

November 2007

CIRCLE SEEKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE
GREATER LAKE MICHIGAN URANTIA ASSOCIATION

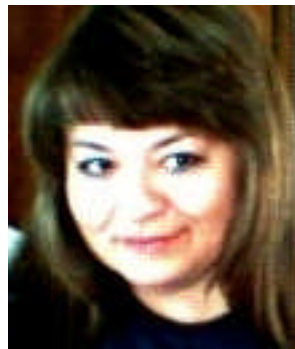
THE GLMUA GOVERNING BOARD



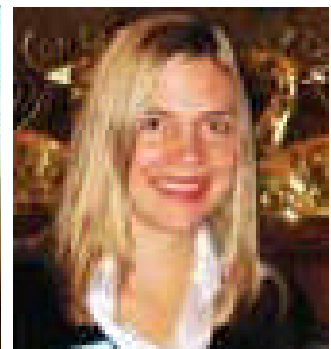
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Study Group
Michael Tanesky

Publications
Susan Grzeskowiak

Conference
Rick Lyon

Spring 2007 elections brought a new Vice President and Secretary to the governing board of GLMUA. Michael Tanesky has added a wonderful sense of dedicated enthusiasm and willingness to serve in his new office of V.P., and Susan reports that she enjoys staying busy while trying to keep up with her new tasks as Secretary!

This has been an extremely active year for all of us, mainly due to the ideal of “joyful active participation” we have adopted as our unofficial motto, and in part to our visionary president, Benet Rutenberg. It certainly doesn’t hurt, as an association, to have the president of Urantia Association of the United States as one of your officers. We have been blessed to have continuity of leadership and goals which are in common and in unity with association goals and plans at the national and international levels.

In addition to our membership meeting in March, we worked with First Society again to co-host the annual Picnic at Indiana Dunes in August to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of Jesus. GLMUA also planned a Fall Study Seminar in late September which pleased all of us when we had conference attendees from all over the country in addition to a guest from England. We were very surprised to see how the topic of study and program took on a life of its own and seemingly with little or no effort and planning. It was truly amazing to see how it all came together and everyone seemed to really enjoy the weekend by inspiring each other and studying together. One of the best parts of the seminar was making new friends and getting to know what is going on in other parts of the country and the world by the dedicated individuals living there. There seems to be an intense commitment to bring the truth to others and each individual is searching for the way that he or she can be the most effective and make a difference in their own personal way.

It would be impossible to convey the joy one feels when actively serving our heavenly Father. One can only encourage others to engage as a soldier of truth to mankind. We are created to be unique, each and every one of us has a "plan A" imagined for their lives by God. When we discussed Paper #52 *The Planetary Mortal Epochs*, at the Fall Study Seminar, it became clear how out of step with the natural progress of a planet we are here on Urantia. We actually put our heads together and imagined what the spiritual task force assigned to our planet might be working on and how we might align ourselves in a personal way to help achieve those personal and planetary goals.

It is an eye opener to hear the brilliant ideas 25 enlightened individuals can come up with in such a short time as 2 hours brainstorming together. I encourage each of you to strengthen yourselves by starting or attending an existing study group. We are not meant to be alone. The balancing power of a group is essential to remain centered and to avoid fanaticism. The group is also essential in that we are challenged to action, empowered, encouraged and supported by like minded fellows with our best interests at heart. I encourage you to pray and listen for how you might be able to make a difference in the coming year. God will use us in ways we could not imagine if and when we open ourselves to be led by Him. We must remember that complacency can be our worst enemy.

I would like to encourage each and every one of you to choose at least one event to attend in the coming year... you could start with our next event...Christmas at Urantia Foundation...it is always a warm and lovely evening of fellowship, food and entertainment. There are opportunities and events planned throughout the year and although it can be difficult to come out for the first time when you don't know anyone, you will be glad you did. All of the board members' photos and emails are listed above, so if you need help or encouragement, just let us know.

There are also opportunities to serve within the organization. If you find that you have spare time on your hands, please ask yourself if you are being a wise steward for the use of that time and of your resources. Each of us could probably find ways to give a little more, and if each of us did that, what a difference it would make toward making this world a better place.

Please watch for newsletter updates, we have downsized our newsletter due to budget constraints, and plan to gradually shift our newsletter over to an electronic format. For those of you who are paid members, you will continue to receive the newsletter free of charge. In the future, others may request a hard copy of the latest newsletter by sending a donation of \$3 per issue to cover printing and postage costs. We plan to print two issues a year, one in the spring with a calendar of events for the year and a fall issue to wrap and report the year's local activities. You'll receive an email reminder when the newsletter is posted to the website if we have your email address. To encourage participation, our future format will concentrate more on the local news, featured study groups and calendar of events in our four state area. Check out the following websites regularly:

Please make yourself familiar with the UAUS website: www.urantiausa.com so you can access national news and events (as well as the GLMUA home page). You can also read *The Urantia Book* online and this can be a very useful tool in finding quotes you are looking for when writing Urantia related articles. Please also go to the International website: www.urantia-uai.org for international news, events and we recommend that you check out "Tidings" and "The Journal" for truly inspired art, poetry and commentaries from fellow readers. The Foundation website: www.urantia.org where you will be able to watch for such things as important news and updates regarding translations and Urantia Book Internet School.. If you do not have a computer, perhaps you could use one at your local library. Make sure to save these sites as "favorites" for easy future access!

We need **current mailing address, phone and email address**. We lose people each year who move and do not give forwarding information. We are here to serve you, so please help us by returning the enclosed survey so we can update our records!

In closing, I would like to give thanks to all of you out there who have supported us, for those who have given so generously of their time and resources, for those who have helped with planning our local events in 2007, all of those who have presented at our conference, we very much appreciate everyone's help. In closing, we wish you a blessed holiday season and New Year!

Indiana Dunes Picnic 2007 by Susan Grzeskowiak

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After an evening of severe storms, we were all wondering if our picnic plans for the annual celebration of Jesus birthday in August would be thwarted., but we awoke on Sunday, August 26th to a lovely morning and the entire day could not have been better for our picnic. The picnic at Duneside Shelter has become a tradition as Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association (GLMUA) and First Society of Chicago have cooperated to co-host this event for all local readers. When attending the picnic you can count on wonderful food, and lots of fun and fellowship. Bill Martin graciously volunteered his culinary talents to oversee the menu and donate many of his specialty dishes as well as grilling the best marinated chicken and steak ever! Michael Tanesky and Cece Forrester coordinated the invitations , respective budgets, volunteers and activities schedule. Michael served as emcee. Many people answered the invitation to personally share the usual favorite readings from *The Urantia Book* and Michael opened the meal with a prayer. The lively conversations ranging from scientific discovery of a new dark gravity body to religious strides being made in Africa and all over the world are the mainstay of the meals our fellow readers look forward to at these events. After sharing a piece of birthday cake, everyone split off into groups to enjoy the after meal activities of yard games, hiking by the lake, and even our very own Andre Traversa doing his amazing impersonations of well known fellow readers gave everyone a good laugh and some after dinner fun. These events are weeks in the planning and are over far too quickly. As we all gathered our things and cleaned up, one of our fellows from the Beverly Shores area, Danny Casco, arrived with news that the storms had damaged his home and he had spent the day trying to repair his roof, but he still took the time to come down to the lake to say hello to everyone. I certainly hope if you were not there, that you will make an effort never to miss another picnic! It takes a little courage to attend for the first time, but you will find others there who are friendly and who have a genuine interest in you and your thoughts about the book.

Indiana Dunes Picnic... August 26, 2007



WEBSITES:

Urantia Foundation: www.urantia.org

UAI: www.urantia-uai.org

UAUS : www.urantiausa.org

GLMUA: www.urantiausa.org/GLMUA

A HOLIDAY PARTY AT URANTIA FOUNDATION

533 W. Diversey Pkwy., Chicago, Illinois

Please join us Saturday December 8, 2007

Gather: 5 pm with Potluck Buffet: 6 pm

Music and Social: 8-10 pm

R.S.V.P. (773)525-3319 or urantia@urantia.org

INFORMATION SURVEY (Please return to GLMUA, PO Box 483, Mishawaka, IN 46544)

NAME: _____

PHONE: (_____) _____ CELL PHONE: (_____) _____

ADDRESS: _____ APT: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

Please check those which apply:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in starting a study group | <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed Donation for hard copy newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Would like referrals to area readers | <input type="checkbox"/> Host / attend an existing study group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in becoming a member | <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in volunteering for 2008 events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Reader, need more information | <input type="checkbox"/> Interested in serving on a committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interest in secondary works/study aids | <input type="checkbox"/> Please remove me from your mailing list |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enclosed Donation / Specific Use: _____ | |

THE REVELATION WITHIN US

by Rick Lyon

On September 29th and 30th the Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association hosted a regional conference in Chesterton, Indiana. Several people traveled quite a distance to participate in our conference and we appreciate that. "Participate" is the key word as we tried to make the presentations as interactive as possible. Our unofficial motto for GLMUA seems to be "Joyful Active Participation" so we try to encourage that in everything that we do. The conference theme was "**The Revelation Within Us**". Our goal was to illuminate the importance of the individual – you and me – in our Fathers Divine Plan of Perfection and the coming mortal epochs of man; Our origin, history, and destiny. Our theme was based upon this quote:

"P.1088 - §4 *"The religionist is not unsympathetic with social suffering, not unmindful of civil injustice, not insulated from economic thinking, neither insensible to political tyranny. Religion influences social reconstruction directly because it spiritualizes and idealizes the individual citizen. Indirectly, cultural civilization is influenced by the attitude of these individual religionists as they become active and influential members of various social, moral, economic, and political groups.*

The group of 24 attendees was large enough to create several lively discussion groups yet small enough that everyone got to meet everyone else and spend time chatting. Friday evening began with dinner at a local Italian restaurant called "Lucrezia's" followed by an informal social reception back at the hotel. We had a great time and I think this helped everyone to be more at ease with sharing and preparing for the interaction to follow. Michael Tanesky, serving as our Master of Ceremonies, started things off Saturday morning by introducing Benet Rutenberg. Benet began our program by offering quotes and insight related to our topic. This developed the focus of our time together and set the tone for the event. Daryl Barry, one of several guests from Ohio, finished our morning with a period of meditation that was both educational and experiential. This helped us to leave the hustle and bustle of our week behind and prepared us for joyful active participation in the presentations to follow.

After lunch, Susan Grzeskowiak began our study with a presentation of Paper 52: *The Planetary Mortal Epochs*. While the format planned for all the presentations was the same, they each took on a flavor of the personality of the presenter. Her style of presentation was taken from her experience in training co-workers for her employer. This was a brain storming session that encouraged everyone to participate. Everyone got involved and had a lot of fun with this.

Our next presentation was by Anne Lyon. This was Anne's first experience at giving a presentation but she did very well. She offered some valuable insights and we enjoyed the many points of her presentation concerning Paper 99: *"The Social Problems of Religion"* that was both enlightening and light-hearted. I know that she was very nervous about her presentation but it went well and we hope to see her doing more of these in the future. It is difficult to overcome our fear of public speaking but it is something that all of us should try to do. There is no better place to give your first public presentation than in front of a group of like-minded friends from the Urantia community.

Our day wrapped up with Benet Rutenberg's presentation about Paper 103: *The Reality of Religious Experience*. He began with a brief planned presentation, but then he did what he does best – just speaking from his heart and mind.

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This was indeed an interesting study not only of religious experience but of our Father Himself. You would think that after an entire day of study and participation, the group would be exhausted and numb from the experience. However, the group instead seemed to be energized and cheered by the day. The hotel served a wonderful dinner that evening and there was plenty of lively conversation. Of course, no GLMUA event is complete without an evening of music that always involves James Woodward on the guitar. Scott Brooks, another of our Ohio guests, joined in with his mandolin.

Our program started a little earlier on Sunday morning but no less enthusiastically. Once again Michael did a great job of keeping the program on track and making seamless transitions between the program segments. James Woodward opened with a unique prayer that extended our love and appreciation from our indwelling spirit up to our Father and to all the entities, beings, and personalities in between.

Rick Lyon gave a presentation titled "The Revelation Within Us" based on Paper 110: *Relations of Adjusters to Individual Mortals*. He encouraged people to get involved not only in our Urantia organizations but to also become involved in the social, moral, economic, and political groups in their area.

Linda Elum had given a presentation at our 2004 international conference in Chicago and we have never forgotten her energy and inspiration. Linda finished our presentations on this Sunday morning with Paper 195: *After Pentecost*. One of our goals for this event was to bring the teachings alive and Linda certainly did that. Linda's presentation was video taped. Gary Rawlings, membership chair for UAI from Wales who also attended, will be taking this recording to show to potential new groups in Africa. What an inspiration that will be to our brothers and sisters there!



We are so glad that everyone enjoyed the conference. We certainly enjoyed having everyone there. No matter how well an event may be planned, it is the participants (seen and unseen) that make it a success. Urantia events are wonderful because people we see only at these events perhaps every year or two seem like friends that live down the street when we get together. We encourage all of our local associations to consider hosting a small event of their own. It takes some planning and work but it really isn't that difficult. If you pick a good venue, such as ours at the Hilton Garden Inn, they will make things easy for you. Never hesitate to negotiate the costs as most are usually pretty flexible. Choose an interesting and well conceived topic that appeals to your group and then get the word out. You too can enjoy the spiritual satisfaction that comes from serving our fellows and the excitement of group participation. Individual study groups can host similar events for readers in their area. We encourage everyone to put together your own event !