

Developments

NEWSLETTER OF THE GOLDEN GATE CIRCLE OF STUDENTS OF THE URANTIA BOOK
Spring 1996

SPRINGTIME 96

By Sara Blackstock

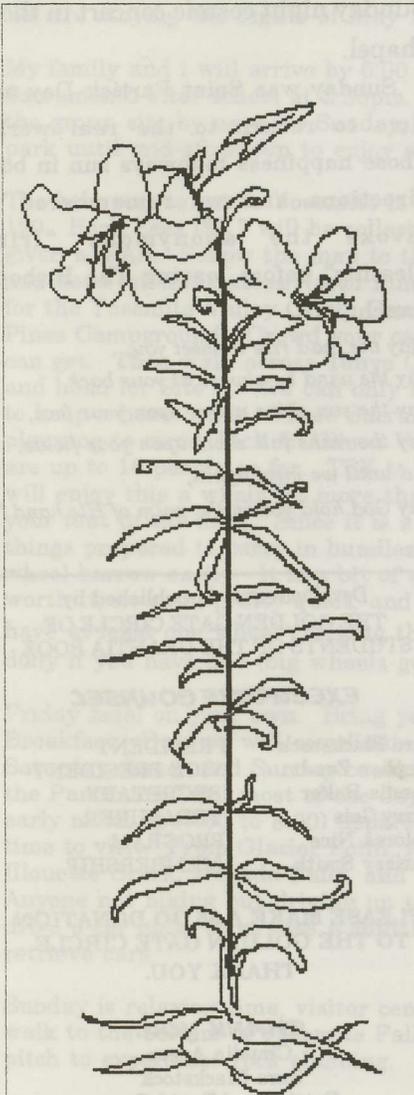
Looking around outside ourselves, we experience the VERBS of nature -- the green rolling hills, tulips and daffodils popping up, mockingbirds calling for their mates, trees blossoming with pink and white. We see expansion, activity, growth. Looking around inside ourselves we see with metaphorical eyes the expansion and activity within beginning to reach outward. As we come forth from the winter of our lives, feeling that our roots have gone deeper into the nourishment of our God, we are ready to release that energy into the world. Metaphors help us bring forth into consciousness what may be happening subconsciously or superconsciously, but nature is more than just a metaphor. "Nature is in a limited sense the physical habit of God." (pg 56)

So as we literally see the springing forth of new life in the springtime around us, we have faith that a living metaphor is occurring within us. We open wide our metaphorical eyes, expanding our human vision aided by revelation. Our outer revelation (*The Urantia Book*), tells us:

"Nature ...carries a uniform, unchanging, majestic, and marvelous thread of perfection from the circle of eternity:..." (pg 56) We have an inner revelation based on our personal experience with God, desiring the eternal light within us from "the circle of eternity" to shine outward, to expand us and to show forth our internal colorful blossoms in our everyday outer life.

BLESSED SPRINGTIME TO EACH OF YOU. MAY GOD OF THE PATTERNS OF NATURE EXPRESS HIMSELF THROUGH YOU AS YOU GO FORTH INTO THE RHYTHMS OF YOUR LIFE. It is rigorous! We are gardeners, working vigorously in the bursting forth of the innate God flowers of our lives. It is hard work, but we have the Master Gardener who shows us the way, each day, in each moment we remember who we really are: his beloved child.

"Evolutionary man does not naturally relish hard work. To keep pace in his life experience with the impelling demands and compelling urges of a growing religious experience means incessant activity in spiritual growth, intellectual expansion, factual enlargement, and social service. THERE IS NO REAL RELIGION APART FROM A HIGHLY ACTIVE PERSONALITY."



"...In the course of the address, Jesus told his followers the story of the white lily which rears its pure and snowy head high into the sunshine while its roots are grounded in the slime and muck of the darkened soil beneath.

"Likewise, said he..."
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ON SPRING RETREAT

by Jay Newbern

"Sit down with me while I tell you of the service trails and happiness highways which lead from the sorrows of self to the joys of loving activities in the brotherhood of men and in the service of the God of heaven." (Jesus to the young man who was afraid, pg 1437)

About 20 students of The Urantia Book sat down with the Master (in spirit) at The Bishop's Ranch (Episcopal) during the spring retreat of Golden Gate Circle from Friday night, March 15 through Sunday afternoon, March 17. We had traversed happiness highway 101 north of Healdsburg, some 15 miles north of Santa Rosa in Sonoma County, to focus on the retreat theme of service.

Two noticeable aspects of this spring retreat in wine country were the unusually high number of "day trippers" who visited for the study sessions but were not in residence, and the predominant number of sisters in attendance. At times I felt like an observer at a meeting of the Women's Corps (of Evangelists).

Warm sunshine heralded that spring was only a few days away as we who had retreated from a hectic urban pace unwound in the glory of fresh wild flowers, green hills and valleys, and the natural sound of excited frogs in the pond who signaled desire for newness. Some even noted sleep disturbance due to the sudden and awesome quietude.

"Service - purposeful service, not slavery - is productive of the highest satisfaction and is expressive of the highest dignity. Service - more service, increased service, difficult service, adventurous service, and at last divine and perfect service - is the goal of time and the destination of space." (pg 316)

At another conference at Amathus two millennia ago on the subject of spiritual unity, Jesus instructed us to render service in accordance with the technique of our own original

endowments of mind, body, and soul. And so the Golden Gate Circle traditions held and we all did what we do best; notables were Dolores Nice facilitating study sessions, Pat Fear creating artistic expression, and Stephen Zendt tape mixing the Sunday night cosmic concert in the chapel.

Sunday was Saint Partick Day and time to return to the real world. Those happiness highways run in both directions and we remembered to invoke the anonymous "Irish Blessing" before leaving The Bishop's Ranch:

*"May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
May the rains fall short upon your fields,
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand."*

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STUDENTS OF THE URANTIA BOOK

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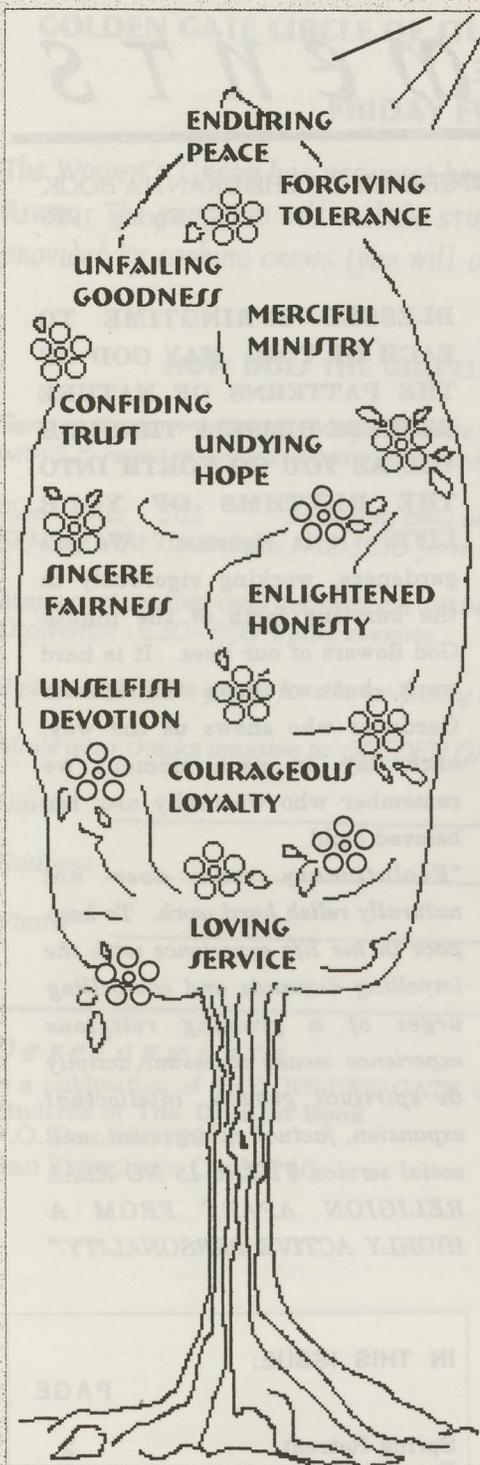
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"...mortal man, while he has his roots of origin and being in the animal soil of human nature, can by faith raise his spiritual nature up into the sunlight of heavenly truth and actually bear the noble fruits of the spirit." pg 1737-1738

Fruits of the spirit, pg 2054C

**MAY THE TREE OF YOUR LIFE
YIELD THE FRUITS OF SPIRIT**

Yosemite Group Camp

Organized by Claudia Ayers

Fees: \$5 a head for the whole weekend.
If you are coming, call me as soon as possible at 916 482-2082.

We are staying the nights of May 10th and May 11th.

My family and I will arrive by 6:00 PM, driving straight from Sacramento after school at 2:30pm. We are supposed to be out of the group site by noon on Sunday, but we will be staying in the park until mid-afternoon to enjoy all that we can of the park.

The best way to get to Yosemite is by the Oak Flat road, Highway 120. Park Fees (\$5 ? will be collected at the gate) and you will be given a MAP. Follow the map to the campgrounds in the Valley and head for the stables/North Pines Campground. The PARKING for the Yosemite Valley Group Camp is at the north end of North Pines Campground. Crowd your car in, we need all the space we can get. Then walk across Tenya Creek...there is a foot bridge and head for Site A. We can only have up to 30 people, so I need to keep a head count. Three Sacramento Urantia Families are also planning to come, Rick & Allison Voss, and Saed and Nora. So we are up to 16 people so far. TRY to be there before dark and you will enjoy this a whole lot more than finding us and putting up your tent in the dark. Since it is a WALK IN camp ground get things prepared to carry in bundles, or tie on to a dolly or put in a wheel barrow easily. It is a bit of a jaunt to the camp sites, but worth it, no cars, pretty quiet, and just us in our site. We will have at least one wheel carrying thing to share, but throw in a dolly if you have one (big wheels go over roots better).

Friday meal on your own. Bring your own lunches and Saturday Breakfast. But, we will coordinate (if you want to be included) on Saturday dinner and Sunday breakfast. My family and I will be on the Panorama Trail most of the day Saturday, including a fairly early morning (7:30 to 8:00) departure for Glacier Point...a nice time to visit. From Glacier Point, it's a 8 hour walk down via Illouette Creek, Nevada Falls, and Vernal Falls, then on to camp. Anyone not hiking but driving up to Glacier Point is welcome to drive a car back, otherwise a shuttle will have to be driven to retrieve cars.

Sunday is relaxing time, visitor center, Mirror Lake, perhaps a walk to the bottom of Yosemite Falls. We might set up a short pitch to experience rock climbing.

INTERNET CORNER

Larry Watkins recently received this message on the internet.

>name: xxx

> address: xxx.com

> question: **No questions, just a comment. The Book... ummmm... almost indescribably wonderful.**

>answer: Thanks for your comment. We'll certainly agree.

> -----

Developments, Spring 1996



Internet corner...

A CASE AGAINST EARLY FUSION

by Jim McNelly

Recommended for you by Michelle Klimesh

I for one hope to *PREVENT* fusion until the last possible moment before natural death of a ripe old age.

This world is not only worth living, it is downright interesting. Hey, we are a decimal planet, probably the ONLY SPHERE IN EXISTENCE that is advanced without knowing there is life on other planets. This is the home world of Michael of Nebadon, planetary headquarters of a bunch of super angels, and a world where all the major revelators are taking human form. Who would want to go to a boring ordinary world? This is where the action is!

And just what is the big deal about dying and going to the Mansion worlds anyway? Sounds like advanced college to me. And what do they teach there? How to be of service to humans. But by that time, all of the real needy humans are on worlds of time and you are stuck on some lousy Mansion world, studying, no less. And once you get to the point of being a Jerusem Citizen, what do all the cool folks want to do? You guessed it, volunteer to go to an emerging world of time and space to be back in a human body with real human beings as a member of a Planetary Prince's Staff. Over a million volunteered for the 100 positions here on Urantia. Life on the worlds of time is the hot action in the universe, not the super worlds of space.

Even the Father himself got bored with Paradise and created time and space so that humans like us could exist. Did he send Thought Adjusters to the rest of the beings in the cosmos? Hardly. Only living, breathing, human beings get the divine presence. No wonder Lucifer felt short changed. Humans have all the fun!

Picture in your mind's eye an image of yourself already completing the Ascension Career and you are volunteering to live a life of service on a world of time. If you can, imagine yourself as a volunteer for a Prince's Staff. Put the rest of the ascension career on hold and live on a world, an isolated, decimal one if possible where people are really primitive, and be of service!

Hey, you can do all this today! Why wait? Volunteer now!

"A man is what his deep, driving desire is;
For as his deep desire is, so is his will;
As his will is, so is his deed;
And as his deed is, so is his destiny, whether
good or ill."

Brhad. IV. iv. 5
(Cf. Easwaran translation)

I TOO NEED SAFE HAVENS

By Dave Holt, Winter 95

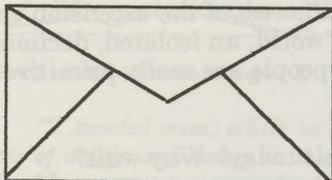
The washed out sun breaks through the mist,
 A respite from the storm and bluster.
 Above the gray-bordered cumulus cloak
 That hems in Mount Diablo's peak,
 In the brightening sky domed above
 The cloud cathedral and flying buttresses,
 Angel hair wisps of white come out
 Against a tableau of emerging blue,
 The mountain gathering in her spirits
 As I imagine they crowd the shores of Paradise
 Eager to express to God their love,
 And the passion of their gratitude.

A circling flock of broad-winged birds
 Turns carousel in a wind off the ocean;
 It spins them slowly, gradually eastward,
 Across Black Diamond into Sacramento Valley.
 The flat sheen of a non-swollen creek
 Throws back its reflection of tumbling sky
 From a surface stretched from levee to levee,
 Still, calm surface...suddenly ruffled
 By a lowering gust of rampant wind.
 The crows screeching in the cottonwoods
 Battle each other for a steady branch
 As more rain drives in across Briones ridge.

We live in the heart of a mystery,
 Mingled creation--nature's eagle and spirit's
 angel
 Moving as one across windy spaces.
 I breathe in the gladness of God's idea.
 Alone, without love, I hang on,
 I a self-pity of my own smallness,
 But the strain is too great, I let go,
 And from my clutch, wind-driven, gone spinning,
 I'm trembling across an emerging tableau:
 Feeling the love; forgiveness of my hardness
 And my not knowing how, I stretch out...
 and soar...upheld...
 Growing large in my wanting to learn.

Personal Letter

Dear Friends,



As many of you know I was taken quite suddenly to emergency on Feb. 3rd with one of those "girl thangs" and ended up on the receiving end of a scalpel. As fate would have it I was supposed to sing that weekend at the General Council worship, as well as a couple of other things of importance to me. I was in tears as one of the doctors said, "You don't really think you're going to stand up and sing tomorrow, do you?" Laying there on the emergency table I had to admit she was right.

The odd part of it all is that the main thing I feel is extraordinarily blessed. From the moment Dave called 911 to this day I have been given the red carpet treatment, not a hitch anywhere. And mostly, I have been showered with love and care. I want to thank all of you who thought to send cards, prayers, phone calls and flowers, all had been happily received. I am recovering very well and quickly, although not quick enough for my impatient temperament. I simply have too much to do and too many places to be to lay around watching "Star Wars" for the millionth time!

Thank you all again for lavishing me with so much love and care, it has gone a long way in helping my healing. I look forward to seeing you all again and singing heartily and happily for you.

Love, Chappell

LIFE MAXIM #606

By Claudia Ayers

"It is my will that your will be done, oh
 Father!"
 In the long, long stretch of eternity
 There will be the perfection and glory in your
 ways!
 As I cross the mid-point of my earthly life
 I need to remind myself of this truth ever more
 often.
 My life is more complex; more demands impinge
 upon me...
 Sometimes I find myself stressed, tired, and
 slipping...
 And in confusion, the words fall from my mouth:
 "It is your will that my will be done."

Is this my subconscious?
 Hopefully not, although...
 In my immaturity
 "My will" would more likely be for short term
 gain,
 Clearly not the "Father's way".

Short term pain, long term gain.
 Short term gain, long term pain.

It really is that simple an idea,
 It is the practice of it that challenges.

As family members or parents we are put to the
 test,
 Every day.

As community members we are put to the test,
 Every day.

As spiritual community members
 We are given support in finding our way,
 Everyday.

Dear Heavenly Father,
 Thank You for my Spiritual Community.

BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT IN TRIUNE HARMONY

A column exploring ways of attaining this state of being
by Christina Hutchins

In recent years an area of medicine that has been most effective in healing illness has been the Body/Mind field of practice. In the 1970's great advance in the study of the immune system helped to clarify the relationship between body and mind, which gave rise to the field of psychoneuroimmunology. Scientists and doctors in this field have confirmed that the psychological and emotional state of a person influences a myriad of bodily processes for better or worse, by stimulating or suppressing immune cell activity, adrenal gland hormones, and neurotransmitters.

More recently, a third element has been added to this field--the element of Spirit. Some of the more well-known practitioners in this field are Dr. Deepak Chopra and Dr. Andrew Weil. These doctors, and a growing number of others, are finding that many human illnesses are diseases of the mind and/or spirit. They have also found that incorporating spirituality as part of the healing regimen greatly increases the speed as well chances of recovery from often fatal illnesses.

In the early part of this century Paramahansa Yogananda wrote of healing body, mind and Soul (spirit). He breaks human illness into three categories or realms, giving identification to each category of disease: "In the mortal aspect, man is a triune being. He longs for freedom from all varieties of suffering. His needs are:

1. Healing of bodily diseases.
2. Healing of mental or psychological diseases such as fear, anger, bad habits, failure of consciousness, lack of initiative and confidence, and so on.
3. Healing of spiritual diseases such as indifference, lack of purpose, intellectual pride and dogmatism, skepticism, contentment with the material side of existence, and ignorance of the laws of life and man's own divinity."

Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) and Ayurvedic Medicine--both ancient practices--have always viewed man and his disease as a whole or triune system. These practitioners begin with a patient session by questioning not just about symptoms, but also about what is going on in the patient's life. Stress, anxieties, worries, in other words, emotional and psychological disturbances may be contributing or causing bodily imbalance.

Being balanced, with all systems working in harmony is the basis for the aforementioned practices as well the Body/Mind/Spirit field of practice. Helping one to attain a balanced

and harmonious state of being is the goal of these practitioners. How they do it is by drawing from the many areas of the Body, Mind, Spirit field of medicine.

Unlike Allopathic practitioners, who treat a set of systems, and prescribe the same medicine and surgical treatments to all patients with identical symptoms, Body, Mind, Spirit practitioners view each person as unique. Even if two people have the same disease, the road to recovery may be different. Also, the same disease is often the result of different factors with different people.

From the Mind/Body/Spirit perspective, illness is seen as a communication from the body, a warning signal that something needs attention. One can use this message to look closely at the entire Mind/Body/Spirit system and see how it is functioning as a whole. One might ask oneself: "Am I carrying too much emotional baggage? Am I treating my body properly? Am I getting enough exercise?" etc... One looks beyond the immediate problems to include a larger dimension of one's life.

Why this area of medicine should be important to us is so clearly stated in The Urantia Book:

"It is in the mind of perfect poise, housed in a body of clean habits, stabilized neural energies, and balanced chemical functions--when the physical, mental and spiritual powers are in triune harmony of development--that a maximum of light can be imparted with a minimum of temporal danger or risk to the real welfare of such a being. By such a balanced growth does man ascend circles of planetary progression one by one, from the seventh to the first." (pg 1209)

Thus by bringing our bodies, minds and spirits into balance and harmony, our adjusters are better able to function in our minds. Only through balanced growth can we ascend the circles of planetary progression.

In future issues of Developments, I will be discussing the many and various components of the Mind/Body/Spirit field of practice that can benefit us in attaining that state of development when our bodies, minds, and spirits are in triune harmony.

Coming next: Dynamic Healing Duos: Combining Mental Focusing Techniques With Prayer

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

May 4	Community Planning Meeting,, call Larry Geis at: (415) 964-5714
May 24-26	Women's Meeting
August 3-8	International Conference, Flagstaff, Arizona
August 25	Jesus' Bestowal Celebration
Sept. 13-14	Fall retreat--St. Dorothy's, Camp Meeker
Sept. 28	Encino, CA Retreat. Evaluation of One God Concept: <i>Acknowledging Common Ground with Other Religions</i> (School of Meanings and Values)
October 5	Women's Meeting
October	Halloween Harvest Party, call Michelle Klimesh at: (510) 820-9731
Nov. 16	Community Planning Meeting , call Larry Geis at: (415) 964-5714
December 14	Christmas Holiday Celebration--call Dolores Nice at: (415) 369-6803
1997	Conference - West Coast Location TBA, Expression of Spirituality through Art (School of Meanings and Values)

Interfaith Dialogue: A Personal Observation

by Bettina Gray

Many astute writers, scientists, artists, theologians, business leaders, as well as several heads of state have expressed themselves publicly in the last few decades on the subject of a new level of human spiritual transformation or consciousness. One does not have look far to find these comments initiated from widely diverse cultures and many different religious identifications. There is now a prize for "progress in religion" which is the largest monetary prize in the world and is overseen by an inter-religious board; the terms "global consciousness" or "global ethics" are common; the local phone book of any major city lists hundreds of spiritual organizations; the internet abounds in sites about religion, dialogue, spirituality, faith, meditation and ethics. This dreamed of, longed for and already begun transformation is often characterized as a "spiritual renaissance," describing the hunger for a renewed focus on spiritual growth in humanity.

There indeed does appear to be a dawn of that transformation. All over the world individuals who, by their path to awareness, recognize the Divine have come to know and love each other and are co-creating this spiritual renaissance, cooperating to bring joys of spiritual living into the world, solve its problems and offer healing from the damage so far inflicted. This spiritualization of the human community is the most important "trend" on the planet. In the hierarchy of ideas it is on the top of the list. It is not, however, a transformation conducted through religious conformity. It is a renaissance which crosses the borders that for thousands of years have been battlefields. The technological advances of the last century in communication and travel have now laid the foundation for a revolution which may be the most significant change in the entire history of humanity. Those who will choose to battle over which version of enlightenment is THE correct, best, newest or most authentic version will be left in an archaic dogmatic struggle--literally in the dust of history--while the urgent needs of a planet in crisis will call forth a response from people of good will and spiritual insight.

Gradually the human family is realizing that there can be very little progress in industry and economics, in government, politics, health care, environmental protection, or family life without an underlying spiritual transformation. Yet an attempt to control or monopolize its development amounts to megalomania precisely because this new community of spiritually committed individuals has emerged from every corner of the planet and in all cultures in a way that no one culture or religion may dominate. This will be the era in which both religious theology and scientific theory with stand before the bar of human need to be measured and judged. The evidence of the success of the spiritual renaissance will not be the triumph of one religious system over another but the living witness of

Jesus had an unerring ability for the recognition of truth, and truth he never hesitated to embrace, no matter from what source it appeared to emanate.
(pg 1390)

spiritually maturing men and women in every endeavor of human conduct, commerce, and family life transforming the world from inside out.

The interfaith community:

Dialogue --inter-religious friendship among believers of all faith--is the "family of God" in action. Those who participate in this dialogue are directly and immediately enriched, finding in their encounter with others from diverse religions and belief systems that God's love, the enlightenment of the Supreme, the Divine, is universally bestowed. These will be the people empowered to set a course through the vast changes humanity now faces and they will mutually and consciously provide the leadership and committed action needed to survive, assisting one another in every way possible for the good of the whole. This is happening now, daily, all over the world. Though it is not in news it exists in abundance.

continued on page 8

ELEPHANT IN THE DARK

by Jelaluddin Rumi,
translation by Coleman Barks

Some Hindus have an elephant to show.
No one here has ever seen an elephant.
They bring it at night to a dark room.

One by one, we go in the dark and come out
saying how we experience the animal.

One of us happens to touch the trunk.
"A water-pipe kind of creature."

Another, the ear. "A very strong, always moving
back and forth, fan-animal."

Another, the leg. " I find it still,
like a column on a temple."

Another touches the curved back.
"A lengthy throne."

Another, the cleverest, feels the tusk.
"A rounded sword made of porcelain."
He's proud of his description.

Each of us touches one place
and understands the whole that way.
The palm and the fingers feeling in the dark are
how the senses explore the reality of the elephant.

If each of us held a candle there,
and if we went together,
we could see it.

**A LEADERSHIP SEMINAR:
AMBASSADORS OF SPIRITUAL PROGRESS**

by Nora Abdemoakher

The conference on Spiritual Progress, organized by the School of Meanings and Values was held in the lovely environment of the Mercy Center in Burlingame. Well organized but spontaneous, speakers presented their own visions, concerns and suggestions as to ways one is empowered for the courageous assumption of the leadership role in family, among friends and co-workers.

Brendi Poppel stressed the importance of knowing oneself, of recognizing and admitting fear in dealing with others, in allowing it to be felt and acting as if in its absence, in detaching oneself from the results of action. She pointed to stillness as a way of connecting with inner reservoirs of "infinite love." She shared with us poetry, music and the lovingly simple parable of "Late Bloomer" from the children's book, emphasizing the importance of patiently waiting for one's own time to come.

Stephen Zandt pointed to his personal challenge with angry and agitated individuals and challenged us to stay calm in the presence of anger. He quoted: *"True religion is designed to lessen the strain of existence; it releases faith and courage for daily living and unselfish serving. Faith promotes spiritual vitality and righteous fruitfulness"* (pg. 1727) By carefully chosen newspaper excerpts and quotes, he emphasized the necessity for creating a time to "digest a situation," to take a deep breath and count to ten. Yet, he encouraged us to make a "spiritual assault"--as that of a "heathen taking over a city"--in doing our tasks, clarifying our visions and living the good news in our lives.

Robert Burns looked at values he had learned from his parents and different life situations (with stress on mistakes), pointing out that our values are changing as we live and as society progresses, yet in society they are the sum average of all different individual values. He pointed out that our values clarify our vision, and that vision is guided by principles. It is a group that defines values, and the role of a leader is to clarify that vision.

Polly Friedman led us into group discussion on spiritual planetary leaders as described in *The Urantia Book*. She humorously spoke of the great need for good leadership in transition-period. Pat Feary led us into meditation and we silently thanked God for this beautiful day.

In our first group discussion we were asked for our reasons for coming on this seminar. *"To meet nice people and be challenged,"* I answered, and as I today recall this event, I realize that in this and every other respect I got more than I have expected--as is always the case in sincere human relationships.

ON LEADERSHIP

by Brendi Poppel

Who will appeal to people?
One who reveals his true light
Someone who listens to his Inner Guide
And awakens to wisdom's insight.

One who courageously meets every challenge
Deepening his faith by facing each fear
Teaching the truth that burns in his heart
reaching lost souls who are hungry to hear.

A leader brings her unique vision
A leader sings his true song
A leader is made whole by decisions
That reflect enlightened intellect and virtue
made strong.

By pursuing a path of unselfish devotion
A life made rich by humility
A life filled with faith and lavished in love
Embracing the heart of humanity.

With magnetic attraction that comes from within
A leader emerges with valued ideals
Based on a life that is genuine
This is the person who truly appeals.

"The spiritual forward urge is the most powerful driving force in this world; the truth-learning believer is the one progressive and aggressive soul on earth." (pg. 2063)

"But your unsteady and rapidly shifting mental attitudes often result in thwarting the plans and interrupting the work of the Adjusters. Their work is also greatly retarded by your own preconceived opinions, settled ideas, and long-standing prejudices." (pg. 1199)

"The great challenge to modern man is to achieve better communication with the divine Monitor that dwells within the human soul." (pg 2097)

EDITORIAL COMMENT: What would be a better place to challenge our settled ideas, preconceived opinions and long-standing prejudices, all of which so often stands in our way to better communication with our Thoughts Adjusters, than the arena of interfaith dialogue? What a better area in the world to be truth-learning rather than to claim to be truth-knowing? What a better place to learn to adjust our reality to the reality of the other person, see the world the way he sees it? What would be a better place to learn to deal with disagreement, fear, pain and anger? What a better place to "put your true light on a lampstand" and be a LEADER? ...And what would be more beneficial to the progress of this troubled world?

**GOLDEN GATE CIRCLE AREA
URANTIA BOOK STUDY GROUPS**

MARIN STUDY GROUP

Contact: Jacques Lecouturier
(415) 479-8269

PENINSULA STUDY GROUP

Contact: Cheryl Zent at: (415) 726-0131
Dolores Nice at: (415) 369-6803, Call first
Time: Wednesdays, 7:30 PM
Format: Sequential by papers

PETALUMA READERS

Contact: Matthew/Cheryl Rapaport
(707) 762-0329, Call if interested

SAN FRANCISCO STUDY GROUP

Contact: Stephen Zendt at: (415) 821-9363
Time: Every Sunday, 7:30-9:30 PM
Format: Topical., Sequential

SAN JOSE STUDY GROUP

Contact: Mike Hagan at: (408) 272-8458
Time: Every Tuesday, 7:30-9:30 PM
Format: Sequential. topical

SANTA CRUZ STUDY GROUPS:

Contact: Larry / Elizabeth Jones at: (408) 426-1882
Time: First Wednesday
Format: Reading/Personal Sharing

Contact: Lee and Chrissy Smith at: (408) 462-4823
All other Wednesdays 8:00 PM
Format: Theme studies

Contact: Sal Turano at: (408) 438-4682

Time: Every Tuesday, 8:00 PM
Format: New Readers

SEBASTOPOL STUDY GROUP

Contact: Bob Slagle at: (707) 823-0876

UNITY URANTIA STUDY GROUP

Unity Church of Walnut Creek
Contact: Sara Blackstock (707) 747-1854
Time: Every Tuesday, 8:00 PM
Format: Topical

Fellowship Announcement:
Conference in Flagstaff--600 registrations,
organizers are hoping to reach the goal of
1000.

continued from pg 6.

While these observations might appear blind idealism or wishful thinking, I have had the rare opportunity to confirm them repeatedly in personal experience for many years. And in 1993, at the World Parliament of religions in Chicago I was privileged to interview, on and off camera, religious and spiritual leaders from all over the world for the public television series, A Parliament of Souls. Such a pilgrimage as one could never have made in an entire lifetime in past generations was encapsulated in eight days of non-stop conversations--conversations which convinced me that I was not dreaming.

In the preface to the companion book to A Parliament of Souls I wrote:

"The study of comparative religion, taught as it is from books and lectures, cannot begin to tell this story. For me face to face encounter with those individuals who have sorted through their own tradition to discover and live out that which is vital, that which gives meaning and direction, that which offers hope for a humane future is a profound inspiration. I have found that while I continue to puzzle over the various theologies and doctrines, I am renewed by my encounter with those individuals who have made an honest and self-critical examination of the deepest parts of their own spiritual tradition and offer those insights by the very shape of their life...In these people I saw the reality that truth knows no human boundary--that the Transcendent is alive and well with or without us and above and beyond our attempts to control and it continues to manifest itself throughout our world with surprise, joy, renewed hope, creative freedom and above all, compassion."

My guest, the Hindu saint, Swami Chidananda said of God in a moment of humble but intense personal conviction before our cameras: "He is REAL." I would like to echo him in saying of the dawning of this longed for spiritual transformation: not only is it necessary, it is REAL!"

Bettina Gray is a founding member of the North American Interfaith Network (NAIN) of the United States and Canada. She co-produced and hosted the recent Public Television series, A Parliament of Souls.

Flagstaff Conference Travel Coordinator is Jerry Pando. Those traveling to the conference, willing to share a ride or in need of a ride may call Jerry at (510) 939-1420. Drivers, please leave a message indicating number of spaces, time and place of departure, estimated cost of shared expenses, contact phone etc. Riders, please leave a message of your needs.

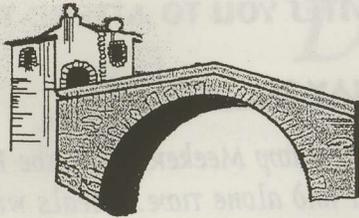
-----PLEASE CUT HERE-----

YES! I'm interest in learning more about membership in GOLDEN GATE CIRCLE. Please Call me.

Name: _____ Address: _____
City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____ Best time to call: _____

_____ No, I do not wish to be a member at this time. Here's a \$10 donation to be a 'friend of Golden Gate Circle' and keep me on the mailing list for 1996.

Please mail this form to :Chrissy P.Smith, 3782 Vista Dr., Sequel CA 95073 or call Chrissy at: (408) 462-4823



*From Bridge to Bridge
The Project of the Serbo-Croatian Translation*

"The religion of Jesus is a religion for everybody...His life and teachings were bequeathed the universe as an inspirational and idealistic inheritance suitable for the spiritual guidance and moral instruction of all ages and on all worlds. And even today, Jesus' teaching stands apart from all religions, as such, albeit it is the living hope of every one of them."

(pg. 1583)

**THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT:
20 PAPERS OR
10% OF THE URANTIA BOOK
HAS BEEN TRANSLATED INTO SERBO-CROATIAN**

Please continue contributing toward the translation.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM GREECE...

"Yesterday's mail was the most moving and thrilling in ages! Thank you deeply for your efforts to translate the UB into Serbo-Croatian. The Balkan crisis is particularly poignant here in Greece where anxiety and ancient tribal enmities are apparent in any discussion of that war. The long and painful history that has generated such hopelessness is nearly beyond comprehension; how to help? How to interpret the misery seemingly self-imposed in a country so strategically located to affect all of Europe at a time when political-economic efforts seek to unite it.

Yours is the only way. God willing it will come soon. God of action has surely instigated this in inspiring all of you and bringing Nora to the Urantia Book..."

*J.W.
Ithaca, Crete
October 27, 1995*

CORRESPONDENCE FROM CROATIA...

"The Urantia Book shows me the Father in a different way. The most interesting thing for me is that the Book doesn't regard people as sinful and stupid creatures who are unable to follow God, but it shows that each and every one of us can follow God, in his or her own specific way. It shows that God accepts all kinds of people, and shows that we all are saved if we believe in Him with all our hearts. The Urantia Book shows God who is real Father and it keeps you thinking of him constantly.

The Book shows me that the most important thing is to do God's will. I think that life is just about that--doing the will of God.

The world today needs Good who is full with love and peace. The world needs Universal Father as He is described in The Urantia Book. But the world also needs us--people who can love other people and care about them as our Heavenly Father loves and cares for us all."

*Ivana Pecaric
Croatia, Zagreb
January 1996*

*Ivana, her sisters and boyfriend form a study-group in Zagreb, Croatia.
They send a warmest regards to American readership.*

----- PLEASE CUT HERE -----

Yes, I want to support the translation of The Urantia Book into Serbo-Croatian

Name: _____ Address: _____

City: _____ Phone: _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$ _____ as a:

Monthly donation for _____ months. One time donation. Annual donation.

Toward the translation of the paper _____.

(Please make your checks payable to: Golden Gate Circle/Translation of The Urantia Book)

Please mail to: **Mr Larry Geis, 390 Page St.
San Francisco, CA 94102-5612**

(Signature)

For more information on progress of the translation, please contact Nora Abdemoakher, Tel: (510) 841-5619 E-mail:saednora@argon.linkzone.com

**GOLDEN GATE CIRCLE OF STUDENTS OF THE URANTIA BOOK INVITES YOU TO ATTEND THE
3RD ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT
FRIDAY EVENING MAY 24 - SUNDAY NOON, MAY 26.**

The Women's Group has reserved beautiful Lydia House at St. Dorothy' Rest in Camp Meeker, near the Russian River. The program will include study, worship, play, rest, discussions, silent and alone time. Meals will be provided by cooking crews (you will only have to cook once!) Space is Limited.

**MAIN TOPIC FOR STUDY/MEDITATION:
HOW DOES THE GOSPEL OF JESUS SHOW FORTH IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES AS WOMEN?**

Send in the form below by May 6 (please - we need turn around time for sending maps and cooking crew assignments) along with \$25 registration fee in order to reserve a space. Call Dolores Nice with questions - (415) 369-6803

Two nights - \$63 Saturday only (day tripper) - \$10
SEND FORM TO: Dolores Nice, 3638 Farm Hill Blvd., Redwood City, 94061

Maps and cooking crew information will be sent to those who send in a deposit. Please join some of us at Negris Restaurant in Occidental - 6:30 - 7:00 Friday evening.

I plan to join the group for dinner Friday evening in Occidental

Make your checks payable to: GOLDEN GATE CIRCLE

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

I would like to volunteer and be of service in the following realms:

- ENTERTAINMENT
- WORSHIP
- MUSIC
- OTHER _____

Developments

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Students of **The Urantia Book**
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San Francisco, CA 94146



**LARRY GEIS
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SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102**

Inasmuch as there is no official interpretation of The Urantia Book, the views expressed herein are based upon each author's understanding and personal religious experience.
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Golden Gate Circle
for readers of The Urantia Book

"Every true relationship of mortal man with other persons--human or divine--is and end in itself" *Solitary Messenger, page 1228*

Dear Urantia Book reader,

Recently the Golden Gate Circle held their semi-annual Community Planning Meeting. Part of that meeting was spent developing our Activities Calendar for 1996, and we are pleased to announce a variety of events throughout the year designed to bring new and seasoned readers into meaningful fellowship.

With all the changes that have been occurring over these last few years, it is heartening to know that there remains a strong core of individuals in the greater San Francisco Bay Area that are dedicated to preserving the friendships that have blossomed over the years. We as a group encompass a large range of territory from Santa Rosa to Santa Cruz, Berkeley to Half Moon Bay, and even on into Sacramento.

We began last year with our New Year's Worship service held at the Pacific School of Religion. This is a way to begin the year in worshipful contemplation, an opportunity to make meaningful spiritual resolutions and join in prayer with fellow believers in setting the tone for the coming year. As the year progressed we met together for retreats, both for families and adults and a special women's retreat to advance the soul and renew the spirit. Another meeting brought us together to ask *Who are we?* In the Urantia movement and also afforded us an opportunity to hear about the experience of the trip to Israel that many fellow readers took in celebrating the 2000 year anniversary of the bestowal of Michael to Urantia. Special study sessions as well as social time rounded out our calendar. Next year we are planning an equally diverse and stimulating schedule of activities.

During 1995, members of GGC have promoted a variety of service projects that include: presentations of The Urantia Book to the Unity Church, Walnut Creek, (which has yielded 10 new members into a study group); assisting at Whole Life Expos in San Francisco, Sacramento and Las Vegas; an Adopt-a-Highway cleanup project (now in its third year); and more recently, sponsoring a translation into the Serbo-Croatian language. Of course, fostering and maintaining study groups throughout the Greater Bay Area is still of paramount importance to us. There are currently over ten study groups now meeting in our area.

There are two significant ways you can support Golden Gate Circle. The first is to become a member. Members take an active role in planning and participating in Society events. This also signifies membership in The Fellowship, an international organization for readers of The Urantia Book. The second way is to become a 'friend' of GGC. Friends are welcome at all Society events and support GGC by donation which includes a subscription to **Developments**--the newsletter of the Society.

Look over the calendar of events and plan to join us as we worship, study and socialize together in the coming new year. For more information about study groups, Society events or to become a member, ask any Society member you know or call Membership Chairperson Chrissy Smith at **408-462-4823**. We are excited about what our Society has in store for the coming year, **come join us!**

The Members of Golden Gate Circle