
The
FELLOWSHIP

for readers of The Urantia Book

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

February 25, 1998

Dear Member,

Last Friday I put the finishing touches on a President's letter describing the recent General Council meeting held in Oklahoma City. The next day, February 21st, Mo Siegel and Gard Jameson resigned from the Fellowship Executive Committee and the General Council in order to assume the duties of Trustees of Urantia Foundation. Needless to say, the focus of the letter has shifted to the significant events of the past few days. A report on the General Council meeting is still front page news in the Mighty Messenger, which will be mailed shortly. In addition, minutes from the General Council meeting will soon be posted on the Fellowship webpage.

Included with this letter you will find the Foundation's policy statement on unity, their statement on the appointment of the new Trustees, and the resignation letters from both Gard and Mo to the General Council. You will notice that the theme of unity is woven through each statement and letter.

There has been a significant discussion of unity within our community during the past year. We have held meetings, exchanged letters, made phone calls in an attempt to keep the lines of communication open between the Fellowship and the Foundation. In addition, there have been opportunities for socialization and study between members of the Fellowship and the IUA, as well as public statements and gracious letters calling for increased cooperation and contact among readers

Even with all these positive steps, it was still quite a surprise to learn that the Foundation Trustees had appointed Mo and Gard to fill the two positions left vacant last December by the resignations of Patricia Mundelius and Tom Burns. There was some speculation that one Fellowship member might be appointed as a sign of goodwill, but the appointment of two strong Fellowship leaders is more than goodwill; the appointment of Mo and Gard is a courageous commitment to the pursuit of unity within our community.

The Fellowship intends to respond in kind, with a full commitment to exploring opportunities for cooperation and increased communication between all members of both organizations. We sincerely appreciate the potential created by the Foundation's action, and by the willingness of Mo and Gard to serve as they were called.

(Over, please)

The Executive Committee will be meeting with the Foundation Trustees April 17th, in Chicago, to continue the exchange of ideas and understanding, and to further explore the remaining issues between our diverse organizations. We are hopeful that progress will be made in all areas if we courageously apply the wisdom of cosmic consciousness to the complex challenges associated with serving an epochal revelation.

As you know, the Fellowship is actively engaged in projects designed to disseminate the revelation and serve the community. We are currently planning two conferences: The first is the 1998 Summer Study Session to be held July 9-12th in Washington DC; the second is the 1999 International Conference to be held in Vancouver B.C. August 5-12th.

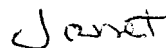
We are also planning several Wrightwood seminars, expanding the Fellowship webpage, promoting the activities of the Family Life committee, creating increased visibility for the book through Whole Life Expos and book fairs, interfacing with the interfaith community, providing funding and expertise for translation work, maintaining a network of study group information and reader referrals. In addition, we are currently exploring ways to make our administrative office more efficient and cost-effective.

These activities, along with the current opportunities for progress in our relationship with Urantia Foundation, require a vast pool of human and financial resources. We are active, committed, growing and can always use more help. This is a gentle plea for your support.

The weeks ahead promise to be both challenging and uplifting for the entire community. Change will require patience, tolerance, wisdom and love; we will not evolve towards a unified community without a willingness to embrace diversity and to encourage loving relationship between all readers.

Please keep the Trustees and the Executive Committee members in your prayers. We each sincerely hope to serve the revelation to the best of our ability.

In fellowship,



Janet Farrington Graham
President

JFG/jh
Enc.

[via E-mail from URANTIA Foundation, February 03, 1998 4:32 PM]

Policy on UNITY

"You do not have to see alike or feel alike or even think alike in order spiritually to be alike." [The URANTIA Book p.1591.5]

During the first quarterly meeting of 1998 the Trustees of URANTIA Foundation developed a policy of support for unity of all readers and reader groups involved in the dissemination of the teachings of The URANTIA Book to the peoples of the world.

Formerly, URANTIA Foundation has not had a publicly stated policy on this subject. The Trustees feel that it is imperative to the growth of this revelation that all readers work towards the same goal, unified in purpose, and diversified in means; that URANTIA Foundation supports those who want to disseminate the teachings, as long as the principles follow those within The URANTIA Book, and are not distorted, nor represent a negative view of the URANTIA Papers.

URANTIA Foundation calls on all readers and groups to work together in cooperation to solve the many challenges ahead. The Trustees know that we as a group will not succeed in our mission if we are divided. We call on all who are involved to look inward and find the courage and energy to accomplish this great challenge of unity within a spirit of fraternal affection and intelligent cooperation.

The higher a creature's education, the more respect he has for the knowledge, experience, and opinions of others. [278.3]

The Trustees of URANTIA Foundation

[via E-mail from URANTIA Foundation, February 21, 1998 1:49 PM]

To Readers of The URANTIA Book

The Trustees of URANTIA Foundation are pleased to announce the appointment of Gard Jameson and Mo Siegel to the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Jameson has been a reader of The URANTIA Book for 26 years and is a Certified Public Accountant, Financial Planner, and Internal Auditor. Married with two children and living in Las Vegas, Nevada, he is currently a member of the General Council of the Fellowship and serves as the Chair of its Fraternal Relations Committee. He brings with him extensive experience in that he has served as a trustee on numerous boards of non-profit organizations.

Mr. Siegel has been a reader of The URANTIA Book since 1968 and currently serves as the Vice President of the Fellowship. Married with five children and living in Boulder, Colorado, he is the Chairman of the Board of Celestial Seasonings Tea Company and President of the Jesusonian Foundation. Mr. Siegel has also had extensive experience as a trustee on the boards of both profit and non-profit organizations.

These new Trustees are devoted to the revelation and have a long history of being involved in service projects. In becoming Trustees of URANTIA Foundation, Mr. Siegel and Mr. Jameson will resign their executive positions, while retaining their Fellowship membership, and will apply for membership in the International URANTIA Association, a worldwide fraternal group, formed to assist the URANTIA Foundation in disseminating the teachings of The URANTIA Book to the peoples of the world.

Although the appointment of Mr. Jameson and Mr. Siegel may come as a surprise to many readers, the Trustees, by electing these two gentlemen, are exhibiting their commitment to healing the wounds of the past and to making their policy of unity among all readers and reader groups a reality.

As Trustees, and in the tradition of the 24 individuals who have preceded them, Mr. Siegel and Mr. Jameson commit themselves to upholding the "Declaration of Trust creating URANTIA Foundation." Since

1992 the Trustees have established policies which ensure that no one Trustee can have a disproportionate influence on the operation of the Foundation. The Trustees are committed to the preservation and dissemination of the revelation.

Richard Keeler, President of URANTIA Foundation said, "May we join with our Heavenly Father, with our Creator Son, and with our brothers and sisters – seen and unseen – to participate in patient cooperation and selfless service to our young movement. May we all be so saturated with the love, truth, and goodness of God that all persons coming into contact with us will know from our behavior that we are truth seekers and spiritual explorers, dedicated to the supernal task of doing the will of our Heavenly Father."

The appointments of Mr. Jameson and Mr. Siegel come at an important time in the history of URANTIA Foundation.

In 1996, a process was begun at the Nashville conference to involve readers in assisting the Foundation Trustees in developing a "strategic plan" which sets forth goals for the future. Since the 1996 conference research was conducted in cooperation with several hundred readers from a variety of reader groups to develop the basic themes of the plan's objectives.

In March, July, and November of 1997, readers helped to complete the plan. One of the main objectives of the plan is to effect the gradual and deliberate process of translating the book into many languages. Other objectives relate to maximizing for potential readers worldwide, the accessibility to The URANTIA Book and to related fraternal groups.

A further analysis of the strategic plan research resulted in a clearer knowledge of reader concerns, namely: the rendering of service to reader groups and to readers who want information and who want contact with other readers; the protection of the copyright and marks; the perpetual preservation of the original text; the wide distribution of the book; the publication of study aids; and the dissemination of the revelation through attraction rather than invasive promotion.

With the appointment of Mr. Siegel and Mr. Jameson to the Board of Trustees, we believe that the URANTIA Foundation, the International URANTIA Association, the Fellowship, and other reader groups are making a positive, evolutionary step forward. We are confident that together, we can move forward into the twenty-first century, and that together – with respect for one another's knowledge, experience, and opinions -- we can be about our Father's business in the spirit of peace, unity, patient cooperation, and selfless service.

We are told about the Superuniverse Conciliators (who are becoming arbiter-teachers):

"[T]hey are now becoming instructors of those who are sufficiently intelligent and tolerant to avoid clashes of mind and wars of opinions. The higher a creature's education, the more respect he has for the knowledge, experience, and opinions of others." [The URANTIA Book p.278]

"And so I give you this new commandment: That you love one another even as I have loved you. And by this will all men know that you are my disciples if you thus love one another." [1944.3]

The Trustees of URANTIA Foundation
Richard Keeler, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Kwan Choi, Gard Jameson, Mo
Siegel

[via E-mail from Gard Jameson, February 21, 1998 10:07 AM]

Dear Friends,

I wish to share with you the evolution of a decision.

This decision does not come easy; but, I have come to the conclusion that it is the right decision.

Sometime in early January I was asked by Richard Keeler to consider the idea of becoming a trustee of Urantia Foundation. At that time I consulted with some close friends and came to the conclusion that given the circumstances at that point it did not make sense. My strong commitment to the spiritual renewal of our movement through prayer and worship and my strong commitment to interfaith understanding, I felt, precluded such a consideration. I shared those considerations and my conclusion with the Executive Committee at that time.

As you are aware, the three trustees, in their mid-January meeting, developed a new policy of promoting unity within the community of Urantia Book believers. Richard Keeler spoke to me of their genuine interest in trying to develop an atmosphere of unity within the Urantia movement. In late January I received a visit by the Foundation's management consultant, Peter Hunter. We discussed many topics: including my concerns about unity in the movement; my concerns about Urantia Foundation's litigious history and my hope for a more reader-friendly atmosphere; my feelings about the importance of the publishing and translation function of Urantia Foundation; my feelings about the need to delink the social outworking of the revelation from Urantia Foundation's publication and translation function. Peter listened intently to these views, views which I had previously shared with Richard and other trustees over many years of dialogue.

Richard called me this past week to ask once again if I would reconsider becoming a trustee. After much deliberation and prayer, I have agreed to become a trustee.

I ask myself, along with you, what has changed.

Significantly, two things.

As you know by now, Mo Siegel has also accepted a position as trustee of Urantia Foundation. Both Mo and I sincerely believe that Urantia Foundation is an important institution and has a significant function to perform with the constellation of organizations affiliated with this revelation. We both believe that with the current trustees that we can help augment respect for Urantia Foundation.

Secondly, and most importantly, after long discussion with the trustees I do believe that they are sincere in their new policy of unity and that they, along with Mo and I, are prepared to take significant steps in moving toward such unity. Mo and I are committed to that evolutionary vision and will do everything we know to do to restore unity to the Urantia movement. As we move into the twenty-first century the realization of such unity, both within our community and personally, will be essential to the effective dissemination of the teachings of the revelation.

For me, this decision is truly a faith step. In prayer and in consultation with dear friends, I have come to the conclusion that, if there is anything our generation could do for the Master, it would be to try to restore unity to the community of believers. I see this step as one of many contributions to that process, a process and a direction that will require the committed energies of all believers. In writing this letter to you, my friends, I am asking each of you to commit your energies to the vision of such unity.

My passion for contemplative prayer and interfaith understanding remain strong. The trustees see and appreciate those passions and have encouraged me to continue my work in those areas. I look forward to the prayer retreat and conference this summer in Washington, D.C.. I will be going to Kansas and Arizona in the fall to lead prayer retreats with the societies there.

In making this step, I will be turning over my responsibilities as a General Councilor and Chair of Fraternal Relations. I would like to ask that you please consider my recommendation of having Peter Laurence become my replacement, both on the General Council and as Chair of Fraternal Relations. Peter served as the prior Chair of Fraternal Relations. He is the current Chairman of the North American Interfaith Network, and is involved in multiple interfaith projects. I have asked Peter if he would be willing to serve if asked, and he stated that he would. His experiential wisdom would be a great asset to both the General Council and to the Executive Committee; and, he has the full support of the Fraternal Relations Committee. I would like to continue to serve in some capacity with the Fraternal Relations Committee. As mentioned, my passion for interfaith work remains undiminished.

I will be turning over my responsibilities for the 1999 International Conference in Vancouver to the Executive Committee. It is my prayer that this Conference will be a real celebration of unity within our movement; that it

will be a time for all to gather to celebrate the incredible panorama of values that we share in common; that it will be a time to look out to the next millenium and dream a dream of light and life for our planet, for our children and their children, for the loyal unseen friends who have worked so hard to bring the Father's peace and love to our war-torn planet; that it will be a time in which the Master, himself, will be present to celebrate the gift of unity within our community.

With respect to the 1999 International Conference I will be of service in whatever manner you may wish me to continue to be of service, for I remain a dedicated member of the Fellowship.

My prayer is that the General Council, you, my friends, will show patience and tolerance with Urantia Foundation as it considers and makes some transitional moves toward ensuring greater availability of books, in multiple translations, ensuring reader referrals to all study groups and promoting the movement toward unity with the community of Urantia Book readers.

You are my friends and shall always remain so. Trusting in our worshipful communion with God, trusting in the realization of divine goodness, which is the Supreme, trusting in the mercy of the Son, the Original Mother, who shows infinite compassion on each of and all of us, trusting in each other, may we move forward as a faith community toward an attitude of wholehearted cooperation and forgiveness, toward a time wherein our service to the revelation and toward the peoples of Urantia may be full. Thank you for your loving consideration of this decision. You are, each and all, in my prayers, as I ask that I be in yours. I request your counsel and wisdom and goodwill as we move together toward a higher level of unity.

Yours in the Master's Love and Friendship,

Gard

[via E-mail from Mo Siegel, February 21, 1998 11:20 AM]

Dear Friends:

This letter struggles out of my soul, caught between a tear and a smile. Over 15 years ago, I sat nervously in the cafeteria at Lake Forest College waiting to hear if I had been elected to the General Council of Urantia Brotherhood. A Council messenger entered the cafe and quietly announced Dan Massey and I had been elected. We were escorted into a room filled with large tables piled with papers and 34 quizzical, friendly faces looking at us. On one hand, I felt like I had won the lotto but on the other hand, I was terrified! With an expectation of uncertainty, service and adventure, I proceeded to take a seat with the likes of Harry McMullan, John Hales, Scott Forsythe, Dave Elders, Steve Dreier, and seven people who were or who would become trustees. I came in search of service to the revelation. Little did I know that I would find love and the best friends of my life. Thank you!

Today a new chapter unfolds. Please accept my resignation as Vice President of The Fellowship and as a General Councilor. Gard Jameson and I have been asked by the Trustees of Urantia Foundation to join their Board. With a deep sense of humility and prayerful certainty, I have willingly accepted their call to service. Urantia Foundation's invitation follows within weeks after their precedent-setting policy statement on unity. They have backed their words with a powerful demonstration of inclusiveness and goodwill. This courageous decision has dramatically improved the landscape of brotherhood in our small community. I am confident that you will now tangibly demonstrate an even greater willingness to cooperate with Urantia Foundation and the IUA.

By luck of the draw, we are alive and together at the end of the 20th century. In our hands, sits a 2,097-page revelation aimed at creating "high gear spiritual performance" that will someday transform this world. Moreover, as we generally agree, we can make the best use of our short watch for the revelation if we put aside the Foundation and Fellowship conflicts. The time is here to move into the 21st century with cooperation and trust between believers. Together, we have the ability and resolve to bring our small family of believers into a united force for universe goodness. Together, we can make a positive difference for our unseen supervisors and for the revelation.

My friend, David Kantor, has probably taken a break from reading this letter and has removed my name from the Executive Committee and General Council E-mail lists. I shall wake up tomorrow and be short 30 E-mails. David is right, of course, but the point is I shall miss that fantastic part of my life. I need to hear from you! When you have an idea, please call or E-mail. If you are worried, please call or E-mail. Let's keep our strong lines of communications and friendship open.

We are in this together. We are one family. Please pray for our combined success. The revelation is the priority!

With deep love and respect,

Mo

[via E-mail from The Fellowship, February 26, 1998]

Fellowship Statement
Concerning the Appointment of Gard Jameson and Mo Siegel as Trustees of URANTIA Foundation

The Fellowship applauds the appointment of Fellowship members Gard Jameson and Mo Siegel as Trustees of The URANTIA Foundation. We believe this action creates new and needed potentials for fostering unity and cooperation between all readers of The Urantia Book.

Mo and Gard have served on the Fellowship's General Council and Executive Committee for many years. They are devoted to the welfare of the Urantia Revelation and to serving the community of believers who have been attracted to its teachings. Their work for the Fellowship has been exemplary and, were it not for the remarkable circumstances that have caused their departure, the Fellowship would not happily see them leave. We look forward to continuing to work with them in their new capacity as Trustees of The URANTIA Foundation.

Persons familiar with the somewhat stormy history of relationship between the Fellowship and the Foundation will appreciate the courage required from both the Foundation Trustees and from Mo and Gard in effecting these appointments. The Fellowship recognizes this and is hopeful that the character demonstrated by this event will inspire all concerned to additional decisions and actions of similar quality.

That these appointments provide new potentials for genuine progressive growth is undeniable. However potentials actualize only through the intelligent application of the principles of cosmic citizenship as they are revealed to us in The Urantia Book. The Fellowship is committed to the supreme adventure of fostering these cosmic potentials, and sincerely encourages all Urantia believers to join together in this worthy effort.

The experience of the past suggests that progress is not likely to occur without significant challenges and difficulties. Nevertheless, the appointment of two former members of the Fellowship's Executive Committee as Trustees of The URANTIA Foundation provides a unique and unprecedented opportunity with which to face such challenges. That, along with our sincere prayers and intelligent actions, should provide all that is necessary to advance.

The Fellowship believes it express the feelings of the great majority of its members, and of students of The Urantia Book everywhere, in congratulating the Trustees of URANTIA Foundation on an outstanding decision. We look forward to meeting with the Trustees to continue an exploration of the improved relationships and cooperative possibilities contained within these circumstances.

For the Fellowship,

Janet Farrington Graham
President

**THE FELLOWSHIP
GENERAL COUNCIL**

as of February 22, 1998

Terms Expiring 2000

Elizabeth Bartley
Scott Forsythe
Christel Garrick
Marvin Gawryn
Janet Farrington Graham
John W. Hales
Eef Hoedemaker
David Kantor
Paul Knott
John Lange
Richard Omura (a)
Lee Smith

Terms Expiring 2003

Sara Blackstock
Lila Dogim
Avi Dogim
Richard Johnson
Lorrie Krasny (a)
Marilynn Kulieke
Joseph Liszka
L. Dan Massey
(vacant) (c)
Brian D. Smith
Paula Thompson
Stephen Zendt

Terms Expiring 2006

Matthew Block
Robert Bruyn
Robert Burns
Gary Deinstadt
Stephen Dreier
Earlene Green
(vacant) (c)
Michelle Klimesh
Harry McMullan III
Dolores L. Nice
Charles Olivea
Stephanie L. Shaefer

OFFICERS: Terms Expiring 2000

Janet Farrington Graham - President
(vacant) - Vice President (c)
Michelle Klimesh - Secretary
Harry McMullan - Treasurer
Marilynn Kulieke - Secretary-General

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEES

JUDICIAL	Term	CHARTER	Term	FRATERNAL RELATIONS	Term
Dan Massey*	6	Marvin Gawryn*	6	(vacant)* (c)	5
(vacant)	1	Tom Choquette	1	Sue Tennant	1
Richard Johnson (b)	2	Dale Szejnberg	2	Scott Forsythe	2
Christel Garrick (b)	3	Larry Bowman**	3	Eileen Laurence**	3
David Owen	4	Francyl Gawryn	4	Eef Hoedemaker	4
Steve McIntosh	5	Robert Bruyn	5	Elizabeth Bartley (b)	6
DOMESTIC EXTENSION					
	Term	INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP	Term	EDUCATION	Term
Paula Thompson*	6	John Lange*	6	Steve Dreier*	6
Larry Geis	1	Stephanie Shaefer	1	Matthew Block	1
Robin Jorgensen	2	Adrienne Jarnagin	2	Irwin Ginsburgh	2
Mary Ebben	3	Lila Dogim	3	Alison Gardner	3
Brian Smith	4	Douglas Fraser	4	Stephen Zendt	4
LuAnn Harney (b)	5	Susan Ransbottom	5	Charles Olivea	5
PUBLICATIONS					
	Term	FINANCE	Term	SPECIAL PROJECTS	Term
Avi Dogim*	6	Joseph Liszka*	6	David Kantor*	3
Nancy Johnson	1	Robert Burns	1	Anthony Finstad	1
Robin Robinson	2	Lucile Faw	2	Cecilia Forrester	2
Geri Johnson (b)	3	Michael Wisenbaker	3	Larry Watkins**	4
John Thiele	4	Jerry Pando (b)	4	Barbara Newsom	5
Carolyn Kendall**	5	Steve Wilsey	5	Lawrence Brown	6

Chairman*, Secretary **

(a) Vacancy filled at the February 6, 1998 meeting of the General Council until the next Triennial Delegate Assembly. (b) Vacancy filled at the February 6, 1998 meeting of the General Council. (c) Vacancy due to resignation received 2/21/98.