



Tidings

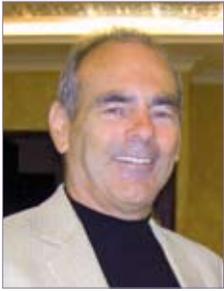
from Associations around Urantia

URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL ■ [HTTP://URANTIA-UAI.ORG](http://URANTIA-UAI.ORG)

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President's message

Dear Friends of UAI,

LAST MONTH WE HAVE SEEN a new initiative coming alive in the Urantia community. This initiative has taken shape on a Web site under the name of Michael's Plan (www.michaelplan.org). It takes its origin in the mind and heart of readers who came together independently from any organisation and with a sincere and strong desire to restore harmony, peace and spiritual unity in our small but fragmented community.

Any initiative such as this one deserve our respectful attention more so when it represents the ideas of a group of very dedicated readers devoted to the welfare of *The Urantia Book* and its mission. While some of us might challenge the true purpose of this group or its well meant intentions, we cannot ignore the strong appeal it produce on our sense of loyalty and dedication to the mission of *The Urantia Book*.

When reading the documentation available on their Website, none of us can stay indifferent to its contents, on the contrary, it moves our heart and opens our mind to the wisdom of the Revelator's directive. I know that a lot of well intention readers discredit any things that are believed to be a directive given by the Revelators to the contact commission. The simple argument is always the same, if it is not written in the Book than it is only hearsay. But if it would be in the Book, it would become dogmatic and interfere with our ability to find and adopt new ways of disseminating *The Urantia Book* and its teachings to future generations.

I strongly believe that some directives were given to the contact commission and most of them were passed down to the Forum members by Dr. Sadler or other members of the contact commission in some form or other to help in the orderly organization of this new adventure. Even Jesus, as we read *The Urantia Book*, gave many directives to his Apostles and Disciples on how to disseminate efficiently his



teachings and yet none of them were written down. For me, I believe certain directives should be passed down from leaders to leaders in a non-crystallised form so they can be adapted to the time and culture of the era we live in. Directives such as those we read on the Michael's Plan website need to be used with discernment for they are a source of wisdom that we often pray for in time of organizational crisis.

One of the goals of this group is to bring spiritual unity in our young and growing community and we have seen that every time such a subject was brought forth it caused many heated and strong defensive discussions. My goal in bringing this initiative to your attention is not to provoke such debate but to make you aware that there is a place where you can read about the history of our movement and which is presented from a very different and enlightening perspective. As sincere and devoted readers we should always strive for harmony and peace and whenever we find others of like mind and spirit we should support each other. While for practical reason we might not agree on some of the ideas proposed in the Michael's Plan, like having only one fraternal organisation, we cannot ignore the legitimacy of many of their propositions.

Reporting on UAI's business - during the month of February, the International Service Board has voted on one resolution having to do with the use of money in the contingency account to finance activities not budgeted for, like the Argentina Bookfair. The same resolution that was adopted by the International Service Board was presented to the Representative Council and will be voted on in the days to follow. There are more and more demands on the part of UAI to participate financially in projects involving dissemination activities around the world. Two such requests came in from two different

TIDINGS

From Associations
Around Urantia

Tidings is a bi-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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COVER: "Readers and world events" collage. You may submit images for possible use on the cover to:

vern@designnd.com.au

Tidings archives:

<http://urantia-uai.org/tidings/>

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



countries in Africa and unless we find ways to help them, initiatives from well meant readers in developing countries will wither for lack of support. One good example for this is the request from the president of the Urantia Association of Malawi. This new association has written down a simple strategic plan to disseminate *The Urantia Book* across Malawi and its neighbouring countries, and to realize those objectives, they need financial support and many books.

What is amazing of this new association is the fact its leaders have written down a strategic plan with simple goals and strategies to distribute *The Urantia Book* across their country and disseminate its teachings through the creation of study groups. We definitely need to support such initiative. The ISB, during its May annual meeting in Chicago, will be exploring ways to support such initiatives. In the meantime, the Dissemination Committee will do all it can to provide the books necessary for their study groups. If you feel generous and you would want to help these peoples,

The Truth About Judy VanCleave

BERT COBB AND CONNIE WOLCOTT

Idaho Urantia Association

WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU AN UP close and personal view of the real Judy VanCleave. To accomplish this I went to Judy’s sister, Connie Wolcott. She is nineteen months older and shed much light on the subject. This is what we came up with.

Judy was a born leader, also called a “strong-willed child.” At age two her Uncle Ladd, fifteen years older, complained to his father, Pappy, that Judy was “throwing her weight around.” With a sly smile Pappy asked, “Is that all twenty pounds?” From an early age she had the ability to turn chaos and anarchy into order and hierarchy. She was usually rounding up all the cousins to play school, church, house, or office. She was always the teacher, the preacher, the mother, or the secretary.

From the time she could talk she demonstrated a compulsion toward honesty and



A recently appointed Trustee, Judy brings a wealth of experience, dedication, wisdom, and willingness to her augmented role of service for the revelation

President’s Message *continued from page 2*

please contact Jimmy Mitchell, Chair of the Dissemination Committee at : jmubreader@gmail.com

The Representative Council has also voted positively on the participation of UAI to the Foxall Fund and the International Service Board is already looking for ways to implement this resolution.

Like I mentioned previously, the International Service Board will be meeting in Chicago during the weekend of the 9th of May for its annual meeting. Many things will be on the agenda and one of them will be the revision of the ISB strategic plan. We invite any leaders who wish to participate or attend as observer to let us know by contacting James Woodward the executive administrator at : TBandG@comcast.net

Good reading

Gaétan G. Charland
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telling the truth. But even more, it was cut and dried. She told it like she saw it. When Judy feels something is right she sticks straight to the path of her convictions. She might be sweet, but she is not a pushover. She is grounded and stands her ground.

In 1974, when she was just nineteen, Judy became an avid reader of *The Urantia Book*. Her childhood characteristics of truthfulness and determination matured into loyalty and commitment as the realities of the Revelation permeated her mind and seeped into her heart. Life was not easy. She had to work for her growth just like the rest of us. She struggled to live these high values in her family and community and grew into the unified person we know today – a great example of leadership through service.

On May 15, 1994, she hosted the chartering of the Idaho Urantia Association at her lovely home in Boise. Since then she has been both president and secretary of the Idaho Association, the star secretary of the

UAUS, ISB, and Associate Trustee of the Urantia Foundation. Now her family and friends are very proud that she is one of the new trustees, but not surprised. We knew all along that she was a born leader.

Many have admired her innate sense of balance and grace. She is a natural, whether on the dance floor or in the saddle. There was the time at age thirteen when she was on a runaway horse that made a ninety degree turn into the barnyard. In a split second, she threw her leg over its back, using the centrifugal force of dismount. She was left standing unscathed as the dust cleared, not frightened, but furious with the misbehaving critter. More recently, several of us witnessed her applying lipstick while riding a trotting mule. She even got it on straight!

We have no doubt that she has the fortitude and composure to serve the Fifth Epochal Revelation as a Foundation Trustee. As Cathy Jones said, “She’s got it all, besides being beautiful”.

Holly's History

Holly Arvanites

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WHEN I WAS 15, I REFUSED TO GO to the Catholic Church. Much to my surprise, Mother said, "OK". A few weeks later, my younger brother said he wouldn't go either. My Mother, who was the Catholic parent, said, "OK" and we stopped going. I couldn't believe my luck. The church meant nothing to me. I fought with the Nuns and missed confession without a thought. Why was Mother so compliant?

My parents went downtown to Chicago every Sunday afternoon and many Wednesday evenings. I had no clue why or exactly where. At age 16, my parents said, "you're coming with us". We went to 533 Diversey. The year was 1948.

Dr. Sadler had given the main room of his apartment over to the forum. It was light with windows on two sides, but a bit chilly. His son Bill led the meetings. He was good enough to hold my attention. He read the paper, talked about it and took questions afterwards. The book was not yet in print. It was on paper and Dr. Sadler's son Bill had the main copy. There were not copies for all of us. There were some happy jokes like "Thank goodness we don't have to sit on clouds and play harps." They had managed to raise the money for the plates for the book by then and they were stored in the basement vaults of the First National Bank of Chicago. The joke was that if there was the threat of a nuclear attack everyone knew where to go, the First National Bank of Chicago vaults. There was one young man in his twenties, I think, whose name I don't recall. Everyone else was old in my eyes.

My parents were in their 40s, so they were "old". Bill Sadler was so knowledgeable that any mention of a line was an immediate trigger for him to look up the paper. He could go right to it. Dr. Sadler was usually in the doorway in his wheelchair. Leone Sadler, Bill's wife, was in the back, if I noticed her at all. [She became a very close friend to my Mother]. Every week they

discussed a different paper, in order. They were on the latter part of the first section for most of that year.

The summer of my Junior-Senior year, I went down once a week and began to read the Jesus papers. What an eye-opener that was for a lapsed Catholic! I went reluctantly sometimes, but always came away uplifted. Bill took me to lunch at "Jacques" restaurant that summer and told me the origins of the book. Not who, but how. He explained what they were doing on Wednesday nights. They were thinking up questions for the revelators and reading the latest answers. By that time, my understanding was that the questions were put in a drawer by Dr. Sadler and sometime later, evidently not predictable, answers appeared in the drawer. My parents filled me in on some of the answers. Some, that I do remember are, them asking for the first translation to be in Japanese. The forum couldn't afford to do this translation at a cost of approximately \$100,000. Other answers were that some of the Reserve Corps of Destiny were Abraham Lincoln and Douglas MacArthur, who defaulted because of ego. There were other answers, but I've long forgotten, some of the founding fathers, I think.

My summer lunch with Bill Sadler became an annual thing all through my college years. It was always at "Jacques". We discussed many things about the book, but I had not read half of it yet. It had to be read in papers, one at a time, and at Diversey. So Bill expanded my knowledge. I went to the forum sometimes in the summers, but not weekly. I didn't get to know Christy much. She was always with Dr. Sadler as caretaker and worker. Bill was my father's best friend beginning shortly after he joined the forum sometime in the 1950s. They met for cocktails after work at least once a week.

After college I married. Bill Sadler was an industrial psychologist. He aptitude tested my fiance' before our marriage at my father's

request and my fiance's agreement. Bill liked the results and sent them to some of his clients. The best offer came from Dayton, OH, so we moved there. Bill would visit from time to time on business. Because he had been asked by the Revelators to avoid air travel, he came by train from Chicago. The Revelators said they could save him from a train wreck, but not from a plane crash. That would be too obvious. The last we saw of Bill was for dinner one night in Dayton. I'm not sure when, but the weather was chilly. We took him to the best restaurant in downtown Dayton and then dropped him at his hotel. After the book was printed, his protection was withdrawn and I suspect he felt it, he had a breakdown a few years later. It seemed Bill Sadler died not many years after Dr. Sadler. The lawyer who set up the Foundation and Brotherhood and who patented the book and circles, died about 10 years after the printing.

My parents began a North Shore group at their house. They traveled to visit other readers from Finland to California. In order to raise money for the printing, Dr. Sadler had sold some of his Indiana dunes land to my Mother. Later, the state acquired it for less, but that wasn't important to her because it enabled us to print the book, that and donations from members and a big help from the Hales.

The contact with the Revelators ended with the printing of the book. My father bought 50 to 100 copies. I don't remember exactly how many, but I have one left. My mother later told me she met Dr. Sadler during WWII when she was trying to hunt up a psychiatrist for her mother, who was reacting badly to her diagnosis of Parkinsons. He invited mother to come to the forum. My father was doing war work in Washington.

I'm sorry about all the "I's". I was asked to write my memories and I'm not a good enough writer to avoid "I's" in this case. □

Chicago Urantia Book Reader Discovers There Are Other Readers Outside Chicago



CATHY JONES
President, Urantia Brotherhood Association of Arizona
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Left to right, seated are: Cathy Jones, Ellen Ferrell, Allen Jones, and Peter DeCamp.

PETER DECAMP, ON HIS FIRST TRIP TO THE desert, stopped at the home of Allen and Cathy Jones for an impromptu study group.

The focus was on "Rodan of Alexandria" with an emphasis on how the contents so completely apply to our generation. Peter enjoyed the study group so much that his parting words were, "It was more fun than a human being should be allowed to have." □

Urantian News from Colombia

RAMON MUÑOZ
Vice President, Urantia Association of Colombia



Chile photo, standing up, from left to right: Gladis, Luis, Veronica, Hector, Orieta, Wanda, Jaime, Maria Antonieta, Yolanda and Ingrid. Seated: Andrea, Hector, Tamila, Patricia, Marcela and René.



Argentina photo, from left to right: Graciela Benedetti, Maria Ines Raimundo, Florinda Rabito, Nelida Oliver, Tamila Ramigova, Aida, Hector Chaparro and Carlos Rubinsky.

IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE TO INFORM you about our last National and International activities, as part of the ongoing process of dissemination of *The Urantia Book*, such as seminars, conferences, visits and meetings.

In December 2007 and January 2008, Tamila Ramigova, President of the Local Association of Medellin, Colombia, traveled to three countries of South America - Chile, Argentina and Brazil - , and she took this opportunity to give several speeches to members of Urantia Associations in these countries. The themes of these speeches were "Cosmology of the Universe of Universes" and "The Creation of the Universes".

Urantians from these countries gave a warm welcome to the information shared by Tamila, in an exchange of Urantian brothers. In Brazil, a Portuguese speaking country, conference was slowly dictated in Spanish. Brazilian Urantians understood the whole speech very well.

At the end of January, the first copies of *The Urantia Book* in Portuguese got to Rio de Janeiro, and this caused an enormous joy to our Brazilian brothers and sisters. You can see in attached photos the groups from Chile, Argentina and Brazil attending the conferences. □



Brazil photo, from left to right: Caio Mario, Ricardo Ramos and Luiz Amorim.



• • • Tamila Ramigova's tour

Overcoming Ease-Seeking

Study of the six animal vestigial traits:
procrastination, equivocation, insincerity,
problem avoidance, unfairness, and ease-seeking



MEREDITH VANWOERT
SOUTHWEST Urantia Readers Family
vanmeredith@sbcglobal.net

JANUARY 2008 MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE 18th year of our Vista, California study group. We meet once a week to read sequentially through *The Urantia Book*, and have now read it cover-to-cover 4 or 5 times. In addition, we invite readers to join us for Sunday topical discussions every couple of months.

This year our topicals are focused around the study of the six animal vestigial traits mentioned on p. 551: procrastination, equivocation, insincerity, problem avoidance, unfairness, and ease seeking. Jane Ploetz began the series with a presentation titled "Overcoming Ease-seeking." She also used a book by Judith Sills called *The Comfort Trap* to correlate with the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

Because of the length of the material, she decided to split the topical into two parts. Part I began on Thursday night at our regular study group evening with a focus on the questions "What is wrong with wanting to be comfortable? Isn't it a value to put someone else at ease?" and "What's the real problem with ease-seeking?"

Jane handed out several pages of selected quotations from *The Urantia Book*. Two small groups were formed, each with a different group assignment. Group 1 was asked to find and list the qualities of ease-seeking, as found in the quotations. Group 2 was asked to find and list the qualities of what causes growth, as found in the quotations. At the end of the evening, the lists were posted on a big chart and compared.

The following Sunday afternoon we met again for Part II to finish the topical and

share a potluck meal. At the beginning of this study period, each of us made a private list of goals we would like to accomplish, yet resist because they are outside of our comfort zones. After discussing some of the things that limit us, we participated in a group activity that could best be described as a guided walk through an obstacle course while blindfolded. The idea was to do a challenging but fun activity, one that was somewhat stressful--outside our normal comfort zones -- yet not too overwhelming.

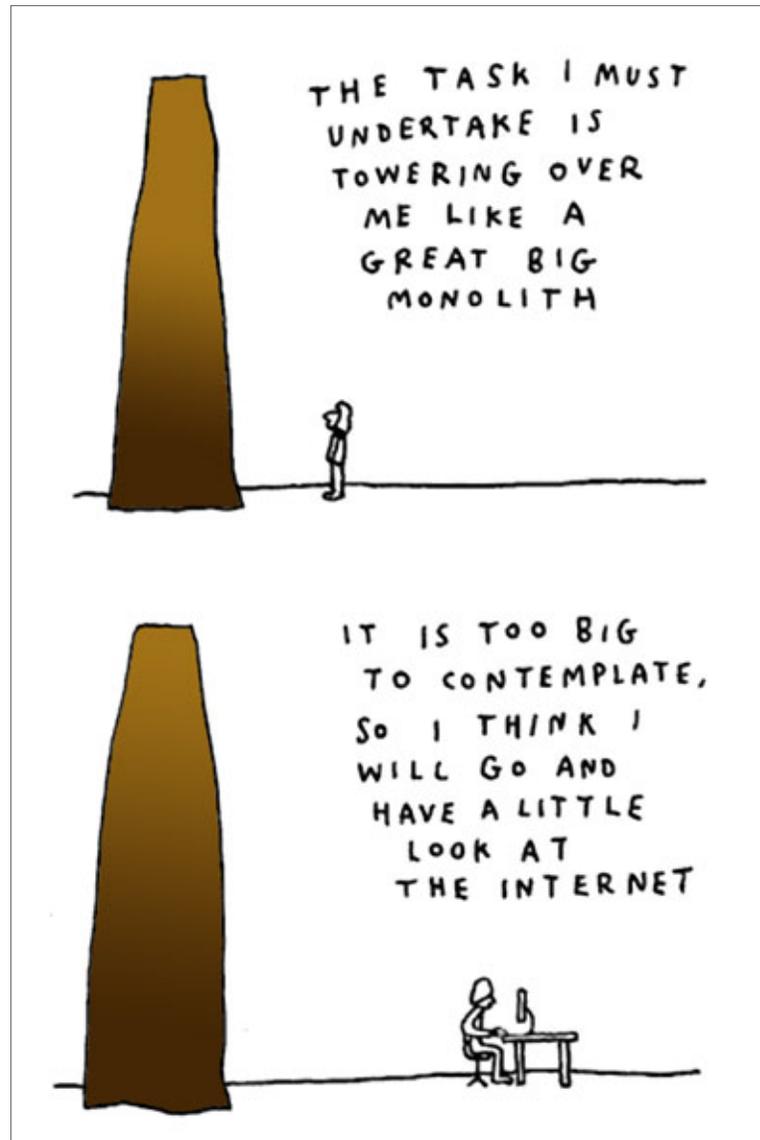
Laid out upon a curving path were the following obstacles: a prickly cactus, a vase of flowers, a shovel (to step over), and some eggs. Everyone got a good look at the course before we started. Each put on a blindfold and sat quietly and comfortably while waiting his/her turn to be led by the "Thought Adjuster" through the course. The blindfold was then removed and the person looked back to see what was just traversed.

Everyone succeeded, and in many ways it was a profound experience to share.

From *The Comfort Trap* Jane presented the seven-step process to break through the crust of our comfort zones in order to travel successfully toward achievement of our personal goals. The question "What do you need to do to overcome ease-seeking?" was answered through these seven steps. We learned that "The universe calls us constantly, but most often gets a busy signal. You have to pick it up! When you do pick up, the connection can be powerful."

Said Michelangelo, "The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark."

If you'd like a copy of the Urantia Book quotes and notes for this topical to share with your study group, contact Jane Ploetz at jfploetz@sbcglobal.net, and she'll be happy to email them to you. □



Study Group: Brotherhood-Urantia

GUY LAURIN
Association Urantia du Québec
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WE ARE A SMALL GROUP OF FOUR PERSONS IN the Lanaudière region near Montréal in Québec. We meet, once a week, on Wednesdays from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The way we proceed is that we read, each in turn, a paragraph and then, if anyone has comments or questions connected to what we have just read, we share together what we have understood or seen.

Presently, we are reading "The life and teachings of Jesus."

Guy: What I personally get from being in a group, is to help one another, we are persons who hunger for truth, beauty and goodness and who look for an enlarged understanding of Mighty God.

It is pleasant every week to soak up and be inspired, with my companion Mireille, and my friends Richard and Gisèle, by the life of Jesus, by the way he lived his life on earth in his times, his courage, his determination, his patience, his goodness, his compassion for other humans, his personality being one with the Father and how I can transmit the message of the love of the Father for us today in the actual context where we are, it is to look together at how we can incorporate the Master's teachings in our daily life because truth is alive and that we must incorporate it in the context of the era we live in. It is through prayer and meditation, but also by sharing our thoughts and ideals that we can find methods and useful means to bring this living truth to our daily lives, with the personality and the talents we have received from God.

We are told that *The Urantia Book* is a revelation and that auto-revelation is the divine in us. I have noticed that when I interiorly reflect and question how I could be more useful to my peers, guide them better and, with regard to certain parts of *The Urantia Book* on the signification of what it means and that momentarily, it becomes clearer and more comprehensible, then I

believe that's what auto-revelation is. I have experienced also the fact that someone has asked a question with regard to a quote of *The Urantia Book* and that I learned its signification by giving the reply.

We are also told not to trust the memories of mankind which can falter but to rely on the spirit within yourself and who will tell you what to say and do when needed. Each person has the possibility of knowing his spiritual Father and I wish to see this happening in the greater possible number, it is simply a question to experience it, for it surely is the will of the Father that we establish a relationship with Him, to learn to know Him and mostly, to recognize His great love for us...

This is what I had to share with you.

Mireille: I love to share, exchange on the teachings of the "Life and teachings of Jesus" that we are presently studying. Each chapter is an inspiration accrued from the one before. After many years of rereading these papers, I still marvel again and again at all the goodness, beauty and truth that I perceive.

As Jesus did, I like to do some good in passing naturally as I do my daily chores.

A thousand occasions present themselves every day, to comfort, to understand and to love without seeking to with a smile, a word, a question, an interested listening.

The meeting is for me a means to better myself and to spread divinity throughout the universal brotherhood, far beyond the difficulties of daily life.

Life is motion, change, then my life is extraordinary. I carry within me, the inheritance of friendship, of prior groups, teachers, students, the baggage that makes up who I am now. Thank you, my Celestial Artisan for all this.

Richard: My aim is to express and share concepts because it is said "there are many thoughts expressed who die for lack of people to hear them." I have a better understanding within the group because I have a better vision when exchanging together. It creates friendship bonds, it brings me an interior well-being.

Gisèle: I had difficulty understanding certain parts of the "Teachings of the life of Jesus" but now, within a group, by sharing together, I have a more open mind. I practice what we share, in my life every day with my surroundings, I am more calm, more serene and in peace. I have understood how to establish my relationship with God. □



Left to right, seated are: Guy, Mireille, Richard and Gisèle.



Conference Update

A Moment of Opportunity

What is man that GOD should be mindful of him?

Large parts of the Urantia Papers are designed to coordinate our knowledge about more or less familiar things. They expand our understanding in a logical way. But the Papers also contain highlights of pure revelation. For mankind of today, perhaps the most interesting (and intimate) are the revelations about the nature and function of Thought Adjusters, a set of truths that finally explain and make sense of the phenomenon of man. How and why the Father dwells in us is the crucial truth, the conceptual link to motivate and integrate our world. Ignorance of this truth has allowed our cultures to head off on tangents, and repeatedly to spiral down to base evolutionary levels.

Canberra, Australia
17 to 20 October 2008

a glimpse of the venue



Personality



Thought Adjuster

Ascending Mortal

Latest News about the UAI 2009 International Conference

OLGA LOPEZ

President, Urantia Association of Spain
olopez65@gmail.com



FINALLY THE PRICE PER PERSON HAS BEEN established in 400 euros (including taxes). This price includes lodging and all meals for the 4 days of the conference (from the 17th in the evening to the 21st April of 2009 after lunch), as well as a visit to the Picasso Art Gallery in Malaga (or the visit decided in place)

There is the possibility of staying two days before or after the conference (that is, nights of 15th, 16th, 21st and 22nd April). The price per person and extra day is 55 € with all meals (including taxes)

Part of the cost of attendance is going to the Sponsorship Fund, whose purpose is to cover attendance expenses – either fully or partially – of people who fit some of these criteria:

- People whose financial situation would oblige them to make an exaggerate effort to attend the conference.
- People who never attended to an international conference before.
- People of the Spanish-speaking world, to take the opportunity of celebrating the first UAI International conference in a Spanish-speaking country and to promote the Urantia movement in this language.
- People from Europe and Africa, taking the opportunity of promoting the Urantia movement in these continents.
- People known by their path in the dissemination of TUB teachings or by their special leadership or impact in their environment.
- People with a special social situation who make them difficult a fluid international contact, and to whom attending the conference would make them contact with other leaders and members of this movement. Thus, they would be able to promote and activate the movement in their area when going back.
- People giving some of the presentations or workshops.

All those people interested in asking some kind of sponsorship (being partial or full, or even for other readers they know) should send an application through e-mail at uai2009en@gmail.com, indicating briefly their implication in the dissemination of TUB teachings and their personal circumstances. Applications will be revised by a reduced committee and processed with total discretion. We will also answer any question or comment about this subject from the e-mail address mentioned above.

We also accept donations to the Sponsorship Fund. For further information, please contact us at uai2009en@gmail.com □



UBIS Registration for April, 2008

DOROTHY ELDER

Director

delder03@sprynet.com

Registration for the UBIS April 2008 Semester begins on the UBIS Website, www.urantiabookschool.org on Monday, March 31. The courses will begin on April 14.

The courses are:

PART I

Course title: **THE ETERNAL SON AND THE INFINITE SPIRIT**

Papers 6, 7, 8 and 9

Teacher/Facilitator: Sherie Crosby

PART III

Course title: **A STUDY OF THE SUPREME**

Papers 115, 116, 117 and 118

Teacher/Facilitator: Polly Friedman □