

# PERVADED SPACE

## MIDWEST

## BROTHERHOOD SCHOOL BEGAN STRONG EDUCATION COMMITTEE TRADITION

A URANTIA Brotherhood School, sponsored by the Education Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood, held weekly classes at 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, and conferred titles during its existence from 1956 to about 1969. The school met each Wednesday evening for two hours from September to June in the second floor meeting room of the venerable building which is the headquarters of the Brotherhood and Foundation.



Alvin L. Kulieke, dean and faculty member of the URANTIA Brotherhood School, as he lectured on the cosmology of The URANTIA Book in 1963.

(Photo Courtesy Brotherhood Publications Comm. Archives)

The school was the natural descendant of the Seventy, a group of devoted readers who studied the unpublished papers in depth beginning in 1939. When the Brotherhood was established in early 1955, the Forum, its progenitor, eventually ceased to exist, and the Seventy was replaced by the Brotherhood School.

The first officers were: William S. Sadler, president, who was chairman of the Education Committee at that time; Alvin L. Kulieke, dean; Helen C. Thurman (later Carlson), secretary and registrar; and Kenton E. Stephens, treasurer. These officers held their posts throughout the tenure of the school, but for the replacement of Dr. Sadler as president upon his death in 1969 by Edgar Stephens, and his replacement upon his death by his son, Kenton Stephens, in 1970. However, most of the activity of the school had occurred by this time, and the last graduation was in 1964.

(Continued on page 4)

In addition to efforts sponsored by URANTIA Brotherhood there is strong independent activity in the area of education. These activities include the formation of a school for URANTIA Book readers as well as a periodical to aid the exchange of ideas among students of the book who are interested in education.

Offering to provide day to day fellowship with URANTIA Book students, scholarly study of the revelation and related areas of human knowledge, as

(Continued on page 7)

## From the editors

This is the second of a three-part editorial supporting the concept that all members of the URANTIA Brotherhood should have read The URANTIA Book in its entirety as a membership requirement. The editors have decided to print a response by David Glass, Bradenton, FL, to the first of the series.

I would like to offer my opinion on the question of the requirement of an individual's having to read the entire URANTIA Book as a prerequisite to membership in a URANTIA Society or URANTIA Brotherhood. Without seeking to be arbitrarily exclusive nor unduly conservative, I would say that I am highly in favor of this requirement to membership. As I regard it, membership in a URANTIA Society or URANTIA Brotherhood represents a lifetime commitment to the teachings of The URANTIA Book, and I feel that a lifetime commitment to such a revelation presupposes not only

willingness to complete a single reading of the book, but an intention to peruse the volume many times, inasmuch as such multiple readings are virtually indispensable to any meaningful comprehension of the teachings of the book. A single reading provides little more than a skirting acquaintance with the personalities and concepts of the book. In short, I feel that a single reading of the revelation is a justifiable requirement for lifetime membership in a URANTIA Society or Brotherhood. I feel that it represents but the first mile of service to the revelation.

## PERVADED SPACE

MIDWEST

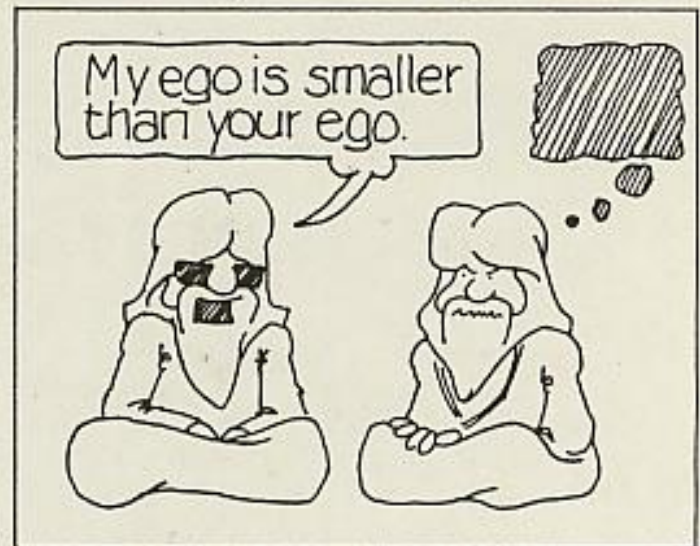
Published quarterly,  
907 E. Central Road  
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

Subscription price: \$4.00 per year

Editors: Marilyn Kulieke, Lisa Carr  
Renn, David Kulieke, David Renn

Staff: Mary Burton, Cece Forrester,  
Sally Schlundt, Glen Thorsander

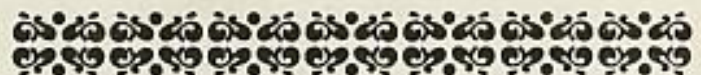
## Swamy Cool by G.Thorsander



## letters

I agree, individuals should have read The URANTIA Book before being accepted as members of URANTIA Brotherhood. Thanks and much appreciation for PERVADED SPACE.

Red Graham  
Pekin, IL



The 1982 Midwest Conference will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana on June 4-6. After Friday night registration and fellowship, the Saturday program will focus on how science and technology, literature, the arts, and prayer and worship contribute to spiritual growth. On Sunday the program will conclude with talks on the contribution of the supreme to planetary growth, signs of spiritual growth, and sharing The URANTIA Book with the world. For information, contact:

Irene Sprunger  
4109 Plaza Drive  
Fort Wayne, IN 46806

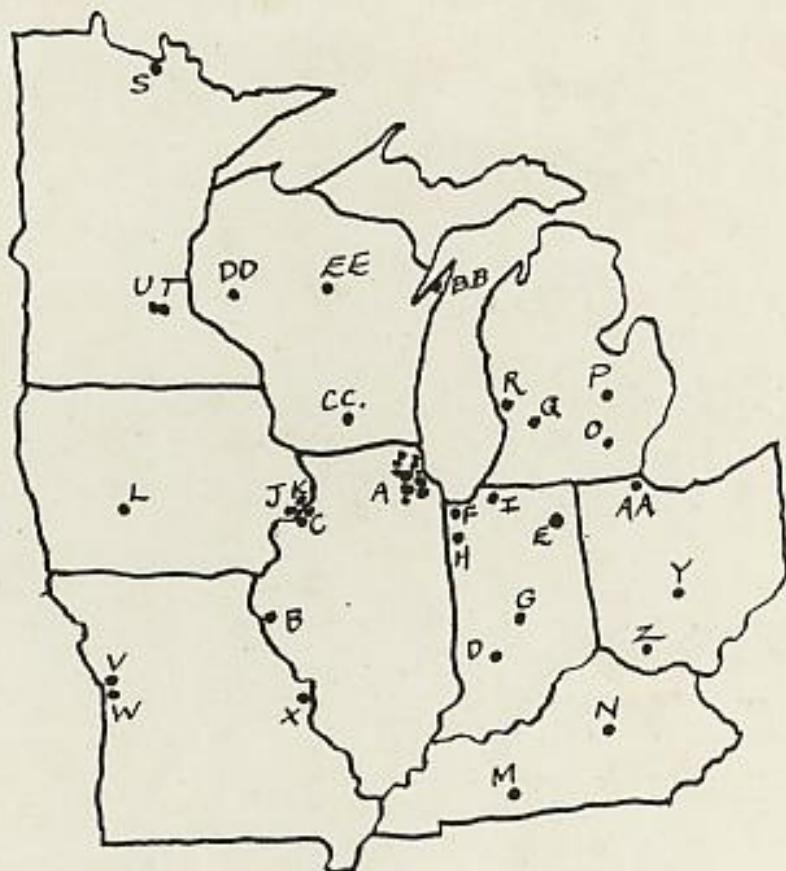
On April 16-18, the "Mid America Get-Together" of URANTIA Book readers sponsored by the Kansas City area study groups will take place at the  
(Continued on page 7)

# Midwest Study Groups and Societies



This map is based on the results of the 1980 Domestic Extension Committee questionnaire.

PERVADED SPACE is always interested in news of study groups in the Midwest and their activities.



## Illinois

- A. Chicago area  
Chicago - 2 societies  
1 study group  
Glenview - 1 society  
Lake Forest  
Lake Villa  
Mt. Prospect  
Naperville  
Wilmette  
Western Springs - 1 society
- B. Quincy
- C. Moline (2)

## Indiana

- D. Bloomington
- E. Fort Wayne - 1 society
- F. Hammond
- G. Indianapolis
- H. Lowell
- I. Mishawaka

## Iowa

- J. Clinton
- K. Muscatine
- L. Des Moines

## Kentucky

- M. Bowling Green
- N. Lexington

## Michigan

- O. Ann Arbor
- P. Flint
- Q. Grand Rapids
- R. Muskegon

## Minnesota

- S. International Falls
- T. Minneapolis
- U. Western suburbs of Minneapolis

## Missouri

- V. Kansas City, north
- W. Kansas City, south
- X. St. Louis

## Ohio

- Y. Columbus
- Z. Russellville
- AA. Toledo

## Wisconsin

- BB. Ephraim
- CC. Madison
- DD. Menomonie
- EE. Wausau

Brotherhood School--continued from page 1)

The pupils who attended the school were offered two courses during an evening, each one hour long. Many different courses were offered at various times, dealing with a variety of topics from The URANTIA Book. The blue paperback texts that many readers still have were used as textbooks. A one-hour per week course, studied for 36 weeks, constituted a "major course," while a "minor course" was taken for 18 weeks.

When a student had passed six major courses, or the equivalent, he was awarded the title of "Certified Leader," while the requirement for "Ordained Teachers" was 12 major courses. Both titles are described in the URANTIA Brotherhood Constitution within the Education Committee's mandate, which also states, "The Committee on Education shall find, prepare, and qualify teachers of The URANTIA Book." In all, 22 individuals received the designation of Ordained Teacher, including 10 persons on whom were conferred honorary degrees at the beginning of the courses. These 10 people, all long-time members of the Seventy, constituted the faculty and they were: Ruth Burton, Alvin Kulieke, Edmond Kulieke, Warren Kulieke, Anne Rawson, Marian Rowley, Leone Sadler, William S. Sadler, Jr., Kenton Stephens, and Thomas Wideroe. Twenty-three received the degree of Certified Leader, many of whom also went on to earn their stations as Ordained Teacher.

The Education Committee obviously had grandiose plans for the future of their school, as indicated by a note in a brochure on the school regarding its curriculum: "It is designed that this curriculum...with other courses--shall constitute the curriculum of the two-year course of a future seminary." While all the original plans have not gone unchanged--many individuals now feel that the Brotherhood should not confer titles, and none have been conferred since 1964--the school vigorously strove to meet its two objectives while it existed: "1. To provide a corps of competent workers who know and understand

the message of the book and the program of the Brotherhood. 2. To provide the nucleus of rigorously educated persons whose standard of attainment will set the pattern for future educational efforts."

During the years of the school, the Committee on Education also sponsored the Summer Study Sessions. Six were held between 1963 and 1972, the last at Kendall College in Evanston, IL. These were the immediate predecessors of the General Conferences. Additionally, school faculty members occasionally travelled to teach in other locations, as did Ruth Burton and Alvin Kulieke when they went to Los Angeles to teach courses. Societies were asked at one point if they would like extensions of the school, but this never occurred.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Brotherhood School no longer exists, but the more recent vintages of the Education Committee have continued to be among the most active of the nine standing Brotherhood Committees. Probably the most outstanding achievement has been the Education Workshops, which have continued the tradition of developing teachers and educating students of The URANTIA Book. This June, the fifth Education Workshop will take place at Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL. The Committee has sponsored such workshops each year since 1978, twice as part of General Conferences and twice as separate, intensive study workshops.

When asked if there were any plans for a Brotherhood School in the future, Lynne Kulieke, chairman of the Education Committee since 1976, said that plans were still being formulated. Lynne said that a major undertaking of the committee now is that, "In order to do for Education Committee what has been done for other committees, the Education Committee is recommending that certain specifics be eliminated from the Constitution regarding its function so that the Committee can establish its own standards as the situation calls for them." She added that, "The workshops are our best effort for future plans

(Continued on page 8)

## people

Each URANTIA Society can look to a few stalwart individuals as being among the most influential for its existence. The Fort Wayne (Indiana) URANTIA Society owes much of the credit to Irene Sprunger, one of 14 founders in 1969, who has since served as its treasurer, president, and as its current secretary.

Irene has been a Hoosier virtually all her life; her family moved from Ohio to a farm near Decatur, Indiana, when she was three. She was the youngest of four children (including three brothers). Irene went to Decatur High School, and she says, "took several courses in commercial typing, which I use, and shorthand, which I don't use."

She also took several religious training courses intended for teachers, and attended as well as served as secretary and teacher, at Daily Vacation Bible School. She later took classes at Princeton Seminary when her husband, Meredith, was there working on his master's degree.

Irene and Meredith (who was president of URANTIA Brotherhood from 1976 to '79) were married in 1940 after his graduation from the Seminary. The couple has two married daughters, Ruth and Grace, and two grandchildren. The Sprungers have lived in several Midwest towns, including Mulberry, IN, North Chicago, IL, and Culver, IN, while Meredith pursued his dual career as a college teacher and a pastor in the United Church of Christ. They moved to Fort Wayne in 1959, where Meredith has been a pastor in several churches--primarily the Plumtree United Church of Christ--and an educator at the Indiana Institute of Technology, where he eventually assumed the presidency.

Irene has served as a counselor at girls' summer camps, has worked at the County Agent office in Decatur, spent 14 years as secretary to the Food Service Supervisor of Fort Wayne Community Schools, and has been very active in women's activities in the church and communities in which she has lived. She lists among her interests: piano and organ playing, reading, writing letters to friends, embroidery work, working on genealogy, and enjoying nature at the Sprungers' cabin on the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. "There's never enough time in each day," she said.

The Sprungers first saw a copy of The URANTIA Book in 1955, and "had a good laugh at the ridiculous names of the authors." But by early 1956, Meredith had been given a copy, had read it, and wanted to share it with Irene. She was skeptical, saying, "I was cautious, being non-aggressive and shy." But after a couple of months of "giving the book sidelong glances," she



MEREDITH AND IRENE SPRUNGER

(Continued on page 8)

## commentaries

The Education Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood used to confer titles such as Ordained Teacher and Certified Leader to individuals who completed a certain course of study (see story on page 1). The topic for these commentaries is: Is the conferring of titles or degrees a meaningful practice worthy of continuation?

When the Brotherhood constitution was written, I was in favor of the paragraph describing the responsibilities of the Education Committee. However, that was long ago and as the years have passed, I have changed my mind. I definitely do not like the term "Ordained Teacher." It sounds too "churchy" and pretentious. Although it may come in the future, I am not in favor of an official Brotherhood school and a faculty with official titles. Somehow, having titles for people who claim to know more about the teachings than others doesn't seem right to me. Although I was given the honorary title of "Ordained Teacher" when the school first started, and although I was part of the faculty at that time, I would never think of using the title.



Marian Rowley  
Chicago, IL

In a small, centralized movement, people know one another's depth of familiarity with The URANTIA Book either personally or by reputation. This will not always be possible in the future. Titles, as expressions of rank and specialized function, are irrelevant to this purpose, but degrees may someday be useful. A degree denotes a certain level of knowledgeability in a given area, yet it allows maximum latitude for specialized studies as well as varying shades of opinion and schools of thought.



Cece Forrester  
Chicago, IL

The constitution of the URANTIA Brotherhood, as amended in August, 1979, allows for the establishment of standards of teachers of The

URANTIA Book and the conferring of titles on those who meet the standards. Evidently, it was a shortlived practice, and the Education Committee has chosen not to continue conferring the titles of certified and/or ordained teacher. This points out the mixed feelings usually associated with certification and/or ordination.

Experience in running the gauntlet in my field of endeavor leads me to the conclusion that it is a rather ennobling process. I think that those who would pursue the path of disseminating the teachings of The URANTIA Book in a dedicated and heartfelt manner would likewise find it uplifting.

My only caution to those who would be in the position of conferring the titles is that they exercise great care not to make the standards too stringent. This tends to traumatize the potential teacher and dogmatize the teachings, a result our beloved blue book importunes we avoid.



David Albee  
Griffith, IN

## books

### Nausea by Jean-Paul Sartre

Through the faithful practice of the presence of God, many individuals have found themselves, at certain moments, seized by the joy of existence. . . filled with exultant gratitude for just being alive. In Nausea, we encounter a man seized by a quite opposite reaction to the totality of his life-experience. From its success in throwing into sharp relief this antithesis of positive religious experience, this book is recommended.

Written in diary form, Sartre's novel records a man's unshakable conclusion that, at the ground of existence is Nothingness; that all living beings are superfluous; and that "really there is nothing, nothing, absolutely no reason for existence."

(Continued on page 7)

'Books--continued from page 6)

Granted, Existentialism, as represented in Sartre, is no longer a compelling ideology for most truth-seekers. However, at the time the URANTIA Papers were being written, the Existentialist movement was a significant force. It most definitely was not ignored by the authors. After reading Nausea, readers will recall with greater resonance the numerous passages in the Book which directly respond to Sartre's sad world view. . . passages of exhilarating assurances and saving truths.

Matthew Block  
Chicago, IL



(Conferences -- continued from page 2)

Ramada Inn Central in Kansas City, MO. The theme of the conference is "Journey to Paradise." Large and small group presentations will deal with such topics as the journey to Paradise, circumstance and coincidence in the ascension career, morontial and spiritual growth, trends and the challenge facing us. For information contact:

Ila Hall  
8700 E. 110th Street  
Kansas City, MO 64134

(Other schools--continued from page 1)

well as opportunities for brotherly service. The Boulder School commenced the inaugural semester of its 2-1/2 year curriculum for readers of The URANTIA Book.

Located in Boulder, Colorado, the school is tuition free for full time students. For more information contact The Boulder School for Students of The URANTIA Book, 1622 18th St., Boulder, CO 80302.

A new publication for URANTIA Book readers has recently been offered. EDUCATION UPLIFT offers a forum for sharing ideas and activities related to education. The publication was an outgrowth of discussion among readers interested in forming a school for children based on the URANTIA teachings. Contact EDUCATION UPLIFT, 3394 Woodside Lane, San Jose, CA 95121.

You are invited to subscribe to PERVADED SPACE. For a one-year subscription, send \$4.00, together with your name and address, to:

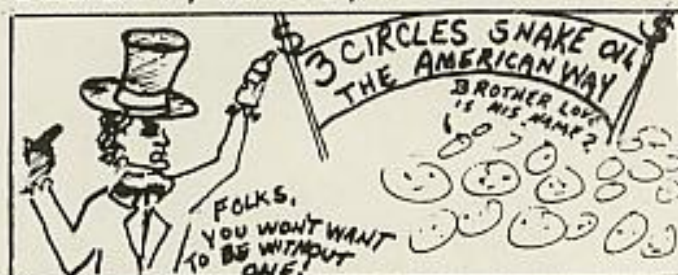
(Note: If you are now a subscriber, you will be notified when your subscription expires.)

Here are some materials currently available from other readers:

ARDENT ASCENT, a soon to be published anthology of poetry by URANTIA Book readers, can be obtained by sending \$3.50 to Byron D. Belitsos, Armstrong College, 2222 Harold Way, Berkeley, CA 94704. Publication is anticipated in the summer of 1982. Poets who would like to send six or eight pages of their best poetry are invited to donate \$2 per page to cover costs.

To obtain FUSLA's 25th Anniversary Special Edition of The AGONDONTER (to be released this fall), send \$10 to The Agondonter, 711 Superba Ave., Venice, CA 90291.

A "606" Crossword Puzzle, complete with Foundation copyright approval, may be acquired by the first 50 people who write and request one from: Stephen S. Sawyer, R.R. 3 box 297-A, Versailles, KY 40383.



PERVADED SPACE  
c/o Kulieke/Renn  
907 East Central Road  
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056

Make checks payable to David Kulieke.

(Brotherhood School--continued from page 4)

... terms of preparing a corps of teachers, as we are supposed to do, and as we plan to continue to do, with modification."

Lynne also said that she and her committee, which includes Helen Carlson, Steve Dreier, Marilyn Hauck, Marjorie Reed, and David Schlundt, are also discussing such topics as: lengthening the Education Workshops per se, or "taking the show on the road," in other words having committee members and others work in collaboration with study groups, societies, or regional conferences; and establishing a corps of itinerant teachers.

The Committee's present perspective is summarized in the publication "Statement of The Current Thinking of the Education Committee of URANTIA Brotherhood, 1981."

(People--continued from page 5)

started the Jesus Papers, along with the Bible, and discovered that The URANTIA Book "made sense out of the Bible for me... The URANTIA Book... makes the four gospels of the New Testament 'come to life.'"

She said, "To list my favorite parts of the book is like having to choose which daughter I like best!" But she named as among those parts she returns to the most: "The Acme of Religious Living," all of Part IV, the papers on the Thought Adjusters, Religion, Worship and Prayer, the

Inevitabilities (page 51), and Morontia Mota (page 556). She added, "I am constantly amazed by the myriads of helpers we have all along the way from this planet up through our superuniverse and on to Havona and the remarkable organization of all these beings working together in harmony for our benefit!"

In addition to Irene's Society affiliation, which includes the fact that the study group sponsored by the society has met in the Sprunger home since 1962, she serves as secretary of the Brotherhood Charter Committee and was her society's delegate to the 1979 Triennial Delegate Assembly. She also was co-chairman of the 1978 Midwest Conference, the smoothly-run first of the current series of yearly conferences which returns to Fort Wayne this June (see page 3). Irene is serving as registration chairman for this year's conference.

She is also secretary/treasurer for the Christian Fellowship of Students of The URANTIA Book, an organization begun by Meredith to bring the book to Christian leaders.

Irene Sprunger is optimistic about the future of the URANTIA movement. She stated, "I see more and more solid and thinking people finding The URANTIA Book and recognizing it for the truth, beauty and goodness it reveals... I think the whole world will gradually discover The URANTIA Book and recognize the quality of its message."

Jim + John Brumeth  
1226 E. 10th St  
Fort Wayne, IN



PERVADED SPACE  
c/o Kuli/ke/Renn  
907 E. Central Road  
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056