

THE MESSENGER



URANTIA.

NEWS FOR STUDENTS OF THE URANTIA BOOK | SUMMER 2016

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THE SUMMER CONFERENCE IN SAN ANTONIO

Joanne Strobel, Urantia Foundation, Illinois, United States

Editor’s Note: To view photos taken at the San Antonio conference, [click here](#).

Over three hundred years ago, in 1691, a small expedition of Spanish explorers traveling north from Mexico advanced some 150 miles into present-day Texas. On June 13, they stopped to set up camp near a Coahuiltecan Indian village along the river. The Franciscan chaplain of the small expedition suggested that they call the place San Antonio because they had arrived on the feast of Saint Anthony, the patron saint of finding things or lost people.

On June 9, 2016, a large group of Urantia Book readers converged on this same town, almost to the date of its founding. The topic was “Jesus, the Master Teacher”; the location, remarkably, was Trinity University. Jointly sponsored by the Urantia Association of the United States, Lone Star Urantia Association, and the Urantia Book Fellowship, with additional funding from Urantia Foundation and Truthbook, it was a Texas-style conference in every sense of the word. The enormous efforts of our local hosts, President Katrina Glavan-Heise and a herd of volunteers, culminated in superb hospitality, well-orchestrated plenaries and workshops, and a welcoming Fiesta that showcased legendary Tex-Mex cuisine, a talented ensemble of budding mariachi musicians, and a kickoff plenary from Mo Siegel.

David Linthicum rode shotgun with Katrina at the podium every day. Inspirational plenaries were delivered by Carrie Preston, Jeffrey Wattles, and David Kulieke. Each morning and afternoon we had our choice of concurrent workshop sessions, and if I could be in two places at once, I would have been!

Friday morning workshops were led by Marvin Gawryn, Stuart Kerr, Mark Kurtz, James Woodward, and Jeff Wattles. After lunch we enjoyed sessions with Gaétan Charland, Elaine McLellan, Lucy Norwood, Paula Thompson, and Angie Thurston. Friday afternoon featured groups led by Miranda Clendening, David Fabe, Sharon Lanier, Derek Samaras, and Tom Vasile. And that list doesn’t include the full-day in-depth study workshop led by Katharina Becker, Marilynn Kulieke, and Barbara Newsom.

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Saturday was another full day, with morning sessions featuring William Rux, Angie Thurston, Chuck Thurston, co-presenters Katharina Becker, Doreen Heyne, Carolyn Prentice, and Line St-Pierre, and co-presenters Barbara Newsom, Nick Stefero, and Clint Stucky. After lunch we had a choice of encore workshops or a shuttle van that ran continuously all afternoon between Trinity and the famed San Antonio River Walk. Many of us enjoyed boat tours and walking tours of the Alamo.

The Saturday night entertainment was beyond description. Cristina Seaborn and Bob Solone simply outdid themselves as they performed together on violin and piano. Looking out over the evening skyline, we were enchanted and transported by the magic of their soaring collaboration.

It would not have been a proper conference and summer study session without Urantia merchandise, and CosmicCreations did not disappoint. Rick Lyon and his partner Susan Grzeskowiak set out an impressive array of just about anything you could think of in the foyer of Chapman Center, where it served as an impromptu gathering place for fellowship.

I returned to Chicago with a renewed appreciation of how Jesus lived, worked, and taught on this earth. I feel humbled and blessed by the sheer number of volunteers and the amount of planning that took place over the past year by dedicated individuals from several thriving organizations. We are indeed a loving family, united by the Spirit of Truth, each of us children, brothers, and sisters of Jesus, our master teacher.

A “THANK YOU” FROM THE MESSENGER EDITOR

Marie Vasile, Tehachapi, California, United States

First, I must apologize for the tardiness of the “Messenger” this month. I began struggling with a health issue about three months ago which escalated after the San Antonio gathering, leaving my hands and arms nearly incapacitated. I have been forced to recuperate for the past six weeks; hence, delaying all activity. Gratefully, I’m slowly returning to renewed health.

Second, I want to share that Tom and I were blessed to be on scholarship to attend the San Antonio combined conference/summer study session. Much thanks to those who have donated funds to support scholarships. We are most grateful for the opportunity to attend, and pray your donations pay off in our combined efforts to promote this living revelation.

Personally, it was such a thrilling experience to witness the joint efforts of Urantia Association of the United States and the Urantia Book Fellowship Education Committee, something that hasn’t happened, to my knowledge, since the Glen Ivy Conference, Summer, 1998 – nearly two decades ago. It warmed my heart to attend the UAUS’ Council of Local Presidents meeting and the Urantia Book Fellowship General Council meeting, observing joint attendance. For me, hope is evolving that we can combine more of our efforts, bringing this revelation to light for a world dying for its truths. Heaven knows They need us all pulling together as much as possible!

Tom and I have experience hosting a weekend conference. Sponsoring such a gathering can be daunting. It requires copious amounts of dedicated time and many bodies to share the load; therefore, I feel the following “THANK YOUS” are in tall order:

First, a huge shout out to the Lone Star Society for donating enormous amounts of time, energy, and resources to make the gathering happen as happily as it did. Countless thanks to Katrina for her herculean efforts! I wonder where she gets all her energy. Life can be surprising, as we all know, and she got a dose of family issues at the same time as the conference. Thanks for keeping it all on track anyways. Much gratitude to the Society for accepting the charge and making it happen. A thousand blessings! I hope I may speak for the Lone Star Society and all who attended for the service of so many to so many.

Big hugs to Mary Huggins for coordinating the van service--the international welcoming committee! This group organized and managed a very complex and vast transport service to and from the airport, as well as shuttling about the campus.

Trinity is a walking campus and the conference services were a considerable distance and uphill hike (fondly labeled Cardiac Hill) from the dorm/cafeteria areas, requiring extensive shuttling. For such dedicated service as drivers, thanks go to: Bruce Brown, Patrick Yglesias, Will Sherwood, Devin Sherwood, Tom Vasile, David Glass, Bruce Jackson, Austin Reissner, Kit Beuret, Derek Samaras, event videographer as well, and all others I’m personally unaware of – your names belong here, too!

In other tremendous acts of service, need to thank Janie Whinery, a lovely lady, who coordinated all the volunteers, as well as banquet set-up, clean-up, and supplies – an extensive undertaking. Thanks to Mike Wood, Steve Drier, Delores Nice, Doreen Heyne, and all the support crew who nailed check-in and check-out, as well as airport departure service.

For all their support of Janie with the setting and cleaning up for the opening banquet, thanks to Austin Reissner, again, and Evette Twyford, who also assisted with the arranging of the Lone Star Store with Terry Fontenot and Debra Guerva. Included here are all the volunteers of whom, again, I am unaware--please give yourself a pat on the back!

It was such a thrilling experience to witness the joint efforts of Urantia Association of the United States and the Urantia Book Fellowship Education Committee....

Thanks to Bob Solone and Christina Seaborn for presenting an amazingly inspiring concert that aroused my soul and made it sing. I believe your collaboration was, as always, stirringly beautiful for us all.

Lastly, a big thank you to all the workshop presenters and plenary speakers. We know much thought and effort goes into presenting. We, who attended, appreciate all your work, dedication, and sharing that contributed to a most memorable, stellar experience.

TESTING THE UNITY OF OUR URANTIA COMMUNITY

Chris Wood, President, Urantia Association International

The next six months will see three tests of the unity of our Urantia Community. The first test shall come in June in San Antonio where, for the first time, the Urantia Association of the United States (UAUS) and The Urantia Book Fellowship will co-host a conference. Registration has already exceeded expectations and the community waits to see how these organizations with different cultures will blend together for one week in Texas.

In September a second test shall emerge as Europe and Australia each host conferences on the same weekend. In Budapest the Blue Club and the Association will work together for the first time to unite the many cultures, languages, and traditions from across the vast continent. The Australia and New Zealand Urantia Association (ANZURA) has always been the model of unity as these two countries unite year after year for conferences and events. And I hope for a few moments in September these two conferences half a world away will be united by technology to share the vision of our growing International goals.

In October the third test will present itself in Bogotá as representatives across Latin America will come together for the first United Latin American Conference. Latin America is the fastest growing region in the world for new students of The Urantia Book. The teachings have seeped into popular culture through novels and even television programs. I hope this event will be the first of many to bring together this important piece of our united puzzle.

And all four conferences will be united in theme as each will illuminate the theme of Jesus as a Teacher.

There are at least three types of unity in our Urantia Community:

1. **Spiritual Unity** is shared not just with other students of this revelation but with every God seeking person in the world. The Parliament of World Religions is one good example of spiritual unity as was Jesus' ability to impart simple teachings "as he passed by."
2. **Social Unity** is achieved by gathering at conferences and study groups, learning how we each understand and incorporate these teachings in our lives. A conference is good for its own sake; bringing together a group of Urantia Book students will bring forth good fruit. We will attempt to capitalize on social unity this year as we plan events with the Fellowship and the Blue Club.
3. And finally, **Organizational Unity** is achieved when groups agree to unite their principles and efforts toward achieving a common goal. Around the world, students hailing from dozens of nations have agreed to embrace our goals and efforts and push forward united as Urantia Association International. As more and more Urantia groups join us in organizational unity our reach and our abilities expand exponentially. Each year we achieve more and more!

I hope to see you all at a conference this year!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW UAUS OFFICERS!

Marie Vasile, Editor, The Messenger



Here are the duly elected UAUS Vice President and Secretary. Please congratulate them and welcome them to their leadership positions in Urantia Association of the United States!

Rick Lyon, UAUS Vice President

I am 62 years old and live in Crawfordsville, Indiana, USA. I am the father of two sons, Dale and Brad, and grandfather of Ethan and Meagan. I have been employed at Nucor Steel in the environmental department since 1988. In 2014, I created CosmicCreations.BIZ, an online store to sell Urantia related items with the permission of Urantia Foundation. The purpose of the store is the dissemination of this revelation and the encouragement of the Urantia community to be the teachers and leaders of this revelation.

My passion in life is the Urantia revelation. I spend my time studying, sharing, or serving this revelation in whatever opportunities my angelic friends and indwelling spirit send my way. In 1978, I found The Urantia Book in the trash dump.

I have served the Urantia community and specifically Urantia Association International (UAI) in several

positions. My first official position was in 1998 as Secretary of Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association (GLMUA). With GLMUA I have also served as President and Conference Chairman. With UAI, my service began with the position of Study Group chairman in 2003. In 2004, I was the program director for the UAI International Conference in Chicago. In 2008, I was offered the position of Executive Director and served in that position until 2013. I have been privileged to be the UAUS Communications Chair for a time where I revised the website. My experience at the 2011 UAI Leadership Symposium is perhaps the greatest experience of my life. I have been blessed with many Urantia experiences including visiting study groups in Peru and Colombia, South America, and attending the UAI conference in Malaga, Spain, and Montreal, Canada, among other events. One of the greatest experiences was as a teacher/facilitator for eight courses with Urantia Book Internet School. Some of my former students are now facilitators themselves which makes me very happy to see.

As vice president, what can I do to help our members experience the thrill and satisfaction of joyfully and actively participating in this revelation? What can I do to help our associations do those things that individuals alone cannot accomplish? What can I do to help educate potential teachers and leaders of this revelation? What can I do to educate our association leaders on how to lead, organize, and conduct the business of our associations? I can do this by communicating what needs to be done, how it can be done, and why it needs done. A large part of belonging to UAI is learning teamwork, leadership, and teaching skills that we need in this life and the next ones.

This revelation is the single most important project on the planet today, and there is a great amount of work to be done. Most importantly, I believe, is to teach the truth of this revelation to our children and grandchildren. I believe that teaching and leading begins in our homes with our children and spouses. I would like to see UAUS put together a program dedicated to promoting family values and quality of home life.

We as an organization have been given a great opportunity and great responsibility. Great things are expected from us and it is time to accomplish great things in partnership with God, our sister UAI associations around the world, with Urantia Foundation, and Urantia Book Fellowship. There is plenty of work for everyone and we need to work together in this effort. It is time for us to stop: "regretting the past, whining over the present, and vainly hoping for the future." (155:1:3). It is time to go forth bravely doing that which concerns the establishment of the kingdom. It is time we were about our Father's business.

Leadership is not only about what we can do but what we can inspire others to do. It is my hope to help all of you do that which our Father, your Angels, and your indwelling spirit are leading you to do. May all we do glorify our Paradise Father and serve all men and women of Urantia.

Lucy Norwood, UAUS Secretary

My goals:

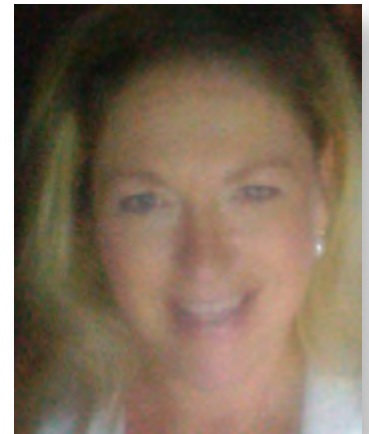
1. Administer UAUS correspondence and meeting minutes and maintain the voting membership register, current membership lists submitted by the Local Associations and of Members-at-Large.
2. Recorded minutes of each National Association meeting and minutes of each Governing Board meeting will be sent to all voting members of UAUS, Governing Board members, and National Committee Chairmen within 60 days after the meeting.
3. Notify Local Associations of meetings of the National Association and known agenda items 90 days prior to the meeting.
4. At the start of the national meeting, call the roll of all Local Associations, credentialing any representatives as voting members in the absence of the Local Association President or Vice President.
5. Obey the teachings of Paper 195/196 and serve to resurrect the true teachings OF Jesus and promote His ideals for true religion.

About me:

The Urantia Book found me in 2013. I immediately recognized it for what it is: A true epochal revelation from God to man for our world, for such a time as this! I am currently on my 2nd complete study and reading of the Book.

Raised by a University professor, I learned to understand the value of research and study. At an early age leadership opportunities seemed to fall in my lap. I have continued to do so throughout my adult life. After receiving a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of North Texas, I went on to create three CDs with original music. I launched a 501-C3 Non Profit concert ministry that spanned ten years consisting of speaking, teaching and singing about the love of God to students and adults. In 1999, I co-founded a church in South Florida and built a ministry performance team of 60 individuals that became the 'front door' for this quickly growing Christian church. As an ordained Christian minister and Worship Pastor I honed many people skills over my 15 years of service. And those skills serve me well to this day.

Over the span of years from 2002 –2012, I've earned four more teaching certificates and have enjoyed teaching students in private and public schools. In 2012, I met my husband and live a simple and quiet life of reflection, study, writing and Urantia Book



community leadership. My passion now is to obey the teachings of Paper 195/196 and serve to resurrect the true teachings OF Jesus and promote His ideals for true religion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check out Urantia Association International's Events Calendar at <http://urantia-association.org/events-list> for upcoming events. Urantia Book reader events provide opportunities for students to gain a deeper understanding of the ideas and concepts presented in *The Urantia Book* and help to facilitate a personal commitment to the ideals of spiritual living. We hope you can make it to some of these events and experience the joys of meeting and studying with fellow readers.

Event*	City	Country	Date
The United Urantia Family Festival in the Holy Land	Jerusalem	Israel	Aug 10, 2016 - Aug 23, 2016
Urantia Book Service Corps of New England	Hopkinton	MA	Sunday, August 21, 2016
11th Brazilian National Meeting of Urantia Book Readers	Guararema	Brazil	August 19 - August 21
Dutch & Flemish Annual Urantia Meeting	Baarn	The Netherlands	Aug 21, 2016
European Urantia Conference	Budapest	Hungary	Sep 15, 2016 - Sep 18, 2016
ANZURA Conference Tasmania 2016	Blackmans Bay	Australia	Sep 16, 2016 - Sep 19, 2016
Retreat for Women at Urantia Foundation	Chicago	IL, USA	Sep 22, 2016 - Sep 25, 2016
1st Latin American Urantia Conference	Bogotá	Colombia	Oct 14, 2016 - Oct 17, 2016
Scientific Symposium V	Kansas City	USA	Aug 18, 2017 - Aug 22, 2017
2018 Urantia Association International Conference	Noordwijkerhout	The Netherlands	Apr 12, 2018 - Apr 15, 2018

* For more information, click on the event you're interested in.

JESUS BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION IN NEW ENGLAND

Linda Huff, President, Urantia Book Service Corps of New England

Here's the information regarding our 2016 Jesus Birthday celebration: <http://urantiabooknewengland.com/page5.php>

On the birthday of Jesus, Sunday, August 21, 2016, we will hold a joint birthday celebration / business meeting. The business meeting will include the election of officers. It has been some time since, we have encouraged nominations from the group as a whole. People are welcome to send names for nominations to the secretary Meredith Tenney at: meredithhtenney@yahoo.com

You may nominate yourself or someone else. It would be best to talk with any potential nominees before submitting his or her name. The business meeting will take place during the second half of the afternoon. Hope to see many of you there.

DANCING WITH GOD ~ EMBODYING THE LOVE OF GOD

A Retreat for Women at Urantia Foundation

Thursday, September 22 - Sunday, September 25, 2016

The Urantia Book tells us that it is the indwelling spirit that individualizes the love of God in the soul.

As a follow-up to our last two retreats, "Daughters of God" and "Dancing with God," we will now step into the "Divine Dance" as we each learn to express our own unique rhythm.

Please join the "Daughters of God" facilitator team in an intimate, experiential, and fun weekend! Together we will co-create a milieu of trust within a spiritual circle, delving into questions such as:

1. How is this divine dance encouraging me to carry the torch of morality and spirituality into the world around me?
2. How have I come to know and experience God's love and wisdom as a woman?
3. How do I come to know and love myself as God loves me?

The cost for three days is \$195.00 and includes shared overnight accommodations, breakfast, lunch, and Thursday evening dinner. Friday and Saturday dinners may be enjoyed at one of our many local restaurants.

If you would like to join us or want more details, please contact Joanne Strobel at joanne@urantia.org.

You may also call Urantia Foundation during business hours at 773-525-3319.

THOUGHTS ON THE SAN ANTONIO CONFERENCE

David Glass, New Haven, Connecticut

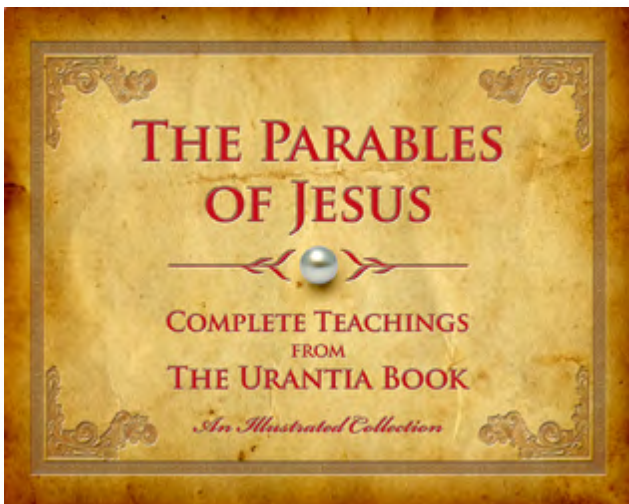
The coordination of the organizations was, to my personal experience, and as has been reported by many — very, very challenging indeed. But in light of the disconnect between the organizations for decades, and in view of this having been a new, untried, unprecedented experiment in moving toward the acknowledgment of spiritual unity, ardently prayed for and called for many times by the Master and in other places in the 5th revelation, I feel it was a very significant positive accomplishment.

So I would like to give my personal congratulations to EVERYONE for responding to that inner realization we all must have shared that it was high time that we invoked divine aid and labored to “heal our land” as the Bible puts it, that we moved toward putting our house in order, and that we took steps toward the actualization of the impulse toward spiritual unity which is an innate endowment of, I believe, both the minds and spirits, and hence the souls as well, of ALL revelation students — of all mind-and-spirit-endowed beings, for that matter — and which I am so pleased to see activating the motivations and desires of the upcoming generations of readers who are appearing before us and in our midst. May all our experiences in this endeavor redound to the glory of God, and of Michael and his consort, our Mother Spirit — and to the good of the community of current Urantia Book enthusiasts, and ultimately to all mankind on this pirouetting planet as it spins on through space and time toward the light.

URANTIA FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES URANTIA PRESS

Tamara Strumfeld, Urantia Foundation, Illinois, United States

The trustees and staff of Urantia Foundation are always thinking of new and inventive approaches to further the mission of seeding The Urantia Book and its teachings globally. A large part of this involves book distribution.



The challenges of book distribution have been waxing for several years. The book market is changing. Competition for shelf space in bookstores is always on the rise. Backlisted books (all books published prior to the current year) must make way for incoming new titles. Imagine the difficulty of keeping a backlisted book from 1955 on the shelves!

To remain relevant in today's book industry, Urantia Foundation must use new techniques to accomplish its mission while adhering to the principle objects of its trust "...to perpetually preserve inviolate the text of The Urantia Book and to disseminate the principles, teachings, and doctrines of The Urantia Book."

One such technique involves the publication of quality secondary works that aid the Foundation in sharing the teachings. However, Urantia Foundation has a policy not to interpret the teachings.

So how does the Foundation adhere to its principles, follow its policies, and yet remain relevant by producing secondary works if it does not interpret the teachings?

Urantia Foundation is pleased to announce Urantia Press—a publisher that publishes only those works that support the teachings of The Urantia Book. The views and opinions expressed in Urantia Press publications will be solely those of the original authors and other contributors.

It is the goal of Urantia Foundation to disseminate the teachings with wisdom while being realistic concerning the publishing industry. Urantia Press will assist us in accomplishing this.

The first publication of Urantia Press will be The Parables of Jesus Complete Teachings from The Urantia Book. It is a beautifully illustrated book containing Jesus' parables as given to us in The Urantia Book. What a lovely avenue this book will be for bringing the teachings to the individual! Information on where to pre-order copies will be forthcoming in late August.

WHAT DID, DOES, AND WILL THE URANTIA BOOK MEAN TO ME?

David Neuffer, Pennsylvania, United States



Before I found The Urantia Book, it meant nothing at all to me, just as it means nothing to most people on the planet today. Pre-Urantia Book, I did a lot of reading to find the best explanation of reality. My first God concept came from the Catholic Church. They taught me the reality of God. I don't know how I would be if I hadn't started out in a God-believing family.

I never doubted that there was a Jesus, but his nature was hard to discern from the bits and pieces of ancient writings that had been shattered by time. Stories about his life did give me a good feeling about him. The church's rituals didn't sit well with me, nor did its emphasis on death. Though I couldn't fully embrace the Catholic ways, it was not a bad beginning. It could have been worse. Yet, I was fervently up for knowing the real deal about who I am, why I'm here, and where I'm going. I found a void. I had some seeking to do.

Some philosophies repelled me. Others attracted me. Books by P. D. Ouspensky, Hermann Hesse, Ram Dass, and Buckminster Fuller had some pull. Bucky remains a personal hero—a beautifully minded, God-knowing mortal.

I tried astrology and biorhythms—fun but not truly gripping. I learned I Ching with its beautiful observations. The Rosicrucians and Eckankar had some appealing ads in science magazines, but as a kid, I really didn't have the cash to get very far with these.

Once, I even announced my plan to join the Hare Krishnas. However, before signing up, I had a change of mind. I did, however, get a glimpse of how I would have looked in their hairstyle when I joined the navy and they shaved my head.

At radioman school in San Diego, I stopped being unaware of The Urantia Book. I borrowed the book from the base library, and it has been with me ever since. (Not that particular book. I grudgingly returned that one.)

Initially, I jumped around in the pages. The first papers to grab me were about Adam and Eve. The Bible version raised a lot of questions, but here was an extended version presented in a rational narrative. I didn't understand some of the terminology, but I was getting the picture and wanted to read more.

I was really ripe for revelation. At first I was questioning, using my built-in truth detector, looking for inconsistencies like the ones I found in similar works. After some further seeking, I came to realize that there are no similar works. None!

The Urantia Book is substantially more than just a book. It is a cosmic education. This revelation revealed everything I wanted to know about reality—more than I'd think to ask about the nature of things and beings in the universe of universes. It's a revelation where the ones who know whereof they speak readily say when they don't know. What they say and how they say it entices me to keep returning.

When I was a new reader, my mind was a mix of prior beliefs and the new Urantia ones. I hung on to the concept of reincarnation for a while because of a book I'd read, and because I sometimes had dreams in historical settings. But this concept and some others slowly faded. It seems that the revelation garden can crowd out invasive, erroneous beliefs.

Forty years later, the Urantia Revelation remains illuminating and compelling. There is always something to learn or to add to what was learned before. When I open up the book, or show it on a screen, or press play and listen, it's like I'm entering a friendly and familiar school. I feel safe in the midst of the truth inside. A friend asked me if I believed The Urantia Book. I said, "Yes." I've found no better way of thinking. It gives my mind structure. It feels right.

I can't foresee a time here when I won't be studying The Urantia Book. Some day we'll be moving on to the schools of the next worlds. We Urantia Book students may be grouped together as revelation-minded agondonters. I think learning will proceed but not so much with books. We'll find out what morontia mota is and practice new study techniques. We'll pass along our knowledge to others who come after us.

Thanks to the ones who made this source of truth we revel in! The Urantia Papers will forever be a revelation of personal significance.

In the meantime, while we're still here, here's a tip on how to study. The revelators frequently distribute related data throughout various papers and sections, sometimes in sections where you wouldn't think to look. Using a quality search tool may be the only way to adequately learn certain topics.

Try this Urantia Book Search adapted for the revelation by Troy Bishop. The design of this study site is ideal for learning concepts

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through word and phrase searches. You see results sequentially in paper order. You see them in full paragraphs for good context. And when you click the reference, you see the entire paper starting at your search phrase for even better context. And all this happens without losing your search results—they stay listed to the side. Do yourself a favor. Learn the search modes, and see if studying this way works for you.

Lastly, I've been compiling charts and lists from information presented in The Urantia Book. You can find these online in the Master Universe Almanac.

Enjoy your studies of the revelation, and cherish your labors of love.

REVISION OF THE PORTUGUESE TRANSLATION OF THE URANTIA BOOK

Susana Hüttner Palaia, São Paulo, Brazil



Susana Hüttner Palaia

Editor's Note: *Luiz Dolla Bella Chagas, a native from Brazil, with the help of Susana Hüttner Palaia, translated The Urantia Book into Portuguese from 1996 to 2006. It was printed in 2007. We wish to give them tribute for their courage and tenacity, especially to Luiz as he was the chief translator. According to many readers, the style was elegant and the translation faithful to the original.*

A translation, however, is a human work and is always subject to improvement. Therefore a revision team was established by Urantia Foundation six years ago. The trustees, associate trustees, and staff are grateful for the diligence, passion, and service of this team.

The revision of the Portuguese translation of The Urantia Book began in 2012 and is expected to be complete by 2021, which will make it a ten-year effort. It is very interesting and enjoyable work, but it requires great care, patience, teamwork, and commitment.

In this project, we are not re-translating the book, but we are revising and correcting it in an effort to make it “truer” to the English text while maintaining the “beauty” of the text and its comprehensibility to the average reader of Portuguese.

The procedure involves carefully analyzing the text word by word, taking care that the meaning of the English text, representing what the revelators intended, is consistently reflected in the Portuguese text, while at the same time respecting the original Portuguese translation.

We have an excellent team working on this revision, and all of its members know The Urantia Book extremely well and have volunteered to serve the revelation with their skills.

To give you an idea of the procedure that we follow:

I, Susana, function as the coordinator of the revision. This means that I begin the process by reading one of the papers and making corrections that I think are necessary and appropriate.

I then pass the paper along to my colleague Saulo, who lives in Recife, which is in the northeast part of Brazil. Saulo lived in the United States for twenty-one years, so he has a great command of the English language. He goes through the text and gives me his suggestions, which I usually accept.

After such corrections are made, the text goes to Helder, who lives in Curitiba, which is in the south of Brazil. He is an expert in the Portuguese language, and because he works for the government of Paraná, he is provided with a team of language experts called a forum universitário. He also gives me very intelligent and accurate suggestions.

Following these additional corrections, I send the text to a support group led by Sabino from São Paulo. The members of the group read the text in Portuguese and make suggestions, comparing the revisions with the original Portuguese translation.

I then read the whole paper again and make the agreed-to changes. After all 196 papers are revised, we shall read the whole book again in order to be certain that all words are consistent throughout the book.

I feel that this project is the most important task of my life. For me, a day is not complete if I cannot dedicate some time to the revision work.

The following statements were made by members of our team:

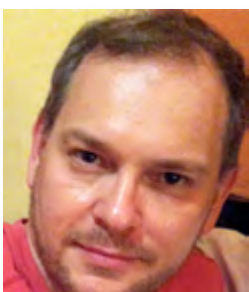
Despite experiencing a variety of difficulties, I have always taken great pleasure in this work and feel honored to be a member of the revision team. Our pace is slow at times, but I am confident that we shall complete the revision.



Saulo Fraga



Sabino Souza Hüttner



Helder Cherubin

I will remain a member of the revision team until the project is completed, and I pray to our heavenly Father for encouragement and protection.

It helps to remember that our ultimate purpose in this task is to glorify our Father and our brother and friend, Christ Michael of Nebadon. ~Saulo Fraga

My challenge in contributing to this revision work is to do it carefully, remembering that 'Jesus was never in a hurry.'

The work involves reading and rereading, comparing the revision with the existing Portuguese text as well as with the English text. The main problem is with the semantic meanings in both the English and Portuguese languages, which raise constant questions as to the correct terms to maintain the intent of the original English text. The contexts of the two languages are not always the same; so translation cannot always be literal. This requires constant consultation with other professionals for their opinions. I find the work to be painstaking but gratifying. ~Helder Cherubin

Working with the Portuguese revision team makes me feel almost as if I have acquired additional senses. There seems to be a fine resonance between our minds when actively engaged in the process of dipping into the various meanings, projecting ourselves into the minds of potential readers, and sensing how such concepts could be more clearly understood.

We feel a great personal satisfaction of service to humanity and to Michael-Jesus, who must be aware of our loyal and unconditional commitment. Knowing these things gives us an extraordinary sense of enduring gratitude. ~ Susana Hüttner Palaia

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2016 SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM

Philip Calabrese, California, United States

Editor's Note: To read the papers presented at the Science Symposium, [click here](#).

Why a Science Symposium?

I am a scientist— a mathematician— who takes *The Urantia Book* literally when it says:

While statements with reference to cosmology are never inspired, such revelations are of immense value in that they at least transiently clarify knowledge by:

- 1. The reduction of confusion by the authoritative elimination of error.*
- 2. The co-ordination of known or about-to-be-known facts and observations.*
- 3. The restoration of important bits of lost knowledge concerning epochal transactions in the distant past.*
- 4. The supplying of information which will fill in vital missing gaps in otherwise earned knowledge.*
- 5. Presenting cosmic data in such a manner as to illuminate the spiritual teachings contained in the accompanying revelation. 101:4.5 (1109.6)*

The authors use vague terminology when they wish to avoid revealing information that is non-mandated, unearned, or forbidden, or that they otherwise choose not to disclose. But when they make a definitive assertion, they are not handing back early twentieth-century errors—the reader can expect to read authoritative corrections of errors that lessen confusion.

The “immense value” of the cosmology that the revelators delivered is still mostly unknown to contemporary scientists. The authoritative elimination of error has hardly been recognized or integrated into contemporary science. This points up just how very important it is to have regular scientific symposia of contemporary scientists who also believe *The Urantia Book* to be a divine revelation to Urantia.

My Topic: Free Will in the Cosmos

In 2013, when Gard Jameson invited me to participate in a scientific symposium, I happily accepted the invitation. It reminded me of earlier scientific symposia, including the first Scientific Symposium held in Nashville in 1988 and Scientific Symposium II hosted by Berkeley Elliott and the Oklahoma Society in 1991.

My first choice of a topic and a paper in response to Gard's invitation was “A Statistical Test of the Hypothesis that *The Urantia Book* Was Authored by Humans.” When the date of the symposium was postponed to 2016, I published the paper in the 2013 issue of the *Fellowship Herald*. That paper makes the case that *The Urantia Book* itself is evidence of intelligent design in the universe.

So, when the June 2016 dates for the symposium were set, I needed another paper. Circumstances had long been pointing me to a paper on the existence of freewill in the cosmos.

The “immense value” of the cosmology that the revelators delivered is still mostly unknown to contemporary scientists.

It may come as a shock to average folks with common sense that some supposedly brilliant scientific minds seriously entertain the notion that all the actions of every living person may be completely determined by the antecedent causation of the past energy states existing in the brains of those beings.

But it occurred to me that, instead of trying to imagine some way to scientifically prove that free will exists, one could argue that—just as plane geometry begins with unproven postulates (axioms)—free will is self-evident and needs no proof. Free will is such a common human experience that it can be taken as a postulate without proof. I did some research online and found a book from 2015 that combined the writings of thirty-five scientists and philosophers on topics surrounding free will. This provided me with an up to date account of all sides of the free-will debate and allowed me to put my mathematical postulate idea of free will into context.

We were asked to produce our publishable paper a month before the symposium date so that we could all read the other papers. Thus we were all somewhat familiar with what other participants would be saying.

Three Memorable Days at Urantia Foundation

The organization of the three-day event was superb and proceeded like clockwork due to Joanne Strobel's logistical and artful efforts. The pace of each day's activities was well managed. Following the presentations with forty-five-minute question periods and thirty-minute breaks was just right—not too tight a schedule.



**Back Row: Dick Reim, David Neuffer, Phil Calabrese, Gard Jameson
Front Row: Nigel Nunn, Bruce Johnson, Marta Elders, Ralph Zehr, Marjorie Ray, Neal Kendall**

A wonderful meal was prepared by accomplished chef Jennifer Siegel to start us off on Thursday evening. As we finished dinner, Ralph Zehr astonished us with a description of the numerous nano-sized machines for chemical processing employed by even one-celled living creatures, and how implausible these are as accidental, random, unintelligent “emergences.”

At nine o'clock on Friday morning, it was Marjorie Ray's turn to amaze us by explaining how it is that two snowflakes can hardly be the same. Since a snowflake crystal is made of very many atoms of water, with a few heavy hydrogen or heavy oxygen atoms interspersed within the variously shaped crystals, the odds are virtually zero of two snowflakes being exactly alike. Perhaps more dramatically than the counting numbers 1, 2, 3 . . . that fact demonstrates the existence of infinity in the cosmos.

Next, it was Nigel Nunn's turn to take us to the transcendental level of the primary and secondary force organizers of Paradise, who evolve

primordial force emerging from the space-pervading Unqualified Absolute into force energy orbiting Paradise and secondly into spherically shaped ultimatons with Paradise as their nucleus. Nigel connected Einstein's curvature ideas of general relativity to the curvature of segregata into ultimata.

After a gourmet lunch, Marta Elders launched us into the final frontier—the mind-brain—that most sophisticated of entities in our observed universe. It is the one physical uniformity of life in the whole local universe, and she reminded us that the nervous system throughout the body is part of the brain. One hundred million neurons can each fire independently. The number of possibilities is a number much greater than ten with twenty-five million zeroes in front of it. And that is for just one firing time period! We learned that the heart has brain cells around it, that the prefrontal cortex is essential for morality, and that the pineal gland is related to spirituality.

It was then Bruce Johnson's turn to elevate our thinking about the ministry of the adjutant mind-spirits. These spirits guide plant and animal life, beginning with the intuitions that drive the most primitive of life on up to the counsel for more advanced animal life and finally to the sixth and seventh adjutant mind-spirits of worship and wisdom, with which only human beings are endowed. The question of when the spiritual pattern of personality is bestowed on a human being by our Paradise Father was left open.

Another question-comment period preceded some drinks and appetizers, and another special dinner. By this time we were getting used to the timely snacks and tasty meals that were being served to energize our thinking and feeling. Conversation continued into the evening.

A breakfast casserole was on the kitchen table by eight o'clock, with a full coffee pot ready. Then it was time for Dick Reim to amaze us with his discovery of new patterns in the complicated electronic energy shells of the heavier atoms. He delved into subnuclear protons and neutrons, suggesting energy levels and orbits there too. The notion of a “central proton” was brought up. Dick pointed out that the elements recognized by contemporary science with more than one hundred protons never have more than one hundred electrons and therefore are not really complete atoms; the half-lives of these “atoms” are measured in seconds or minutes.

Then came Neal Kendall, whose 178-page paper “Is There Design in Nature?” is more like a book, filled with examples and links related to facts of life that are implausible unless there is design. Even single-cell plants and animals with no neurons have intelligence. Like humans, they know how to feed themselves, defend themselves, and reproduce themselves. While computers are able to do many things better than humans, our ability to answer security questions that ask us to repeat some digits that have been

distorted or somewhat masked still makes them seem stupid! That's reassuring.

After another wonderful lunch, it was my turn to present: not so much a defense of the existence of free will in the cosmos as a discussion of the implications of the assumed existence of free will in the cosmos. Proofs always start with assumptions: Suppose this and this and this. Then it follows that such and such and such must also be true. That is the pattern of deduction. The existence of some degree of free will is obvious, self-evident, and axiomatic in the experience of every person. I pointed out that only materialists were trying to convince themselves and everyone else of complete determinism in the cosmos because any freedom of choice is inconsistent with their philosophy. One implication of free will is the existence of "will power," the ability of mind to tap into some associated energy realm and change the course of physical matter from what it would have been if no action had been taken by that mind.

After questions and our midafternoon break, Gard Jameson focused our attention on "The Cosmogenetic Principle," proposed by authors Thomas Berry and Brian Swimme in their book *The Universe Story*. This principle refers to structures self-organizing as systems of interrelated things, not just as material particles reacting to elementary forces. Bee and ant colonies and flocks of birds have an overarching mind. There is something more in the cosmos besides the spontaneous assembly of matter from below.

After wine, appetizers, and dinner it was time for some special evening entertainment performed by master pianist and singer Bob Solone. Bob has done this for fifty years all around the world, and it showed. He sang and played an electronic keyboard seemingly with a backup orchestra when needed. As song after song was expertly sung and played, Dick Reim kept marveling, "I had no idea you were this good!" We all went to bed humming a Beatles tune.

On Sunday morning, after another tasty breakfast, master technician Gaétan Charland, who engineered live streaming of the symposium (and managed to quickly solve every technical problem), was able to connect with George Park and have him appear on the Foundation's giant screen, allowing him to present his paper "Proving Divine Providence Is Responsible for Universe Evolution." George focused on the revealed fact that the master universe is flat, something inconsistent with the Big Bang theory that implies a uniform universe of expansion. He explained that the evidence of this transcendently initiated flatness is now available to contemporary science but is being ignored. Overthrowing a false but accepted theory always takes time as the old, respected proponents die off and younger scientists eventually get funding and acceptance. Then will we read once again, "Scientists once thought. . . ."

Finally, Dave Neuffer presented a candidate for one of the mysterious types of energy that *The Urantia Book* says our scientists still haven't discovered. Dave discussed a phenomenon demonstrated by Dr. Randell L. Mills that utilizes molten silver as a catalyst, and water vapor as fuel. A current is applied and forms a plasma that emits ultraviolet, extreme ultraviolet, and X-rays, which are converted to current. The question remains whether the undiscovered forces and forms of energy in the nuclei of atoms referenced in Paper 42 of *The Urantia Book* are related to the controversial phenomenon demonstrated by Dr. Mills.

Lunch was served after this last presentation, and symposium participants still remaining afterward were not quite ready to say goodbye. Five of us including Dick, David, Nigel, and Gaétan, decided to take an afternoon walk. The magnificent, open lake front landscape, with many people enjoying the Sunday afternoon among the green grass, trees, and monuments, was a perfect way to stretch out the day. But now it really was time to depart. We all felt greatly enriched by the weekend of mind, body, spirit, and personal contact that we shall all no doubt remember forever.

2016 BOGOTÁ INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR

Andres Ramirez, Marlene Tovar Alvarado, and Wilson León, Bogotá



The Bogotá International Book Fair (FILBO) brings together exhibitors from the book industry worldwide but primarily from Latin America. It is held annually at the Corferias-Centro de Convenciones in Bogotá, Colombia. The first Bogotá book fair was held on October 10, 1936. The current series of book fairs was reestablished in 1988, and it is a wonderful exhibition of literary and cultural events.

Diversity characterized the 2016 fair, which took place from April 19 to May 2. More than 150,000 titles were available in twenty-three exhibition halls, and three hundred of the best known domestic and foreign authors were present. A total of 1,240 events, representing twenty-one countries, attracted more than five hundred thousand people.

The Bogotá Urantia Association has been present at the fair for the last several years, but it was only in 2014 that the Association began participating with its own booth. This endeavor has meant both a financial investment and a human one of time and service.

More volunteers are participating in the booth as awareness of *El libro de Urantia* is growing. This project would not have been possible without the service and support of more than forty people, including direct volunteers at the booth and indirect partners providing support in various other ways. The Bogotá Urantia Association gives the volunteers a big thank-you for their work and

Editor's Note:
To see more photos taken at The Bogotá International Book Fair, [click here](#).

service.

We are also thankful to Urantia Foundation for donating 150 hardcover books for the fair. 102 were sold at our booth, and proceeds were used to help offset costs of the booth.

Over sixteen thousand flyers were distributed to persons who visited our booth. These flyers contained Urantia Association contact information, websites, and lists of books and other publications about The Urantia Book.

Volunteers spoke directly with more than two thousand people about El libro de Urantia, giving them an explanation about the book and addressing the different interests of each person. Many of these people already had heard of the book. Some of them already have the book or have study groups and are interested in receiving more information.

Names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses were collected from 305 people interested in purchasing a book, receiving the Association's News Bulletin, or participating in events, lectures, or future conferences.

During the course of the fair there were three introductory lectures about The Urantia Book and a workshop entitled "Epigenetics of Urantia," which was attended by more than thirty people.

The location of the booth was excellent as measured by the great flow of people who visited us, especially young people. The booth was attractive and included a counter, a display of books, two tables with chairs for visitors, a computer to take information, and a dataphone for credit card payments. The walls were decorated with large-scale posters of the book, Jesus, and the Master Universe.

We gained great personal satisfaction from our efforts in several ways: through meeting new readers, making contact with long-time readers—especially independent Urantia Book readers—and, above all, helping many people discover the Urantia Revelation. We are also gratified that this project blazes a trail and sets an example for readers elsewhere in the world who may be encouraged to undertake similar service projects.

COSMIC CREATIONS: AN OUTREACH EFFORT

Rick Lyon, Indiana, United States



Rick Lyon, Susan Grzeskowiak

In the spring of 2015, I launched a new outreach effort/business venture to serve the Urantia Book reader community. CosmicCreations is an online store specializing in Urantia-related items displaying, with permission, the concentric circles symbol. CosmicCreations is not affiliated with any reader organization, but it is committed to serving and supporting all readers of the fifth epochal revelation around the world.

The purpose of this online store is threefold. First, by displaying the concentric circles symbol, you may invite curious people to ask: "What is 'Urantia?'" or "What do the circles represent?" Perhaps this will open doors for you to share the teachings of The Urantia Book with someone new.

Second, you may find like-minded individuals around you that you might not have met before. Perhaps you would have passed by each other, never realizing the presence of a kindred spirit. When they see your T-shirt, polo shirt, hat, or necklace with the concentric circles, they will immediately recognize you as a "reader." Perhaps this will lead to friendships and eventually to the forming of a study group in your area.

And, third, each time you use your Urantia coffee mug, your luggage tag at the airport, or your keychain when you drive to work, you will be reminded that you are part of the most important project on the planet today. You will be reminded daily that (in the words of the Publication Mandate) "you are participating in the birth of a new age of religion on this world."

CosmicCreations has been well received, and many positive comments have been posted on the website, eBay, and Facebook. Susan Grzeskowiak, the artist and designer of products, and I are pleased to report that we are making contact with many readers unknown to us before; some of them have never contacted other readers or attended an event.

A representative of CosmicCreations has been present at several gatherings of Urantia Book readers: an event for readers of the book in Alabama; a Urantia Association International conference in Canada; a regional conference sponsored by the Orvontony Society of the Fellowship in Indianapolis; and in San Antonio at a conference sponsored jointly by Urantia Association United States, the Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Foundation in June 2016. We shall be present at future conferences and hope that you will stop by our booth.

In the meantime, visit our store at www.CosmicCreations.biz. Our products are also available through eBay.

HELPFUL LINKS:

Urantia Association of the United States (UAUS) website. There are photos, UB inspired music, art reviews, and other info germane to UAI members and students of the Book in the United States of America: <http://urantiausa.com/>

Urantia Association USA's Facebook page. If you "Like" the page, news postings will show up in your Facebook news feed: <http://facebook.com/urantiausa/>

For membership in Urantia Association of the United States the application and requirements are available at this link: <http://bit.ly/1J3hXhV>

Urantia Association International's website. Here you will find the Charter and Bylaws, also UAI projects involving study and dissemination, event information, membership requirements, applications, and many, many other items of interest to members: <http://urantia-association.org/>

Membership in Urantia Association International. The application and instructions are at this link: <http://bit.ly/1Is0cAe>

The Urantia Foundation website: <http://urantia.org/>

The Urantia Book online. For the latest news reports from Urantia Foundation, you can also visit Urantia Foundation's News Online: <http://bit.ly/1luKtyN>

The Journal, Urantia Association's "scholarly" publication, is available electronically free of charge at <http://urantia-association.org/publications/uai-journal/journal-archives/>.

To receive hard copies of The Journal, you may subscribe to *The Journal* at these rates: Annual \$20 US, \$28 Australian, \$28 Canadian, or 18 (Euros). Single Copies \$5 US, \$7 Australian, \$7 Canadian, or 4.50 (Euros). Other foreign language edition rates will be equal to \$20 US for subscription or \$5 US for a single issue in local currency according to international exchange rates at the time of subscription. Funds should be sent to Urantia Association International (USA) and must be in US dollars.

Tidings newsletter, from Associations around Urantia, is a semi-monthly newsletter published by: Urantia Association International. New and seasoned readers are encouraged to send material for publication on any of the following topics: 1. How *The Urantia Book* Found Me, 2. Special projects such as Book Fairs, Library Placement, and Outreach, 3. New or established study groups – How you got started – What keeps you going? 4. Your annual meeting, picnic or just getting together. You can read current and back issues here: <http://urantia-association.org/publications/tidings-newsletter/tidings-archives/>

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER:

To every spirit being and to every mortal creature in every sphere and on every world of the universe of universes, the Universal Father reveals all of his gracious and divine self that can be discerned or comprehended by such spirit beings and by such mortal creatures. God is no respecter of persons, either spiritual or material. The divine presence which any child of the universe enjoys at any given moment is limited only by the capacity of such a creature to receive and to discern the spirit actualities of the supermaterial world. <http://goo.gl/tKbvT9>

ABOUT THE MESSENGER

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If you would like to receive The Messenger by email, click on this link: <http://bit.ly/1hF4tj3>