

A Newsletter of the Urantia Book Society Los Angeles (www.ubla.org)

The Agondonter

"... evolutionary will creatures who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone." The Urantia Book: Paper 50 Section 7: P579 - 81



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A Message From The New President Of The Fellowship

The other day, the chair of the UBLA Publications committee emailed me and said she wanted me to write an article about being elected President of the Urantia Book Fellowship. "This is your opportunity to tell people anything you want," she told me. "About service, about leadership, about ... whatever."

So for the last couple of weeks, I've been turning things over in my mind, trying to pin down just how I feel about service, leadership and whatever. I'm a lazy thinker when I can get away with it, and my spirituality is personal -- what I am speaks more than what I say. I understand leadership in the material world, but what does spiritual leadership mean?

So I turned to the Urantia Book and found echoes of my confusion in Paper 99, Section 5: "Primitive man made little effort to put his religious convictions into words. His religion was danced out rather than thought out."



In my experience, Urantia Book readers are an independent sort. Many of them have had negative experiences with other religious groups and their leaders, and they are suspicious of authority or control in general. They know that religion is a personal relationship with God, being the child of a loving Father. So what can a spiritual leader do?

The answer lies in the corollary of knowing God as a Father: knowing all men and women as brothers and sisters. Paper 102, Section 5 tells us that humanity's gregariousness ensures that like-minded religionists will always form groups, but what happens to them

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UBLA Elections November 18

Is there something you'd like to see UBLA accomplish in the next year? Now's your chance to make it happen, by putting your name on the ballot for UBLA elections!

The Urantia Book Los Angeles Society will have an Assembly of the Society at its Regular Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 18, 2006, at the Whittier Art Gallery, beginning with the customary potluck at 6 PM. The terms of several officers are ending, so elections promise to be exciting. Nominations will be taken from the floor, so you can throw your hat in the ring right up until the vote!



Remember, committee chairs sit on the Governing Committee for UBLA with the officers, so be part of the leadership of our Society! The officers are:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Standing Committees include:

- Membership
- Education
- Hospitality
- Finance
- Book
- Publications



UBLA is becoming more active in spreading the revelation: we support study groups in South America and Africa, through the efforts of our members and also financially. Join us as we reach out to spiritual seekers here and around the globe.

See you on election day!

Current UBLA Officers

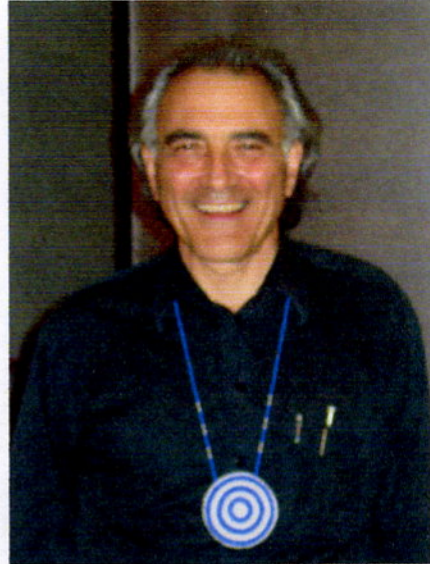
<i>President</i>	Dianne Bishop
<i>Vice President</i>	Stella Religa
<i>Secretary</i>	Natalia Larson
<i>Treasurer</i>	Robert Burns
<i>Book</i>	Larry Whelan
<i>Education</i>	Victoria Clark
<i>Hospitality</i>	Donna Whelan
<i>Membership</i>	Richard Omura
<i>Publications</i>	TBA



UB Reader Phil Calabrese Calculates The Odds

Were the Urantia Papers written by humans? If so, it was a superhuman task, says Phil Calabrese, long-time Urantia Book reader and mathematician. "The odds of being correct about the truth of then-current scientific theories, AND being correct in predicting new scientific discoveries, are over a hundred billion to one," Calabrese stated at a recent UBLA program meeting. Calabrese, who has a PhD in mathematics, presented "The Coming Scientific Validation of the Urantia Book" at the Whittier Art Gallery on Saturday, September 30, 2006.

Using excerpts from the Papers, Calabrese demonstrated how a long list of potentially discrediting pitfalls were avoided by the authors of the Urantia Book. For example, *The History of Urantia* includes Alfred Wegener's theory of continental drift and the assertion that at one time, the continents were one huge land mass that Wegener dubbed Pangea. Wegener's theory was ridiculed when it was first proposed in his 1915 book, "The Origin of Continents and Oceans." Only a small percentage of scientists from that era accepted it as a viable hypothesis, and by 1929 it had been generally dismissed. Scientists remained unconvinced until the early 1960s, when improved methods of exploring the depths of the planet led to the acceptance of plate tectonics theory.



The authors of the Urantia Book also "guessed" correctly about Piltdown Man, the name given to a supposed missing link, whose fossilized remains were found in England around 1912. Piltdown Man turned out to be a hoax, a human skull with an orangutan jawbone, but most of the scientists of that time were fooled, and acceptance was widespread until the 1940s. Urantia Book authors, however, were not deceived. Piltdown Man was ignored, and the concept of a missing link was flatly contradicted in Paper 62: humans and modern simians had a common ancestor, but it was long before primitive man appeared.

The celestial authors wrote about the concepts of dark matter ("dark islands of space") and neutrinos ("small chargeless particles") decades before they were discovered by Urantia scientists. Although current theories have sometimes added to the information presented in the Urantia Book, they have not discredited the statements of the revelators. "I am confident," said Calabrese, "that future scientific discoveries will vindicate the Urantia Book. In addition, the science in the Urantia Book will always have value for the way it presents cosmic data in such a manner as to illuminate spiritual teachings."

For more information about Phil Calabrese's research on Urantia Book science, visit the website <http://www.datasynthesis.org>

UBLA Voices Heard At Triennial Delegate Assembly

If you were at the UBLA program meeting several months ago, you may have been part of creating one or both of the two resolutions submitted to and accepted by the Fellowship General Council during the Triennial Delegate Assembly (TDA), which took place July 5-7, 2006, in River Park, Illinois.

The resolutions were hammered out with attention to every word. "Policies can rise or fall based on a single word or phrase," said Theresa Ransbottom, UBLA member and communication specialist.

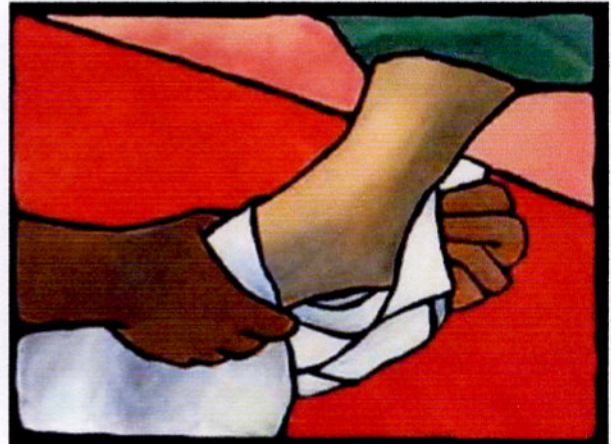
The first resolution calls for collaboration of major Urantia organizations in a Joint Strategy Forum on Global Response, with the stated purpose of assessing needs and coordinating joint projects for responsible dissemination of the Urantia Book teachings worldwide. Sue and Derek Tennant offered the Silver Springs Retreat in Ontario, Canada, as the venue for the proposed Forum, and the first meeting has already taken place!

The second resolution calls for outreach to Spanish-speaking people in the United States. The Fellowship has an international outreach committee, whose members work with many Urantia Book readers in Spain, Mexico, and Central and South America countries. But there is nothing set up to work with readers of El Libro de Urantia in places like Southern California, Texas, Florida, and other states with large Spanish-speaking populations.

Strategies to implement these resolutions will be discussed at the upcoming General Council meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, on February 9-11, 2007.

Dolores Nice To Present at November 18 UBLA Meeting

Our program at the upcoming UBLA meeting on Saturday, November 18, promises to enlighten and intrigue participants. Dolores Nice, a member of the Fellowship's General Council who also serves on the International Outreach Committee, will speak to us about ***Servant Leadership: A Call To Serve***. Please join us at the Whittier Art Gallery for a look at the ways that the Urantia Book links leadership and service.



Ms. Nice will also facilitate a Mini-Retreat from 10 AM to 2 PM on Sunday, November 19, 2006, in Costa Mesa. Activities will include readings from the Urantia Book, small group sharing, reflections time and a Remembrance Supper. Please see the enclosed flyer for information on registration and location.



UBLA EVENTS COMING UP

Saturday, November 18, 2006 6-9 PM at the Whittier Art Galley
Program Meeting - Speaker: Dolores Nice - Servant Leadership

Sunday, November 19th, 2006 10-3 PM in Costa Mesa
Mini-retreat with Dolores Nice (see flyer insert)

Friday through Sunday, February 9-11, 2007
UB Book booth @ Conscious-Life Expo, LA Airport Hilton
Please contact Larry Whelan (626) 287-7775 or email
lwhelan@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Saturday, March 10, 2007 6-9 PM at the Whittier Art Galley
Program meeting, speaker TBA

Saturday, May 19, 2007 6-9 PM at the Whittier Art Galley
Program meeting, speaker TBA

Saturday, August 18, 2007 in Irvine, time TBA
Jesus Birthday celebration with Robert Burns

Saturday, September 8, 2007 6-9 PM at the Whittier Art Galley
Program meeting, speaker TBA

Saturday, November 17, 2007, 6-9 PM at the Whittier Art Gallery
Program meeting and UBLA elections

Please call Victoria Clark, Education Committee Chair, for more information on UBLA presentations: (714) 665-8357, or email vicgarten@msn.com



Program Meetings usually begin with a potluck at 6 PM. Please bring a salad, vegetable or dessert to share; UBLA provides an entrée and beverage.

**Whittier Art Gallery
8035 S Painter Ave**

Study Groups in Southern California

- ◆ Arcadia - Lucille Kettell Weekly: Monday 7:30 PM (626) 447-1403
 - ◆ Irvine - Robert / Cindy Burns Weekly: Thursday 8 PM (949) 222-1053
 - ◆ Laguna Hills - Duane / Lucille Faw Weekly: Thursday 3 PM (949) 470-9653
 - ◆ Long Beach - Doug Huntzinger Monthly: Call for next date (562) 633-2536
 - ◆ Santa Barbara - Brendi Poppel Monthly: first Wednesday 7:30 PM (805) 884-6166
 - ◆ Ventura - Elisabeth / John Callahan Weekly: Friday 7 PM (805) 933-6650
 - ◆ Westminster - Kermit / Jackie Anderson Bimonthly: first & third Thursdays 7:30 PM (714) 894-5417
 - ◆ Whittier - Stella Religa / Norm Ingram Bimonthly: first & third Fridays 2 PM (562) 698-2122
- Area Study Group Contact: Richard Omura (310) 306-9789

Please Note: UBLA has no official affiliation with any study group, nor does UBLA endorse or have any authority governing their curriculum or practices.

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Message

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depends on intelligent leadership. If the leadership of a religious organization can clarify its goals and effect cooperation among its members to achieve those goals, then true spiritual leadership exists.

We can only get so close to God as an individual. At some point along that path, we discover that God requires us to serve, to show forth fruits of the spirit. We need other people for this, and other Urantia Book readers are a great help, a moral support. We need to hear them. We need to understand them, and through understanding, obey the second of the two great commandments the Master gave us: "Love one another as I have loved you."

Spiritual leadership starts with an individual and grows outward to all groups that a person is involved in -- family, neighbors, businesses, community, and with those who hold similar spiritual ideals. We acknowledge that all people are children of the Eternal Father and treat them as the siblings they are. "I" becomes "we" as groups are formed to achieve shared goals. Eventually our group becomes the whole of humanity, and we arrive at a global perspective on service -- what can we do to make things better for all? How can we, working together, effect positive change in the world?

Of course, there are as many ideas about what to do -- and how to do it! -- as there are people traveling the path to perfection. Nowhere is this more obviously true than among Urantia Book readers. So I see my responsibility as President of the Fellowship as working to bring people to consensus on what to do and how to go about doing it. Once we agree on "what" and "how," it becomes my responsibility to get

some action going, to do what is required to reach these goals.

True religion must act, we are told. We can't rest on our spiritual laurels, we have to make decisions and act! The Fellowship of the Urantia Book is a tool we can use to leverage our efforts. "Ten men are of little more value than one in lifting a great load unless they lift together -- all at the same moment. And such teamwork -- social co-operation -- is dependent on leadership." (81:6.37) Teamwork with sincere effort is what it takes to move the planet towards Light and Life. And when all the discussing and deciding is done, the leader is just one more person helping to lift the load.

I am first and foremost a son of God. Then I serve the revelation, in any way I am capable. For now, that means giving up any chance of a normal life while I serve as President of the Fellowship. I am in awe of those who carried this responsibility before me -- the incredible amounts of time, energy and resources that were given for the good of the revelation, with few material rewards. God knows no one is in this for the fame and fortune!

So let us be of good cheer, and do our day's work well. Spread the good word as we carry out our responsibilities in life, see the beauty -- and the Divine -- in all those we meet. That means making a real effort to find a compromise instead of insisting, "My way is the only way." Let's take action together, and trust God that the consequences will be for the greatest good.

Robert Burns is a long-time member of the Urantia Book Society Los Angeles. He lives in Irvine with his wife, Cindy.