



# REFLECTIONS

by Nora Abdemoakher

"PEACE ON EARTH and  
GOOD WILL AMONG MEN"

In 1992, I found myself in Sweden, in cold Scandinavia. I left Bosnia with relief, leaving behind the graveyard of the Balkans with its war and destruction. As I relaxed, I started to unpack my luggage. I had left my home with one suitcase only, but with much baggage. One was labeled Fears, another labeled Confusion, and a third labeled Who am I and what am I doing? I was lost in my Prayers, with no clear idea to whom I was praying.

One evening I went to the Depot called "*Magasinet*," an old railway storage that served as a youth center. There I met a couple—Sandy and Christel Garrick, making preparations to start a choir. "What will it be called?" I asked. "*POEGWAM*," they said, "An Acronym for *Peace On Earth and Good Will Among Men*."

I was skeptical, I have to admit. I knew that there certainly was something more than things we could touch and see, but what was it all about? Psychology, maybe, or some metaphysics; it never occurred to me that this other reality had to do with religion. Religious affiliations were greatly discouraged in my country. In school I was taught that

please see REFLECTIONS, page 3

# Aunt Aggie

Dear Fellow Sojourners,

Recently someone asked me, "Why do you read The URANTIA Book? What do you get from it?" My reply was that The URANTIA Book answers all of my questions about life.

I worried about saying that later. Is it an exaggeration? Is it really true? But this morning I found an explanation in The URANTIA Book for THE most perplexing question of 20th century family life, and I have to say that I am more convinced than ever of the all-seeing wisdom of Bir Blue. May I share my enlightenment with you?

Which of us has not been stymied by this problem? Which of us has not had fierce family friction over this issue? How much needless frustration have we borne over this dilemma, the eternal question. . . "Where in the world is the mate to this sock?"

Currently in our family's mateless collection are 3 navy blue socks, 1 yellow sock, 3 yellow sock, 3 reds, 5 blacks or near-blacks, 5 aqua, 2 lavender, 5 purple, 4 green with hot pink cuffs, 9 white, and 117 pink. I'm not kidding, AND NONE OF THEM MATCH! There was also one sock that was white and black checkered, kinda like a *See's Candy* store floor, but thank goodness I found the match to that one last week so it was redeemed at last.

Please see AUNT AGGIE, Page 4



POST IT ON YOUR CALENDER

**'LIVING FAITH'**

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

**AUGUST 4-8, 1996**

NORTHERN ARIZONA  
UNIVERSITY  
Flagstaff, Arizona  
∞

GOALS ON THE FAMILY LIFE

TRANSFORMING, MULTI-CULTURAL,  
INTERACTIVE,  
and the SHARING OF EXPERIENCES.

TRUTH BEAUTY  
LOVE  
GOODNESS

THE GOLGEN GATE CIRCLE  
1995  
ACTIVITIES CALENDER

July 22, Community Planning  
Meeting at the home of Sara & Bob  
Blackstock, in Benicia.

July 22-26, Summer Study sessions  
in New Jersey.

July 27 & 28, General Council  
Meetings in New Jersey.

**Jesus' Birthday Celebration**

August 20, Golden Gate Park, call  
Stephen Zendt (415) 821-9363.

August 18-20, in Yosemite, call  
Claudia Ayers (916) 482-2082.

August 18-20, Santa Cruz, call  
Larry Jones (408) 425-1882.

September 8-10, St. Dorothy's in  
Lydia & Lincoln houses.

October 7, Women's gathering.

October 28, Halloween Party

November 11, School of Meanings  
and Values Workshop.

December 16, Christmas Party.



## DEVELOPMENTS

PUBLISHED BY

THE GOLDEN GATE CIRCLE  
OF STUDENTS OF  
THE URANTIA BOOK  
P.O. BOX 460163 S.F., CA. 94146  
EXECUTIVE COUNSEL

Sara Blackstock	PRESIDENT
Stephen Zendt	VICEPRESIDENT
Dennis Baker	SECRETARY
Larry Geis	TREASURER
Dolores Nice	PROGRAM
Cheryl Zends	MEMBERSHIP

## STAFF

Nora Abdemoakher	WRITER
Dave Holt	REPORTER
Michelle Klimesh	WRITER
Tery McCade	EDITOR & GRAPHICS
Terry McVey	PRINT & DISTRIBUTE

All quotations within the  
DEVELOPMENTS, unless other-wise  
indicated, are from The URANTIA Book.  
Inasmuch as there is no official  
interpretation of the teachings of The  
URANTIA Book, the views expressed  
herein are based wholly upon each  
author's understanding and personal  
religious experience.

Copyright © 1995 by THEGOLDEN  
GATECIRCLE. All rights reserved.

Printed in USA





## REFLECTIONS

religion was expression of fear, a refuge for weak, primitive reasoning that could not be rescinded, but was destined to extinction as humanity progressed. For the last couple of years, as religious institutions in my country awakened, they called people into war, in the name of "God and nation."

Watching these two people, I realized that there was some unshakable fundament, beyond their works, something different from what I have seen. Their acts were based on much love, reflection, understanding, patience and compassion. Finally I dared to ask, "what is religion?" "It is sharing your inner life with God," they answered. This shook the fundaments of my being.

The choir grew and we soon numbered twenty, often more. There I met Saed, an Iranian Kurd, my present husband. The Garricks and the two of us soon started studying The URANTIA Book. Only to those who asked, did they tell. Many others never found out that some big blue book bolstered this act of love. They learned of its principles and sang cheerfully about love, kindness, compassion, and patience. We prayed a lot together and we did it with humor and from the bottom of our hearts. The Garricks always reminded us to thank God for His fragment that lives within us, that leads us and draws us closer to Him.

The rehearsals were something we all looked forward to and something that enriched our lives, that drew all

the best from our experiences and beliefs, different cultural backgrounds and faiths. "The name of the Father," one of the songs from their repertoire said, "What's the difference what you call the name of the Father, Allah, Budda, Elohim, Yehova, they are the same loving Father." We sang in churches, senior centers and hospitals.

My subsequent study of The URANTIA Book didn't take my negative baggage away, but it made it easier for me to sort through, for I knew I wasn't alone. It answered many of my questions, and gave rise to new questions. It opened horizons I never dreamed of.

I believe in movements such as *POEGWAM* as I see how positively it touched the lives of all of us who joined it. This planet needs the simple acts of kindness that will, with the simplicity of their messages, break the barriers of nations and creeds. As Sandy said, "This is the message that doesn't argue with any religion or creed, rather adheres to what united all prophetic thought of all ages. *Peace On Earth and Good Will Among Men* could (should) turn out to be a saving grace of all mankind, through the universal language—music."

**UPDATE:** Today as I am writing this, I have received news that Sandy Garrick has departed to the mansion worlds. I *can't* believe it. I see him sitting at the kitchen table, cigaret in his hand, The URANTIA Book in front of him, and laughing. He called me "daughter," when I first met him and always after. As a refugee myself, I have found Sandy

Continued on page 4



AUNT AGGIE

as living proof that one can come out of genocide with love, faith, and optimism.

Born in Hungary, under the threat of the Jewish holocaust, as a thirteen-year-old, Sandy embarked on a NATO ship and escaped to Canada. He lived in a dozen countries all over the world (Sweden, England, Germany, Australia, Japan, USA, . . .). As a professional musician, he conducted orchestra, played and recorded music, and together with his loving wife and children, lived everywhere a life of friendship and love.

His approach to the divine was through music and humor. The minister in one of the churches where Sandy conducted a gospel choir said, "What I have learned from Sandy is to laugh, to take myself and religion easy, with humor and song." For those of you who knew him, Sandy died without pain, with a big hamburger and cola in his hands, and with a complaint—they were not as good as those in New York. "I lived a most charming life," were his last words.



Anyway, this morning I decided to put an end to my misery by heaping all the single and mateless orphans into a mountain in the middle of the living room floor and turn them into a lovely bonfire. Mark came strolling in, looking for his oatmeal, to see me crouching there, lighter fluid in one hand and matches in the other.

"STOP!", he shouted, wrestling my weapons away from me. "Don't you remember what The URANTIA Book says?" I was pulled out of my temporary derangement. Just long enough to think there was NO way on earth that he was going to be able to use the book to explain me out of my bonfire. But he did! It's really in there! A perfectly plausible explanation for all the mateless socks in all our homes, everywhere across the continental USA and most of Canada.

I know you can't stand the suspense anymore. But when you see this quotation, you will think, "Now, why didn't I see that before?" It's so simple, really. Here's the theory.

Socks are mateless because they lack that acme of all human virtues, rugged self-control. Socks so carefully mated when you bring them home from Macy's cannot stay that way for long because they are still in a primitive, evolving mores system. The sock culture is not yet ready for the rigors of monogamy. Socks are polygamous! It's unfair to expect them to advance more quickly than the sock nature is capable of.

Continued on page 5





AUNT AGGIE

And now the quotation. . .

"Failure to gain mates in the social arena of competition may be due to insurmountable difficulties or multitudinous restrictions which the current mores have imposed. Truly, monogamy is ideal for those who are in, but it must inevitably work great hardship on those who are left out in the cold of solitary existence.

Always have the unfortunate few had to suffer that the majority might advance under the developing mores of evolving civilization; but always should the favored majority look with kindness and consideration on their less fortunate fellows who must pay the price of failure to attain membership in the ranks of those ideal sex partnerships which afford the satisfaction of all biologic urges under the sanction of the highest mores of advancing social evolution.

Monogamy always has been, now is, and forever will be the idealistic goal of human evolution. This ideal of true pair marriage entails self-denial, and therefore does it so often fail just because one or both of the contracting parties are deficient in that acme of all human virtues, rugged self-control." PAGE 927

I propose that readers of The URANTIA Book could best entice their fellows into curiosity about The Book by simply allowing their sock

their freedom. Imagine how it would be! We could all leave our socks in jumbled piles and just take out any two that happen to fit and put them on. Surely after a couple of weeks of wearing mismatched footwear, your friends and neighbors are bound to notice. "Why are you wearing two different socks?" they'll ask. The perfect lead-in for you to reply, "well The URANTIA Book says. . ." Imagine the interesting discussions that will ensue.

From an internet post by  
Michelle Klimesh,  
SOCK CONNOISSEUR

"To 'follow Jesus' means to personally share his religious faith and to enter into the spirit of the Master's life of unselfish service for man. One of the most important things in human living is to *find* out what Jesus believed, to *discover* his ideals, and to *strive* for the achievement of his exalted life purpose. Of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know the religious life of Jesus and how he lived it." PAGE 2090

**BENICIA**

Contact: Terry & Gretchen  
Pennington  
(707) 746-5712  
Time: Second Thursday

**MARIN**

Contact: Jacques Lecouturier  
(415) 479-8269

**PENINSULA**

Contact: Cheryl Zents  
(415) 726-0131  
Dolores Nice  
(415) 369-6803  
Time: Mondays 7:30 PM  
(Spanish one week  
and English the next)  
Format: Sequential

**PETALUMA**

Contact: Matthew & Cheryl  
Rapaport  
(707) 762-0329

**SAN FRANCISCO**

Contact: Stephen Zendt  
(415) 821-9363  
Time: Sundays 7:30 PM  
Format: Topical — Sequential

**SAN JOSE**

Contact: Mike Hagan  
(408) 272-8458  
Time: Tuesdays 7:30 PM  
Format: Sequential — topical

**SAN RAFAEL**

Contact: Margaret Cechettini  
(415) 499-5706  
Time: Wednesday 7:00 PM

**SANTA CRUZ**

Contact: Larry & Elizabeth Jones  
(408) 425-1882  
Time: First Wednesday  
Format: Reading & personal  
sharing

Contact: Lee & Chrissy Smith  
(408) 462-4823

Time: Other Wednesdays 8:00 PM  
Format: Theme studies

Contact: Sal Turano

(408) 438-4682  
Time: Tuesdays 8:00 PM  
Format: New Readers

**SANTA ROSA**

Contact: Spencer Thompson  
(707) 526-1256

**SEBASTOPOL**

Contact: Bob Slagle  
(707) 823-0876

**WALNUT CREEK**

Unity Church  
Contact: Sara Blackstock  
(707) 747-1854  
Time: Tuesday 8:00 PM  
Format: Topical



### **Walnut Creek Study Group at the Unity Church**

Study The URANTIA Book exploring the Cosmos of Matter, Mind, Spirit, and Personality with Sara Blackstock and other "seasoned" readers. To present weekly topics, facilitating related sharing and discussion. The curriculum for the next quarter:

July 11 & 18, Truth, Beauty, Goodness and Love—The dynamics of spiritual value in personal growth and community.

July 25, Reincarnation?—An expanded cosmic perspective of the continuance of personhood.

August 1, The essence of personality—What makes each one of us absolutely unique and valuable in the universe?

August 8, How do the "Most Highs" rule in the kingdom of earth? Understanding our planetary government.

August 15, Jesus as incarnation—How can we understand Jesus of Nazareth as both God and man?

August 22, Male and Female—Appreciation the differences—The URANTIA Book perspective.

August 29, Prayer, Meditation and worship—Personal practices that bring us closer to God.

If you are interested in leading or attending the class please call Sara.

### **Collect & Save**

## **DEVELOPMENTS**

AN ARCHIVE OF THE REVELATION

**"We are writing history"**

### **CONGRATULATION**

∞  
**Nora Abdemoakher**  
has received the  
**Religious Workers Status**  
to officially translate  
**The URANTIA Book**  
to  
**Serbo-Croatian**

**The FELLOWSHIP**  
**for readers of**  
**The URANTIA Book**  
529 Wrightwood Ave  
Chicago, IL 60614

The Fellowship was founded in 1955 as a not-for-profit, cooperative association of believers in the teachings of The URANTIA Book. Our primary mission as an organization is "to increase and enhance the comfort, happiness, and well-being of Man" by disseminating the teachings of The URANTIA Book, promoting the comprehension of its teachings, and encouraging the realization and appreciation of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. The organizational building blocks of the Fellowship are local societies, which evolve from study groups, function with great autonomy, and serve as the Fellowship in the local area. The primary group mechanism for this process is the local study group, which usually meets in readers' homes and provides a friendly atmosphere for the sharing of study of The URANTIA Book and fellowship.





## BOOK REVIEW

CORNER

by Sara Blackstock

**"A PARLIAMENT OF SOULS"***In Search of Global Spirituality*

Edited by Michael Tobias, Jane Morrison,  
and Bettina Gray

Out of the second Parliament of the World's Religions, held in August of 1993 in Chicago, came a TV series on the world's religions and this book which is a companion to the Public Television Series. Bettina Gray, a long time student of The URANTIA Book, interviewed 28 spiritual leaders from around the world, participated in making a TV series which is currently being shown, and edited this book, which is invaluable to any student of The URANTIA Book who wants to know about our planet's spiritual paths. Bettina asked these world religious leaders such questions as: Who are we? From whence we came? Is there a purpose to our being? Is there truly free will? Is there life after death? Is there a God?

Leaders from Buddhism, Christian, Hinduism, Jainism, Judaism, Islam, Sikhism, Taoism, Confucian, and etc., give their own personal answers to these questions. In most

cases what is being offered is a personalized view of their own particular path, and not just the traditionized dogma. For example, His Holiness the Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) representing Buddhism, says about love and compassion: "It is not only the sense of close feeling toward the person or the community, but there is also the sense of responsibility or sense of commitment. Also genuine compassion is not based on personal good, something close to me, but rather on that the other person or other community also has the same experience just like myself. They also want happiness and do not want suffering. On the basis of the realization of oneness as human brothers and sisters, we can develop genuine respect for their rights, genuine concerns about their future. That is genuine compassion." (page 63 of this book)

These leaders become very real and personable as you read what they say about their paths. This book can be ordered from NAIN—Multi Faith Resource, PO BOX 128, Wofford Heights, CA.93285-0128 or phone (619) 376-4691. The cost is \$21.95 plus \$7.25 for sales tax and shipping. The airing dates for the TV Series is Mondays at 9:30PM and Sunday 11:30 AM on KQED.

A summary of the belief Ganid had arrived at regarding God as a result of Jesus' teaching, he was in the habit of referring to **"our religion."**

"...love our God with all your mind and heart while you do your very best to love his children as you love yourself. . .we can know him in our hearts by personal experience. . .he is also my Father. . .to treat each of my fellow mortals just as I think God would like to have him treated. . .I find him as being more loving, merciful, personal, and positive. . .This new religion of ours is very full of joy, and happiness." (PAGE 1453)





## Urantia on the Internet by Michelle Klimesh

There is a bulletin board on the internet for discussion of topics related to The URANTIA Book. Urantia is a gift to the urantia community from Michael Million, the list operator.

There are many wonderful advantages to the kind of communication that is possible via modem. At first blush, I thought, "What's so great about talking to invisible people by typing on my keyboard?" But as the months have gone by, I have grown to appreciate participation in this forum more and more.

Topics on Urantia include anything and everything you can imagine. We talk about science, history, fandoms, the search for the garden of Eden, male-female relationships and the Paradise Trinity. We debate about the Foundation, the teaching mission, slow growth, and what the book means when it says there are inhabitable planets in "close proximity." We ask questions and offer answers to ponder-prompting

statements in the book.

I have "met" so many dear people! There are science minds, people who are warm and loving, and there are hotheads from time to time as well. People hurt each others feelings and then "kiss and make up;" virtually, of course. There are expert debaters, freeflow thinkers, poets and lurkers and more. It's like attending a conference without leaving home.

A urantia community has formed that has no geographic location. We can log in at any time, day or night, and read the thoughts of people from Australia to Moscow. We ask advice, we celebrate birthdays, we express opinions and hear feedback from spirit-minded readers around the world.

Only our thoughts appear on screen. Any consideration for age or race or appearance or physical form is non-existent. Emotional intimacy is possible because physical intimacy is not a concern. No one's voice is louder than another, our only tools are wit and wisdom.

People can get connected to Urantia by sending a request via modem to:

**listserv@UAFSYSB.UARK.EDU**

Enter your message and type:

**SUBSCRIBE URANTIAL**





## Readers of The URANTIA Book gather at the Pacific School of Religion on May 6, 1995

By DAVE HOLT  
REPORTER

On broad lawns of the Pacific School of religion (PSR) campus, offering a panoramic view of San Francisco and the bay with the Golden Gate Bridge spanning its waters, beckon invitingly to lovers, learners and sun-worshippers alike. And they were just as ideal and pleasing a site for The URANTIA Book readers who gathered on May 6th under the sponsorship of the Golden Gate Circle to also seek love, knowledge and light of a higher kind. Many long-time students from Marin, San Jose, Contra Costa, Alameda, and San Francisco Counties, joined with newer readers from Hawaii, Bosnia, and the study group recently formed at Walnut Creek's Unity Church, among others.

After welcoming remarks by "Circle" Vice President, Stephen Zendt, and a song bravely rendered on guitar by yours truly, Sara Blackstock opened the day with a reading of the paper given by Carol Hay at the 1995 Science Symposium which had been inspired by Margaret Wheatley's book *Leadership in the New Science*.

Wheatley's idea is that a new paradigm of organizational structure is replacing the pyramid structure still favored by today's corporate systems which was designed to resist fluctuation and change. Yet orderly management of change, the idea that chaos helps a system to

thrive, is the way by which we can navigate organizations through the future, especially now that, "The social ship has steamed out of the sheltered bays of established tradition." (UB page 1086) We can find implications for ourselves within the movement, focussing less of our anxious energy on the war of words and paper that has gone on between Foundies and Feffies over the last few years since the voices calling for change were first raised. Under the new paradigm Wheatley discusses, a system, through a kind of self-referencing similar to the way skin rebuilds skin from the messages encoded within DNA, finds the way to reconstruct itself in those times of change that cause so much apparent destruction. The need to contribute our messages, our random fluctuations, is crucially important to the reconstruction of a healthy system under the emerging perspective of the new paradigm, just as The URANTIA Book calls on us to be independent and courageous thinkers, not conforming to the rigid expectations of systems currently in place.

There followed a group discussion on who we are becoming as a readership. The appealing idea of working with representatives of the Foundation (IUA) was raised. Although the avenue seems not to be open at this time, we agreed on the importance of maintaining a channel of communication there. Becky Kantor, soon to be a student on the PSR campus, told us of the



challenges she faces being a known student of The URANTIA Book and how she looked to us, the established readership, for support through this experience. Our affiliation with the book can put us on the odd sides of certain fences. On the PSR campus, for example, the cutting edge of theology is at times represented in those who seek to demonstrate a thesis that Christ was not a divine Son. It may be that The URANTIA Book readers and Baptists, along with others fundamentalist sects, may find themselves standing up together to vouch for the divine nature of the Master from Galilee, in the same ironic fashion that we may fall into the camp of the Creationists (or be viewed that way by scientists who refuse to accept any role for creation within their idea of the evolutionary plan).

During the discussion Dolores Nice described how in her experience working with the Whole Life Expo Urantia Book booth in April, she met many people who'd had The URANTIA Book on their shelves for two-three or more years but hardly read it. One of our missions would appear to be guiding people into *how* to read the book and helping them negotiate its difficulties!

I sometimes discern a common thread running through the comments of Steven Zendt and others that binds us in agreement as to the emergency nature of the Book's mission. This recurring theme moved some to express the thought that perhaps we need to worry less about who we are and concern ourselves more with getting

out into the world and being who we already are for all the world to see. (PAGE 2084)

David Kantor's wonderful slide presentation on the many new archaeological discoveries in Israel showed us how these recent finds are changing our perspective on Jesus' life. Among the excavation projects reported in his program were: the unearthing of a Galilean fishing boat built right around the time of Jesus; the three concentric circles of El-Hiri which actually predate Melchizedek and Abraham's time; and the dig at Sephorris, the former Roman capital of Galilee. David's slides vividly demonstrated how near these mounds of Sephorris, still being excavated, to the hill behind Nazareth which Jesus most likely used for his regular sessions of worship. This city built by Herod was within easy walking distance of Nazareth, making Jesus' home town more likely to be a dynamic suburb than a pastoral backwater, and putting Jesus at the cultural crossroads of his age as The URANTIA Book confirms. Not only was he the Good Shepherd, master of the religious knowledge of his culture, but he was also conversant in the philosophy and science of his time and place, as we have seen from the picture of him that emerges in the pages of the revelation. The day ended with a beautifully staged remembrance supper of the Master. Many left the Berkeley campus refreshed and energized with many new ideas to consider as we continue to take this book out into the world for all truth seekers to enjoy.

THE GOLDEN GATE CIRCLE 94146 CA, FRANCISCO, 94146

BOX 460163

DEVELOPER GAF

2000 4/30

JUL 17 '95  
CALIF.

6837048

U.S. POSTAGE

0.32

TO: JESONIAN FOUNDATION  
P.O. BOX 18764  
BOULDER, CO 80308