



Volume 12, Number 1
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FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE URANTIA SOCIETY OF CENTRAL CONNECTICUT...

Greetings!

First, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Society for entrusting me with the position of President for the next two years. I promise to rely entirely on the guidance of the Father in all decisions, large and small, pertaining to the future of the Society. I also welcome my newly-elected fellow officers: Vice President Avi Dogim, Treasurer Lynn Sherman, and Secretary Eileen Laurence. Four vacancies have been filled on our Governing Committee with Virginia Varnum as Chairperson of the Resource Committee, Patrick Devine as Chairperson of the Social Committee, George Park as Chairperson of the Program Committee, and Helena Sprague as Chairperson of the Membership Committee. Along with the already seated chairpersons (Dan Massey for the Finance Committee, Pat Moriarty for the Youth Activities Committee, and Dale Szejnberg for the Newsletter Committee) my leadership task promises to be exciting and fruitful.

Now I want to share some wonderful news. After some stiff competition from groups throughout the USA and Canada, the URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut has been designated as Site Coordinators for the 1987 General Conference for Readers of The URANTIA Book sponsored by URANTIA Brotherhood. An ad hoc committee of twelve people in and out of the society membership spent several months investigating potential sites to show the Executive Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood what was possible in the Northeast.

Several very good sites are now being researched in more detail and a decision will be made early this year. The New England area was the sentimental favorite of several members of the Executive Committee who have been promoting the idea of a Northeastern USA locale for some time, but the two key factors in their final choice were: that we are an organized Society and can be depended upon to a certain degree to be in working order through 1987, and our proximity to the many readers in eastern Canada who would likely be able to attend a conference held, for instance, in northern Vermont.

As site coordinators, our work and need for a small army of volunteers just begins once a site has been contracted. We will be represented on, and coordinate with, a larger international conference planning committee covering the other group efforts organized for the program, registration, and children's activities. Our group will be concerned with every manner of logistical and practical detail that will be the result of 1500 people arriving at the same place and time: room arrangements, ground transportation, meal purchases, special group activities and outings, etc., etc. If you are interested and able to participate with us this year, in 1985, 1986, and/or 1987, for a few hours or a few months, please contact us. There is a job for you!

At our annual business meeting last year, we voted to ask each outgoing president to serve on our Governing Committee in an ex officio capacity for one year so that we can take advantage of their current knowledge and expertise. There was also a considerable amount of discussion and a vote regarding the Society's official relationship to regional conferences in the Northeast. There were some members who wanted to institutionalize this responsibility to assure that at least one conference would occur annually in the area if no other groups came forward. Others felt that this responsibility should be activated naturally in response to a real need and were afraid of changing our constitution to "empower and require" the Society to make this effort. Still others were questioning whether regional conferences were an appropriate activity for this Society because, from their point of view, such activities were too time-consuming and perhaps were taking our attention away from discovering some other form of service that we are meant to pursue.

A bottom-line question that comes to my mind is: If there were no regional conference some Spring or Fall, would you miss it? I would welcome your opinion and answer to this question which I would share with the Society members. Even if you live far beyond the borders of our service area, pray for us, send us your comments, and help us chart our future. We want to hear from you. Please write or call me or one of the other officers c/o USCC.

Regardless of the outcome of the above deliberations, the Society is always ready, willing, and able to provide support to any group of individuals coming forth to organize conferences in the Northeast. Happily, we are doing just that with the Philadelphia Study Group, which is hosting a regional conference in May. We have provided them use of our bulk mailing privileges, our tax exempt status, publicity in our newsletter, and our accumulated resources and knowledge pertaining to conference planning. Many of our members have agreed to speak or coordinate small group discussions. This conference is going to be three days of study, worship, and fellowship, and is shaping up to be an experience not to be missed. Registration material and information is contained in this issue of our newsletter.

Again, please send us your comments and suggestions on anything discussed above or on any other subject of mutual interest, and I will continue to do my best to serve the region and keep you informed of the Society's progress and growth.

Very sincerely,

Alison Gardner, President
URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut
May 1983 - May 1985

MASSACHUSETTS HOMEWORK GROUP ANNOUNCES 1984 SCHEDULE

The Massachusetts Homework Group meets every six weeks alternating between Sherborn (near Framingham) and North Harwich (Cape Cod), Massachusetts. Now in its third year, the dozen regular members study a pre-selected topic for discussion. The Sunday meetings begin at 11 AM with fellowship and a bring-your-own lunch and snacks-to-share. The study period opens and closes with a form of worship designed by a different member asked to prepare this portion of the day's activities.

This year the group has chosen more focused and narrowly defined study topics. Here is the schedule as it is currently set:

Jan. 22	N. Harwich	What Prayer Meant to Jesus (Page 2089).
Feb. 26	Sherborn	Motivation for Service.
*Apr. 8	Boston Area	Science and <u>The URANTIA Book</u> : A Presentation.
June 3	N. Harwich	Faith: How It Is Experienced, Attained, and Augmented.
July 15	Sherborn	Subjecting the Total Personality to the Consciousness of Contact with Divinity.
Aug. 26	Sherborn	Summer Social (Come One, Come All!)
Sept. 30	N. Harwich	Paper 42: Energy, Mind, and Matter.
Nov. 4	N. Harwich	How is the Holy Spirit Recognizable To Us?
Dec. 16	Sherborn	The Value of Organizing the Mind: How Did Jesus Do It? How Can We?
Jan. 27, 1985	N. Harwich	Concepts in <u>The URANTIA Book</u> Discovered in Mainstream Art and Literature (Bring your examples)

* In the first of a planned series of periodic local conferences to be sponsored by the Massachusetts Homework Group, Dan Massey will be presenting material he has gathered which merges scientific understanding and the teachings of The URANTIA Book. The presentation will be entertaining and informative, not only answering questions pertaining to the scientific material presented in the book, but discussing the many conclusions that can be drawn from this material when applied to previous and current-day knowledge of universe reality and the startling repercussions to the future of religion on Urantia.

If you are currently on the Homework Group's mailing list you will be receiving more information about this special, day-long meeting. If you or your study group would like to learn more about this or other activities of the Homework Group, contact Sandy Rogers, 650 Depot Street, N. Harwich, MA, 02645, (617)432-4999, or Alison Gardner, Box 136, Sherborn, MA, 01770, (617)653-8850.

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USCC MEETING SCHEDULE

- March 17, 1984 Darien, Connecticut - at the home of Dave and Marta Elders (203) 655-1059
- May 11-13, 1984 Spring Regional Conference - Conference information and advance registration forms are enclosed with this issue of The FINALITER. Please read carefully, and join us if you are able.
- May 19, 1984 Annual Business Meeting - Glen House, Farmington, CT

Society meetings start at 1 PM and are open to all students of The URANTIA Book. Membership in the Society is open to all who have read The URANTIA Book in its entirety. We invite all our friends to join us for study, discussion, and socializing.