REGISTRATION ENCLOSED!

For Students And Readers Of The Urantia Book

SPRING 1995

Berkeley Elliott Goes On To The Mansion Worlds

By Melissa Wells

When the phone rang and I heard John Lange'svoice, I delighted at the thought of another stimulating chat, just as we've shared many other times.

But the warm fuzzies quickly disappeared when he choked out that he had bad news. That began the longest week of my life as Berkeley Elliottlay in a coma following a devastating stroke -- one that destroyed all her cognitive brain function.

Berkeley Elliott departed this world on January 3, 1995.

She was the youngest 77-yearold woman I've ever

known. I thought she surely would be here another 10 years, at least. But who are we to put a question mark where God has placed a period?

One month later approximately 200 people attended Berkeley's memorial service in Oklahoma City, held in conjunction with the winter forum which she had originally planned for that weekend. Attending the program were all her dear friends who had studied with her through the years in Oklahoma City. And many traveled from throughout the United States to remember their remarkable friend.

Berkeley lived a life of loving service. And her impact on others is best demonstrated in the remarks made at her memorial service.

We'll miss her.

There will never be another to take her place.



District Court Invalidates Foundation's Copyright

By Barry D. Bradley

In a court ruling that could affect Urantia Book readers throughout the world, a federal court has determined that the Urantia Foundation does not have a valid copyright in the text of The Urantia Book.

The U.S. District Court in Arizona handed down its decision Feb. 10 in the case of Urantia Foundation vs. Kristen

The Foundation had sued Maaherra after she transferred the text of The Urantia Book to a computer disk, and made it widely available at no charge - a fact that she and her attorneys acknowledged in court.

In a motion for summary judgment, Maaherra's attorneys, in effect, required the Foundation to substantiate its claim for copyright protection.

"To prevail on the claim of copyright infringement," said the court, "the Urantia Foundation must prove ownership of a valid copyright."

In an attempt to prove its case, the Foundation claimed "exclusive possession" of the unpublished manuscripts that formed the basis for The Urantia Book. However the court disagreed. and ruled that at least some of the papers had at one time been in the possession of the patient of Dr. William S. Sadler.

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Spiritual Communion:

Summer Seminar To Meet In New Jersey

By Dan Massey

The 1995 Summer Seminar will be held July 22 through 27 on the campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, NJ. The seminar will be followed by the annual meeting of the General Council of the Fellowship July 27 through 29.

The theme of the seminar is "Spiritual Communion - Theory and Practice." The theme will be explored in four phases. The first day, Sunday, July 23, is devoted to exploring the significance and meaning of spiritual communion to the individual. Time will be set aside for readers, as individuals, to worship in the natural beauty of

this suburban campus.

The program for Monday, July 24, will explore the significance and meaning of spiritual communion to the group - like-minded believers or the "cult." It is this level of communion that is most familiar from the usages of evolutionary religious groups. Yet The Urantia Book gives new life to old rituals and new insights into established traditions. A portion of the program will allow readers, as groups, to share the communion experience according to both traditional and innovative forms.

Tuesday, July 25, is a free day to explore the cultural riches of New York City, Museums, parks, cathedrals, shops, theaters, restaurants all the delights of a great city -are readily accessible by public transportation. Many readers from the New York area will be on hand to help visitors find their way to places of interest.

The program on Wednesday, July 26, will look beyond the limitations of the present day to a greater future in which the spiritual imagination of humankind will not be so largely constrained by the usages of tradition, in which all people will feel free to join in one common fellowship, one grand, universal spiritual communion - the brotherhood of man. The question for this day is, "Why not now?" We will explore the significance of the emergence of the universal human fellowship and try to understand how to begin overriding the barriers of sectarianism.

On Thursday, July 27, the seminar will draw to a festive conclusion with a general celebration of our communion with the personal God. Readers attending the seminar are invited to prolong their stay to observe the annual meeting of the

General Council.

Come to learn through study with fellow readers and direct experience of spiritual realities. This program is being organized and conducted by readers who volunteer their time and energy to make the special preparations required to serve as workshop leaders and "conductors of worship."

Return the registration form enclosed with this issue of The Bulletin to assure your place at this event. If you are interested in participating in the program, write the Education Committee of the Fellowship, 529 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL

Theory **Practice**

And Jesus went on to say, "At Jerusalem the religious leaders have formulated the various doctrines of their traditional teachers and the prophets of other days into an established system of intellectual beliefs, a religion of authority. The appeal of all such religions is largely to the mind. And now are we about to enter upon a deadly conflict with such a religion since we will so shortly begin the bold proclamation of a new religion - a religion which is not a religion in the present-day meaning of that word, a religion that makes its chief appeal to the divine spirit of my Father which resides in the mind of man; a religion which shall derive its authority from the fruits of its acceptance that will so certainly appear in the personal experience of all who really and truly become believers in the truths of this higher spiritual communion." (page 1729:7; paper 155.5.9)

Down through the ages the spiritual light of the human race has been maintained by individuals gifted with a greater than usual sensitivity to spiritual realities. Learning through inner personal experience of the reality and love of the personal God, they sought by teaching and, when that failed, by preaching to alert their fellows to the reality of divine immanence and its relevance to everyday life.

Mortals sought their gods in many places, but were always driven in their search by a need for communion - a need for worshipful confrontation of the deity, to give thanks, to offer petitions, and to receive boons and blessings. All too often the minds of spiritually unconscious human devotees failed to bridge the gap, to make the transition from the outward observation of the symbolic deity to inward recognition of the personal God. All too often the questing minds of the more spiritually conscious rejected the falsity of the literal God and, in the process, denied the validity of all reli-

gious experience.

In time the visible religious sentiment of humankind became crystallized in cults. In a primitive society dominated by cults, as existed at the time of Michael's bestowal, many people hold or appear to hold religious beliefs and others do not. The loyalties of the cult are beginning to replace tribal and racial associations and these loyalties are dramatized through a unique constellation of beliefs and rituals. Some few adherents of the cult find in its symbolism an expression of the unutterable, inexplicable experience they have of the personal God, while others hold approved beliefs out of ignorance or follow defined rituals out of moral laziness.

Fear -- fear of social and economic ostracism, fear of cruel and inescapable vengeance of supernatural forces, fear of exotic and barbaric customs of unfamiliar people - is the force that defines the boundaries of the cult and binds the spiritually blind to the transcendent vision of the few. In time, the forces of commerce stabilize the cult association as a home for the spiritually gifted and a refuge for

the spiritually indolent.

When Michael realized that his desire, as the Son of Man, to teach mortals a new way of living based on supreme spiritual realities, could not be fulfilled during his life as the incarnate Jesus, he took actions which would foster, after his death, the creation of a cult focused on his person as the Son of God. Such a cult would be the vehicle by which the truth he lived could be preserved for future activation by the Spirit of Truth. And to create and to stabilize this cult,



and to provide an augmented spiritual reality for all his mortal children throughout future ages, he established a sacramental form of authentic spiritual communion. And though this communion would serve the needs of his cult in its many forms and expressions, it was nevertheless an authentic reality of literal spiritual communion accessible to all his creatures.

Today we are the beneficiaries of almost 2,000 years of religious development on Urantia under the tutelage of Michael's Spirit of Truth. We can no longer say exactly how this ministry shapes and enables our lives -- it is an altogether fundamental part of our lives. One thing is certain, the human experience of spiritual communion has shaped our social experience into forms increasingly reflective of Michael's ideal of human brotherhood.

The Urantia Book generally portrays spiritual communion as an experience of the individual in relationship to God. Yet we are also that this experience repercusses in the experience of humankind as the eventuation of the brotherhood of man. While the personal experience of the individual religionist reinforces the experience of the group, the effectiveness of this experience for transforming all humankind is limited by the artificial boundaries of the cult. The adherents of the cult imag-

ine that they have an exclusive relationship to the personal God, and exclude believers who do not share their peculiar attitudes and superstitions from the fellowship of the spirit within their group.

There is great hope for any church that worships the living God, validates the brotherhood of man, and dares to remove all creedal pressure from its members." (page

1135:2, paper 103.5.12)

If sincere, spiritually conscious believers would unite in fellowship, without regard for cultic legacies, they might surely transform the world.

The 1995 Summer Seminar will help readers of The Urantia Book explore these ideas in depth, through study of the underlying ideas of individual and collective spiritual communion and in exploration of the experience of communion in group settings. The program approaches the subject of spiritual communion on three levels: The personal spiritual communion of the individual with God, the collective spiritual communion of like-minded believers (the cult), and the potentials inherent in the spiritual communion of all faith sons beyond the limits of creed and sect.

Plan to join us in July for this celebration of the inner spiritual reality that binds all Nebadon into one vast fellowship of love. 4



The concentric circle flag waves majestically over Jerusalem in celebration of Christ Michael's birth.

Celebrating 2,000 Years Of Light In The Holy Land

By John Thiele

I'm not a morning person. Never have been. But I was up before dawn on August 21st, because I was one of the lucky persons able to participate in the pilgrimage to the Holy Land in commemoration of the 2,000th year since the birth of Jeeus

Suffused with a spiritual energy that eliminated my usual craving for caffeine, I joined the rest of our group around the three empty flagpoles of our hotel. Those poles have been unused for more than 12 years, as the hotel – situated on the Mount of Olives above a Jewish cemetery of 70,000+ graves – is in an often-contested area that is currently Arab controlled. Not wishing to anger either well-armed side, the hotel has chosen to fly no flags at all.

Through negotiation, our group was permitted to fly a concentric circle flag for 30 minutes. We couldn't have asked for a more special way to begin our celebration of Christ Michael's birth and the dawn of a new millennium.

Our group shared readings

and prayers from all the areat teachers in The Urantia Book, and others honored the occasion with music and song. But the most inspirational moment was watching those circles fly against the backdrop of a city that is holy to so many people from so many faiths. Flying above the crusaders' walls, the Jewish tombs, Islam's Dome of the Rock, and the many church spires, as well as the new Mormon university, was the symbol of a revelation that will end the strife and heal the wounds that make the Holy City decidedly unholy.



The temple at Capernaum could very well be where Jesus taught.

It was sad when the 30 minutes were over and the flag came slowly down.

Not even Bethlehem could ruin our spiritual high. Currently Arabcontrolled, the town where lesus was born changes hands so often that no one seems to bother cleaning up. Vandals have written on every wall that hasn't been knocked down. The streets are full of trash that people just sweep out their front doors.

The Church of the Nativity was a group favorite, but it was in bad repair. We entered through a tiny, raised door that has been built to keep non-Christians from housing their livestock inside. Because of concurrent services by two Catholic sects, most of us were unable to see the enshrined cave, but the incense, beards and gorgeous icons restored spirits dampened by the gift shops and postcard hawkers.

Our next stop on this special day was a communion service at Shepherd's Field. A small sign declares this grove of trees to be that of biblical yore where shepherds first heard of this miraculous birth

from the heavenly hosts. Even though The Urantia Book says that no one could hear the angels singing and there never were any shepherds, the site was peaceful, idyllic and probably as it looked in Jesus' time, which is not something that can be said for other religious sites in the area.

In this setting we shared a communion of bread and wine as part of an inspirational program of music, readings and prayers. What made this fellowship so remarkable was the moment of silent prayer at 12 noon, the exact hour when readers of The Urantia Book from all over the world were joining us in prayer. We could feel their presence, and several people have subsequently told me about their meetings, which in the United States took place in the middle of the night, and it appears that those feelings of closeness were unanimous. There truly seemed to be a global connection.

In this uplifted frame of mind. we enjoyed Harry McMullan's prayer of rededication. He spoke of the privilege of being on that field and the duty that it conferred on us to make a difference.

What a day. What a trip. It truly was the trip of a lifetime. �



Berkeley Elliott and John Hales enjoy the view at Masada.

Discovering the Wonders of Israel

By Jim Johnston

The desert is blooming in Israel, blooming with a crop of newly uncovered archaeological sites that commemorate the historical events from Melchizedek to Jesus. From the Dead Sea Scrolls to the first-century boat at the Sea of Galilee, the significance of each find is deeply enhanced by a study of the fifth epochal revelation.

The teachings of The Urantia Book provide an historical context for understanding the ancient ruins that bring the reality of what happened there to modern life.

Capernaum

In Capernaum, it was not difficult to imagine Jesus walking in town or teaching by the seashore. From the Mount of Ordination we beheld the breathtaking view of the Sea of Galilee. This was the setting where Jesus instructed the apostles that they were the light of the world and sent them forth to "... proclaim liberty to the spiritual captives, joy to those in bondage of fear ..."

We saw the recently excavated synagogue at Capernaum, a first-century A.D. structure that is generally believed to have been built after the time of Jesus. Everything we learned, though, indicated that it was the synagogue where Jesus taught. The building was Roman in character and built of limestone, the traditional building material of the Romans, and starkly different from the surrounding basalt structures of the village.

We know that the Roman centurion Mangus built the synagogue for the Jews and that it was a new building on April 30, A.D. 29 when Jesus delivered the epochal sermon, creating the crisis at Capernaum. We might even have seen the very lintel with the pot of



A fishing boat -- somewhat like this one -- was recently discovered under the Sea of Galilee.

manna that Jesus pointed to during that discourse, proclaiming that "... I am this bread of life. He who comes to me shall not hunger, while he who believes in me shall not thirst."

Gennesaret

During arecent drought that lowered the level of the Sea of Galilee about 12 feet, a fishing boat was discovered just south Capernaum. Its origin appears to be some time during the first century A.D. We know that the Sea of Galilee was very quickly populated with a new style of boat using improved methods of boatbuilding developed by Jesus at the Zebedee boat shop. One couldn't help but feel that this boat was either made by lesus' hand or after his design. The ribs appeared to have been steamed and the joinery was masterfully executed.

The reconstructed model re-

vealed a boat so sleek and elegant that it was hard to imagine a more efficient design. The discoverers said that while they were unearthing the craft, a brief downpour occurred and afterward two rainbows appeared over the Sea of Galilee. They interpreted the appearance of the rainbows as a sign that they had discovered something of exceptional value.

Sepphoris

We were perhaps the first visitors to tour the new excavations at Sepphorisand understand the significance of the reconstructed large mansion on the hill. It must certainly have been the Governor's Mansion, during the construction of which Jesus' father was fatally injured by a falling derrick. Later Jesus returned to Sepphoris, within walking distance of Nazareth, where he worked as a blacksmith for six months. Although Jesus was not attracted to the low moral level in the town, it afforded him the opportunity to study the gentile mind and culture.

Scythopolis

The ebb and flow of cultural dominance in the Levant is evidenced by the urban remains of Greek culture at Scythopolis, one of the 10 Greek cities in the Decapolis. We were struck by the livability of this city with its gracious column-lined Cardo, grand theater, and amphitheater for outdoor athletic contests. It was in this city that lesus, as a young boy, was stunned by his father's rebuke when he suggested that Nazareth would benefit from these athletic contests.

Caesarea

One of the most spectacular monuments to Roman engineering, design and ingenuity is the newly excavated coastal city of Caesarea. Amazinaly, Herod the Great built it in 12 years. (It would take 12 years just to get a project of this magnitude through all of the necessary regulatory agencies today.)

It was one of his most extraordinary projects, considered on a par with the massive temple in Jerusalem and Herod's mountaintop fortressat Masada. As Jesus explained to Ganid while they strolled on the wall surrounding the port, the tides were utilized to flush the city's streets and sewers.

The vast aqueduct that carried the city's water from nearby hills is a testament to both Roman engineering and sensitivity to design. Every one of the several hundred arches was embellished with stone entablatures and detailing that were purely for visual relief and unnecessary for the aqueduct's structural integrity.

Caesarea-Philippi

It was at Caesarea-Philippi. among the various dead monuments to the Roman gods, that the apostles confirmed their belief in the divinity of lesus.

We saw Mount Hermon, where Jesus achieved the sovereignty of his universe and where, at the start of the last phase of his earthly career, he conversed with Gabriel and the Father Melchizedek. The midwayers point out that it was significant that this experience was orchestrated to occur in the land of the gentiles.

lerusalem

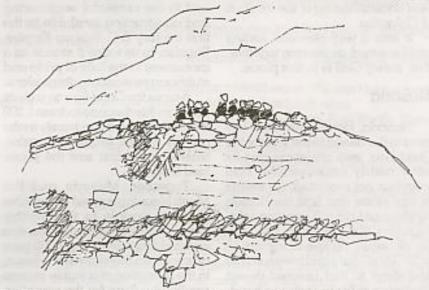
The Jerusalem we visited was like an armed religious theme park. Nevertheless, being in this ancient city made the 4,000-year history since the Sage of Salem seem like a watch in the night.

Not one stone had been left on another after the destruction of the second temple at Jerusalem, one of the architectural wonders of ancient times. More than 200,000 celebrants could be accommodated at one time during Passover in this magnificent place of worship. But the western wall of the platform of the temple still remains. The Wailing Wall is today the symbolic temple for millions of Jews.

On the former platform for the temple stands one of the holiest Islamic shrines, the Dome of the Rock, built more than 1,000 years ago. The enshrined rock altar inside is where Abraham was said to have taken Isaac to be sacrificed. It wasalso here that the lewish priests offeredanimal sacrifices to Yahweh and where a nature-loving Jesus was sickened by the sights and sounds of the relentless slaughter of animals.

The Pool of Siloam, where the blind beggar washed his eyes, still remains, as does the Pool of Bethesda, where John sought to have Jesus heal the sick. This city must look much as it did 2,000 years ago, despite the angoing destruction and reconstruction of the city over the last 20 centuries.

Apart from the formal monuments, some gaudy and offensive, perhaps the most inspiring archaeological site in Jerusalem is a garden tomb, a site which has been left undisturbed. Although the



Jim Johnston sketched this scene of nuns at Essene Tower above the Dead Sea.



This garden tomb, which faces eastward, provides a vivid picture of the type of tomb in which Jesus was buried.

tomb did not match The Urantia Book's description precisely, it gave a vivid picture of a garden tomb that was in many respects identical to the tomb described by the midwayers. It faces more or less eastward, was carved out of a face of solid rock, has a track for a huge rolling stone door and was in a quiet garden reserved for a wealthy family. Its proximity is close to our best understanding of the location of Golgotha.

It was a very peaceful setting and it seemed, as we sang together, that surely God is in this place.

Masada

Masada, Herod's elevated fortress in the desert to the west of the Dead Sea, was awesome and its story nearly unbelievable. Had Josephus not recorded the events of that place and had the Roman fortifications not still remained surrounding the mountain site, few people would believe today that 10 to 20,000 soldiers and Jewish slaves laid siege to that isolated desert fortress in order to destroy a handful of Jewish men, women and children. These Jews represented the last holdout of the jewish revolt that Jesus had prophesied.

Our guide read to us the moving speech of the leader of the Jews, who after having held off the Romans for three long years, now persuaded his followers to take their own lives rather than be captured and humiliated by the Romans.

Today Masada stands as a monument to Jewish resolve, to the unrelenting ferocity with which the Romans laid siege to their enemy and to the masterful engineering and construction available in the first century B.C. Roman Empire. But also, to us today it stands as a monument to the folly of pride and stubborn resistance to divine plans.

Across the Dead Sea on a clear day from this desolate fortress 1,200 feet in the air one can barely make out the distant Moab Mountains, where Moses first saw the promised land.

Together, Masada and the Moab Mountains stand as massive southern portals to that earthly stage set to the north whereon was enacted that fascinating 2,000-year drama, from Melchizedek to Jesus, in the formation of a viable human cradle of culture for the reception of the Son of God and a new revelation of the love of God.

The Moab Mountains stand firmly as a memorial to the

unshakable commitment to doing the Father's will, the place from which the Matchless Moses, the greatest purely human character in that drama, stood as he fulfilled Melchizedek's promise to Abraham to deliver Abraham's descendants from Egypt to Palestine.

Over a period of 2,000 years the hand of God and the hand of man were at work in the Levant, exposing the Hebrew people to new cultures and various racial strains. From the Egyptian captivity through the Roman occupation, the long, slow pushing and pulling of the Hebrew people seemed designed by the Most Highs to prepare them culturally, biologically and spiritually to be the bearers of a new revelation.

But neither cherished teachings of Machiventa Melchizedek, nor the long succession of Hebrew prophets nor even the glorious presence of the Creator Son in human flesh, nor the faithful and persistent effort of the angels and the indwelling spirits of God were sufficient to crack the hardened, bitter shell that surrounded the hearts of a prideful generation of tradition-bound Hebrew religious leaders.

Jesus taught his early followers that the Gospel of the Kingdom was simple. Through faith one enters and has eternal life. The rule of living in the kingdom is to love others. The law of the kingdom is to abide by the Father's will. Yet, the priestly class of that time rejected his simple message in favor of the pride and arrogance of a fossilized system of beliefs.

Today in Israel Masada is used for nighttime ceremonial inductions into the Israeli military where they cry, "Never again."

Masada may some day stand as a symbol for an enlightened world when these words will have a larger meaning.

Never again on this planet may the outworking of an epochal revelation of God to man be impeded by the stubborn refusal to give heed to the guidance of the precious presence of God. •

Obituary

Berkeley Elliott August 23, 1917 -January 3, 1995

After 77 years of loving service to family and friends, Berkeley Elliott began her eternal ascent to Paradise, She was raised in Ripley, Oklahoma in a family of eight brothers and sisters. She is survived by her sister, Vacie King of Ponca City, Oklahoma and her niece, Kathleen King of Tulsa.

Berkeley simpact on the Urantia movement was phenomenal. She was a charter member of the First Urantia Society of Oklahoma, which was formed November 1957. Berkeley continuously hosted weekly study groups, at least one and sometimes as many as three, at her home since 1957.

Her service to the Urantia fellowship included several terms as a member of the General Council and chairman of the International Fellowship Committee.

One of her favorite methods of serving the Urantia movement was organizing conferences. She displayed a special skill at finding individuals with expertise in spiritual matters who were also excellent communicators. These talents were best displayed in the success of the Scientific Symposia and the many forums hosted in Oklahoma.

Her dedicated efforts to bring harmony and wisdom to the Urantia movement are legendary and will be missed worldwide. Words can not adequately portray the life she lived and the love she bestowed on all who knew her. Many souls in times of great need were strengthened by Berkeley's wise counsel and they have lived richer lives due to her spiritual and practical guidance.

The Mansions on High have gained a tireless servant who will no doubt continue her ministry of devotion and love forever. We all look forward to greeting her again when we too continue on our journey to the portals of Paradise.

Berkeley Elliott's Tenure of Service in Urantia Brotherhood/Fellowship

Field Representative/ Area Coordinator

1965 - 1995

Triennial Delegate

1964, 1970, 1973, 1976, 1979,

1982, 1985

General Councilor

1964 - 1991

International Fellowship

Committee

Chairman, 1982 - 1991 Member, 1982 - 1995

Remembrances At Berkeley Elliott's Memorial Service

"I knew Berkeley 22 years, and had a quick and lasting respect for her. I admired her strength and endurance. She emphasized patience and slow personal growth. She left seeds of service with everyone she met. She would say, 'When we dig deep and water the seeds of loving service with patience and the guidance of the Father, who knows what fruits we can bring forth in this and future generations?"

Les Tibbles, Oklahoma City

"She was the one person in the corner clapping and encouraging, 'You can do it!"

Layla Dougherty, Oklahoma City

"She was like a river whose source of replenishment was water from pure mountain snow. And she was someone who understood us and was always on our side ... she was my best friend, as she was yours too. Amazing, isn't it? She reached out with her life-sustaining love to you and me on her way to the Father."

Jack Whiteman, Oklahoma City

"Her talent was convincing everyone else that they can do anything, with God's help."

Waldine Stump, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

"I've always thought of Berkeley as a torchbearer. We can't let her torch go out. Let's all take our candles and keep that torch alive."

David Glass, Fort Worth, Texas

"When I grow up, I want to be just like Berkeley Elliott."

Barbara Hester, Oklahoma City

"The best part of this (memorial) weekend is that the things Berkeley cared about would be continued by people she cared about ... in her life, Jesus had the opportunity to express himself time after time in circumstance after circumstance ... she could restore self-respect in those who had lost it and could restrain it in those with whom it had become a little out of hand ... she lived a God-centered life and lived uniquely, that is the great treasure she has left us. Let's all now and then think of her and do something she might like."

Steve Dreier, Fort Lee, New Jersey

New General Councilors and Officers Elected

At its meeting in Oklahoma City on July 3, 1994, the Triennial Delegate Assembly elected 12 persons to 9-year terms on the General Council. They are Sara Blackstock, Concord, CA; Lila Dogim, Cliffside Park, NJ; Ann Garner, Arlington, TX; John Hay, Boulder, CO; Richard Johnson, Phoenix, AZ; Marilynn Kulieke, Lincolnshire, IL; Joseph Liszka, Key West, FL, Dan Massey, Sherborn, MA; Steve McIntosh, Boulder, CO; Mo Siegel, Boulder, CO; Paula Thompson, Boulder, CO and Steven Zendt, San Francisco, CA. Their terms expire in 2003.

The General Council elected officers of the Fellowship for 3-year terms. Stephen Dreier, Fort Lee, NJ, Joseph Liszka, and Beth Bartley, Knoxville, TN, were re-elected as president, treasurer and secretary-general. Janet Farrington, Enterprise, OR, is vice president and Dave Elders, Darien, CT, secretary.

Committee chairs elected for sixyear terms include Marilynn Kulieke, Judicial Committee; Avi Dogim, Cliffside Park, NJ, re-elected to Charter Committee; Dan Massey, re-elected to Education Committee; Melissa Wells, Largo, FL, reelected to Publications Committee, and John Hay, Special Projects Committee.

Elections to the nine standing committees include: Dale Sztejnberg, Briarwood, NY, Charter Committee; Eileen Laurence, Armonk, NY, and Sue Tennant, Toronto, Ont., Fraternal Relations Committee; Larry Geis, San Francisco, CA, and Robin Jorgensen, New York City, Domestic Extension Committee: Lila Dogim, Education Committee; Carolyn Kendall, Wheeling, IL, and Carol Hay, Boulder, CO, Publications Committee, and Michael Wisenbaker, Dallas, TX, Steve Wilsey, Oklahoma City, OK, Robert Burns, Irvine, CA, and Lucile Faw, Laguna Hills, CA, Finance Committee

Domestic Extension Committee News

Reports from volunteers who worked at Whole Life Exposaround the country last year are available from the Domestic Extension Committee. These reports share the various techniques used in 16 cities in the United States and Canada to exhibit The Urantia Book at book fairs and various spiritual gatherings. Included in the package is a quote from Dr. Marcus Bach, author for Unity magazine, who wrote a favorable review of The Urantia Book in a 1993 issue. He told committee member Ann Garner. "It's critical to emphasize that you're enhancing rather than replacing." Contact the Fellowship office at 527 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60614, (312) 327-0424 or fax (312) 327-6159 for a copy of this report.

International News

John Lange, chairman of the International Fellowship Committee, joined with readers of The Urantia Book down under in October at the second South Pacific conference held in Auckland, New Zealand. The first South Pacific conference was held in 1988 in Australia, with readers attending from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Tahiti, Hong Kong, France, Great Britain, Switzerland and Finland.

Byron Belitsos, Lila Dogim and Steve Dreier traveled to Moscow to discuss The Urantia Book with persons attending the Third International Urania Congress in September. Interest in The Urantia Book continues to grow in this region, and the organizers of the Fourth International Urania Conference, scheduled September 17-21, 1995 on a Volga boat cruise, have extended an invitation for as many readers of The Urantia Book as are interested to join them. "Let's have a large readers' group," says Irina Antonyan.

Publications Committee Offerings

The transcripts of presentations at IC'93, held in Ste-Hyacinthe, Quebec, have been prepared as the next issue of the Fellowship Forum, available from the Fellowship for \$9. Subjects touch on family life, humor, the importance of conflict, origins of The Urantia Book, spiritual outreach, and more. The thinking of 25 presenters on such subjects as the Supreme, the Foreword and the Father's and Christ Michael's attitudes toward humankind, is available in this issue. Nineteen of the papers are reproduced in English, three in English and French and three in French only.

The presentations made at the Wrightwood Series on Gender will be published this summer. Titles of papers are: "Historical, Contemporary and Potential Roles for Women," by Alison Gardner; "Spheres and Rights: A Study of The Urantia Book on Gender Differences," Byron Belitsos; "The Future of Patriarchy: Gender Bias in The Urantia Book and New Paradigms of Reality," Jeanne Melchior; "Functional Gender Designation in The Urantia Book," Stuart Kerr III, and "The Complementary Natures and Potentials of Men and Women in Partnership, * Claudia Ayers and Larry Watkins.

Happy Birthday, Fort Wayne

The Fort Wayne Society in Indiana celebrated its 25th year of existence November 6th. Congratulations.

Family Life Activities

Janet Farrington attended The Festival of the Family in early December, as a representative of the Fellowship, and made a presentation on family meetings. The festival was held at the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto and was orga-

nized by Sue Tennant and 26 individuals representing various reli-

"Families of every race and religion roamed the hallways of this great museum, brought together by their common dream of harmony and happiness for all children of God," says Farrington. "The family was the cornerstone for all the diverse religions represented at the festival; the family was the bridge across which each individual religionist traveled into the world of many faiths. We discovered that the family is one of the great truthsall hold in common; the origin, the reality and the future of civilization. Italked with Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Baha'i, Mormons and many others who feel like I do that family is the foundation and the framework for personal and planetary growth."

Regional Conference News

The Ozark readers of The Urantia Book are holding their second spring conference April 28 through 30 at the 110-year-old Crescent Hotel. The event has been scheduled to coincide with the blooming of the dogwoods and the awakening of the natural beauty of the Ozarks. The conference theme is "Feeding Body, Mind and Spirit."

"Attendees will be pampered, educated, inspired and relaxed when they head home," says John Thiele. 'The price will be low, but the experience will be priceless."

The Arizona study groups plan to hold their annual Easter Weekend houseboat conference.

The Florida readers of The Urantia Book plan to meet over Memorial Day Weekend in Leesburg. just northwest of Orlando.

The next Frontier Conference is scheduled for the Fourth of July weekend in Snowmass. Reservations are needed as quickly as pos-

See Calendar of Eventson page 15 for more details on these and additional conferences scheduled this year. �

Why Become A Society?

A Point of View from the Charter Committee

By Avi Dogim

The primary function of the Charter Committee is to facilitate the formation of societies. Obviously, those of us involved in the work of the Fellowship are interested in seeing new societies form. We think an increase in the number of local societies is a sign of the good health of the Fellowship as well as a validation of its work and an affirmation of its value

Yet, when asked why a study group should become a society, many of us, including members of the Charter Committee, have a difficult time coming up with a logical response.

This is not surprising. After all, most readers of The Urantia Book seem to shun activities that suggest "organized religion" and tend to be suspicious of trends that smack of organization, institutionalization, formalization politicization. How do you answer a perfectly reasonable question, such as, "If we meet as a group, study the book, hold social functions, and perhaps even engage in service activities in our communities, then why do we need to become a formal part of the Fellowship? What does this give us?"

Nothing, except an opportunity to participate in a democratically run organization, the declared purposes of which are:

... the study and dissemination of the teachings of The Urantia Book; the promotion, improvement, and expansion among the peoples of the world of the comprehension and understanding of cosmology and the relation of the planet on which we live to the universe, of the genesis and destiny of man and his relation to God, and of the life and teachings of Jesus; and the inculcation and encouragement of the realization and appreciation of the fatherhood of God and the brother-

hood of man - in order to increase and enhance the comfort, happiness, and well being of man, as an individual and as a member of society, by fostering a religion, a philosophy, and a cosmology which are commensurate with man's intellectual and cultural development, through the medium of fraternal association, ever obedient and subservient to the laws of this country and of all countries wherein the Fellowship may extend."

From Article II, Constitution of The Fellowship

The Urantia Book doesn't say that we need an organization such as the Fellowship or that we need a great proliferation of local societies all over the world. But the book does tell us a great deal about organizational patterns from planetary to system to local universe to superuniverse and even to grand universe levels. It tells us about the value in perceiving ourselves as cosmic citizens and in recognizing our place in the grand organizational scheme.

It tells us about the incredible potential that each of us -- without a single exception in all of humanity has for making a contribution to the growth of the Supreme, the evolving Deity. It also tells us that while the Universal Father relates to each of us as an individual, the Supreme relates to all of us as a group. Conversely, only as a group can we effectively relate to the Supreme, and there is no effective group activity of any kind without organization.

I believe that an unstated purpose of the Fellowship is the ultimate achievement of organizational resonance with perfected universe organizational patterns. We have a long way to go. And we need all the input we can get from local groups around the world who are willing to participate in the process. 4

Bon Voyage, Berkeley Elliott

By John Thiele

Berkeley Elliott loved to travel. Any time, anywhere, she was your girl. And just as she would have wished, Berk was racking up frequent flyer miles to the very end.

During her last five months, Berkeley traveled to the Holy Land and Egypt, and made quick trips to Boulder, Australia and a Christmas visit

to New York City.

In August, Berkeley led 70-plus readers on her third and last tour of the Holy Land. She was the consummate tour leader — counting heads, supervising accommodations, settling disputes, and even firing a tour guide when she thought

it would improve our tour.

She managed to play Hackysack in every airport, was the first at breakfast, climbed all the mountains, crossed every stream, saw every relic, kissed the shrines, sang each song, danced at the clubs and still made latenight raids on the kitchen for coffee. In between all the tours and museums, she found time to organize talks about places we would see the next day, visit with lots of old friends, make new friends and keep herself well groomed. How she did it I suppose we'll never know.

All of her planning paid off. Those of us who joined the pilgrimage will remember the trip as one of the highlights of our lives. For Berkeley, it was the ultimate trip. She seemed to know it was her last time to see the Holy Land, and every meal, prayer and view were

very emotional for her.

Even in the unrelenting heat of Upper Egypt, there was a spring in Berkeley's step and a smile for her companions. She climbed the oppressive corridors of the Giza Pyramids, sailed on the Nile, rode a camel and did lots of shopping.

Perhaps the highlight was what would be the celebration of her last birthday. We had a delicious meal in a hotel that used to be a suitan's

palace, then went to a party at a belly dancing club that looked like the inside of a huge Bedouin tent.

On our last night in Cairo, we celebrated a remembrance supper at which we all offered our thanks and, again, it was a very emotional experience for all, but

especially for Berkeley.

The weekend after playing Hackysack across several time zones, Berkeley loaded up with other Oklahoma City folks for a trip to Boulder to attend the Labor Day conference. She made that trip with a lot of energy and was able to see many of her friends and fellow readers of The Urantia Book.

In October Berkeley and John Lange, chairman of the International Fellowship Committee, attended a conference in Australia, where she was able to see many of her international friends, as well as

make some new ones.

Drawing from a seemingly inexhaustible supply of energy, Berkeley endured cold and long drives to see as much as possible, including a visit to New Zealand.

She returned to America even more convinced of the Fellowship's responsibility to promote The Urantia Book on an international basis. Since her passing away, many cards, letters and phone calls have underscored the importance of her international travels. While

she certainly derived great pleasure from those trips, those whose lives she touched will never forget her. Berkeley had a way about her that transcended any language or cultural barrier.

Her last trip was for fun, just a pleasure jaunt to New York City at Christmas. She spent a day at the Metropolitan Museum, enjoying the Angel Tree with its many Italian papier mache angels. Cups of cappuccino sustained her through vigorous bouts of shopping and on long walks from Rockefeller Center to United Nations Plaza.

Attending a dinner and lecture with several other readers of The Urantia Book, Berkeley was so impressed with the speaker that she tried to recruit him to speak at the next Scientific Symposium.

The ability to mix her spiritual nature with the pursuit of pleasure made Berkeley a delightful travel companion. I've seen her loving smile with new readers in Mexico and in the crazed streets of New Orleans during Mardi Gras. Infact, one restaurateur, calling her Mom, opened his kitchen at 3 a.m. just to fix her a hamburger.

Everyone will miss Berkeley, but I will probably miss her most whenever I'm at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport. How I used to love to watch for that little mop of curls at the next gate. Bon voyage, Berkeley.

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The Fellowship's

International Conference

for Readers of The Urantia Book



















Our Theme is:

"Living Faith"

Mark Your Calendars Now! More Information Will Follow.

IC96 Conference Committee

















Calendar of Events

April 14-16, The Second Houseboat Retreat at Lake Powell, Page, AZ. Theme: "Resurrection." Contact; Crystal Harris (602) 934-7906.

April 21-23, New Life Expo, Ashville, TN. Contact: Dean

White (615) 542-3775.

April 28-30, Ozark Readers Conference, Eureka Springs, AR. Theme: "Feeding Mind, Body and Spirit." Contact: John Thiele (501) 782-3263.

May 13-14, New Life Expo, Spokane, WA. Contact:

Thomas Orjala (208) 667-4178.

May 19-21, Wisconsin Readers Conference, Waupaca, WI. Theme: "Rebellion." Contact: Mark Kulieke (414) 469-8846.

May 19-21, New Life Expo, Pasadena, CA. Contact:

Duane Faw (714) 470-9653.

May 26-29, Florida Readers Conference, Leesburg, FL. Theme: "Bridge to Paradise." Contact: Joe DeCosmo (407) 737-8868.

June 3-4, Denver People's Fair. Contact: Jesusonian

Foundation (800) 767-5683.

June 9-11, Northeast Regional Conference, Simon's Rock College, MA. Call to confirm dates. Contact: Charles Olivea (203) 274-8531.

June 23-25, New Life Expo, Santa Fe. Contact:

Alexander Scott (505) 867-3090.

July 1-3, Fourth Annual Frontier Conference, Snowmass, CO. Contact: The Rocky Mountain Spiritual Fellowship, P.O. Box 19135, Boulder, CO 80308.

July 23-27, Summer Seminar, Fairleigh-Dickinson University, Teameck, NJ. Theme: "Spiritual Communion: Theory and Practice." Contact: The Fellowship, (312) 327-0424.

August 19, Urantia Family Picnic, Hampton, TN. Sponsored by Upper East Tennessee Readers. Contact:

Announcements

Subscriptions are now being taken for Innerface International, a bimonthly journal sponsored by the Brotherhood of Man Library for students of The Urantia Book. Suggested annual donationis\$10. Donations and submissions should be addressed to David Biggs, P.O. Box 1091, Flint, MI 48501 or B.O.M.L., P.O. Box 839, Nambour 4560, Australia.

The Agondonter Foundation is sponsoring the production of a two-sided Braille edition of The Urantia Book for sight-impared individuals. For more information, contact Dick Johnson at (602) 944-4766.

IC93 Videotape available. This hour-long video captures the highlights of the Fellowship's 1993 international conference in Quebec. Contact the Fellowship, 529 Wrightwood Avenue, Chicago, IL 60614, (312) 327-0424.

Decm White (615) 542-3775.

September 17-21, Fourth International Urania Congress, Moscow, Russia. Theme: "The Stream of Tradition and New Inflows." Sponsored by the Urania Magazine and the Daniel Andreev Charity Foundation. Contact: The Urania Magazine, Box 8, Moscow 125171 Russia, telephone +7 (095) 470-3951, fax +7 (095) 157-4687.

October 4-8, South Pacific Conference II, Auckland, New Zealand. Theme: "Living with The Urantia Book." Contact Marion Steward, 14 Aspiring Ave., Manukau City, Auckland, (64-9) 263-5800.

October 6-8, 1995 Midwest Conference, Eagle Creek State Park, Findlay, IL. Contact: David Kulieke (708) 945-1812.

The Fellowship for readers of The Urantia Book 529 Wrightwood Avenue Chicago, IL 60614 USA

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1995 SUMMER SEMINAR July 22-27, 1995 Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, New Jersey REGISTRATION FORM

| Name | | |
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| Please PRINT the names of all persons in your group name badges. | (including yourself) exactly as you would | like them to appear on your |
| First Name | Last Name | Sex Age of child M F M F M F M F |
| Registration fees must be submitted wit arrival. Please register early as space is before July 1st. | | |
| REGISTRATION FEES: Add \$10.00 per person | on after June 1st. | |
| \$40.00 per adult X adults = \$ | | |
| \$15.00 per child (under 16) X children = \$ | | |
| Commuters: \$15.00 per day X days X persons = \$ | | |
| TOTAL REGISTRAT | TION FEES | s |
| ACCOMMODATION: Bedding and towels provided. No cribs available. No sleeping gear and towels. | charge for children under 13 not occupy | ring a bed, if you provide |
| 7/22 - 7/26 (5 nights) \$125.00 per adult (double occupancy) X adult | s = \$ | |
| \$175.00 per adult (single occupancy) X adults | = \$ | |
| \$100.00 per child (under 13) X children = \$ _ | | |
| Additional nights (from 7/27) \$25.00 per person per night (double occupancy) X _ | nights X adults = \$ | _ |
| \$35.00 per person per night (single occupancy) X | nights X adults = \$ | _ |
| \$20.00 per child (under 13) X nights X c | children = \$ | |
| TOTAL ACCOMMO | DATION FEES | \$ |
| Indicate the name of your roommate if not on this reg Would you like us to assign you a roommate? | | |

| MEAL PLAN: ncludes dinner Saturday 7/2 | | 7/27. Tuesday 7/25 Breakfa | ast only (Off-campus Day). |
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| Meals are free for children u | | | |
| \$ 80.00 per child (3-12) X _ | | | |
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| \$27.00 per person X p (3 meals) | persons = \$ | | |
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| | AMOUNT ENCLOSED | י | s |
| Enclosed is my cheque or | money order in U.S. Dolla | ars, payable to The Fellow | ship, in the amount of \$ |
| OR please charge my VISA | or MASTERCARD (choose | se one) in the amount of S | , Exp. date |
| Card No | Sig | gnature | |
| into Newark International | Airport. and from the campus | s can be provided at | Participants are encouraged to fly reasonable rates if arrival and |
| Flight Information | | | |
| Arrival date | Time | Flt. No | |
| Airport | A | irline | No. of persons |
| Departure date | Time | Flt. No | |
| PARTICIPATION: | | | |
| I am interested in lead | ling a workshop | | |
| I am interested in help | ing with childcare | | |
| I am interested in part | icinating in group acti | vities in Manhattan on | Tuesday |

All registrations must be received by July 1, 1995.
In order to receive a full refund, all cancellations must be received by July 1, 1995.
Mail to The Fellowship, 529 Wrightwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60614 or FAX to 312/327-6159 (VISA/MC only).