



# URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



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## REMEMBERING SEPPO KANERVA—A LETTER TO A BROTHER, FRIEND, AND COLLEAGUE



*By Georges Michelson-Dupont, international vice president and manager of translations, Urantia Foundation, Recloses, France*

*Editor’s Note: Seppo was a man of service to the Urantia Book project and community. It started in 1984 when he undertook the translation of the book into Finnish. He was active in building the Finnish affiliate of Urantia Association International, worked as Urantia Foundation’s manager of translations, joined the board of trustees in 2001, and then served as board president from 2004 until his retirement in 2008.*

*We all benefited from his contributions, his mentorship, and mostly from his friendship. Seppo, we wish you Godspeed as you progress on the mansion worlds. We are sure your charming self continues to delight those you interact with!*

Dear Seppo,

After a full life of service, you have joined many of our brothers and sisters on the mansion worlds and continue your journey en route to Paradise. I would like to share some memories of our time together in service to Urantia Foundation and to the Urantia community.

I met you for the first time in Helsinki on the occasion of the creation of the Finnish Association in July 1989. This is where I learned that you had almost finished translating *The Urantia Book* into Finnish.

Then, sometimes with Richard Keeler, sometimes with Martin Myers, you came to visit



Seppo Kanerva

us several times in Blennes, where we discussed the revision of the French translation and other topics of mutual interest with my father, Jacques Dupont. The conflicts between the Foundation and the former Brotherhood were among our concerns. You as well as we—my father, my wife, and I—had always expressed our loyalty and support to the Foundation, and we were so sorry to hear the criticism directed toward Urantia Foundation during all these tragic events and to witness their impact on the Urantia communities around the world. My friend, it was indeed a time of severe hardship and testing.

During this ordeal of difficulties, we wove strong bonds of brotherhood and intelligent cooperation. I remember that you loved the scallops that my mother-in-law, whom you called "Meme," used to prepare especially for you when you would come to our house.

In the summer of 1995, you, Richard Keeler, and I, along with Foundation employee Damian Bondi, put together and formatted the small vinyl cover version of the book in English, Finnish, Spanish, and French. We were proud of the result and were happy to be able to make the revelation available to truth seekers at a very competitive price.

Then we prepared together the two translators' conferences in Paris in 1996 and 1997, which led to an acceleration of the translations, a better cooperation among the

translators, and the beginning of a unified process. After the second conference you became Urantia Foundation's manager of translations.

I remember that you spoke several languages—Spanish, Portuguese, English, German, and some French. In addition to the task of organization and coordination of the translations, you supervised the work of correcting the Spanish translation undertaken by a team of readers with great kindness and tact.

Finally, you became a trustee in 2001, replacing Kwan Choi. All of us, at the Foundation and in the Urantia movement, owe

you a lot. I remember your silhouette, at the end of the evening after our meetings at 533, on the balcony of the Foundation, smoking cigarettes with a glass of wine in your hand, laughing out loud and making jokes. You had a great sense of humor, a communicative *joie de vivre*, and a strong sense of responsibility. Frankly, you were an inspiration to

all those around you.

What will remain cardinal in my memory of our relationship is your loyalty, intelligence, kindness, and sense of compromise.

Goodbye and see you soon. I love you, my brother.

Georges



Jacques Dupont, Seppo Kanerva, Richard Keeler, Georges Michelson-Dupont

## UPDATES FROM THE APRIL 2023 TRUSTEE MEETING



By Judy Van Cleave, secretary, Urantia Foundation, Idaho, United States

### Operations Overview

#### Books

- Total sales for Q1—including Urantia Press titles—were down 25%.
- Q1 sales of Urantia Press books were down 47%.

- Q1 downloads were up 2%.
- Q1 e-books were also up 2%.
- Total dissemination was down 30% in Q1. This includes everything but downloads.
- During Q1 the Foundation donated 120 outreach books. In partnership with Urantia Association International,

a total of 60 books were sent to Ghana and Uganda. We also sent, in cooperation with the Urantia Book Fellowship, 50 Spanish paperbacks to Colombia and 10 to a reader in Canada who traveled to Chile and hand delivered the books.

- A reprint order was placed for 3,000 English hardcovers and 2,000 English paperbacks.

## Education

- The January trimester of Urantia Book International School (UBIS) ended on March 19. A total of 17 online classes (and a virtual study group conducted in Spanish) were offered to 242 enrolled students. Courses in seven languages were facilitated by 26 volunteer teacher-facilitators.

- In addition to the regular courses, UBIS launched the new Spotlight Series. This innovative program features 90-minute live topical presentations and is being offered monthly by the English, French, and Spanish branches.

- The Education Committee discussed plans to proceed with a Marriage and Family Symposium. The event will be held online, similar to the 2022 Science Symposium. Presentations will be developed by a planning team. Additional details will be available in July.

- Dr. Jameson and Dr. Kulieke are pleased to report that "A Narrative History of *The Urantia Book*" has entered the final editing and production stage. They look forward to sharing this labor of love with us soon.

- The Study Group Directory committee members are all pleased with the enhancements made to the site in 2022. The process to ensure all groups are up to date has been successfully automated. In addition, a text messaging process has been implemented so that any host who does not

respond to the emails will receive one final request to update their information. This eliminates the need for committee members to make phone calls. How to implement this internationally will be considered in 2023. As always, the team—Bill Beasley, Scott Brooks, Jackie Koury, Rick Lyon, and Tamara Strumfeld—enjoys working together and is grateful for the support of the three sponsoring organizations. It is an excellent example of cooperation!

## Fundraising and Finances

- Donations—Q1 unrestricted donations were 13% below budget, and 77% below Q1 of 2022.

- Restricted donations were 50% below budget, and 7% below Q1 of 2022.

- Estate gifts— Q1 estate gifts totaled \$421,691.

- Total income was up 168% from last Q1 of 2022, but 19% below budget.

- Total expenses were up 77% from Q1 of last year, but 15% below budget.



## Outreach— Mustard Seed Grants Program (MSGP)

The Mustard Seed Grants Program completed its first round of funding, and the MSGP team has done an excellent job. Despite the inevitable learning curve during the first six months, each committee member worked tirelessly, analyzing and fairly assessing each application. Much gratitude

goes to Sherry Cathcart Chavis, Minoo Claire, Gary Deinstadt, Geri Johnson, Tamara Strumfeld, and Chris Wood.

Seven grant awards were announced on March 15. Congratulations to the Round 1 Mustard Seed Grant recipients!



## 1. The Urantia Book Teacher Training Program

A six-month project to develop a teacher training program to prepare motivated students to effectively present the ideas and ideals of the *Urantia Revelation* to people of all cultures.

Elisabeth Callahan for Urantia University, United States

Focus Area: Educational Program, Centers, Schools



## 2. School of Divine and Progressive Wisdom

A one-year project to provide technical assistance for teachers/facilitators to continue to promote a pedagogical teaching method, allowing for an enhanced understanding and wide dissemination of the truths of *The Urantia Book*.

Moustapha Ndiaye, Senegal

Focus Area: Interfaith/Educational



## 3. Urantia Conferences in Nigeria

A six-month project to host an annual conference in Lagos, Nigeria, with the goals of consolidating the reader base in Nigeria and fostering truth seekers meeting Urantia Book readers.

Emeka Anazodo, Nigeria

Focus Area: Educational Programs, Centers, Schools



## 4. Living Bridge Productions

A one-year project to produce two high-quality videos to spread *The Urantia Book* and its teachings.

Gary Tonge, Canada

Focus Area: Audiovisual/Digital Outreach



## 5. Spreading the Good News

A one-month project to proclaim, promote, and disseminate the revelation through a musically based ministry tour (11 concerts) throughout California in areas close to existing study groups.

Pato Banton, United States

Focus Area: Music, Art, and Film



## 6. Urantiaopedia

A two-year project to develop an open-source online encyclopedia that helps in the

dissemination and understanding of the revelation. It will include a wide range of content in a single website, in multiple languages, which includes illustrations, audio, links to the Bible, and other resources.

José Antonio Hernández,  
Spain

Focus Area: Secondary  
Works



### 7. FER UB

A one-year  
project to fund  
stronger internet

connections for Urantia  
Book study group members  
and to make and post four  
short videos for outreach.

Maricor Doctor, The  
Philippines

Focus Area: Educational  
Program, Centers, Schools

### Translations and Revisions

- Work has resumed on the Esperanto translation with some proofreading upgrades. It is complete through Paper 60.

- The Greek revision is complete through Paper 186.

- The Farsi translation is 93% complete, with 17 papers remaining before their target completion date in 2024.

- The Filipino translation team completed Paper 41 in March and has been working on the 18-page Paper 42. The team continues to hold working meetings three days per

week, and also helps with the Urantia Book study group.

- The chief revisor of the Portuguese translation is recovering from surgery. The copy editors continue to submit updates. They estimate a July 2024 completion.

- The first draft of the Chinese translation is complete. It is being edited and will likely need an additional review. The Traditional style translation is complete though Paper 40. It will need rounds of editing as well. The translation has gained momentum thanks to Vicki Yang and Gard Jameson teaching Taiwanese and Chinese students about the concepts and ideas found in *The Urantia Book*.

- To ensure the quality and accuracy of the 2021 Spanish revision, we have conducted professional evaluations of Urantia Foundation's Spanish 1993 translation and the 2021 revision. We are encouraging Spanish-speaking readers to review the revision and provide specific feedback and suggestions. [Please click here to submit your findings.](#)

Focus groups will be formed, with participants from both sides of the Atlantic—each representing various demographics, including men and women of different generations.

## “SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS” TOUR



By Pato Banton, Mustard Seed  
Grant recipient, California,  
United States

*Editor's Note: Pato Banton was awarded a Mustard Seed Grant to fund his "Spreading the Good News" tour across California this past April. On behalf of Urantia Foundation, we thank him for his tremendous outreach efforts*

to creatively spread *The Urantia Book* and its teachings!

I'll start by saying a big THANK YOU to the trustees of Urantia Foundation for approving our application for a Mustard Seed Grant to share "The Good News" and promote *The Urantia Book* to thousands of people at free concerts during a musical tour across California this April. My partner, Antoinette "Rootsdawtah" Hall, and I had been working on this idea for quite a while, but we lacked the resources to make it happen. With the funds made available through the Mustard Seed Grant, we were able to realize our vision.

Our initial goal was for Antoinette and me to travel with a technical assistant to

five cities, doing simple performances that would allow us to reach people through our inspirational music, while also sharing the "Gospel of the Good News." But when our band heard about the tour, they all wanted to be involved. Thanks to the buzz that was created on social media, other venues and promoters reached out to us, and we ended up doing a total of 14 shows, with 8 of them being free concerts, in Oxnard, Santa Barbara, Bakersfield, Chico, Arcata, Mount Shasta, Los Angeles, and June Lake.

We also sent messages to 42 study group leaders across California, alerting them about the tour and inviting them to join us for a good time. We offered service opportunities during the concerts, at the prayer circles afterward, and at

the merchandise booths where inquisitive souls were exposed to *The Urantia Book* and could ask questions of whoever was attending the merchandise table. It was great to experience fellowship with those who responded, attended, and supported our vision in their own unique and special ways. We are eternally grateful to all of you!

Upon reflection, I can honestly say that the tour was a huge success. We surpassed our own expectations. All of the concerts were well attended, and some were even sold out! (Yes, free tickets go fast!) Most of the shows were family friendly, so parents were able to bring their children for an early show. It was awesome to see the excitement on their faces when we invited the kids to join us on stage.

There was much singing and dancing, big smiles, lots of laughter, tears of joy, warm hugs, high fives, thanksgiving, and prayers. The feedback and loving appreciation that we received from the crowds was

overwhelming at times. But we realize that there are a lot of people in this world that just need a little positivity and loving energy in their lives right now.

I'd also like to report that over 30 books were gratefully received from Urantia Foundation, and these were placed in the hands of excited truth seekers!

So again, thanks so much for the love, support, and generosity. God bless you all!

## WIKIPEDIA AND *THE URANTIA BOOK*



By Brad Garner, *Urantia Foundation, Arizona, United States*

Today I edited a Wikipedia article about Barton Springs—a set of springs whose main one feeds a popular swimming pool in Texas. My edit was probably not controversial; I simply updated some outdated numeric facts. My edit had no conflict of interest, and I think I made it in good faith. However, a senior editor could question or even revert (undo) my edit. Or someone else in the world might make even more edits to my edit. This is just how Wikipedia goes. Even though I care about this article (I've watched it for nearly 20 years), I don't own it. No one owns it. See my edit at <https://bit.ly/WikiEditExample>.

Wikipedia's watchful senior editors disapprove of editors with conflicts of interest, edits that fail to cite reliable sources, or edits made in "bad faith." Edits seen as inappropriate are usually reverted within minutes. As readers of *The Urantia Book*, we should consider our editorial relationship with Wikipedia articles related to *The Urantia Book*. Well-meant but ill-advised edits could unintentionally and adversely affect the credibility of *The Urantia Book* for tens of millions of people. Articles might be locked against further edits, or even flagged for deletion.

Here are some recent examples of well-intentioned but unfortunate attempts at making edits to the Wikipedia article on *The Urantia Book* that didn't last long:

- A self-published book was added to the bibliography section. This was reverted 7 minutes later, being seen as free advertising. Wikipedia is not an advertising space.
- The word "human" was added so the article read "... its lack of a known human author." This was reverted 41 minutes later,

probably because it was seen as strange and unnecessary.

- A musical band rumored to have been influenced by *The Urantia Book* was added, citing a podcast as the reliable source. This edit was reverted 19 minutes later by a senior editor, who wrote it was "utterly ridiculous" to consider this podcast as a reliable source.

- Someone added an entirely new paragraph about possible authorship. This paragraph was reverted just 2 minutes later. Seven minutes later, they added the paragraph back, but this was reverted again just 12 minutes later by the same senior editor, warning that reliable sources must be cited.

*The Urantia Book* ought to be represented fairly on Wikipedia, but this should be achieved through patience and respect of Wikipedia culture. Urantia Foundation has a Wikipedia editing policy that trustees and staff shall not edit any Wikipedia articles related to *The Urantia Book*, as this would be seen as a conflict of interest on Wikipedia (imagine an IBM employee editing the Wikipedia article

about IBM). However, they may engage in conversation on article "talk pages," provided they disclose their conflict of interest. This policy strikes a balance: it respects avoiding conflicts of interest, while still allowing trustees and staff to interact with the Wikipedia community.

There may be something in this policy worth reflecting on for anyone reading this article. Would Wikipedia see you as having a conflict of interest in matters related to *The Urantia Book*? The single best way to improve *The Urantia Book's* representation on Wikipedia is for our activities to get favorable coverage in reliable secondary sources which can then be cited on Wikipedia in text written by editors who have no conflict of interest.

By the way, if you've never edited Wikipedia, I encourage you to try it out. Find a typo or awkward wording somewhere and improve it. It's a rewarding experience. Last time I checked, the article on potato chips had some things that could be improved. Unless you work for Frito-Lay, I doubt you have a conflict of interest.

# REMEMBERING JOHN HALES



*By Marilyn Kulieke, vice president, Urantia Foundation, Illinois, United States*

John came from a long line of Hales who were committed to the Urantia Book project—first his grandfather and grandmother, and later his mother and father. His father, William Hales, became the first president of Urantia Foundation. Later his mother, Mary Lou, served as a charter member of First Society and on Urantia Brotherhood committees. Some of the earliest pictures of Forum members were at the annual picnics hosted by the Hales family.

After spending time in college, in the Navy, and as a social worker, John faithfully followed his family's legacy. He began his career as the resident director of Urantia Brotherhood during a pivotal time in its history. For almost 40 years, he was the bridge between an organization led by a close-knit group of Forum members in Chicago to a national and later an international organization.

I think that one of John's most remarkable qualities

was his pleasure in helping others. He loved to talk to people. Anyone really. He was a good listener, a talent which was likely facilitated by his background in social work. He was loyal and rarely missed an opportunity to spend time with a friend. John seldom drove directly to a destination. He was a man of detours. He would pick up a Urantia Book reader who needed a ride, or even drive a few hundred miles out of the way to visit with a friend. It is no surprise that John had many friends, since most people who got to know him would eventually call him their friend.

John was a man of many talents. His cooking was legendary. His cheesy grits casserole was always a favorite at First Society events. And I understand

he was greatly missed at church events if he wasn't there to share one of his favorite dishes. I still use his recipe for "make ahead" mashed potatoes and gravy each Thanksgiving. I am sure there is a cookbook in the making with some of John's most treasured recipes.

Almost fifty years ago Emma "Christy" Christensen, one of the human contact commissioners, gave a speech to the Triennial Delegate Assembly of Urantia Brotherhood about God's vision and call to service. Every time I read her words I think of John and the others, both human and divine, who have committed their lives to serving the Urantia Revelation. She wrote:

"We have been called to



John Hales

the great work of taking the first step of offering to mortal man a new light, a new revelation of the love of God. Following Jesus' way of life calls for an act of complete commitment, a dedicated intention, a dedicated purpose, and a trumpet call to a life that will not compromise.

"God has provided the



Back: Meredith Sprunger, John Hales, Bill Hales  
Front: Ticky Harries, Mary Lou Hales, Irene Sprunger

vision and the call. The answer must be ours.

"We must cultivate the power to envision our share in bettering the world.

"We must believe that God can speak to us, that he can use us and our talents, and that he calls us to our place of service.

"And we must be willing to be used for the fulfillment of his vision."

My dear friend John, you were called, you came, you

did your share in bettering the world, you used your talents, and yes, you were willing to fulfill God's vision.

His was a life well lived.

## REMEMBERING PAULA PADILLA



By Olga López, trustee, Urantia Foundation, Vilanova i la Geltrú, Spain

*Editor's Note: Paula was a beloved member of Urantia Book International School (UBIS). She joined the Spanish staff in June of 2020 and began facilitating courses in April of 2021.*

Paula Padilla, a very active Urantia Book reader in the Latin American community and residing in Cancun, Mexico, continued her journey to Paradise on Friday, May 12. A psychologist by profession, although retired for some years, she was an outstanding student of the Spanish branch of UBIS.

Tireless worker that she was (and I am sure she will continue to be), Paula enthusiastically accepted the invitation to join the UBIS Spanish Branch Faculty Committee.

She soon made another leap to teacher-facilitator when she conducted a beautiful course on the birth and childhood of Jesus. This stage tends to be overlooked, but it contains many valuable teachings which Paula was able to highlight in a brilliant way.

I had the opportunity to meet her in person during the Latin American readers conference held in Bogota, Colombia, in 2016, and I was inspired by her joy, her sense of humor, and her way of celebrating friendship and life. Her enthusiasm was inspiring, and I will always remember her contagious laughter.

As proof of the great mark she left on UBIS, I would like to share a few words from some of her fellow teacher-facilitators:

### **Ulises Pedrique (United States)**

Meeting Paula and feeling her tenderness and warmth was a real delight. Our interactions were few, yet they conveyed her very essence and were deep and enriching. I will treasure them in the depths of my heart.

She bore her ailments, her discomforts, and her final

limitations with graciousness; she never complained (at least as far as I know). She never stopped being helpful Paula.

### **Irma E. Aguilar Meana (Mexico)**

Paula's embrace was warm, and she made you feel part of her home. She had a beautiful and gentle strength of presence. She was like a big sister in every sense of the word. Jesus gave us the example; Paula carried it out as much as she could. I regret that I will not be able to hug her anymore in this world, but I am grateful that she has been in my life. In mansionia we will see her.

### **Ana Isabel Franco (United States)**

Last May, for Mother's Day, I went to Cancun for four days. When we were preparing for the trip, I let Paula know the date I was going to be there with the hope of meeting and getting to know her. The days flew by, shared with my family and grandson. By the time Paula replied, I was already back home. But we consoled ourselves that there would be no lack of future opportunities to meet and hug. Exactly one year later, the physical



Paula Padilla

embrace was no longer possible.

We should not leave things pending, hoping to do them later, because certain tomorrows may not come as expected.

### **Erika Webster (United States)**

Paula faithfully showed her spirit of cooperation, she had a subtle yet effective tactic of gaining the commitment of teacher-facilitators to volunteer and facilitate courses. She never missed the goal of having a certain number of courses per term.

A practical and organized coordinator, Paula was effective in her work with the faculty committee, and

also as a teacher-facilitator trainer. Her good humor and great disposition were always on display, and she obviously enjoyed what she did. Her presence and persistence helped to generate the necessary number of Spanish courses.

I will always affectionately remember Paula's dedication, her firm yet

tactful treatment of our group, her great organization, and her joy!

**Wanda Veloz (Dominican Republic)**

Paula, with her sweetness, but also with her firmness, managed to get volunteers to facilitate courses in a very fluid and beautiful way. She was tremendously

organized, and when she invited us to meet to talk about the courses to be given, she came prepared! She also managed to recruit mentors for the new facilitators. Who could say no to Paula when she approached it with such enthusiasm, firm subtlety, and joy?

Sometimes I wonder how we will get along without her guidance. But I understand that she showed us with her great example how to continue and keep alive the beautiful legacy she left us—her smile, her wisdom, and her big heart.

## WHAT *THE URANTIA BOOK* MEANS TO ME



By Luis Costa, Lisbon, Portugal

When asked to express in a few words what *The Urantia Book* means to me, I immediately felt overwhelmed by the daunting nature of the task. This feeling arose from the book's extensive coverage of countless subjects, the realization of my limited understanding and evolving perspectives, and the challenge of conveying the intricacies of the soul through a coarse language that lacks mota, the essence of spiritual insight. If only I were a poet, which unfortunately is not the case.

In simple terms, *The Urantia Book* holds

tremendous significance for me, surpassing mere importance and venturing into the realm of all-encompassing significance. Despite being born in a profoundly Catholic country and even after spending over a decade in an Advaita Vedanta ashram, leading a monastic life dedicated to service, spiritual gatherings, and meditation, while adhering to vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, I have never aligned myself with any specific traditional religion, be it Eastern, Western, Shamanic, New Age, Naturistic, Agnostic, or Atheistic. I appreciate the various perspectives but do not identify myself, and even less comply, with any belief system.

It was amidst this fragmented situation that the Urantia Revelation arrived, like a wave of love, wisdom, and clarity, to moisten and unite the scattered fragments of matter, thought, and values that comprised my life. *The Urantia Book's* unifying force formed a cohesive whole that is far from stagnant, continually fermenting and expanding

in sync with the rhythm of the Supreme.

As I journeyed through self-awareness from a young age, I noticed that regardless of the source of my awakening, it carried within it a personal sense of morality, a distinction between right and wrong, or at least between better and worse. It instilled in me a yearning for love, a desire to serve, and an unwavering attraction to Beauty, Goodness, and Truth, even when the external world seemed to hinder or deny them.

Now, equipped with a comprehensive understanding and vocabulary for these profound experiences, encompassing concepts such as the Thought Adjuster, the Trinity, the journey from birth to the development of the soul, the notion of survival, fusion, and the fulfillment found in worship, as well as the intricate relationship between energy,

mind, and value, and the alluring call of the Supreme, I find myself immersed in a vast tapestry of interconnected ideas within an ever-expanding cosmology.

With this newfound knowledge, I can joyfully dance within a universe that emanates tender and loving care, embracing the boundless expressions of divine guidance and support.

In essence, *The Urantia Book* is the pillow upon which I rest my weary head at night, the compass that guides me throughout the day, and the source of an undeniable faith that the world, life, and God are not only what I have always yearned for but infinitely more than I could ever comprehend.



# Announcements

## ROUND 2 OPENS on JULY 10, 2023



### Mustard Seed Grants Program

Do you have an idea for an educational program that will bring the fifth epochal revelation to untapped audiences? Have you thought of an innovative project that addresses some significant outreach challenges? If so, you may be eligible for a Mustard Seed Grant!

Urantia Foundation is pleased to announce that the second round of funding applications will open on Monday, July 10.

The MSGP awards financial assistance to eligible projects which support the Foundation's Declaration of Trust and mission to "seed" *The Urantia Book* and its teachings globally. Funds will be granted to support projects that further education and outreach in tangible and measurable ways, and across all regions of the globe.

Watch your inbox for the Round 2 Call for Proposals!

## There is still time to register!

The Urantia Book Fellowship is delighted to be hosting their next international conference for Urantia Book readers, live and in person, July 24–28, 2023, in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois, USA.

The location, Oak Brook Hills Resort and Conference Center, is about a half hour from Chicago's two major airports (O'Hare/ORD and Midway/MDW) and offers comfy beds, a beautiful pool and golf course, and for one week this summer, will be home to hundreds of your closest friends.



For more details, including a link to register, visit <https://urantiabook.org/ic23>



Urantia Foundation Presents

## Marriage and Family Symposium

Live on Zoom Events!

Friday, June 14, and Saturday, June 15, 2024

*The family occupied the very center of Jesus' philosophy in life—here and hereafter. He based his teachings about God on the family. 140:8.14 (1581.1)*

It is difficult to overemphasize the significance of the role of the home and family in society and civilization in general. The individual family units are the building blocks of a civilization. Families do not live and die; they continue, generation after generation, as permanent sociological rivers, providing a channel through which human values, social achievements, and religious insights pass on to nourish and energize future civilizations and on into the eras of light and life. By fostering functional, love-dominated, and spiritually fragrant families that produce service-oriented, well-adjusted, and loyal citizens, homes are contributing immensely to the cultural progress on our world.

During this symposium we will explore many concepts concerning the origin, history, and central role played by the human family in the march of civilization on our planet. We will seek to discover the wisdom and advice offered in *The Urantia Book* to assist us in all phases of family life, including establishing a home, rearing children, and ongoing parenting and grandparenting.

If you are interested in presenting, please contact [joanne@urantia.org](mailto:joanne@urantia.org) for details.



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## 2024 CONFERENCE URANTIA ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL BALTIMORE | MD | USA

# The Nature and Nurture of the Soul

March 28-31, 2024

*Mind is your ship, the Adjuster is your pilot, the human will  
is captain. The master of the mortal vessel should have the  
wisdom to trust the divine pilot to guide the ascending soul  
into the morontia harbors of eternal survival.*

111:1.9 (1217.4)

Mark your calendars now for the next exciting Urantia Association International Conference in 2024! This will be the 12th International Conference of the Association and is being organized by Urantia Association of the United States. It will take place from the afternoon of March 28 through March 31, 2024 (Thursday—Sunday).

The conference will be held at the Maritime Conference Center (MCC) in Baltimore, Maryland. The MCC is a fabulous and affordable facility with gourmet food, proximity to international airports, and many attractions in the nation's capital region. This event will coincide with the height of the famous cherry blossom season and takes place on Easter weekend. Join us as we celebrate our Master's resurrection and explore “The Nature and Nurture of the Soul.”

For more details, including a link to register, visit  
<https://uaus.urantia-association.org/about-us/events/>.