

June 1974

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URANTIA ACTIVITIES IN THE EAST

URANTIA

This letter is an attempt to pull together the various known activities of people who have become students of the teachings that are contained in the URANTIA BOOK*. We hope that this letter will develop into a regular form of communication between those interested in the URANTIA teachings who are separated by geographic distance. There are many ways such a news letter can be useful and we hope to hear from you for your suggestions. This letter will concern itself primarily with a rundown of known study groups, where and when they meet, and who to contact if one is in the area.

Paxton, Massachusetts. Vincent and Cynthia Myers host a study group that meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. Vincent tells us, "a solid, sincere group, all wanting to improve their understanding, and all somewhat prepared for the topic." The group recently read the paper on Andon and Fonta, accomplishing this by reading around the circle, each person taking a paragraph. The hardest task is to stick to the evening's assignment without digressing to other areas of the U.B.

Contact: Vincent Myers, 17 Knollwood Rd., Paxton, Mass.01612

Clinton, Conn. Nick Scalzo writes, "The Clinton study group meets every Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. Our group varies in size from four to seven. We decided to study the Book from Paper 1 onward. Every four or five weeks we also select a paper from other parts of the U.B. We usually read an entire paper per evening and then discuss its content."

Contact: Nicholas I. Scalzo, 51 Ironworks Rd., Clinton, Conn.06413
203-669-4900

New Haven, Conn. This is a new group which Nick Scalzo has gotten together. "We have been meeting each Thursday night at 6:30 p.m. for the past four weeks. At each of the sessions we have read one paper. Afterward we have a discussion. Paper 6 is the next paper for study. We also often find it necessary to refer to the "Forward" for the 'new' words."

Contact: Nick Scalzo, at above address.

Watertown, Conn. Charles Olivea reports, "Our small study group is meeting presently once a week each Wednesday night."

Contact: Charles Olivea, 52 Wheeler St., Watertown, Conn.06795
203-274-8531

Darien, Conn. The study group is currently working its way through the book from the beginning. By the end of May they will have finished Paper 31 "The Corps of Finality." Each member takes a turn at presenting the paper for a particular meeting, all the others having read the assignment beforehand. The group then is flexible to read the paper together or go into some particular aspect of the topic. Meetings are on Thursday at 8 p.m.

Contact: Dave and Marta Elders, 55 Cedar Gate Rd., Darien, Conn.06820

Staten Island, New York. Virginia Varnum writes, "We are currently meeting each week on Tuesday evening, 8 p.m. Topics have been picked as the year progressed, recently having completed the paper on Jesus' six decisions."

Contact: Mrs. Virginia Varnum, 212-YU1-8306

Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y. Mrs. Rhoda Van der Clute writes the following, "The Hempstead group meets monthly, rotating the meeting place among the homes of some of the participants. The group started over two years ago when the URANTIA BOOK* was opened to Paper 1. For newcomers it was the moment when life on this planet started to take on new meaning. Our group is diligently progressing through the Papers reading aloud word by word, line by line, paragraph by paragraph, and we are proud to report that we have reached Paper 26, 'Ministering Spirits of the Central Universe,' after 29 months of effort. We can truly say the twenty comprising the Hempstead group range in age from twelve to eighty. Our members represent all walks of life and possess extremely diverse interests. For all our diversity we like to think of ourselves as a very compatible, friendly and loving group. The welcome mat is always out for visitors. One has only to call any of the following for date, time and place of our next meeting."

Mildred Goldsmith 515-483-8433, Rhoda Van der Clute 516-368-0260,
Barbara Dreier 201-836-0084, Marguerite Savoy 516-485-8697.

Columbia, Maryland. The Shrode's share the following news, "We have been meeting for about the past three years in our home and at the rate of about one paper a month have completed, at least gone through, books two and three. Now we are planning to meet on the second Monday of each month to cover the fourth book. So there will be two groups, one meeting monthly for those who drive considerable distance, and one meeting every other week. Both begin at 8 p.m."

Contact: Ray and Marion Shrode, 10751 Evening Wind Court, Columbia, Md.
21044. 301-730-7874

News notes:

A Day with the "Foreword." June 8th was the day that forty or so Urantian students gathered to study what many have found to be a most complex statement of concepts concerning the nature of God as stated in the "Foreword" of the URANTIA BOOK*. Though the going was at times most difficult, everyone seemed to benefit to some degree as to the meanings of concepts presented. As stated by the Union study group who nobly choose to take the responsibility for leading the discussion, "Our objective is to seek to clarify and better understand this important section, well recognizing that we may raise more questions, and will certainly have to settle in many cases with incomplete and partial answers." We definitely accomplished the latter, and hopefully the former. It was not just a day of study, but also one of socializing with friends, old and new. Our special thanks to Dee and Nick Scalzo for hosting such a large gathering in their home, which included the preparations and serving of two meals.

For those who attended we would welcome comments on the meeting, the format, suggestions as to what might enhance the success of future meetings. Please send your ideas to Stephen Dreier, 672 Albin St., Teaneck, N.J. 07666.

All day study session planned. The next all day study session is to be held on Saturday, October 5, 1974. The organizational aspects of the meeting are being handled by the cooperative efforts of the Hempstead and Staten Island study groups. Particulars as to topic, readings, and place of the meeting will be sent out shortly to the various study groups in the area.

Announcements:

John Hales, Field Representative for the URANTIA Brotherhood, living in Brooklyn, N.Y., will be moving to Chicago where he will assume the position of Resident Director of the URANTIA Brotherhood.

Stephen Dreier has accepted the position of Field Representative for the URANTIA Brotherhood. Many of you know Steve and his wife Barbara who for the past few years have demonstrated their desire to spread the teachings of the URANTIA BOOK*. (address on previous page)

Mrs. Helena Sprague, the former Helena Hall, has also accepted the position of Field Representative for the URANTIA Brotherhood. A long time student of the URANTIA teachings, many of us first got to know Helena when she hosted all day study meetings at her beautiful home on Long Island Sound. Her leadership in the Darien group has always been a source of inspiration to us. Helena can be reached at 25 Talcott Glen Rd., Farmington, Conn. 06032

For those of you who may not be familiar with the Field Reps. job, they are available to answer any queries concerning the activities of the URANTIA Brotherhood and facilitate the orderly spread of the URANTIA teachings to any and all sincere truth seekers. So, feel free to call upon them.

Children's Corner. A three year old girl was walking with her Daddy in the park near sunset. The sky was turning brilliant red. Being much impressed by such a display she asked, "How does the sky get painted?"

For simplicity the father said, "God paints it."

Several days later mother and daughter were walking down the street to go shopping. Passing an empty lot, surrounded by a fence, the little girl kept looking back at a shabby old man who was rather sloppily painting the fence.

"Mom, Mom, look at him."

"I see," said her mother, "a man painting a fence."

"No," cried the daughter, giving a knowing look. "It's God!"