



REFLECTIONS BEFLECTIONS?



NORTHWEST REGIONAL NEWS from EVERGREEN URANTIA SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON -- SPRING 1988

WHAT IS A SOCIETY? WHY WOULD STUDY GROUP MEMBERS DECIDE TO EMBARK UPON SUCH A CAREER?

Three new societies have received charters thus far in 1988, and there are more groups working toward this achievement in the near future. Finland is expected to be chartered next year, becoming the first society outside the U.S., thus inaugurating true international status for URANTIA Brotherhood. What a great day that will be!

Societies are the workers who make up the social fellowship of URANTIA Brotherhood. Together they share the responsibility of dissemination of the teachings of The URANTIA Book. They do this in many ways, each one making use of the talents of their members and the opportunities found in their area for outreach. This means promoting study group programs and communicating with readers and leaders in their area. Also keeping in touch with URANTIA Brotherhood as well as other societies. It means putting on events which bring students, families and friends together—fellowship picnics and celebrations, mini-conferences and leadership training—and cooperating with other groups in order to hold regional and international conferences.

It means contacting libraries and book stores in order to place The URANTIA Book where searchers can find it to read and to buy. It means keeping records and making reports of such activities. Each society is responsible for maintaining the standards set up in the Brotherhood Constitution and By Laws and upholding the copyright and symbols as required by URANTIA Foundation.

Each society has a vote and a voice in the Triennial Delegate Assembly which meets every three years to elect Council Members and propose actions to be taken by the General Council which meets every year. There are 36 Council Members who serve 9-year terms. One third of these are re-elected or replaced at each Triennial. Officers are elected from this membership at the Council Meeting following each Triennial. These officers and the elected chairpersons for each of the Departmental Committees comprise the Executive Committee which is empowered to carry out the programs set up by the Council, under the guidance of the Brotherhood Constitution and By Laws. They serve without pay, although they may be recompensed for services rendered, such as required travel.

For many years all workers were unpaid volunteers, but in later years it has been necessary to hire full time directors, as well as secretarial and other help, because the movement grew to a size too complicated for unprofessional volunteers. Society officers receive no pay, and most of them pay their own way to the various meetings they are required to attend. It is a work of love dedicated to serving the will of our Heavenly Father, in small ways as well as more outstanding ways.

Moreover, it is a spiritual fellowshipping with other workers of like mind and dedication—a sharing of responsibilities and opportunities which makes it possible to achieve great things not possible as an individual. Those who do the most good are not those who seek high places and praise for themselves; it is the ones who share enthusiasm and give a helping hand where needed, even before it is asked of them, who remain undaunted and faithful when confronted by problems and difficulties, these are the achievers and the ones the angels love to help!

cont.

It is truly a wonderful experience to be able to travel from one corner of the world into far places and find real friendship and brotherly/sisterly love and understanding as though distance is nothing, and differing cultures and languages are overcome through this elevating spiritual fellowship.

So why do study groups want to become society members? When they have studied and shared together for enough years to get to really know each other and have a loving relationship there comes a time for wanting to share this understanding and inspirational knowledge with like-minded students of the book, especially after they have attended a conference or two where they witnessed this great fellowship and began to have a broader outlook as they learned about wider outreach possibilities through cooperative efforts. To have this great treasury of inspiration for higher living, and not share it?

It is possible to become a society member even though your study group is not ready to take this step as a group. Inquire from your nearest society about this possibility if you are interested in enlarging your opportunities for service. If you don't know where the nearest society is, contact the Editor.

NEW SOCIETIES — COAST TO COAST. AND IN THE MIDDLE TOO

What an exciting spring, and what a grand experience to attend all three chartering ceremonies. Janice Heinberg, president of Evergreen URANTIA Society of Washington, reports on her travels.

It began on Saturday, March 5, when the new members of Pilot Light URANTIA Society of Seattle, and guests representing a number of other societies gathered in semi-formal attire at the Ballard Elks Club for a special dinner followed by the chartering ceremony and an evening of entertainment and fellowship. Tony Finstad is the new president.

On the following Saturday, March 12, the Heart of America URANTIA Society of Kansas City celebrated with a full evening of ceremony and entertainment. This was the largest of the three groups. Bob Bruyn is their new president.

Next, the URANTIA Society of Greater New York held their chartering ceremonies on Sunday, April 17, at the Morris Yacht Club in the Bronx, N.Y. This was an afternoon celebration on a perfectly beautiful sunny day (following a freezing cold night). Bart Ice is the new president there.

Each chartering celebration is different, reflecting the character of the people and the place involved. But there is a pattern of procedure generally followed: speeches about history and destiny, and about responsibility and opportunities. Congratulations and best wishes from the other societies are presented in person or by letters and telegrams. The Pledge is taken by the new Founders and Charter Members, and each must sign the new Membership Book. The Charter is formally presented. Multiple pictures are taken. Special presentations of music, poems or readings or drama are given. New members have the opportunity to meet members of long standing and catch the spirit of fellowship shared among them as they greet one another. Making new friends is one of the highlights on these very special occasions.

Although Seattle chose to memorialize this momentous event with semi-formal attire and a formal dinner, their evening was a delightfully happy and relaxed affair. Western hospitality was extended to out of state special guests.

The Heart of America program was carried out with talented country flair. They are very appropriately named.

New York shared a continuous buffet of varied refreshments. Its versatile and cosmopolitan membership is impressive, and the differences they have overcome in creating this new society are enlightening and worth studying as the Brotherhood pursues a destiny of worldwide participation. And the hospitality extended to visitors was outstanding. It was a most memorable trip.

URANTIA SOCIETIES

- 1 First URANTIA Society (1956)
- 2 URANTIA Society of Glenview (1957)
- 3 First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles (1957)
- 4 First URANTIA Society of Oklahoma (1957)
- 5 Orvonton URANTIA Society of Chicago (1961)
- 6 Fort Wayne URANTIA Society (1969)
- 7 Evergreen URANTIA Society of Washington (1970)
- 8 First URANTIA Society of Houston (1971)
- 9 First URANTIA Society of Western Springs (1974)
- 10 San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society (1976)
- 11 URANTIA Society of Central Connecticut (1979)
- 12 URANTIA Society of Dallas (1979)
- 13 Rocky Mountain URANTIA Society of Denver (1980)
- 14 URANTIA Society of San Fernando Valley (1983)
- 15 Northern Light URANTIA Society of Alaska (1985)
- 16 Pilot Light URANTIA Society of Seattle (1988)
- 17 Heart of America URANTIA Society of Kansas City (1988)
- 18 URANTIA Society of Greater New York (1988)



BOOK PLACEMENTS

A renewed drive for placing *The URANTIA Book* in libraries is being organized. We need people to visit local libraries to find out if a book has been placed there. Whether they have or not, this inquiry is valuable because it alerts librarians that the book is interesting enough to inquire about. If they have one it is important to check on how long it has been since the book was checked out. If it sits on the shelves unused for two or more years the library may decide to discard it with other books they consider surplus. So if you find one not in use, please check it out to keep it in good standing!

Let us know if your library is lacking so we can put it on our list of places where books are needed.

Books have been given to libraries without sending back a record of where they were placed. The person responsible for securing these books is Lew Clark, and he needs this information in order to make his report. You can reach him at this address: 243 S. Georgia Ave., East Wenatchee, WA 98802 or by calling (509) 884-4655.

STUDY GROUPS

We appreciate those who wrote in with corrections and additions. We also wish we'd hear from new groups. Sometimes special mailings go out to study groups, and you miss this if you are not listed. Please keep in touch. Also we would like stories telling what you are doing.

[Key - a/h/o = at home of]
[r/m/p = rotating meeting place]

Anchorage, AK	Pat & Tuckey Hayes (907) 345-2772
Fairbanks, AK	Paul Julig (907) 488-3271, or Nola Barnes (907) 488-2918
Juneau, AK	John & Jan Andrews (907) 586-1638
Mt. View- N. Anchorage, AK	Michael Rockwell (907) 349-488, or Nancy Woods (907) 376-9716
Eureka, CA F.U.S.E.	Frank & Karen Stover (707) 443-2135
American Falls, ID	(a/h/o) Randy & Nancy Moser (208) 226-7106 - alternate Mondays
Boise, ID	Call Terry Webb (208) 336-7089 - Thursday evenings
Bonnars Ferry, ID	(a/h/o) Will & Jan Venard (206) 267-3815 - weekly
Coeur d'Alene, ID	(r/m/p) Barb & Rick Giles (208) 667-3739 - 7:00 pm Wed.
Jerome, ID Magic Valley	(a/h/o) Bert & Myrna Cobb (208) 324-8339 - Every day - we encourage travelers to call for impromptu meetings
Missoula, MT	(r/m/p) Norm DuVal (406) 543-7968 - Sun. afternoon 3rd week
Missoula, MT	(a/h/o) Don Ferguson (406) 728-3488 - Every two weeks
Corvallis, OR	(r/m/p) Nancy Votrain (503) 753-7837 - 7:00 pm Every other Sun.
Grants Pass, OR	Call David Clearwaters (503) 862-2093, or David Bower (503) 474-1344 or 479-8905
Lincoln City, OR	Doug Parker (503) 994-3264 - 3rd Sun. potluck & during week
Molalla, OR	Dennis & Esther Wood (503) 651-3672 or John & Karen Turrell (503) 873-5789 - Every other Fri. night
Portland, OR	(a/h/o) Brent & Lena Stricker (503) 285-9612 - 7:30 pm Thurs.
Portland, OR	Pat & Mary Murnin (503) 777-3236
Roseburg, OR	(a/h/o) Gerald Wisdom (503) 672-6982 - 7:30 Tues.
Salem, OR	(a/h/o) Carolann Mumby (503) 390-3267 - 1:30 to 4:00 2nd Sun. Sept. to May, & 1st Sun. June to Aug.
Bothell, WA	(a/h/o) Tony & Inez Finstad (206) 485-8266 - 7:00 Thurs. or (a/h/o) Andrew Gee (206) 821-7656 - 1st Thurs. each month
Friday Harbor, WA	(a/h/o) Frank & Vicky Giannangelo (206) 378-4218 - 6:00 pm Tuesdays (potluck)

Gig Harbor, WA Jim & Stormy Matthews (206) 851-2475

Richland, WA
Columbia Circle (a/h/o) Barbara R. Miller (509) 375-0206 - Tues. weekly 9:00 am to 11:30 am

Sequim, WA Carol Murphy (206) 683-5591

North Seattle, WA Rev. Gwen Blackham

South Seattle, WA (a/h/o) Steve Crawford (206) 226-7403 - Alternating Tues.
or (a/h/o) Steve Johnson (206) 7403

South Sound Area, WA (a/h/o) Janice Heinberg (206) 824-7804 - 7:00 Sundays

Wenatchee, WA (r/m/p) Lewis & Alice Clark (509) 884-4655 - Sun. 9:00 pm

Yakima, WA James Wingenbach (509) 457-3633
or Jan Manning (509) 452-7081

Victoria, B.C. Betty Garey (604) 477-1599



THE QUESTION CORNER

You are invited to present questions you'd like to find answers to -- about The URANTIA Book, about the organizations around it, about people, etc.

We will certainly try to find answers. Or we will publish your question, asking for answers from anyone else who might have a suggestion helpful toward answers.

(from B.C.—Jerome, ID)

Question: What does that statement mean at the bottom of page LXVI (at the end of Contents) in the first and second editions of The URANTIA Book?

Answer: A Mr. Kellogg started working on an index back at the beginning times. Another volunteer worker at 533 Diversey, Anna Rawson, helped him. After he died Anna and Edith Cook, another volunteer, worked on the project for years, after starting over again in a more professional system. It became obvious that this project was much more difficult and time-consuming than anyone had realized. Edith once told us that the word "son" appears at least 50,000 times. When we met her she had already worn out one book working on the project. The statement in question, in case you have a newer edition, is: (An exhaustive index of the Urantia Book [sic] is published in a separate volume.) This statement was removed after the second printing when it became obvious that such an index might be a long time away. Anna and Edith were unable to finish this work but recently the Trustees announced that they have decided this is a valuable project and work has begun to finish the index. A professional indexer will be producing the final product, so we can look forward to having this valuable reference aid some time in the future. Possibly this questioned statement will return to the bottom of the page where the Contents ends.

STUDY GROUP QUESTION: What to do if a "kook" comes to the meeting? (R.G.—Missoula, MT)

Evergreen study group people have always welcomed anyone coming to our group as a reader of The URANTIA Book. As individuals most of us have taken in a variety of persons who needed shelter or other kinds of help. (We've also included dogs, cats and horses.)

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Most of them have been grateful, but some were a real challenge and it was a relief when they left. Nevertheless these were learning experiences which broadened our outlook and understanding when we studied the possible reasons we'd been given these unusual "opportunities". Since we have always been busy ordinary working people, hospitality, when asked for, has to be more or less limited and it pays to make this clear at the beginning.

The URANTIA Book clearly states that service to our fellow brothers and sisters is the way to spiritual growth. Viewed in this light we can accept the challenge of visits by kooks, remembering that we are only instruments through which God may be reaching out to someone, and His help is available to us when we ask for it in the spirit of love and faith. This does not mean we should abandon good judgment.

We hope to avoid trouble for the study groups we list, by only giving out phone numbers, so you will be contacted this way first and can set up a friendly personal meeting over a cup of coffee, or whatever, somewhere other than your home or meeting place. This screening process isn't foolproof but it does give a chance for a two-way evaluation and most likely this will be an enjoyable occasion.

Our study group sessions usually follow a prearranged program, but we are able to make changes and adjustments for drop-in guests or the special interests of new readers. There are ways to keep meetings running smoothly. Having a routine that is usually followed which makes serious study a regular part, followed by a social time for light refreshments and discussion has worked well for us. The leader of the session is expected to direct attention back to the lesson if the questions or discussion begin to drift away unproductively from the subject. [He might say, "OK, back on the farm," or, "Can we put this on hold until later?" for example.] Occasionally a more determined method is needed to deter someone who monopolizes too much talk time: such as making a rule that everyone must have a chance to talk before anyone may talk again.

Keeping a positive non-combative friendly attitude is a good approach. Most "kooks" are either people who have not read much of the book (perhaps only those parts which seem to them to fit into previous beliefs), or they are readers who have not participated in group study. In either case, if you can keep them inspired to attend meetings long enough to get a better understanding of the book as a whole, they usually become good members of the group. We try to refrain from arguments. We do not "set people straight" when they express some belief we know to be contrary to the concepts in The URANTIA Book. We have found that studying what the book has to say promotes corrections in an acceptable and understandable way over a period of time.

And this is the reason group study is so important: it provides opportunity for the exchange of ideas, which expands the point of view and deepens understanding. And the fellowship which evolves promotes spiritual growth and commitment.

One other problem—persons whose main purpose is seemingly to proselyte members of the study group to join some other personal cause—usually solves itself through becoming discouraged and leaving to look elsewhere for more receptive audience.

NW REFLECTIONS - Northwest Regional Newsletter

Sponsored by EVERGREEN URANTIS SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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NW REFLECTIONS is published three or four times each year, using a very limited budget. We truly appreciate any and all donations received toward this expense, which has been increased by postage rate increases this year.

COMING EVENTS

- June 24 SOCIETY CONCLAVE at 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL. (for representatives of societies)
- June 25 - 26 TRIENNIAL DELEGATE ASSEMBLY at 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, IL. (for Delegates and Alternates of societies)
- June 25 STAR GAZING PARTY -- free campout and turkey barbeque at the home of Bert and Myrna Cobb, near Jerone, ID. For map and details contact The Mountain Messenger, 286 S - 100 W, Jerome, ID 83338
- July 23 - 25 OREGON URANTIA BOOK FAMILY REUNION SPONSORED BY THE Oregononters will be held at Silver Falls Conference Center.
Theme: Spiritual Teamwork. Lodging options vary from full service rooms including meals @ \$38 per person per day, to camping sites @ \$8 per night.
Contact Nancy Votrain -- P.O. Box 2046, Corvallis, OR 97339
- August 20 - 21 3rd ANNUAL MICHAEL CELEBRATION/BEACH POTLUCK & Mini-conference Camporama at Friday Harbor in the San Juan Islands.
Space for camping out will be provided, so bring food and camping gear including tent, sleeping bags, flash lights, and camp stove (no open fires allowed). RV Space available also.
[Ferry passage may be a problem so plan to arrive early at the ferry terminal because these crossings are very popular.]
Sponsored by San Juan Study Group and Pilot Light URANTIA Society.
Registration desired by July 1 (forms available) or contact Frank Giannangelo, 5500 Limestone Pt., Friday Harbor, WA 98250.
- Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 2nd ANNUAL REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE - hosted by P.L.U.S.S. this time, at Seabeck again. Area representation is needed so please keep this date in mind and plan to participate. Main item of concern is the 1989 Regional Conference.
- October 10 - 16 SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL MEETING OF URANTIA BOOK READERS in Australia, near Sydney. Registration was requested by Jan 15. Cost is \$250 (Australian) per head. This covers all meals and room accomodations from 10:00 am Oct. 10 to 3:00 pm on the 14th.
Contact Kathleen & Trevor Swadling - 7 Walsh St., Narrabreen, N.S.W. 2102 Australia. Phone (02) 9137893.
or Berkeley Elliott, 145 SW 97th St., Oklahoma, OK 73139 (405) 794-2978.
- 1989 August REGIONAL CONFERENCE -- Pilot Light URANTIA Society has been making plans to host a Northwest Regional Conference in August 1989.

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EACH DAY IS A GIFT FROM GOD.
HE OFFERS EACH ONE AS
AN OPPORTUNITY, AN ADVENTURE,
A BEGINNING...

HE REJOICES
EACH TIME ONE IS USED
TO SHARE HIS LOVE.

(Author unknown)

These definitions were taken from your 1987 Study Group Directory of URANTIA Brotherhood:

URANTIA Brotherhood was founded in 1955 as an organization of believers in *The URANTIA Book*. It is not a church but rather a social fellowship with a religious purpose, the spiritual regeneration of all mankind.

The organizational building blocks of URANTIA Brotherhood are URANTIA Societies which emerge from stable and mature study groups. These societies, when formally chartered by the Brotherhood, elect delegates to the Triennial Delegate Assembly, which in turn elects the 36 members of the General Council, the governing body of URANTIA Brotherhood. From its own ranks, the Council elects the officers and chairmen of departmental committees who manage the day-to-day affairs of the Brotherhood.

URANTIA Foundation was established in 1950 with the principle object of disseminating the teachings of *The URANTIA Book*, and the concordant objects of publishing *The URANTIA Book*, maintaining its copyright, and translating and publishing *The URANTIA Book* into other languages. URANTIA Foundation is the exclusive owner of the registered marks URANTIA, URANTIAN, and the concentric-circle symbol. These identifying marks are licensed by the Foundation for specific uses by the Brotherhood and by URANTIA Societies, and may not be used by other groups or individuals.

Consisting of a five-member Board of Trustees, URANTIA Foundation is not a membership organization like URANTIA Brotherhood. Vacancies occurring on the board are filled by appointment by the remaining Trustees, and Trustees may serve for the rest of their lives.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor are always welcome and appreciated. We thank all of you who write giving information, corrections, announcements, comments or questions. We need such communications because NW REFLECTIONS is a two-way process. We must receive in order to send out!

Address: NW REFLECTIONS, c/o A. Clark, Editor
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One subject brought up by several recent letters is in regard to How Do, and How Can parents share the teachings and philosophy of The URANTIA Book with their children? This need is divided into two parts: 1) in the home, and 2) in groups.

To quote from one letter: "The one important need that you didn't mention filling is raising and educating children as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven! Parenting is the most important and most overlooked (or taken for granted) job on this planet."

We certainly agree that this is a most urgent need in today's world. It is a subject not completely ignored: school systems have organized sessions for parents trying to cope with problems, and churches have programs geared toward improved parenting. One such leader is Dr. James C. Dobson, whose recent book, Parenting Isn't for Cowards, has many practical suggestions. Another recent book, Being the Best, by Denis Waitley, is full of advice on developing attitudes which could help parents to help their children. Its theme is "Success is fickle and fleeting, but living successfully by being the best you can be is always possible."

This fits in very well with the teachings of The URANTIA Book. Much valuable information on family living and child development is to be found in the story of Adam and Eve, and that of Jesus, as a child, and then as a brother/father to his younger siblings. Hints on how to achieve a responsible, significant and useful life are to be found in many places in the book. Many students have worked at developing useful and practical programs for improved family life and child rearing. One of the most outstanding of these is Julia Fenderson, now retired from an active position of taking ideas to study groups, but her teaching materials are available.

One of the important areas that has to be worked out for Urantia conferences is the carefully organized children's program. Good ones include parent participation and activities that are meaningful to children, and which fit into the program as a whole. We want our children to grow up with an enthusiastic attitude toward Urantia activities which will lead them into serious study when they are of an age where this is possible. They are our hope for a better future!

One of the good things promised for this summer is a Resource Guide for Secondary Works. Things which have been printed, filmed or recorded by various students or groups will be included, with a brief summary, author, price and place where it can be acquired. Items specifically designed to fill some of the needs parents are asking about will be listed there. We'll tell you more when we get the information.

We invite suggestions and solutions some of you may have worked out so that we can share them with others. For example, how do you handle children during your study group meeting?



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