

USCC NEWSLETTER

Northeast Regional News

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FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF OKLAHOMA

As one's eyes adjust to the darkened room, one can see eight or perhaps ten people each with a projector flashing slides on a screen, selecting, organizing, and discarding. The room is filled with life, the kind that is expressed only when creative, artistic expression is at work. A major project of First URANTIA Society of Oklahoma is underway—another multi-media project.

It all started in 1976 when they asked an out-of-state group to do a multi-media presentation for the international conference they hosted. They were so impressed with the presentation that they asked the same group to do another presentation the following year. Although the group was agreeable, the financing made it impossible. It was soon clear that if they were going to have another multi-media presentation it would have to be their own. And so, with no prior experience, but much enthusiasm characteristic of this group, they launched into their first major multi-media project—"Jesus, God and Man." In the intervening years, they have continued to learn as they produced six additional multi-medias. They are now reworking their first one for an upcoming conference in Tennessee. But they are not stopping here. The ground work has already been done for the next project—"Paradise Ascent."

This becomes a genuine group project utilizing many members talents, from photography to computer programming before another multi-media is completed.

Recently, they did three 25-30 minute multi-media descriptions of The URANTIA Book which are now available for sale.

Another project the Oklahoma Society has been involved with this year is a Brotherhood project. The Society has handled the mailing of 14,000 letters to libraries in English- and French-speaking countries. The responses are now coming in with 150 copies of The URANTIA Book

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TAKE IN TO PUT OUT

"And when a human being does find God, there is experienced within the soul of that being such an indescribable restlessness of triumph in discovery that he is impelled to seek loving service—contact with his less illuminated fellows, not to disclose that he has found God, but rather to allow the overflow of the welling-up of eternal goodness within his own soul to refresh and ennoble his fellows." (1121:6)

When Isaiah "saw the Lord . . . high and exalted" and when he heard the "attendant seraphim . . . calling ceaselessly to one another, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory,'" his first response was one of total, contrition. "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell among the people of unclean lips." But as the privileged aspect of the experience became apparent he added, "yet with these eyes I have seen the King, the Lord of Hosts." And when the call, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for me?" came, Isaiah responded with whole-hearted generosity at the most fundamental level, "Here am I; send me." (The New English Bible, Isaiah 6:1-9)

"Isaiah went on to preach the eternal nature of God, his infinite wisdom, his unchanging perfection of reliability." (1066:6)

In summarizing the supreme duty of man, Jesus told Flavius, "And this duty of man is expressed in two great privileges: sincere worship of the infinite Creator, the Paradise Father, and loving service bestowed upon one's fellow men. If you love your neighbor as you love yourself, you really know that you are a son of God." (1600:3)

"Flavius believed all that Jesus taught him." When he "returned to Jerusalem, he made a great feast for Jesus and invited sixty of his friends. And many of these guests also became believers in the message of the coming Kingdom." (1600:5 - 1601)

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FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings to all readers both near and far. This editor would like to welcome you to what I hope will be a meeting place for us all.

The URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut has a unique problem compared with other societies around the country, and that is the problem of geographic distance. Although some members enjoy regular study together, many more only see each other at USCC meetings. That's only five times a year! Some have no other contact with study groups or individual readers. It seems at times that we are a society of strangers, albeit very friendly ones, who want and need to know each other better. My hope is that this newsletter will provide members with another place to meet, to discuss our plans, dreams, and ideas with each other.

But providing another place for members to meet just isn't enough. We all need to keep in touch with URANTIA BOOK readers across the northeast as well as across the country. We need another place to meet with other societies and individuals, and with the Foundation and the Brotherhood. The more we learn about and understand each other the more we can contribute to the cohesiveness of the URANTIA movement as a whole.

The USCC Newsletter format will feature regular articles on the Foundation, the Brotherhood, and other societies as well as on USCC activities. "From Our Readers" will provide a place for any individual to communicate his or her ideas, concerns, and discoveries with others. The Newsletter will regularly feature the activities of the USCC Youth Group and we hope other children and teens will share their ideas with us. There will also be a map insert showing study groups in the northeast with a list of contact people and their phone numbers on the back. And, hopefully, our inspirational pieces will stimulate our minds and uplift our souls.

It is my hope that with the support of this dedicated staff and our readers, the USCC Newsletter, in some small way, can shorten the distances between us.

Until we meet again . . .

ANNUAL MEETING—May 18, 1985

- * New members inducted in the 1984-85 season: Dean Thackwray, Dolly and Neil Roberts, Ruth Spaulding, George Lallas, Melinda Cox, Gary Falk, Cathy Winter, and Al Aldo.
- * Transfer from inactive status: Nick Scalzo.
- * We accepted unhappily the resignation of Dolly and Neil Roberts.
- * The new slate of officers was accepted for 1985 to 1987. They are: Avi Dogim, President; Helena Sprague, Vice President; Lila Dogim, Secretary; and Cathy Winter, Treasurer.
- * Helena Sprague's appointment as a Trustee for URANTIA Foundation was announced.
- * The Society accepted "nominal sponsorship" of the project to publish David Zebedee and Ruth written by Helena Sprague. Because this book is a derivative work based on the teachings in The URANTIA BOOK, publication of the book needed approval from the URANTIA Foundation.

USCC Newsletter

Box 88, Farmington, CT, 06034

Editor

Lynn K. Sherman

Associate Editor

Terry Montgomery

Writers

Marta Elders
Catherine Winter
Sarada Winter
Betty Zehr

Typesetting

Alison Gardner

Layout/Paste-up

Dale Anne Lugin

Contributions to the Newsletter for the November issue must be received by September 1, 1986.

URANTIA BROTHERHOOD UPDATE

URANTIA Brotherhood has approximately 1000 members. It is governed by a General Council of 36 elected members, and out of these 36 members an Executive Committee of 14 members is elected. The Executive Committee consists of the chairpersons of the standing committees and the officers of the Brotherhood. The General Council usually meets once a year and the Executive Committee meets four or five times a year. At the most recent Executive Committee meeting, January 1986, several items were discussed. The names of the chairpersons are included below. If you would like to contact them you may do so through the Chicago office; URANTIA Brotherhood, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois, 60614.

Steve Dreier, Chairperson of the Charter Committee, reported that his committee is revising a pamphlet on membership and the meaning thereof. He also noted that there is a group of students in Australia who have indicated an interest in becoming a society.

Lynn Kulicke, Chairperson of the Education Committee, spoke of the upcoming intensive workshop. The week-long study will be held near Chicago in June and will focus on the second part of the book, *The Local Universe*. Additional information may be obtained by contacting Chicago.

Harry McMullan, Chairperson of the Domestic Extension Committee, reported on the Book Placement Project noting that a sizable donation of books from the URANTIA Foundation had facilitated the effort.

Berkeley Elliott, Chairperson of the International Fellowship Committee, enthusiastically informed the Executive Committee that a French conference has been organized and will take place in August near Paris. Again, additional information may be obtained from Berkeley and/or through Chicago.

Marilynn Kulicke, Chairperson of the Special Projects Committee, stated that work has begun on the 1987 General Conference. This conference, beginning August 2, 1987, will be held at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. In addition, the Special Projects Committee is developing a Study Aids Resource Catalog.

Peter Laurence, Chairperson of the Fraternal Relations Committee, is focusing on ways to foster inter-group understanding with other religious organizations.

NEWS OF URANTIA FOUNDATION

Through the years, URANTIA Foundation has developed procedures for dealing with the legal and financial aspects of its mandate as defined in the Declaration of Trust. Attorneys and investment counsel advise and manage as the Trustees require. Copyright and trademark oversight abroad is complicated and sometimes expensive, and is conducted through representatives in the country involved.

Martin Myers, President of URANTIA Foundation, has expressed the view that the time has come for wider availability of collateral materials—study aids, derivative works, reference guides, visuals, and multi-media and computer programs. (The Foundation welcomes reactions to the tentative list of criteria for these, published in the recent *URANTIAN* . . . News from URANTIA Foundation.)

The challenge will be to widen readers' opportunities by making such materials available while protecting the teachings from distortion and misuse. Currently the Trustees are studying the possibilities of machine readable resources and multi-media productions which will not jeopardize the copyright. Under present law, the copyright expires in the year 2030. (It is an interesting coincidence that this will be exactly 2000 years since the date of Michael's departure. Ed.)

Negotiations of the contract for the Spanish translation are about to be concluded with Euramerica, Inc., of New York. The Foundation hopes that the Spanish edition will be available sometime in 1988. This project is fully funded, thanks to a successful drive conducted by URANTIA Brotherhood.

The Foundation owns the Chicago building, which was constructed in 1904. The upper two floors are rented apartments, except for the large front room on the second floor which is furnished and used as a meeting room. The offices of URANTIA Brotherhood and URANTIA Foundation share the first floor. The Foundation has recently refurbished the basement, now referred to as the "lower level." Both organizations look forward to more flexibility and efficient and comfortable operation with the much needed additional space, relocation of personnel and office machines, updated phone system, and air conditioning.

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Youth Activities Committee Marty Greenhut, Chairperson

For personal reasons, Pat Moriarty has resigned as chairperson of this committee. Marty has been appointed the new chairperson, and his first order of business was to address the issue of our older children who need (and desire) more than a "baby-sitting service" during the Society meetings. At the January 11 meeting, the Youth Activities Committee held their own meeting (with the children) to discuss this very issue. Questions raised included: How can more children be attracted to the meetings? And, what kinds of things should take place for children at meetings?

Marty summarized the discussion. "Matthew Sherman, who is just four years old, said it was very hard to get kids to come to URANTIA Book meetings because they are interested in other things. Isaac Greenhut was looking forward to outdoor activities. Sarada Winter suggested ongoing projects continued from one meeting to the next. Sarada also wanted a study group for the older kids. Nick Scalzo volunteered to conduct study groups for meetings of USCC youth. I (Marty) was interested in putting on plays and giving concerts. Ross Massey enjoyed the afternoon of fellowship and reminded us that just as important as what you do is how you do it."

Decisions and actions: Sarada Winter is Youth Activities Reporter for the USCC Newsletter. Children will be encouraged to bring things to meetings to share. Marty will "make the first priority to nurture fraternal relations which will strengthen brotherhood and bring greater joy."

The crowning touch on January 11: Nick, Sarada, and Isaac had a study group, later including Cathy and Joel Winter.



USCC AND STUDY GROUPS IN CANADA AND NORTHEAST U.S. TO PLAY KEY ROLE IN 1987 GENERAL CONFERENCE

Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, has been designated the site for the General Conference scheduled for August 2 - 7, 1987. General conferences are held every three years and this is the first time one will take place on the east coast of the U.S. More than 800 people are expected to attend from all over the world.

Alison Gardner, recent past president of USCC, has been appointed as Chairperson of the Site Coordination Committee and, with Jacques Tetrault of Quebec as Co-chair, will work to assemble and manage the army of volunteers needed to provide effective logistical support before, during, and immediately after the conference.

In addition, USCC is dispatching a representative to a large Advisory Group which will offer the input of Society members and non-members to the conference planning group which includes the Program Committee and the Special Program Committee along with the Site Coordination Committee. If you have any ideas you want to pass on, contact the Society before June 15.

Volunteers for site coordination are now being recruited. If you can offer two hours or 20 hours between now and August of '87, please contact Alison directly or in care of the Society.

MASSACHUSETTS HOMEWORK GROUP ANNOUNCES 1986 SCHEDULE

Scheduled meetings for the remainder of this year are June 8 (in North Harwich), July 20 (in Sherborn), September 7 (North Harwich), October 19 (Sherborn), and November 30 (North Harwich). Subjects span from the "Reserve Corps of Destiny" to "Auto-Revelation." The first meeting in 1987 will be in Sherborn on January 11; the subject for that day is "Anatomy of the URANTIA Movement."

Visitors are always welcome. For more information contact Sandy Rogers or Jack Schmedes in North Harwich (617-432-4999) or Alison Gardner or Dan Massey in Sherborn (617-653-8850).



The individual readers of The URANTIA Book on this list would enjoy hearing from others either to be a part their study group or to get one going. The map will be revised for each issue of the USCC Newsletter. If you are part of a study group or a solitary reader wanting to make contact with others in your area, send us your name and phone number. Send all additions or corrections to the Editor.

CANADA

Montreal area
Jacques Tetrault
(514) 471 3783

MAINE

Boothbay
Suzanne Colburn
(207) 633 3631

Freedom
Robert (Bo) Atkinson
Box 2077
Freedom, ME 04941

Oakland
Terry Gilbert
(207) 465 2897

Saco
Mary Ann Amrich
(207) 282 6907

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Laconia
Tad Jordan
(603) 524 7246

Nashua
Lee Gidge
(603) 888 2355

S. Acworth
Randa/David Tenney
(603) 835-6466

VERMONT

Barre
Norma Perreault
(802) 476 3451

Bradford
Zelma/Joseph Hadley
(802) 224 9643

Putney
Joan/Rick Neumann
(802) 387 5773

MASSACHUSETTS

Andover
Greg/Sue Welch
(617) 470 2836

Ashfield
Lynn/Steve Sherman
(413) 628 3882

Great Barrington
Gloria/Marty Greenhut
181 State Road
Great Barrington
MA 01230

Newbury
Joan Hogg/Ra Baker
(617) 462 9737

N. Harwich
Sandy Rogers/
Jack Schmedes
(617) 432 4999

Sherborn
Alison Gardner/
Dan Massey
(617) 653 8850

Shrewsbury
Beth/Richard Bedrosian
(617) 842 3217

Somerville
Sara/Eric Johnson
(617) 776 9660

Worcester
Vin Meyers
(617) 853 9115

Pam/George Lallas
(617) 755 0002

CONNECTICUT

Darien
Marta/Dave Elders
(203) 655 1059

Farmington
Helena/Sid Sprague
(203) 677 8392

Hampton
George/Ellen Park
(203) 455 0269

Seymour
Joseph Guardiani
(203) 888 9643

Watertown
Charles Olivea
(203) 274 8531

Cathy/Joel Winter
(203) 274 4354

NEW YORK

Armonk
Eileen/Peter Laurence
(914) 273 8918

Brooklyn
Lila/Avi Dogim
(718) 251 9483

East Hampton
Jeanne Suhr
(516) 324 5233

Jamaica Estates
Richard Brinkman
(718) 291 1122

Levittown
Betty Towner
(516) 735 6489

Manhattan
Robin Jorgensen
(212) 925 2407

NEW YORK (cont'd)

New Rochelle
Patrick Devine
(914) 633 0991

Schenectady
Alice Houghtaling
(518) 374 9417

Selden
Toby/John Speed
(516) 736 4547

Waverly
Betty/Ralph Zehr
(607) 565 4838

NEW JERSEY

Fort Lee
Bobbi/Steve Dreier
(201) 836 0084

PENNSYLVANIA

Havertown
John VanOrsdell
(215) 446 0357

Philadelphia
Mary/David Adams
(215) 843 8062

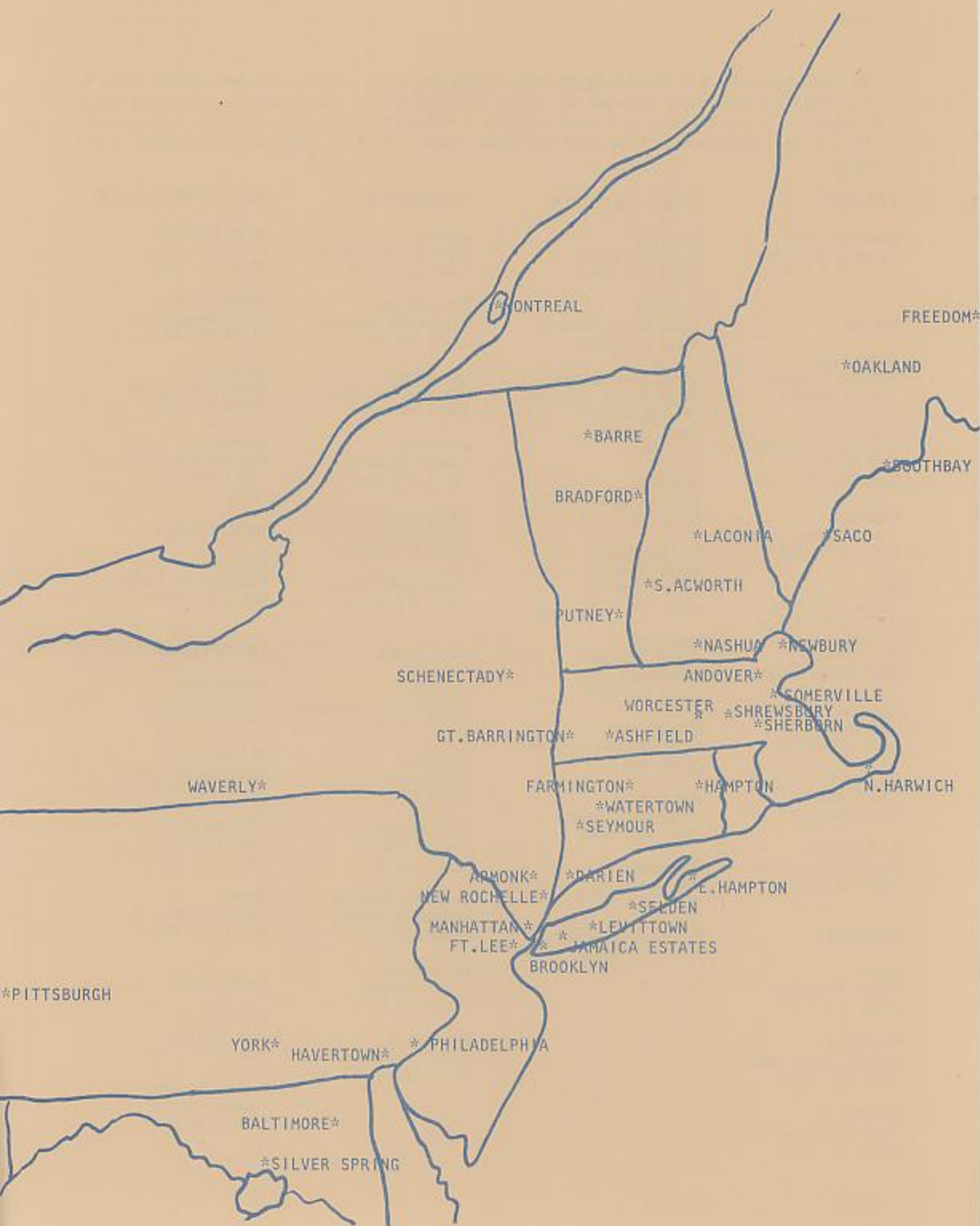
Pittsburgh
Ross Johnson
(412) 322 9536

York
Ronald Besser
(717) 741 3702

MARYLAND

Baltimore
Jim Sullivan
(301) 821 8344

Silver Spring
Earlene Green
(301) 588 3763



USCC STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

Program Committee

George Park, Chairperson

In September George reported that for the last two years, "we have studied the reality of personality: its nature; some of its constituent parts; some of its inherent attributes; its manifestations in the life of Jesus. Our approach has been theoretical." Study since then has extended into self-conscious realization of personality—free will.

Membership Committee

Eileen Laurence, Chairperson

"Ralph and Betty Zehr were welcomed into our Society in an induction ceremony on September 21, 1985. The approval of their membership application was significant not only for the quality of the their potential participation, but because they are the first members installed who live outside the 100-mile radius of Farmington, Connecticut. We are deeply appreciative of the clear commitment they have made to attend meetings regularly.

"The Membership Committee has been charged by the Governing Committee to send a friendly note to our inactive members bringing them up to date on the Society's news and requesting communication from them. We want to keep in touch with all our members, both active and inactive.

"Presently we have only two categories of membership: active (attending at least one meeting a year, paying dues in full, and receiving all mailings); and, inactive (not attending meetings, not needing to pay dues, may be contributing, continuing to receive mailings on a request basis). These categories do not cover our active members' children under 18 who regularly attend meetings and participate in programs specially designed for them. Neither do these categories represent those inactive members who are undoubtedly continuing to grow toward our Father spiritually, but who are doing so independently.

"Our committee will be addressing the concerns of both active and inactive members in the coming year." If you have any ideas or comments, please send them to Eileen Laurence, 512 Bedford Road, Armonk, New York, 10504.

Newsletter Committee

Lynn Sherman, Chairperson

The USCC Newsletter will be published twice a year and mailed to those people who have indicated their wish to receive it. In addition to the five Society members and the two non-members on the committee, Sarada Winter will serve as the Youth Activities Reporter. The Newsletter will contain, among other things, committee updates, news of other societies and study groups, and "inspirational" contributions from readers.

Social Committee

Steve Dreier, Chairperson

Having received guidelines for the use of the Glen House (the current site of our meetings), Steve plans to form new teams of helpers to clean up after our meetings. At last report, there was \$40 available for social activities. Steve noted that the summer socials have been poorly attended recently and that perhaps we should consider holding them at a different time of the year.

Finance Committee

Dan Massey, Chairperson

According to Dan, we are "marginally okay" financially. A request has been made to the membership for more contributions to help sponsor the Society's activities.

Resource Committee

Joel Winter, Chairperson

For personal reasons, Dean Thackwray has resigned as chairperson of this committee. Joel has been appointed as the new chairperson. There is a growing collection of study aids and reference materials which will be organized and made available at Society meetings. The most exciting news is that Vin Meyers, a Resource Committee member, is travelling all over the country and in Canada placing copies of The URANTIA Book in libraries. In just two weeks at the beginning of this year, he placed 100 books in eastern Massachusetts libraries. A computer file is being built cataloging all of the library placements.



FIRST URANTIA Continued from page 1

requested to date.

The highlight of their year centers around August 21, with communion on Jesus' birthday. It is a well-attended, very special occasion including a lovely dinner. It is even more special because they reserve this special date, the only time of the year, to initiate new members into the Society. It has also become a time for out-of-town guests and former members who have moved away to join in the fellowship.

First URANTIA Society of Oklahoma became the fourth society in 1957 with 23 members. Today they have 100 active members. They have a number of study groups with three in Oklahoma City. The groups offer a wide choice of study from one group wanting to learn more about God, another group constantly studying The URANTIA Book cover to cover, to a group making topical studies.

They welcome and enjoy visitors, for although they say they have no oceans or mountains, they insist that they have lots of love to share.

TAKE IN Continued from page 1

It was at the home of Flavius that Nicodemus secretly met with Jesus. His belief, weak at first, blossomed into a whole-hearted courageous faith and when most of the disciples had fled in fear from the scene of Jesus' suffering and death, Nicodemus with Joseph of Arimathea claimed the body and provided for a proper burial.

"Service-purposeful service, not slavery---is productive of the highest satisfaction and is expressive of the divinest dignity . . . Nothing can stand between you and opportunity for increased service except your own untrustworthiness . . ." (316:4 + 3)

"When the spiritual tests of greatness are applied, the moral elements are not disregarded, but the quality of unselfishness revealed in disinterested labor for the welfare of one's earthly fellows, particularly worthy beings in need and in distress, that is the real measure of planetary greatness." (317:1) Greatness and goodness are indissolubly united in God. Jesus said, "He who would be greatest among you let him be the server of all." (316:5)

BROTHERHOOD Continued from page 3

Duane Faw, Chairperson of the Judicial Committee, reported on the progress of proposed constitutional amendments.

Dan Massey, Chairperson of the Publications Committee, reported on the upcoming BULLETIN. This is mailed to everyone on the Brotherhood's mailing list. If you do not presently receive this publication and would like to, write the Chicago office and ask to be put on the mailing list.

John Hay, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, stated that his committee will soon be reevaluating fundraising programs in an attempt to develop new ways to consistently meet the financial needs of a growing organization.

It was also brought to the attention of the Executive Committee, by its president Dave Elders, that a weekend to address the future planning for the organization was scheduled for the entire General Council. In addition, the Executive Committee Letter, presently available to societies, councilors, and committee members, will be made available to all Brotherhood members either directly or through their societies. Hopefully this will improve communication and create new possibilities through increased awareness and understanding.

CALLING ALL CHILDREN!

We'd like to encourage all children of readers of The URANTIA Book to come to the next USCC meeting at the Glen House in Farmington, Connecticut. At the March 1 meeting a USCC Youth Group was started. Some of our ideas include:

1. Studying The URANTIA Book together.
2. Sharing our favorite things to do.
3. Performing skits and plays.
4. Going on outings, hikes, etc.
5. Playing and singing music together.
6. Reading, writing, and telling stories from The URANTIA Book.

We look forward to seeing all of our friends. If you have any questions on the Youth Group, please call or write to Sarada Winter, 1450 Bunker Hill Road, Watertown, Connecticut, 06795, (203) 274-4354.



December 27, 1985

NOVEMBER REFLECTIONS

Where tendrils twine
must we humbly bend to convey
our revelation
without fossilization (555a, 1029b)
of the vine (1945)
and without desire
for preference.
Materialistic trivia clouds
the enlightened path.
Multiplexing our trellis
(networking our conferences)
might aid us in the sorely
perplexing challenge of serving (316b)
one another (all branches training,
not shading, other branches) (1945c)

How can we make our conferences
more inviting, more interesting,
more popular, more inspiring?
Does our present format help anyone
to know us by our fruits? (1572)
Could we perhaps feature a more selective
focus on
the pre-eminence
of the individual? (1863b, 1585c)
Could Urantia Society maintain
a listing of conferees who have
volunteered their personalized abstracts
(realities of personal experience
such as study queries,
occupational quests)? (52b)
Potential attendees could correspond
in preparation and stimulation
confident
in the predictable worthiness
of difficult travelling.

More cosmic discrimination (192ab)
would toster the greatest good
to the greatest number. (1488b)
Hereby even newcomers
(strangers) (1431a) could more readily
perceive
add perfume to
the morally fragrant contagion. (193d)
Yes, I heard it
through the grapevine, and I love all of you!

Bo Atkinson
RR 1, Box 2079
Freedom, Maine 04941



**USCC
NEWSLETTER**

URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut
P.O. Box 88
Farmington, CT 06034

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 28
Farmington, CT
06034

Boulder School
1622 18th St.
Boulder, CO 80502