creativity, expand our vision, temper our emotions, and challenge us to dismiss fear as we move into the world, revelation in hand. An embrace of diversity requires that we open our minds and hearts to those who disagree with us as well as to those who agree. We feel so moved by our understanding of the Father's plan that we have sincerely encouraged even those with whom we have significant disagreements to work with us as teammates and friends.

We are all in partnership with the **revelators**, with the angels, and with the spiritual administration of this world. We understand that our brothers and sisters are called to serve in ways that may seem foreign or even foolish from our limited personal perspectives; in ways that may even seem threatening to some. But we are advised to "fear not" by the Master. We know that our small, halting steps are matched stride for stride by our unseen friends, that partnership means we manifest only one part of the unfolding. Our halting steps are half-steps by design. When we elevate our perspective to embrace the seen and the unseen, the global and the cosmic, we realize that every task, every unique, creative, experimental effort to share our beloved revelation either succeeds with the aid of the angels or fails without it. We are not required to judge the dissemination efforts of the other, but to joyously encourage, willingly support, and wisely advise our brothers and sisters as they engage in the service to which they feel called.

During the past year the Fellowship has continued to engage in new and creative efforts to share the revelation with the world. Thousands of people in dozens of countries have discovered and studied the revelation through our **website**; we seek to reach as many people in as many languages as possible. We have actively encouraged alternative dissemination methods designed to attract truth seekers, solitary readers, families, and friends from all walks of life. We continue to support conferences, **expos**, fairs, tours, and international activities with financial and human resources.

We are learning that the Fellowship's unique identity evolves from the unique personality of each member, and that our organization gains both wisdom and strength when we embrace the full spectrum of believers and readers. We have committed ourselves to a more **proactive** method in seeking others to serve with us, a more open and simplified approach to building membership and providing service. We are **realizing the** fundamental value of relationship; of learning the lessons of teamwork, of engaging in cosmic problem solving with those who hold diverse views. And yes, we have a long way to go before we can celebrate success.

In the coming year the work of the Fellowship will likely progress in three main areas. We will develop our plan for bringing the revelation to the far corners of the planet, and prepare to offer **meaningful** service to the resulting new students; we will provide opportunities for believers to become teachers and for readers and their families to build personal relationships within our growing community; and we will seek creative solutions to the complex issues that have challenged our movement since its infancy.

These challenges seem, at times, insurmountable and we have utilized secular and materialistic solutions out of desperation, solutions that promise resolution but seem only to spend our goodwill and community resources with little result. During the coming year we will endeavor to find transcendent solutions, interpretations of law and purpose designed to support an epochal revelation, solutions that foster a unified community freely disseminating an inviolate text. The discovery of these solutions will take time and a great deal of patience from readers and believers in every organization dedicated to revelation service. The old ways of thinking are slowly changing, but each one of us must personally choose to dismiss fear and depend on love if we sincerely desire success.

Love is more than a spiritual attitude; love is a mandate from the Master. To Nathaniel and the apostles during their ordination he said, "My messengers must not strive with men, but be gentle towards all. Measure for measure shall not be your rule. The rulers of men may have such laws, but not so in the kingdom; mercy always shall determine your judgments and love your conduct."

If we are to progressively embrace our role as messengers of the fifth epochal revelation, love must determine our conduct. Always. We can hold beliefs, offer opinions, interpret law but our actions must be determined by love. Jesus lived the highest expression of love on Urantia because he gave his life for his enemies as well as his friends. Within each of us resides the

greatest manifestation of love in the **universes--our** Thought Adjusters. With this divine reality in mind, we can be confident that solutions to these complex challenges are within reach. And we can be certain that every progressive step we take paves the way for the sons and daughters who will follow in this work.

The coming year promises to be one of opportunity and growth as we face the known and the unknown realities of revelation service. It is a great privilege to serve with each of you.

In fellowship,

Janet Farrington Graham

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A Service of  
[\*The Urantia Book Fellowship\*](#)

## 1998 Annual Report of the Secretary Lorrie Krasny

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Michelle Klimesh was elected Secretary at the General Council Meeting held in Vancouver, BC in July of 1997.

In April 1998, Michelle resigned to fill a vacancy as Education Chairman, and Lorrie Krasny was appointed Secretary until the next General Council could vote in July 1998.

Minutes were provided for by Michelle at two General Council Meetings: 1) in July 1997 in Vancouver, B.C., and 2) in February 1998 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Lorrie Krasny took minutes at the Officers Meeting held in Chicago in April 1998.

Michelle was sick for the Vancouver meeting, so minutes were taken by Steve Dreier, but they were edited and published by Michelle.

The Membership Census is reported under separate cover by John Hales.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Krasny

Secretary

Fellowship For Readers Of The Urantia Book

1998 Annual Report of the Education Committee  
Michelle Klimesh

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Dear Friends,

This year the Education Committee worked with local area readers to present the 1998 Summer Study Sessions at Mount Vernon College in Washington DC, July 9-12.

A Wrightwood Series, "Cult and The Urantia Book" has been initiated by Alison Gardner. The assembled panel of authors, all first-time Wrightwood participants, include: Steven Hecht, Joan Neumann Wentworth, Neal Waldrop, Christel Garrick, Phil Geiger, Dan Massey, and Rebecca Kantor. Publication is planned for Spring of 1999, preliminary to a major panel presentationworkshop at IC99. ,

Charles Olivea and Stephen Zendt will soon initiate another Wrightwood Series on Parables. This effort will be the Education committee's fifth Wrightwood Series.

Steve Dreier stepped down as Chairman of the Education Committee to serve as Vice-President in April. Since the work for 1998 has been humming along without me, I have been spending my time reviewing the reports of the Education Committee's work for the past 42 years. I have also been percolating ideas about the committee's future, which I suspect will increasingly make use of Internet technology.

The members of the Education Committee wish to thank the General Council for giving us an opportunity to be of service.

Sincerely,

Michelle Klimesh, Chair

Matthew Block

Irving Ginsburgh,

Alison Gardner

Charles Olivea

Stephen Zendt

## 1998 Annual Report of the Publications Committee

Avi Dogim

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The primary objective of the Publications Committee over the past year has been to publish an ontime quarterly newsletter, something which The Fellowship has not done in recent years. In order to fill the then perceived communications gap between the Fellowship as an organization and the Urantia Book reader community, the Executive Committee had appointed in February 1997 an ad hoc newsletter committee of which this current Publications chair was a member. The ad hoc committee published the first issue of the Mighty Messenger in the spring of 1997 and subsequent issues have been published on schedule by the Publications Committee. The fifth issue of the newsletter is at the printer's as of this writing.

The purpose of the Mighty Messenger is to keep the reader community informed regarding current events and to provide readers with a forum for the expression of their views on issues of interest to this community. While the reporting goal has been achieved with moderate success, the committee hopes to see a substantial increase in letters from readers, which to date have been rather sparse. Next on the agenda for the MM is the improvement of its looks through the use of graphics and a better layout.

As reported in the newsletter's upcoming issue, The Fellowship will add to its publications menu a sixteen page journal called The Fellowship Herald, which will devote space to articles of spiritual, social and scholarly interest as well as to artwork and poetry. The first issue is expected to see light later this summer.

The increased workload of the committee during this year has prompted some personnel changes, three members resigning due to competing commitments and new members, eager to participate in the publications process, joining in.

In order to improve and expand its work, the Publications Committee needs to remain dynamic, balanced, creative and unified in its purpose of meeting the publications needs of The Fellowship. As in all departmental committees, each member needs to be given an opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way and to take full advantage of this opportunity. Moreover, the committee will endeavor to enlist the participation of talented

individuals throughout the Urantia Book reader community. "Come work with us", is something we would like to say to all the potential contributors worldwide.

Respectfully submitted by

Avi Dogim, Chairman Publications Committee

Carolyn Kendall

Stephen F.

Linda Buselli

Sage Waitts

Geri Johnson

Nancy Johnson

## 1998 Annual Report of the Judicial Committee to the General Council

### Dan Massey

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The Judicial Committee of the Fellowship has conducted no official committee business during the past year. The Chairman has advised the Executive Committee and the General Council on several matters:

1. When Urantia Foundation informally indicated their intent to seek damages from the Fellowship in connection with the publication of the Uversa Press edition of The Urantia Book, the Chairman conducted a search for legal representation, interviewed a number of qualified attorneys, and selected Michael W. Coffield of Chicago to serve as counsel to the Fellowship. Subsequent discussions with Mr. Coffield and his associates were helpful to the Fellowship's negotiating team in framing our meeting with the Trustees of Urantia Foundation last October. Although Mr. Coffield had been carefully selected for his experience and background in areas of law relevant to certain matters under dispute with Urantia Foundation, a flexible approach to issues by both the Fellowship and the Foundation resulted in settlement of the matter without further legal action.
2. The Chairman reviewed the 1997 TDA Resolution #9 regarding the "Support of Urantian Religious Belief and Practice," conducted discussions with a number of proponents and opponents of the resolution, formulated an analysis of the issues at hand, and presented two resolutions for consideration by the General Council at its 1998 midwinter meeting. "A Resolution Supporting General Use of the word "Urantia" and the Revealed Trinity Symbol for Identification and "A Resolution Supporting Formation of Groups Identified for Urantian Religious Belief and Practice" were both adopted by the General Council.
3. The Chairman prepared a legislative package for amendment of the Fellowship constitution to create a Family Life Committee as a tenth standing committee of the Fellowship. This package consisted of a proposed constitutional amendment and a motion to be voted by the Executive Committee approving the amendment for submission to the General Council. Before Executive Committee action, this package was discussed informally by the Council at its 1998 midwinter meeting, with the result that further action towards formalization of the Family Life Committee was

deferred indefinitely.

4. In connection with the expansion of web publishing activities by the Fellowship, the Chairman has advised the General Council, the Executive Committee, and the ad hoc Web Oversight Committee on matters related to the "fair use" of copyrighted material permitted by United States law. As part of this service, the Chairman has also consulted with members of the General Council considering service as volunteer members of the Foundation's copyright review committee and with certain Trustees of Urantia Foundation concerning ways in which the Foundation might preserve its copyright, fulfill the requirements of its Declaration of Trust, and ameliorate the continuing ill-will generated among the readership by policies established in an earlier era.

5. The Chairman is currently working with the ad hoc Publicity Committee on matters relating to the development of a new and clear organizational identity for the Fellowship.

6. The Chairman is currently working with the ad hoc Web Committee on matters relating to the establishment of the Fellowship organizational identity in cyberspace.

A new project adopted by the Judicial Committee Jointly with the Charter Committee) is the development of a "standard" constitution for use in establishing chartered societies of the Fellowship. This constitution would be offered to groups interested in forming a new society as a practical starting point for their own constitutional development. Groups choosing to accept the "standard" constitution without modification could enjoy a streamlined chartering process, since there would be no need for the Charter or Judicial Committees to review the specific details of their proposed constitution or to suggest or require changes. I hope to be able to report more fully on this initiative at the midyear meeting of the General Council. It has been suggested that the Judicial Committee should undertake the redaction of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fellowship, since a number of extant versions, previously thought to be authoritative, have been found to be incomplete or inaccurate in some details.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Massey, Chairman, for the Judicial Committee:

Christel Garrick  
Dick Johnson

Steve McIntosh  
David Owen

31 May 1998

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## 1998 Annual Report of the Finance Committee

Joe Liszka

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Fund raising efforts for The Urantia Book Fellowship's activities fall within four major categories-, The first being, what has become traditional, a solicitation letter to the general membership around Spring and another around Fall.

The second and most successful, at least in the greater dollar amount, has been direct contact by an individual(s) to individuals or existing foundations.

A third effort, started by an individual to address a particular need at the time, was directed to a very much smaller group. This would be called the Wrightwood group whose yearly donation of at least Five Thousand Dollars is earmarked to pay-off the mortgage for our organization's building and offices on Wrightwood Avenue in Chicago.

The fourth effort is contribution in-kind. This included those contributions in personnel, in time, in services (not excluding those services provided by the Jesusonian Foundation and the volume of time and money devoted to Whole-Life Expos, Book Fairs and the like.) The exact dollar amount of these contributions are not known. What is known is that the "translated" dollar amount from in-kind contributions is considerable. Consider the donated effort of a few individuals what have worked tirelessly on The Uversa Press edition of The Urantia Book as just one of the many projects fulfilled by volunteers.

This year the general Fall solicitation attempted a different approach in that it looked at the total donor list and separated donors according to what they may have given in past years and/or what could have been considered a more personal and greater interest in The Urantia Book Fellowship. To that end, three letters were composed to hopefully reflect those segments; The first to contributors of one hundred dollars or less; the second to those who gave in excess of one hundred dollars; the third to heads of study groups and Society Presidents.

The results were essentially the same as previous years' solicitations and in fact, down from last year. What was especially surprising was the paucity of

response the nominal leadership of The Urantia Book Fellowship including the members of the General Council. Of course one must recognize that a donation can be expressed in other than dollar value. But in the main, the dollar amounts did fall short of previous years.

What added significantly to our bottom line was the much appreciated major donations from a few individuals and foundations. These donations give significant support to pay for specified activities such as our services to the "cyber-community" on the Web site and E-mail readers, conferences and Book Fairs as well as the day to day requirements to maintain our Chicago office.

Special thanks must be given to Jennifer Siegel and her father for their total remake of our Chicago office. It is a beautiful change.

On the subject of our Chicago office, the Treasurer and Finance Chair were given the responsibility of looking at the costs of maintaining the Chicago office. These costs include mortgage (loan), maintenance and personnel. A report was given to the Executive Committee and has not been acted upon.

A proffered donation from Harry McMullan for a church building in Oklahoma City to be used for The Urantia Book Fellowship was ultimately withdrawn.

At the Oklahoma City General Council meeting, a presentation was made to make the General Council cognizant of the value of Charitable Remainder Trusts and Trusts in general. The Finance Chair will pursue further this potential source of funds recognizing the legal implications and the need for any individual donor to work with an attorney.

Some of the frustration of Finance has been a need for a more defined picture and its presentation to the readership of the scope of activities of The Urantia Book Fellowship. An occasional solicitation for funds to a readership who barely understands the scope of activities and needs of The Urantia Book Fellowship, eschews anything that smacks of bureaucracy or politics. That readership simply will not make other than a token donation if one at all. To clarify and define The Urantia Book Fellowship's affairs, 1998-9 will see the significant development of our ad hoc PR committee that will give graphic life to "Who we are and what we do". Finance not only welcomes this committee with sincere thanks but feels its development to help this revelation is long past due.

The Finance Committee announced a newly elected member in the person of Jerry Pando who is viewed as an active participant in The Urantia Book Fellowship affairs and at the same time announced the loss of Robert Bums who, while moving to Charter, has been most helpful in past responsibilities. The Chair will renew its effort in finding persons who wish to serve in Finance.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Liska

## 1998 DOMESTIC EXTENSION COMMITTEE REPORT

**1998 was a busy year for the Domestic Extension Committee. We preserved our core programs and initiated some new ones. With the help of numerous volunteers we accomplished the following:**

### Booth Outreach

We did 15 shows in 14 different cities, which included: Albuquerque, Baltimore, San Francisco, New York (twice), Minnesota, Spokane, Ft. Collins, Sacramento, Austin, Chicago, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Boston, and Portland.

The following literature was distributed in conjunction with these shows:

**Urantia Books      290**

**El Libro De Urantia    24**

**Concordex26**

**Introductions            510**

**Fellowship Brochures500**

**UB Brochures            3,694**

**Exposure            300,000\***

**Names Added                    500\***

**Volunteers            150\***

**New Volunteers Trained    40\***

(\* indicates a close approximation based on averages)

So far in 1999 we've done shows in San Francisco, Baltimore, Denver, and Spokane with shows planned in Minneapolis, Sacramento, Phoenix, Austin, Chicago, DC, and Atlanta.

### Uversa Press Distribution

Since Uversa Press' book has been out of distribution we have shipped hundreds of books to numerous Urantia societies and study groups for placement according to the guidelines established between The Fellowship and Urantia Foundation.

Following is a list of book distribution to Societies in 1998:

<b>Golden Gate</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Denver</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Dallas</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Ft. Wayne</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Alaska</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Grand Canyon</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>New York</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Connecticut</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Seattle</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Chicago</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Total Books</b>	<b>476</b>

### **The 98-99 International Study Group Directory**

LuAnn Harney is currently working on this year's directory. We hope to have it done for distribution at IC99.

### **Public Introductions & Workshops**

Domestic Extension did public lectures in 7 different cities last year to nearly 200 people. Each time we do a public lecture on The Urantia Book we try to include local readers who typically give personal testimonies. We continue to encourage follow-up workshops in the cities where we do expos. The expos provide a great opportunity for local Urantia communities to promote other activities such as workshops, conferences, and retreats.

### **Committee Changes**

This year our committee added the talents of Doreen Heyne of the New York Society. Doreen has been working on collecting information to add to the Study Group Page at the Fellowship's website and worked on securing a directory listing for our new toll free number. Our committee also enlisted the help of Larry Watkins who is acting as a web advisor.

As always we look forward to increased opportunities to serve!

In faith and friendship

Paula Thompson, Chair

Domestic Extension Committee

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The Fellowship for Readers of The Urantia Book  
1998 Annual Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee for  
Internet Development  
David Kantor

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This past year has seen continued expansion of the Fellowship website in areas of both content and services. Some twenty five readers contribute to the accomplishment of this work on a more or less regular basis. Current website usage averages 350 to 400 distinct individuals accessing a little over 1,000 documents or 25 Megabytes of data every 24 hours.

The address of the Fellowship's website is: <http://www.ubfellowship.org>

To keep this report brief, I will simply list the major areas of development followed by a note regarding undertakings immediately on the horizon.

**Document Processing:** This task continues apace. There is a small network of people in place who scan, proof and correct old documents which are being digitized. There is a steady stream of these documents continuing to be published on the website which consist of both historical materials as well as study aids. At present some 200 historical photos have been digitized (many of them with PhotoShop enhancements of focus, contrast and the elimination of dust spots, etc.) along with nearly 1,000 documents. Not all of these are published in the publicly available archive. Much of this work is being done by Richard Johnson, his wife Peggy, and their son. Matthew Block and John Hales have lent important support by tracking down documents in the files at the Wrightwood office.

**Inquiry Response:** Personal requests for information coming into the website get personal responses. If the inquirer requests being added to the mailing list, the message gets forwarded to John Hales for action. There is presently not a high volume of requests which require personal responses -- four or five each week -- but this does represent an on-going task largely managed by Larry Watkins and Lawrence Brown and Dolores Nice. Paula Thompson plays a significant role in this task.

**Prayer Requests:** A prayer list was established several months ago. Presently there are requests for prayer or spiritual support coming in at a rate of four or five per week. Marty Greenhut, Beth Bartley, Ann Garner

and Paula Thompson are presently responding to these requests. People who send notes into the prayer request list are prayed for by list members and personal responses are sent out. I didn't think this was such a great idea when it was initially suggested and I implemented it reluctantly. But seeing some of the requests for help we've received has completely changed my view.

**Internet Presence Promotion:** Joy Brandt has taken on the task of promoting our presence on the web. She regularly sends new URLs to all the major web search engines and takes care of other matters related to strengthening our presence. This is an essential contribution to the overall effort.

**Web-based Reader Services:** Private E-mail services for special interest groups and collaborative working groups are well established and people are getting used to using them. Good examples are the IC99 planning committee list, the EC list, and the Family Life Committee list.

**Community Calendar:** The foundations for a web-based community calendar, editable by anyone with access to the Council webspace, have been put in place. Hopefully this will evolve into a useful tool which allows everyone to keep track of when conferences are happening and when other significant events are taking place within the readership community.

**Database of Site Visitors:** We have begun to collect E-mail addresses from visitors in order to expand our list of contacts. Regular electronic mailings will go out to this group at least monthly, announcing readership events and informing subscribers about new materials published on the website.

**Backup Mirror Site:** A second server has been brought into service on the East Coast which is gradually being brought into a state which mirrors the West Coast server. This will provide an essential backup system as well as providing faster access times for visitors from these two geographical regions. I am currently looking for someone outside of California willing to offer reciprocal DNS services.

**The Pilgrim's Bookshop:** This new section of the website (currently being developed) features a sales page for The Urantia Book and will soon include the Good Cheer catalog and products from the Fellowship's Guide to Secondary Works. A gateway is provided to the Amazon.com website. Any books or CDS purchased by anyone who enters the Amazon site via the Fellowship's gateway result in a sales commission being earned by the

Fellowship. So if you want to order anything from Amazon.com, please enter their website through the gateway at <http://www.ubfellowship.org/bookshop/>

**Liaisons with readers outside the U.S.:** The ongoing publication of German papers, the publication of back issues of Innerface International and the continuing work on Spanish language materials represents a good start at collaboration by the international readership on website evolution. Joe Hausler, Susan Ransbottom, Ken Glasziou, Ángel Sanchez-Escobar and Juan Paulo Vega continue to play key roles in this process.

**Technical Support:** Mark Turrin is to be thanked for providing and maintaining a rock-solid technology platform from which all of this activity proceeds. Down-time has been virtually non-existent. Everything works, and works consistently, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. This is no small accomplishment and the continuous work necessary to pull it off is mostly hidden from view. Larry Watkins is also involved in essential background technical support.

## On the Horizon

**Administrative Database Development:** Pierre Chicoine is presently working with Robert Burns on tasks related to a web-based administrative database. In the next six to eight weeks, additional hardware and software will be deployed to support this effort. Several experiments with this technology are presently being made.

**Integrated Study Aids:** Programming and acquisition of materials proceeds from which an integrated study database will hopefully be constructed. This will include the Paramony, The Urantia Book, Bill Sadler's lectures, Harry's topical index and perhaps a few other works, all hyperlinked into a common, fully cross-referenced database. This is presently being planned in such a way that it can be integrated with Spanish language resources as well.

**Liaison with PR Committee:** This next year should see a greater integration of website content and services with the plans of the PR committee as we attempt to evolve a consistent cross-media representation of the revelation and our organization.

**Improved gathering of statistics:** Several attempts are being made to improve the gathering of statistics from our website visitors so that we will

have better information to guide further development of the website. It is anticipated that this improved information will also help inform other outreach efforts.

**Spanish Language Materials:** A variety of Spanish materials are currently under development. I feel it is important to foster the development of services for this growing segment of the readership and will continue to try and find ways of accomplishing this.

Respectfully submitted with appreciation for the opportunity to attempt the discovery of meaningful service,

David Kantor, Chair  
Ad-Hoc Committee for Internet Development

## **Fraternal Relations Committee**

### **1998 Annual Report**

Marvin Gawryn

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A review of the history of the Fraternal Relations Committee indicates that, along with many of the standing committees, it remained relatively inactive from 1955 until the early 1970s. During this incubation period, the prevailing philosophy among the first generation of leaders seems well expressed by then FRC chair Albert Dyon in a 1963 summary of Dr. Sadler's remarks to the committee: "...he stressed the view that the real functioning of our committee would await some future time of more general recognition of this revelation, when it will really have begun to get into the awareness and challenge the attention of the leaders of the vested religious interests, both here and abroad."

This period appears to have ended in the early 1970s, when a dramatic rise in book sales and an influx of new, younger readers sparked a developmental surge in all sectors of the Urantia movement. This expansion, with some plateaus, has continued up to the present time. During this more recent 25 year period, members and adjuncts of the FRC have engaged primarily in four areas of service related to the committee's constitutional purpose: "The Fraternal Relations Committee shall foster and develop fraternal relations, understanding, and good will with organizations devoted to the practice or study of religion, to the end that the purposes of THE FELLOWSHIP may be advanced."

### **Involvement in the Interfaith Movement**

In the past 10 years striking developments have occurred in the world of interfaith relations. An emerging international movement is making steady progress toward the goals of harmony among all religions and the eventual development of a unified world faith. Urantia Book readers, many of them FRC members and adjuncts, have provided seminal leadership at the highest levels of this young interfaith movement.

The Fellowship is represented by the FRC Chair as a member organization in the North American Interfaith Network (NAIN), which connects more than 80 supportive groups across the continent. Five out of NAIN's nineteen directors are Urantia Book readers, including its Chair and Vice Chair. In a

manner reminiscent of Jesus' work in Rome, readers have artfully represented the Urantia Book and its teachings in their relations with leaders of the many faith traditions who work with NAIN. Some, like Elizabeth Esperson, have become devoted readers themselves. Appended to this report is an article by Elizabeth which articulates an organizational philosophy directly relevant to the Fellowship's role in the burgeoning Urantia movement. As incoming FRC chair, I am excited at the prospect of meeting and beginning to work with the diverse religionists who will be attending NAIN's landmark I Channual conference this summer in Edmonton, Canada.

The Fellowship enjoyed a remarkable service opportunity in hosting a Urantia Book booth and presentation at the 1993 World Parliament of Religions in Chicago. The FRC will

likely bring forward a proposal to have similar representation at the next Parliament hosted by Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu in South Africa in November, 1999.

Several readers are also working closely with more than two hundred religious leaders from around the world on the development of a United Religions Charter. A progress report on this project is included on page 6 of the latest NAIN newsletter, appended to this report.

The FRC plans continuing involvement in the interfaith movement as a primary means of accomplishing its constitutional purpose.

## Education of the readership

The FRC has provided materials and programs at conferences with the purpose of helping readers to:

- understand and appreciate varied religious traditions
- remain informed of developments in the interfaith movement
- gain familiarity with principles of effective dialogue in contacts with other religionists.

The committee will likely continue along these lines by developing presentations for the IC99 program.

## Networking with readers involved in established religious traditions

At conferences in 1989 and 1990, the FRC hosted a discussion forum for readers who served as clergy in Christian denominations. In the years since, there have been indications that many readers participate in established faith communities in a variety of ways; as occasional participants, members, providing lay service, and in a range of leadership capacities. Some never mention the Urantia Book; others have been so bold as to organize presentations and conduct study groups in these evolutionary contexts.

These readers often have rich insights to share as a result of "walking with one foot in each world." During the coming year the FRC may consider ways of contacting and surveying this diverse group of readers. Perhaps we can offer them an afternoon forum at IC99 to gather and share their experiences, and even work together on projects of common concern.

## Promotion of fraternal relations within the Urantia movement

In 1989 the Executive Committee assigned the Fraternal Relations Committee the task of "facilitating communication between Urantia Brotherhood and all associated groups working on behalf of the Fifth Epochal Revelation to the end that mutual support, understanding, education, experience, cooperation, and respectful interaction may take place so that the broader, planetary purposes of our unseen supervisors may be achieved."

The committee proceeded to invite all such associated groups to participate in two roundtable discussions of common concerns in 1989 and 1990. Since that time, the

Fellowship has maintained friendly relations and worked cooperatively with most of the service groups in the Urantia movement.

Similarly, the Fellowship has worked to cultivate friendly relations with groups of readers engaged in organized religious functions. Two passages written by Meredith Sprunger, the first 34 years ago and the second in the Spring 1998 issue of the Spiritual Fellowship Journal, are interesting in this regard:

"In the event that members of a local Society of the Brotherhood should find it impossible to worship in the religious organizations of their community, it would be hoped that any church, synagogue, or other

religious group formed to take care of these formal religious functions would be completely separate from the Brotherhood society. In this way the Urantia Brotherhood will always remain separate from institutionalized religion, maintaining an ecumenical, non-sectarian atmosphere in which people of all faiths will feel free to fellowship."

"I ... do not think the Fellowship should be organically or officially connected to this research (regarding formation of new religious institutions) or any religious institutions stemming from it. Many students of the Urantia Book are still uncomfortable with institutional religious activities. The Fellowship has a place in coordinating all types and levels of activity associated with the Urantia Book. It might encourage or even facilitate these religious activities without being organically involved with them. Hopefully, the Fellowship can establish cooperative relationships with many diverse organizations while remaining organizationally independent from them.."

The resolution regarding religious belief and practice adopted at our last General Council meeting expresses the Fellowship's independent, yet supportive stance in relation to emerging religious groups within the Urantia movement:

"... the Fellowship encourages all believers in the Urantia Book to ... experiment with new and varied forms of religious socialization to meet the needs of Urantia believers

In years to come the FRC will likely be devoting increasing attention to the promotion of fraternal relations with these groups of readers dedicated to the evolution of Urantian religious practices.

In the past decade, the primary challenge to intra-movement harmony has been in our relations with Urantia Foundation and the IUA. The recent series of meetings has improved the climate for conversation, but substantial differences remain. One of the conclusions reached at the April '98 meeting between the Executive Committee, Trustees, and IUA Coordinating Committee was that the Fellowship would appoint a representative to work with the Coordinating Committee member charged with carrying forward the Foundation's unity efforts. The Executive Committee assigned this responsibility to the Fraternal Relations chair in close consultation with the President, with the understanding that any substantive results which emerged from this arrangement would be conveyed to the appropriate bodies for deliberation.

In support of this function, the Fraternal Relations Committee concluded it would be beneficial for the chair to attend the IUA conferences in Glen Ivy and Finland in attempts to "foster fraternal relations, understanding and good will" between the Fellowship and these reader groups devoted to the Urantia revelation.

Lastly, the committee is pleased to welcome Rebecca Kantor and Gard Jameson as adjuncts; they bring substantial talents and great dedication to the accomplishment of its purposes.

#### Committee members and Adjuncts

Beth Bartley  
Gard Jameson  
Scott Forsythe  
Steve Rohrbach  
Eileen Laurence  
Peter Laurence  
Eef Hoedemaker  
Marion Smith  
Sue Tennant  
Rebecca Kantor

Marvin Gawryn, Acting Chairman

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A Service of  
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## 1998 Annual Report of the International Fellowship Committee

### John Lange

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The work of the IFC during the past year has been reconsidered. Restoration of the copyright to the Urantia Foundation, the subsequent negotiations, and the more recent meeting with the IUA in April has encouraged the Fellowship to seek areas of cooperation in the international arena. Marvin Gawryn will be representing the Fellowship at the IUA conference in Finland during August. He and Gard Jameson will travel to Poland after the conference to discuss the possibilities of book publication and distribution. Gard and I are planning a trip to India next year to attend the New Delhi Book Fair. This will be circa IC99. Hopefully we can take a group from the conference to the fair. In India we have the opportunity to work with the Foundation in the area of commercial distribution, or by distributing our books through person to person contacts and social events.

As you already know, IC99 is being done in conjunction with the IUA yearly conference. I am looking forward to this, because we will be seeing many of our international friends for the first time in 10 years. The International Lounge at IC99 will become more thematic with the conference days anticipating a large foreign contingent especially from our Korean and other Asian friends.

I should like to speak to an emerging activity of significance among our group: individual and group missionary efforts. Currently, Waldine Stump is taking a group to the Eastern Mediterranean and Turkish Coast in the tradition of Berkeley Elliott. Serge Bisson will be sailing around the world distributing *The Urantia Book* as part of the Millennium Odyssey Armada. Norman Ingram, after successful tours of South America and East Asia, will be undertaking a comprehensive tour of Africa disseminating *The Urantia Book* and its teachings. Rose Liske has dedicated a portion of her life to the dissemination of *The Urantia Book* to our friends in Latin America. She has made contact with a reader and is currently helping with distribution in Cuba. Perhaps time has come for us to consider supporting this vital activity through a separate trust fund.

It has been decided to dedicate one half of Fellowship books to international placement. This is being managed by Flowers. I am pleased that there are several creative requests for books to be placed in the international arena.

The work of the IFC needs to be delegated more now and in the future than it has been in the past. I have offered adjunct positions to those on the council and others in the movement devoted to international outreach. Over the past year we have discussed dividing up responsibilities. Douglas Fraser has given his life to nurture the faith of our South American friends. Delores Nice would also like to be involved with our Latin American readers. Gary Deinstadt has an international interest and is a media professional. Stevie Shaeffer has an interest in pursuing our connection with interfaith activities. Susan Ransbottom speaks fluent Spanish and has an internet interest. Lila Dogirn is devoted to our Russian friends and a quality Russian translation. International work has become more intertwined with the rest of the movement.

With the types of activities and the talents mentioned above the Fellowship will begin as a group important cultural contact in the coming years. An exciting time to be alive on the planet.

Your friend,

John Lange, Chair for the committee

Lila Dogim  
Douglas Fraser  
Stevie Shaeffer  
Susan Ransbottom  
Adrienne Jarnigan

Adjuncts: Delores Nice, Gary Dienstadt, Barry and Kay Clark

## 1998 Annual Report of the Secretary General Marilynn Kulieke

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This year I have executed the job of Secretary General by completing minutes from each Executive Committee Meeting and creating a brief General Council Report of each Executive Committee meeting.

As Secretary General, I have also been in charge of the Chicago Office oversight. During the past year we have seen many changes in the physical appearance of the office including painting both inside and outside, a new sign, renovating the kitchen and first floor bathroom, creating a basement bedroom and a refurnished first floor. The countless hours spent by Jennifer Siegel and her dad (Boulder), Ken Keyser (Chicago), Gloriann Harris (Chicago) and John Hales (Chicago) have made the completion of this renovation project possible. The office can now sleep up to 7 people and we encourage you to hold meetings there or come to visit when you are in Chicago. A final change in the office this year has been the departure of long time Fellowship employee Matt Block. His expertise and wisdom will be missed. Next year we will be working on creating systems so that we have more flexibility in completing work.

I have greatly enjoyed my opportunity to serve the Fellowship as Secretary General and look forward to another year of continuing challenges.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilynn Kulieke

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The Fellowship for Readers of The Urantia Book  
1998 Annual Report of the Special Projects Committee  
David Kantor

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The Special Projects Committee, as such, currently has no active projects. Several of the committee members are also members of the ad-hoc Internet committee, which has been very active. Those activities are outlined in the separate report of the ad-hoc Internet group.

In appreciation for the opportunity to participate,

David Kantor, Chair Special Projects Committee