



CAPITAL ASCENDER

Newsletter for readers of *The URANTIA Book* in the national capital area.

Vol. 1 No. 1

April, 1979

THIRD AREA CONFERENCE SET FOR ROCKVILLE

The Third Central Atlantic Conference of *URANTIA Book* Readers will be held on Saturday, April 28, at the Bauer Drive Recreation Center, 14625 Bauer Drive, Rockville, Maryland -- Phone: (301) 468 4015. The previous conference, held at the same location last October, drew fifty attendees.

The day will be devoted to discussion and fellowship. The conference theme will be *Revelation, The URANTIA Book, and the Transformation of Mankind*. The program will include: topical speakers; small discussion groups; a guest speaker from Chicago, John Hales -- Resident Director of

URANTIA Brotherhood; and a showing of slides from *URANTIA Book*-inspired paintings by Vincent Ventola depicting the ascendant life.

Donations of \$2.50 per person will be expected. Lunch and dinner facilities are available nearby. It is expected that, as at the previous conferences, a group of enthusiastic brothers and sisters will get together after the conference for dinner at one of the local restaurants.

There are certain restrictions on the facilities; namely, building rules prohibit eating, drinking, or smoking on the premises. There is no provision for child care at this time. For those planning to attend, it might be better to make their own arrangements for child care at home.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Conference Coordinator, Neal Waldrop, at (202) 244 0761.

PUBLISHED

Washington, D.C. *URANTIA Book* reader Daniel Glazer, a computer systems analyst with the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), is the author of an article in the February, 1979, *Monthly Labor Review*, a Department of Labor publication. The article, "Exploiting the Microdata Foundation of the Current Population Survey," deals with a statistical approach to data usage pioneered for the last ten years by Daniel's office, the Office of Current Employment Analysis. Daniel, an expert on the Current Population Survey microdata, which is the basis, for example, of the unemployment figure published by BLS each month, says of his work, "I find satisfaction in the thought that I'm furthering a socially valuable activity...full employment...enhances the individual and society." Daniel, who is one of the two hosts of the *URANTIA Book* Study Group of Washington, D.C., says that he has read the *URANTIA Book* "with wonderment and fascination and gratitude." "The progressive discovery of what it means," he says, "has brought me great joy and comfort." Daniel, who was a speaker at the last area conference here, is to speak again at the April 28 conference in Rockville. His subject: "The *URANTIA Revelation*, Contemporary Thought, and the Spiritual Transformation of Mankind."

TO SPEAK ON URANTIA BOOK



DANIEL GLAZER

"...wonderment and fascination and gratitude."

(COPY OF AGENDA ON LAST PAGE)

TWO MORE BOOKSTORES

In the last three months, two suburban Maryland bookstores have begun carrying *The URANTIA Book* for sale. This brings to three the total of area bookstores where *The URANTIA Book* may be purchased. They are:

YES Bookshop -- Georgetown, Washington, D.C.

Maryland Book Exchange -- College Park, Maryland

Walden Books -- Montgomery Mall, Bethesda, Maryland

If copies are temporarily unavailable, call CAPITAL ASCENDER at 585 0719 for a copy.

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The McKeldin Library, of the University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, now has *The URANTIA Book*.

CAPITAL ASCENDER BEGINS

With this issue, CAPITAL ASCENDER takes its place among the undertakings associated with *The URANTIA Book* and its teachings. Its primary service will be to provide objective reporting on items of interest to local readers and groups of readers of *The URANTIA Book*. CAPITAL ASCENDER will be concerned with news, as contrasted with inspirational material, and will help to foster social fraternity among readers and groups of readers of *The URANTIA Book* in the national capital area. Based on the premise that *The URANTIA Book* and its teachings are destined for diverse interpretation by people and organizations of varying viewpoint, and further that there is no single "correct" interpretation of this book, which is a gift to the world, CAPITAL ASCENDER will serve as an organ of communication between those individuals and groups of individuals who share in common, perhaps not intellectual viewpoints or social interpretations, but certainly spiritual longings, the love of God, and dedication to *The URANTIA Book* and its teachings.

PERSONALITY
PROFILE

NEAL WALDROP WASHINGTON, D.C.

Ask Neal Waldrop about his hopes and plans concerning the next several years, and you're likely to get a diplomatic answer. This is because Neal, a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State, is a diplomat by profession. If you're willing to look behind all the qualifications, conditions, and clarifications in his pronouncements, however, you'll discover some aspirations of great scope and originality.

FUTURE IN CHINA

Currently on assignment to learn the Chinese language in preparation for a year of duty on Taiwan and two more at the U.S. Consulate-General in Hong Kong, Neal plans to embark this summer on a five-year tour of the orient, which could include Shanghai or Canton, depending on developments.

Neal, who discovered *The URANTIA Book* in Georgetown's YES bookstore in October of 1973 and completed his first reading of its entire two thousand ninety-seven pages two months later, says: "The *URANTIA Book* has unquestionably changed my life dramatically. Looking back at the entire period during which I've had *The URANTIA Book*, it has been a period of continuous and steady increase in importance to me, although I am not entirely certain how my future service will unfold. I am confident that *The URANTIA Book*



NEAL WALDROP

"...an inner recognition of truth."

VISITORS TO THE AREA

BARBARA BALK MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

URANTIA Book reader Barbara Balk, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, spent two weeks last month at the home of *URANTIA Book* reader John Bullock, and his wife, Helga, of Arlington, Virginia. Barbara, a singer and the leading soprano with the Minneapolis Opera Company, was here to work with John, her voice teacher, on her upcoming role as Magda in Gian-Carlo Menotti's opera, *The Consul*. Barbara and her husband, Dr. Wesley Balk, artistic director of the Minneapolis Opera Company, are members of the *URANTIA Book* Study Group of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and John Bullock is a member of the 606 *URANTIA Book* Study Group of Silver Spring, Maryland, which Barbara visited while she was here. Barbara is also a Riecke healer and a teacher of the Alexander relaxation method for performers.

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and its teachings will play a major role."

Hoping eventually to be able to translate or participate in translating *The URANTIA Book* into Chinese, Neal says, "I am primarily interested in international fellowship to help in spreading the teachings of *The URANTIA Book* to other areas of the world, especially China and Russia."

Neal is confident that he will be able to get a study group going in Hong Kong -- a British crown colony, where most people speak English as a second language -- if he is sent there. He is also interested in fostering a world government, which he feels must somehow begin through citizen participation.

Neal is a native of Detroit, Michigan. He attended Catholic primary and secondary schools in Detroit, then Yale University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History in June of 1969. His Junior year was in France at the University of Paris, in the Political Science Institute and the Sorbonne.

TURNED FROM THE CHURCH

While a sophomore at Yale, despite the fact that he was serving at the Catholic chapel as Head Lector, arranging the reading schedules for services, Neal became disillusioned and bitter with the church. At this point he suspended his belief, a few years later beginning a search that eventually led him to *The URANTIA Book*.

Neal was with the U.S. Navy from 1970 to 1975, in Morocco then in Washington, D.C., and received the Navy Commendation Medal. He held a commission as Lieutenant on

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NEAL WALDROP

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release from the service. Accepting employment with the State Department in January of 1976 and being assigned to the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, for two successive summers, in 1976 and 1977, he was with the U.S. delegation to the conference of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland.

Neal enjoys writing plays as a hobby, having acted in plays during high school days and having directed plays in the navy. Should anything professional develop, he would welcome this chance to contact people who might not be reached by more direct means. A bachelor at thirty-two, not yet having married, Neal is quick to admit that he would very much like to put into practice the URANTIA Book recommendations that exalt marriage and child rearing to a high degree.

AREA SERVICE

Neal is a member-at-large of the URANTIA Brotherhood and a key force in developing and serving URANTIA Book readership and related affairs in this area. He has been a regular member of the URANTIA Book Study Group of Columbia, Maryland, since 1974 and is one of the two hosts of the URANTIA Book Study Group of Washington, D.C., which he has attended since its inception in 1975. Neal has been instrumental in planning for all three area conferences here and has served as the moderator and also as a topical speaker at each of them.

Breaking his ties here is something that Neal regrets doing, but he feels that his responsibilities are leading him to other places. Wherever he goes, Neal says, he will be participating as fully as possible in spreading the URANTIA Book teachings.

A TESTIMONY

Neal leaves us with the following testimony about The URANTIA Book:

"My experience during my first reading of The URANTIA Book included an inner recognition of truth when encountering quite a number of its inspiring passages. I have now read through the book completely six times and am nearing completion of my seventh reading. At every reading, and indeed for every paper I prepare for every meeting I attend, I continue to be astounded at the richness of insights and spiritual warmth which The URANTIA Book contains. I cannot imagine ever exhausting its wealth of inspiration, and it is my hope to be able to share its love and joy with others, learning from them as I do so."



BORN

URANTIA Book readers David and Terri Henry, of Silver Spring, Maryland, announce the birth of their daughter, Mya Nicole Henry. Mya was born at 12:17 P.M. on Sunday, February 4, 1979, at Holy Cross Hospital, in Silver Spring, Maryland, and weighed 7 pounds 9 ounces. She is the Henrys' first child. There were no birth complications. David Henry is a Laboratory Technician with the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. He and Terri have been readers of The URANTIA Book since Summer, 1974. They are members of the 606 URANTIA Book Study Group of Silver Spring, Maryland.

VISITORS TO THE AREA

(Continued from Page 2)

ALAN BROOKS BRADENTON, FLORIDA
KEVIN GOODMAN TAMPA, FLORIDA

URANTIA Book readers Alan Brooks, of Bradenton, Florida, and Kevin Goodman, of Tampa, Florida, will be in this area for a two-week sightseeing tour, from April 17 to May 2. They will spend their first week exploring the Smithsonian Institution and their second week seeing Virginia Beach and Williamsburg, Virginia, then back here for the area conference in Rockville, Maryland, which just happens to be on April 28 (see THIRD AREA CONFERENCE SET FOR ROCKVILLE on First Page). They will be staying with URANTIA Book readers Troy and Janice Bishop of Silver Spring, Maryland, and plan to attend a meeting of the 606 URANTIA Book Study Group of Silver Spring, Maryland, which the Bishops host in their home on Monday evenings. These young URANTIA Book readers will be free on other evenings and can be reached in Silver Spring at telephone number 585 0719 by anyone having ideas for evening entertainment. Kevin was the coordinator of the recent conference in Florida. He tells us about a focus of URANTIA Book activity at the Asbury Towers Old Folks' Home in Bradenton, where resident Ruth Carothers, a member of the Forum, which was originally involved in publishing The URANTIA Book, has helped to get The URANTIA Book to at least three employees of the home -- including Alan Brooks.

VERN VERASS BRISBANE, AUSTRALIA

URANTIA Book reader Vern Verass, of Brisbane, Australia, arrived in the area last month with the first snowflakes of the Great Blizzard. In the snowed-in home of URANTIA Book readers Troy and Janice Bishop, of Silver Spring, Maryland, he entertained his hosts with his guitar and ballads of his native Australia. An artist and architectural graduate, Vern is touring the United States visiting with URANTIA Book readers and study groups. Attending a meeting of the 606 URANTIA Book Study Group of Silver Spring, Maryland, which meets in the Bishop home on Monday evenings, he constituted one-third of the blizzard-bound but happy study group. Bound from Vermont and previously from the Midwest and the West Coast, Vern spent only a few days here, then disappeared among the snowdrifts headed for Northern Virginia, then for Tampa, Florida and its (then) upcoming conference. Vern has spent three years with Universal Brotherhood, Inc., a community of about a hundred URANTIA Book readers located in a lovely outdoor setting near Perth, Australia. He later founded a URANTIA Book study group near Brisbane, Australia.



NEW TO THE URANTIA BOOK

JOHN BAILEY WASHINGTON, D.C.

URANTIA Book reader John Bailey, of Washington, D.C., is a free lance artist specializing in drawing pictures of people. Told about *The URANTIA Book* in December of 1978 by his friend Eros Milholo (see EROS MILHOLO below), John managed to find the book two weeks later in a bookstore in New Orleans, Louisiana, during a cross-country vacation bus trip. He spent most of the rest of the trip reading. John, who would like to spend the whole day every day reading *The URANTIA Book*, says, "The URANTIA Book has restored my religious life. It's one of the most important things that's happened to me in satisfying my curiosity about religious matters and trying to sort out various events that I couldn't grasp." A member of the 606 URANTIA Book Study Group of Silver Spring, Maryland, John says, "I am very happy that *The URANTIA Book* is bringing new people into my life, people I can share with on a level I never could before. Now I have people I can discuss *The URANTIA Book* with in a two-way fashion. We each share things through our own experience and our own eyes. In a study group, all kinds of things become clear. I'm especially grateful for the new fellowship."

EROS MILHOLO WASHINGTON, D.C.

URANTIA Book reader Eros Milholo, of Washington, D.C., a haircutter at Charles the First on Connecticut Avenue in Washington, D.C., first learned about *The URANTIA Book* at work one day when a friend who had been to an art exhibit showed him a xeroxed copy of a photograph of a painting by Charles Montgomery entitled, "The Master Universe." On this picture was a printed explanation of the parts of the master universe as described in *The URANTIA Book*. Eros excused himself, called a cab, and arrived at YES bookstore in Georgetown in time to find the store's last copy of *The URANTIA Book* in the hands of the salesperson at the counter. Eros got the book, and so did a friend, who he told about it right away (see JOHN BAILEY above). "It is one of the best things that has happened in my life," says Eros. "People should read it, but only when they are ready." Eros is a member of the 606 URANTIA Book Study Group of Silver Spring, Maryland.

ANTON SCHMALZ ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA

URANTIA Book reader Anton Schmalz, of Alexandria, Virginia, has had *The URANTIA Book* since Spring, 1976, when he bought it at YES bookstore in Georgetown as a result of being told about it by a friend, URANTIA Book reader John Bullock, of Arlington, Virginia. It was just last month, however, that Anton became a serious reader of the book, upon becoming a member of the 606 URANTIA Book Study Group of Silver Spring, Maryland. Anton is an independent consultant, primarily in energy and environmental affairs,

concerned with goal setting, policy evaluation, and policy analysis. He was principal consultant for the recent White House Domestic Policy Review on Solar Energy in 1978. Anton has participated in study groups for the Alice Bailey Books (also known as the Tibetan Books) and some of the Agni Yoga Books, and has read some theosophy. Of *The URANTIA Book*, he says, "It is compatible with the other material in my view, but enlarges the scope. I am interested in living the values." He especially enjoys the study group environment. Says Anton, "I enjoy the fellowship very much, as well as the study."

SUSAN WEST BARNESVILLE, MARYLAND

URANTIA Book reader Susan West, of Barnesville, Maryland, has had *The URANTIA Book* since it was shown to her by a friend in Iowa during a vacation trip at Christmas-time, 1977. Returning to Syracuse, New York, where she lived then, Susan ordered the book through a bookstore. She also tried, but failed, to find a URANTIA Book study group near. Susan has read parts of *The URANTIA Book*, but has only become a methodical reader since last month, when she joined the 606 URANTIA Book Study Group of Silver Spring, Maryland. Susan, Head Riding Instructor for the Hidden Valley Stables of Barnesville, Maryland, also trains horses and is particularly interested in Dressage, the style exhibited by the Lippizan horses of the Spanish Riding School of Vienna, Austria. Of *The URANTIA Book*, Susan says, "It has given me a totally different outlook on life: my views, what I think is important, what I think isn't important. It's given me a more positive outlook on life -- what I think I have to look forward to. I think it's making me a lot better person. I've become a lot more at peace with myself since I've started reading it."

SALLY WILLIAMS WASHINGTON, D.C.

URANTIA Book reader Sally Williams, of Washington, D.C., has had *The URANTIA Book* since she was told about it in July of 1978 by a coworker, URANTIA Book reader Troy Bishop. She became a regular reader in September of 1978 when she joined the 606 URANTIA Book Study Group of Silver Spring, Maryland, which is hosted by Troy and his wife, Janice, in their home. Sally is a mathematical statistician with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, working on the Wholesale Price Index Revision. Of past service in the Peace Corps, she says, "I wanted to try a different life style, and I wanted to live a life style that wasn't so self centered. I found that traveling around in Europe and Africa expanded my interest in cultures besides my own." Of *The URANTIA Book*, she says, "I've read Hess, *Life After Life*, the Bible...I'm satisfied that *The URANTIA Book* covers them all and that it has satisfactory answers. I particularly enjoy the consistency, the thoroughness, and the fact that every question seems to be answered. I have a much more positive attitude about life because of it." □

URANTIAN AUTHORS

URANTIA Book readers Neal Waldrop, of Washington, D.C. and Troy Bishop, of Silver Spring, Maryland, both have articles appearing in recent issues of *The URANTIAN*, Journal of URANTIA Brotherhood. Neal's article, "Personal Growth: The Seven Psychic Circles," in the current Winter issue of *The URANTIAN*, explores the factors entering into the individual ascender's growth in universe status. Troy's article, "The Ministry of the Thought Adjusters," in the previous, or Fall, issue

"...we grow in the seven psychic circles by drawing close to God's plan for the evolution of our planet and the universe of universes..." Neal Waldrop.

"...Always follow truth, wherever it may lead." Troy R. Bishop.

of *The URANTIAN*, calls for each ascender to consolidate his or her personal endowments and follow the leading of the indwelling Thought Adjuster. Both articles are from papers the authors presented at the Second Central Atlantic Conference for URANTIA Book Readers at Rockville, Maryland, on October 28, 1978. (Copies of the papers may be obtained without charge by contacting CAPITAL ASCENDER). Neal and Troy are both active in area URANTIA Book affairs and host URANTIA Book study groups in their homes.

NEW TO THE AREA

DEBRA HARRIS BETHESDA, MARYLAND

URANTIA Book reader Debra Harris, of Bethesda, Maryland, moved here last September from the Aspen, Colorado, area via six months in Chicago, which was long enough to help plan, and attend, the 1978 URANTIA Brotherhood General Assembly at Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Debra, now living in Bethesda, Maryland, with son Matthew, eight, has always had *The URANTIA Book*; her parents were members of the Forum, the original group in Chicago involved in publishing *The URANTIA Book*. She remembers, as a child in Chicago, the URANTIA Book people getting together for picnics as a form of simple fellowship. At age four she was in Ruth Renn's Junior URANTIA Group with other four-, five-, and six-year-olds. "It was just like Sunday School," she says. "Ruth brought several URANTIA concepts down to an elementary level." "On Sundays, my whole family would read *The URANTIA Book* together." "I hope," she says, there come to be more study groups that include whole families." Debra has been with the First URANTIA Society of Chicago, Illinois (unofficially); the Glenview URANTIA Society of Glenview, Illinois; the URANTIA Book Study Group of Boulder, Colorado; and the URANTIA Book Study Group of Denver, Colorado (which she founded). Here to finish her education, Debra is a full time student at George Washington University School of Public and International Relations. With school, taking care of Matthew, and working part time, Debra cannot participate at present with a study group. Of *The URANTIA Book*: "It has been and continues to be the deepest source of inspiration in my life."

JANIS LANGE FALLS CHURCH, VIRGINIA

URANTIA Book reader Janis Lange, of Falls Church, Virginia, arrived in this area last October from Wenatchee, Washington, where she has lived for the past fourteen years. Janis learned about *The URANTIA Book* in March of 1973, when a friend took her to the home of Lew and Alice Clark (URANTIA Brotherhood Field Representatives), in Wenatchee, to a combined pot luck dinner and study group meeting. Janis bought a book from the First URANTIA Society of Wenatchee, began participating regularly in the study group activities, and became a formal member of the Society during a remembrance of Jesus' birthday on August 21, 1974. A property management specialist with the Farmers Home Administration, Department of Agriculture, Janis is active in the church -- in the choir, bible study groups, and lay outreach -- as well as in personal ministry and trying to show the truths of *The URANTIA Book* in her life. Of *The URANTIA Book*, Janis says, "The URANTIA Book has expanded my entire life, so that I am living within a universe rather than on a planet. It also gave me a firmer base of belief, so that in ministering to others I could say that I know that God is my Father and that they are my brothers and sisters. One of the marvelous things about being involved with *The URANTIA Book* is the many wonderful people with whom I have been able to share. I feel very strongly that I was led to *The URANTIA Book*."



CAPITAL ASCENDER

CAPITAL ASCENDER is a news gathering and news disseminating network directed exclusively to events of interest to URANTIA Book readers in the national capital area. It is dedicated to fostering, promoting, and serving in the development, functioning, and mutual fraternity of diversely oriented local individuals and groups of individual readers of *The URANTIA Book*. Publication is monthly or bi-monthly. Subscriptions are free. Information about local news items is welcome. Expressions of spiritual unity and fellowship are most appreciated.

Troy R. Bishop
EDITOR-PUBLISHER

Telephone: (301) 585 0719

THIRD CENTRAL ATLANTIC CONFERENCE OF URANTIA BOOK READERS

APRIL 28, 1978

MORNING				AFTERNOON			
TIME	EVENT	PERSON	LENGTH	TIME	EVENT	PERSON	LENGTH
9:00	REGISTRATION, DONATIONS		30 MIN.	2:30	SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION (TOPIC NO. 2)		50 MIN.
9:30	SILENT PRAYER, MEDITATION		10 MIN.	TOPIC NO. 3 THE URANTIA REVELATION, CONTEMPORARY THOUGHT, AND THE SPIRITUAL TRANSFORMATION OF MANKIND.			
9:40	WELCOME	NEAL WALDROP	5 MIN.				
TOPIC NO. 1 THE NATURE OF REVELATION AND THE FIVE EPOCHAL REVELATIONS ON OUR PLANET.							
9:45	PRESENTATION	DAN MASSEY	40 MIN.	3:20	PRESENTATION	DANIEL GLAZER	40 MIN.
10:25	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		10 MIN.	4:00	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		10 MIN.
10:35	SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION		50 MIN.	4:10	BREAK		10 MIN.
11:25	BREAK		10 MIN.	4:20	SMALL GROUPS DISCUSSION		50 MIN.
TOPIC NO. 2 THE URANTIA REVELATION AND THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION OF MANKIND.				5:10 GUEST SPEAKER JOHN HALES RESIDENT DIRECTOR URANTIA BROTHERHOOD 35 MIN.			
11:35	PRESENTATION	NEAL WALDROP	40 MIN.	5:45	REVERSION ACTIVITY (THE ASCENDANT LIFE -- SLIDES OF PAINTINGS BY VINCENT VENTOLA)		30 MIN.
12:15 PM	QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS		10 MIN.	6:15	SILENT PRAYER, MEDITATION		10 MIN.
12:25	LUNCH, FREE TIME (RESTAURANTS NEARBY)		1 HR., 55 MIN.	6:25	COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS		15 MIN.
				6:40	OFFICIAL CLOSURE OF THE CONFERENCE		

LOCATION: BAUER DRIVE RECREATION CENTER, 14625 BAUER DRIVE, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND -- PHONE: (301) 468 4015
 CONFERENCE THEME: REVELATION, THE URANTIA BOOK, AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF MANKIND. FOR INFORMATION, CALL (202) 244-0761.



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1558 East West Highway
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