



# Tidings

FROM ASSOCIATIONS AROUND URANTIA

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL ■ [HTTP://URANTIA-UI.ORG](http://urantia-uai.org)

Nº 20 ■ JANUARY 2007

"029" Drawing by Carol Cannon (New York)



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## President's Message

Dear Friends of UAI,

THE YEAR 2006 has been a very important one for the growth of Urantia Association International and the welfare of its mission. The members of the International Service Board and the Representative Council have been very busy progressing in their efforts to organize UAI, to make it more autonomous and interdependent of Urantia Foundation. During the past year, some members of the International Service Board have been engaged in the very complex work of registering UAI as a new charitable organization in the United States. This process in itself has necessitated many hours of work and has required the service of a lawyer. The registration is actually coming to an end and the year 2007 should become the first year of our newly acquired autonomy.

We have also seen UAI expand in a new country, Belgium. This new association should witness more growth in Europe and help expand the number of readers as well as new study groups. We have also given new chartering agreement to two local associations in South America that were once part of a single national association. The readers of Chile and Argentina who were once part of the Cono Del Sur Association now have the opportunity to expand their local association to the level of a national.

The year 2006 was also the first time that UAI held an international conference in a different continent of the world. The conference in Australia will be remembered as an important occasion to attract readers from this part of the world to attend an international conference. This was also the year to change the conference from a two-year cycle to a three-year cycle. This change was suggested by the International Service Board and adopted by the Representative Council in order to accommodate the



implementation of the upcoming strategic plan.

Another very important action was taken in 2006 - the work was begun to develop a strategic plan that would focus UAI in its far-reaching mission

to disseminate the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. Two reunions that lasted a few days each, were held in Chicago and many members of the International Service Board, as well as observers, attended those meetings. The final touch in the elaboration of this strategic plan should be completed in the first half of 2007. You will hear more about it as soon as further progress is made.

In December the International Service Board has submitted a resolution to the Representative Council asking approval of three restricted funds, one was for conferences, another for sponsorship to conferences and another for dissemination projects. The International Service Board hopes that the creation of those funds will attract certain groups of donors. The resolution was well received by the Representative Council and has been approved by a strong majority.

The International Service Board is in the final stage of approving certain changes made to the Charter and By-Laws so they can be in compliance with our new registration. Early in January the Representative Council will be called on to adopt this new version of the Charter and By-Laws, in doing so, it will finalize the legal process of registering UAI as a charitable organisation in the state of Illinois, USA.

At the beginning of the year, a UAI fund raising appeal will be sent to the USA membership, calling on their generosity, asking them to match a large donation from anonymous donors. Other countries are most welcome to participate in this effort to raise enough money to enable our

## TIDINGS

From Associations  
Around Urantia

Tidings is a monthly publication of Urantia Association International, whose mission is to foster study of *The Urantia Book* and to disseminate its teachings.

The Urantia Book online:

<http://www.urantia.org/papers/>

You may submit articles about *The Urantia Book*, news about your association, stories, photos and poems to the editor. All articles are subject to revision.

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**Submissions limited to 700 words (one page) or 1400 words (1½ page) plus one or two photos. Deadline: by the 15th of every month.**

pursuit of the many projects that UAI has budgeted for 2007.

As we are entering this New Year, we should set aside some time to pray and meditate on our engagement and commitment to *The Urantia Book* and its mission. It is very important that we be able to define how far we are ready to go in our actions to support the dissemination of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. If our unseen friends are to assist us in this work, we owe it to them to at least let them know of our support and willingness to serve. We are their hands in this work; it is our will that can make this Revelation succeed, they are powerless in saving this world, unless we act. They need us as much as we need them, God has revealed himself to us, now it is time for us to reveal ourselves to Him.

May this New Year give us ample opportunities for growth. □

Gaétan Charland

President UAI

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## Greetings from Finnish Urantia Association!



Two fairs: top, at the fair of "I Am" and bottom, fair of "Spirit and Knowledge"

RAIMO ALA-HYNNILÄ  
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 Suomen Urantia-seura r.y.

**A**FTER A VERY HOT summer we got again a cold and dark winter, but despite the weather, our hearts are warm, and minds are active and responsive.

The members of our Association are always enthusiastic when it becomes a question of introducing *The URANTIA Book*. In some years we are taking part here in Finland even in two large fairs. The first one is a fair of "Spirit and Knowledge" and the name of the other one is "I Am". I think there are many thousands of visitors in both fair and *The URANTIA Book* will get there a lot of new friends. Many of them have heard something of the book, some of them have already read the book, but never seen any other readers. They are really delighted to meet us and hear what kind of URANTIA activities there are in our country and internationally as well.

Besides above mentioned we have every year two national meetings, the first one is normally in January and the second one is in June. In Helsinki there will be also four lecture occasions for Urantia Book readers in the fall and in spring. The study group activity is very important and there are in Finland about 20 local Urantia Book study groups, mainly in larger cities.

Here you can see two photos taken from the fair of Spirit and Knowledge. In the first one from this autumn there are Seppo and me behind the table and the second one (Urantia flag on the right) will show a sight from the earlier fair. □

## The Urantia Book Presented in Germany



Presentation of *The Urantia Book* in Frankfurt, Germany at the biggest book fair of the German speaking area.

CHRISTIAN RUCH  
[church@gmx](mailto:church@gmx)  
 Switzerland

**S**INCE *THE URANTIA BOOK* has been published in German, much has happened.

In October 2006, a group of people presented *The Urantia Book* on the "Frankfurter Buchmesse," the biggest book fair of the German speaking area. Among them was Mr. Urs Ruchti who has been responsible for the translation which took 13 years, Mr. Werner Sutter and Mrs. Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie, the "good spirits" of the whole project, Mr. Jay W. Peregrine from the Urantia Foundation in Chicago, René Hagenaaers from Urantia Europe B.V., Michael MacIsaac from the UB Youth, and others.

In the meantime there is also the first German study group which was founded in Frankfurt, as well as a German speaking newsgroup in the internet:

<http://de.groups.yahoo.com/group/urantiabuch>

And there was a very nice article about the UB in the German "Connection," a spiritual magazine.

The next steps will be a German speaking website to promote *The Urantia Book* more intensively in Switzerland and Austria. It is also planned to present it at the AURA in Basel in November 2007, one of the biggest spiritual fairs in Switzerland. □

## How *The Urantia Book* Found Me - The Forgotten Promise

MARIE-LISE RENAUD  
Association Urantia du Québec

**T**ODAY, MY NEIGHBOR, a blue eyed elderly man, saluted me for the first time. This nice man, retired, takes a morning and evening stroll with his dog. Good weather, bad weather, his little animal follows him courageously. So, we introduce each other on a beautiful summer evening; I was in a hurry to go back home, and his little dog, running off to smell the fragrant emanations in this neighborhood, made him wet by the evening dew.

It is eleven PM and I am now in bed. I had a good day of work; I am lying down, being almost comfortable. I am almost comfortable, because I am unhappy that I stopped sharing my faith for many years.

Alone in my bed, I think of the not too distant past when friendships were built and were lost, when love timidly exposed itself, when passions were lived in ecstatic happiness. It is eleven PM and a tear glides down my cheek. My soul has been sighing for more than ten years. What happened to the beautiful promises made by my Lord Jesus *"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."* (Luke 11,9). My twenties were spent studying the Bible and ministering with my Pentecostal brothers and sisters. We were young and we were many, loving God. What wonderful moments I spent in the presence of all these people passionate about "The Word."

Then a strong wind came, a wind that wore me down; a wind of habits; a wind that troubles and causes us to fall into inferior material temptations.

I am alone in my big bed. I lack nothing. I live in a large apartment facing the river. I have absolutely marvelous work colleagues. Not feeling good or bad, my soul has nevertheless been sighing for many years. It is eleven PM and a tear glides down my cheek.

I remember all the nights when, before falling asleep, I repeated in my soul, for Jesus to hear: *"It is not your fault."* How



many times I repeated: *"It is not your fault."* How could I make you responsible for our own choices?

But how many times I asked you, as a soul that longs after love: *"Talk to me, I implore you to talk to me!"* Why have you turned away from me? I then thought I had been condemned for some obscure faults, fallen out of His grace, He whom I loved so much!

Remember your promises! How can you leave me in this world where cupidity and lying are omnipresent?

The old man with the blue eyes says "hello" to me almost every day now. That look filled with tenderness and serenity charms me; he is always smiling. One day, he introduces his wife and invites me over for coffee. We discuss, we sympathize, a new friendship has just blossomed.

Winter has arrived, he must leave my country to escape the cold. Mexico's warmth and sun heal his ailments that are not visible to my eyes.

That morning, before leaving, he looked at me sipping my coffee. He had in his hands a big blue book... The night before, I was thinking again about those promises that I had read in the Bible. How many times I read that Psalm *"I will instruct you and show you the way you should walk, give you counsel and watch over you."* (Psalm 32,8).

The old man said to me: "I am not bringing this book with me; it is too heavy for my luggage. And where I am going, I have access to it on the Internet." He looks at me and smiles one of those tranquil old person smiles and tells me: "Marie-Lise, return to

your first love! Continue to search and you will surely find!"

My old friend with the blue eyes left two days ago. I am in my bed; it is eleven PM; I open my big blue book. I leaf through, I look, I discover, but...how is this possible? I go back to the "Detailed Table of Contents." Tears of joy now slide down my cheeks and I remember these promises of old, *"I will instruct you and show you the way you should walk, give you counsel and watch over you."*

One night in February 1979, I was getting ready to read the Bible and to serve as Jesus recommended. One night in February 2001, I was getting ready to open a book called *"The Urantia Book,"* three blue circles were shown in the middle of the page.

Since that night, I learn, I discover, I make new friends and I share my most precious possession: "my faith." Is it possible that such a wonderful gift would be given to me? A spirit of praise and adoration rises in me. And that promise from the Book of Psalms, "I will instruct you." I had forgotten that promise!

I now live while attaching myself to this instruction. I am relearning service to others, because how can we love without wanting to serve others?

*"Jesus taught that service to one's fellow is the highest concept of the brotherhood of spirit believers. Salvation should be taken for granted by those who believe in the fatherhood of God. The believer's chief concern should not be selfish desire for personal salvation but rather the unselfish urge to love and, therefore, serve one's fellows even as Jesus loved and served the mortal men."* (UB p.2017)

I have been reading *The Urantia Book* for a short time and already I have an irresistible desire to do something with my brothers and sisters. There is so much to do! And for those who let this love move them, there will not be any difficulty in finding their ministry in the field that attracts them. The difficulty will be to find a balance between service and simply living in love! ■

# How *The Urantia Book* Found Me

GEORGE A. BILQUE  
Urantia Brotherhood As-  
sociation of Arizona

**B**ACK IN THE YEAR 1967, I came home from a business trip on Thanksgiving Eve and arrived from the airport at about 10:30 PM. My daughter Linda had arrived home earlier with some student friends, and were seated in the kitchen dinette having a drink. I joined them and became involved in their discussions regarding some esoteric subjects regarding the ancient societies of Egypt, Peru and Mexico. One of the young ladies turned to me and said that she thought I would be interested in a book called "Urantia", and I asked her where I could obtain it. She said that I could get it at the university book store and when I took my daughter back to Ann Arbor, Michigan on Sunday, I went to the store and obtained a copy of the book.

When I got back to the house, I immediately started perusing the book and immediately became completely absorbed. I still remember my amazement and the thrill of discovering this information that



I had been searching for all my life. For the following month my main occupation was reading *Urantia* and as I delved deeper and deeper into the material, I realized that this information had to be true. No human being could invent the range, the depth and the mass of data pertaining to the Universe. I was the type of employee that arrived at work at 7:00 AM and left about 7:00 PM, but for the month of December I was leaving the office about 2:30 PM and going home and reading *Urantia* until after midnight.

I can say without qualification, that my first reading of *Urantia* was one of the most exciting events of my life and I had some exciting experiences in two wars, and a business experience with a large corporation. I am now almost 88 years of age and I am still reading *Urantia* and am still thrilled to read about the fantastic opportunities that lie ahead. Eons of time in which I can enrich my knowledge, enlarge my senses, enjoy the diversity of service and adventure as I progress through the Universes until at last I acquire the spiritual qualities that permit me to come face to face with God the Father.

I am deeply indebted to the young student who introduced me to *Urantia* and I use every opportunity, without being obnoxious, to introduce the book to people that I may chance to meet.

*The Urantia Book* has inspired me to express some of the thoughts to poetry and I am attaching a poem that I hope you will enjoy. □

## My Musical Prayer

Dear Lord, in the essence of my being I know you.

You flow through each of my action, no matter how trivial.

I am an expression of your thoughts made flesh, exhilarating with all of your other beings created by your unlimited imagination, each of us playing the game of your make-believe, knowing full well, in the deep soul of our consciousness that we are part of you.

And, when the game is over, returning to you to be reborn in a different form to express your creative spirit anew, exuding joy, delight, exuberance; experiencing the full gamut of the senses as they explore your universe.

My soul knows ecstasy in the realization of its origin, singing lyrical chords of rhapsodic glee, striving to achieve the harmony of your composition, knowing that the song never ends but continually expands, interweaving new melodies and rhythms, exhausting the inexhaustible variations of combinations that exist in the octaves of your heavenly sphere, Each cell of my being knows its place in the score and delights to be heard as part of the ensemble. My soul sings the chorus of their blended chord, adding their tone to the melody of love which is life.

I am an instrument learning to play itself so that I can express your music. Each thought of mine is a note that is part of the orchestration that is emerging.

Our souls know your love – the spirit that engenders beauty, spreads joy, banishes gloom, raises hopes and continually strives for perfection.

Dear Soul, speak to me though I am deaf. Sing to me though I have no rhythm. Paint for me though my eyes do not see. Some day, my senses will open and I will know my soul and then I will hear and feel and see and understand.

—George A. Bilque

## Workshop Conference, Spiritual Relations and Growth



JOHANNE SÉGUIN,  
Vice-president AUQ  
Association Urantia du Québec

**S**UNDAY NOVEMBER 12th, 2006 at the Comfort Inn in St-Jérôme, Québec, a one day workshop conference was held where the theme was "SPIRITUAL RELATIONS AND GROWTH". Thirty eight persons had made the trip to listen to the presentations made by our six speakers.

This day required seven weeks of personal investment in meetings and preparation by our valiant volunteers to create the required group cohesion and unity. Each week, these co-authors of the conference thematic met to study the texts extracted from the U.B. and to ponder collectively. For me, the instigator of this project, it was a rich and elevating experience without precedent. What joy it was to support the inspiration that emanated from this group and to participate in it!

The theme was divided into sub-themes which each speaker specifically developed. The first sub-theme on the couple and family made us understand the fundamental role for each protagonist: that woman and man are so different and at the same time so compatible. We realized the repercussions of this co-creative association on the happiness of the children and on their future adult behaviour. We have considered it necessary

to re-establish the family in the forefront of our talks to raise the level of spiritual life.

The second sub-theme is a portrait of man and of society. We have deepened our understanding of the fact that when man has spiritual belief, he will bear fruits so as to share them, that the spiritual man has a major role to play in his environment.

As a continuation, two of the orators developed their sub-themes on spiritual fraternity. We reflected on the paradigm of the part versus the whole, and we rejoiced greatly to see that individual's progress benefited the entire fraternity. We appreciated the unity of spirit, the communion of souls without losing our individuality. Since personal religious experience is the corner stone of our relation with the Father, we further appreciate any additional experiences related to our peers in a spirit of ever renewing tolerance. What generosity from our brother when he shares his living relation with God!! He mirrors a face of infinity that was not accessible to us.

The last sub-theme had to do with our relation with God. What a wonderful way to close the circle! What a privilege to be endowed with a personality! This fact certifies for sure that we can establish a relationship with the Father who is not only

## \$9,000 Challenge!

**T**HE ISB IS PLEASED to report three anonymous donors are offering Urantia Association International \$3000 each, and are challenging us to raise \$9,000 to match their gifts! Success will result in \$18,000 of new and needed cash to support UAI operations and programs.

This challenge begins January 1, ends March 31, 2007.

All donations, restricted for conference and global seeding or operations unrestricted, received by March 31 will be included in the campaign total. Donors may use PayPal for electronic donations, but checks, and money orders should be sent to Urantia Association International at 559 W. Diversey Parkway #351, Chicago, Illinois 60614 USA. Contact executive director, James Woodward, for details regarding bank transfer donations from outside the United States.

Thank you.

—Mark Kurtz  
UAI CFO

the source of all personalities, but who also is PERSONALITY!

After dinner, people met again, but this time in a round table. Each speaker now became a table moderator and guided the discussions around their respective themes using the texts extracted from the U.B. that had been used for their work, all the while maintaining respect and love. Afterward, the designated note taker for each table went in front of the group and delivered an account of the discussions and of their main points. The day closed on these summaries of rich new experiences and, for personally, on a message of SEE YOU SOON FOR ANOTHER ONE DAY WORKSHOP CONFERENCE!!!

# SURF Annual Christmas Party



SUSAN OWEN  
[s.edowen@earthlink.net](mailto:s.edowen@earthlink.net)  
 Secretary, Southwest Urantia Readers Family

**S**URF held its annual Christmas party at the home of Patti Snyder in Santa Monica on Sunday December 10th. With a more central Southern California location, we got to see some old friends we had not seen in awhile and met a few new ones. Patti was the consummate hostess providing a huge turkey with homemade dressing, gravy and a very special Violet cake which was a lovely lavender color and tasted delicious. Everyone brought food to share so we were blessed with a bountiful repast. After stuffing ourselves, Jane Ploetz and Larry Neff provided musical accompaniment for some very hearty Christmas caroling. Then on to a Yankee Swap gift exchange with lots of gift swapping, fun and laughter. We all had such a warm and wonderful time together – as we always do.

SURF sends best wishes to each and every one of you for many blessings in 2007.

## Poem #1

I wish I could hear you,  
 Even in the half-light of silence  
 That fills my heart of impatience,  
 Even when the night sighs  
 And my eyes rest  
 Next to yours, in the distance.

I wish I could hear you,  
 Understand you,  
 Yearn with you for the day  
 When my dreams  
 are not fantasies anymore  
 And truth is infinite.

I wish I could hear you,  
 Even among the voice of my consciousness  
 And the illusions of my mind,  
 Imperfect outlines of my being  
 That is reluctant to chase you.

I wish I could hear you,  
 Even when the night sighs  
 And fantasies are my reality  
 Because I can't find the truth.

—Giselle Ramos  
[panda8121@hotmail.com](mailto:panda8121@hotmail.com)  
 Asociación Urantia de Barranquilla

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## Editor's Note

**T**he fourth part of the series "Getting To Know The Trustees" is being postponed to the February, 2007 issue due to the passing of Trustee Gard Jameson's mother. Tidings wishes to express our sincere sympathy to Gard and his family.

—Cathy Jones, Editor

## In Memoriam, Javier Humberto Berrío



(December 16, 2006)  
 Vice-President,  
 Asociación Urantia de Medellín

*Dear Javier,*

**U**RANTIA WAS YOUR starting point; now you have begun your real life, the ascending life, to which your mortal state was but the vestibule. A new life, in which you will find an amazing acquisition of knowledge and self-discovery.

We know that he has left a great emptiness in our life, but his memory is always with us, showing us that for every day and situation there is a smile and a friend.

—Asociación Urantia Colombia

# Urantia Book Internet School

## Announcement of the January 2007 Semester Schedule of Courses

**T**HE URANTIA BOOK INTERNET SCHOOL is presenting four courses for the January 2007 Semester, and I'd like to share the "Schedule of Courses" with you. Recently, as a result of our "participation and training program", the UBIS has added three new Teacher/Facilitators to the 2007 schedule. We hope that many of you will come and join us and perhaps become interested in serving as a T/F sometime in the near future.

We hope you will join us in study and fellowship!

In friendship,

—Dorothy Elder  
Director, UBIS  
[delder03@sprynet.com](mailto:delder03@sprynet.com)

The four courses are:

### The Lucifer Rebellion

Part II and III

Papers: 53, 54, 66 and 67

Teacher/Facilitator: Maxl Buchanan

Course Descriptor: A study of Lanonandek Sons, the causes and themes of the rebellion, and the resulting effects upon Urantia and its peoples..... then and now.

### Crisis at Capernaum

Part IV

Papers: 152, 153, 154 and 155

Teacher/Facilitator: Rick Lyon

Course Descriptor: The time period of two and a half months covered in these papers is perhaps the most tumultuous period in the life of Jesus and the Apostles. These papers reveal the crisis that initiated the final year of the Master's life on earth, a transition from the period of discussion and controversy to that of final acceptance or rejection of Jesus and his teachings.

### The Kingdom of Heaven

Papers: 141, 142, 170, 196

Teacher/Facilitator: Jane Ploetz

Course Descriptor: A study of our relationship to God as a reciprocal Father/Son relationship.

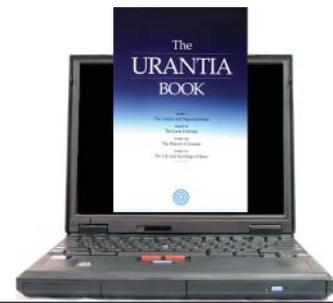
### A Study of the Father-Infinite

Thematic Study: Parts I, II and III

Papers: 1, 10, 56 and 105

Teacher/Facilitator: Ray Gardini

Course Descriptor: This course consists of an exploration of advanced spiritual and philosophical concepts. Having read the Urantia Book in its entirety, including the concepts contained in the Foreword, prior to enrolling in this course will better prepare the student to thoughtfully penetrate and appreciate some of the spiritual concepts presented in this course."



Registration begins on Monday, January 1, on the UBIS website:  
[www.urantiabookschool.org](http://www.urantiabookschool.org)

The courses begin on Monday, January 15, 2007

P.6 - §4 *The Infinite is used to denote the fullness--the finality--implied by the primacy of the First Source and Center. The theoretical I AM is a creature-philosophic extension of the "infinity of will," but the Infinite is an actual value-level representing the eternity-intension of the true infinity of the absolute and unfettered free will of the Universal Father. This concept is sometimes designated the Father-Infinite.* □

## Urantia Brotherhood Association of Arizona Elects New Board

TOBY FOX

[tobyfox1@netzero.com](mailto:tobyfox1@netzero.com)

Secretary-Treasurer, UBAA

**T**he UBAA met at the home of Judyth Shamosh on December 3, 2006. It was voted unanimously to amend the UBAA by-laws in order to combine the office of Treasurer with Secretary and to combine the office of President with that of Membership Chairman.

Judyth Shamosh was congratulated and thanked for her service as president since 2003. It was voted unanimously to wipe the slate clean concerning old dues and to start the new year with no past dues on the books. It was voted unanimously to set the minimum yearly dues to \$15 (\$5 for UBAA, \$5 for UAUS and \$5 for International Urantia Association).

New officers were nominated and voted in, to serve for the next two years:

President-Membership Chair:

Catherine Jones - [cthjon@aol.com](mailto:cthjon@aol.com)

Vice President: Michael Maddocks

- [smikeymao@cableaz.com](mailto:smikeymao@cableaz.com)

Secretary-Treasurer: Toby Fox -

[tobyfox1@netzero.com](mailto:tobyfox1@netzero.com)

Members discussed "How can we make this group stronger" and "How can we best recruit new members?"

The meeting was followed by a delicious pot-luck lunch and an afternoon of fellowship. The next meeting will be April 1, 2007, featuring two presentations from *The Urantia Book*. □