

URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



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Spring Cheer

KIND AND GENEROUS SOULS



By Mo Siegel, President, Urantia Foundation, Colorado, USA

By the account of most people living in the United States, 2008 will be remembered as the beginning of a serious economic recession. For those at Urantia Foundation, we'll remember 2008 as the year where you, the readers and believers, generously gave to the work of the revelation in spite of your own financial hardships. As we entered into the last part of 2008, Urantia Foundation investments had taken a set back and income from our funds had shrunk. Yet the work of Urantia Foundation increased to a new and exhilarating level. We needed your help to get through a very tough year and your help was forthcoming.

In Nov. 2008, four donors generously gave \$100,000 toward a matching fund. Readers were told of the match and the growing financial needs of Urantia Foundation. By the end of December over \$200,000 in donations poured in to match the fund. 808 donors gave in 2008, the second highest number of contributors on record. Thanks to your generous outpouring of support, we ended the year with this positive outcome enabling us to start 2009 without cutting too deeply into vital programs. We humbly thank you for your goodwill, your financial support, and your love of the Revelation. Without your encouragement and help, we could not do this work. Believers in this Revelation are truly kind and generous souls.

2009 will be another challenging year, and we'll need your help again. We're proceeding with financial caution as we prioritize the work at hand. The "nice" to have will give way to the "need" to have as, out of necessity, our budgets have been reduced by nearly 20%. This will be a year where we must do more with less. On the docket we have 5 translations coming to completion and the work of improving our web site taking center stage. Books need selling, the building needs upkeep, and the education initiative needs to move forward. In spite of short

term economic difficulties, *The Urantia Book* project must and will proceed. These are the times we'll look back on from the Mansion Worlds and be thankful we had the opportunity to participate. These are invigorating times that bring out the best within us and between us. As in sports, resistance builds muscle. Says the Revelation, "The Creators are possessed of full power to make Urantia a veritable paradise, but such an Eden would not contribute to the development of those strong, noble, and experienced characters which the Gods are so surely forging out on your world between the anvils of necessity and the hammers of anguish. Your anxieties and sorrows, your trials and disappointments, are just as much a part of the divine plan on your sphere as are the exquisite perfection and infinite adaptation of all things to their supreme purpose on the worlds of the central and perfect universe." (23:2:5)

Thanks again for all your volunteer efforts and your financial and moral support.

Upward and inward.

Mo

We humbly thank you for your goodwill, your financial support,
and your love of the Revelation.

NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE JANUARY 2009 BOARD MEETING



By Marilyn Kulieke, Secretary, Urantia Foundation, Illinois, USA

As we enter 2009, I hope that you are healthy, happy and upward bound on the path of spiritual joy and progress. As you will read in this report, the team at Urantia Foundation entered 2009 with much to do. Here is the report from the January, 2009 meeting of the Board of Trustees. Other than Chicago's extremely cold streak of Arctic weather, our meeting was very pleasant and productive.

The following people participated in the meeting:

Trustees: Gard Jameson, Richard Keeler, Marilyn Kulieke, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Mo Siegel, and Judy Van Cleave.

Associate Trustees: Jan Bernard, Marta Elders, Irmeli Ivalo-Sjöli, Claire and Henk Mylanus.

Executive Director:
Jay Peregrine

Office Manager: Tamara Strumfeld

Special Presenters: Merritt Horn representing the Standard Reference Text Committee and Randy Garcia from The Investment Council Company.

Some highlights from the meeting:

1. Executive Director and Staff Reports

Jay Peregrine and Tamara Strumfeld reported to the Board on the Foundation's financial condition, book sales, fundraising, website development, book production, education, branch offices, conferences, travel, insurance and risk management, reader services, outreach, and building and grounds. If you could spend a day in the life of the team at 533 Diversey, you would be amazed at the amount of work this small team accomplishes. Thank you Jay, Tamara, Connie, and Marcel for your service.

2. 2008 and 2009 Budgets

The Board reviewed the 2008 year-end budget and compared it to what actually happened. Like most other not-for-profit foundations, our stock and bond investments lost value. On the positive side, the reader community generously contributed to Urantia Foundation during the fundraising efforts of November and December. In November four anonymous donors contributed \$100,000 as a matching fund. By the end of December the donations, including the match, exceeded \$300,000. 808 donors gave to Urantia Foundation in 2008 compared to 667 in

2007. A heart felt thanks to all who gave! We could not proceed without your generosity and support.

The 2009 budget, previously approved, was reviewed. The Chairman of the Foundation's Finance Committee, Gard Jameson, and Jay Peregrine voiced growing concerns regarding the recession. Based on these concerns, the budgeted expenses for 2009 are lower than those for 2008.

3. Library Placement Policy



Tamara Strumfeld presented an updated 2009 Library Placement Policy. The Board approved the policy because it allows people to buy books for library placement using a simplified ordering procedure. The policy allows readers to buy books at inexpensive prices if they agree to place the books in libraries and not to resell them.

We hope that in the coming years, you will take full advantage of this new policy. In the past we viewed libraries as publically operated facilities staffed with librarians, check out systems, and formal procedures. While public libraries remain vitally important to

the dissemination of the Urantia Revelation, so do the new informal libraries which have sprung up on a grass-roots basis. You can find these "libraries" on cruise ships and in hotels, hospital waiting rooms, coffee shops, restaurants, community buildings, and many other places. Placing books in these libraries can be just as fruitful as putting them in large public libraries. Please visit our website at www.urantia.org to view the new policy.

4. Website

Updating and improving the Foundation's website has become a top priority for 2009 and 2010. A Chicago based web design firm has been hired to provide an improved navigation system and graphic look for the website. The improved site will be designed for easy audio, video, graphic, and text applications. It will also accommodate the growing needs of the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) as well as the international offices. Due to the complexity and cost of the redesign, we anticipate that this project will take at least another 18 months. The Foundation's website is the first site that comes up when you Google the word "Urantia," and the site needs to be stellar.

For many people, Urantia Foundation's website will be their first impression of the book. In 2008 the server statistics showed that the site received nearly 1.5 million unique visits. While many of those visits were repeat visitors, no matter how you count it, a lot of people visit Urantia Foundation's website. The new website will have an ever-increasing emphasis on the book, its teachings, transla-

tions, where to buy it, how to download it, and how to contact other readers.

5. Book Committee

The Expanded Board discussed current book sales and the financial conditions affecting the book industry and sales of *The Urantia Book*. Total sales of the book decreased in 2008 by 12%. The book industry, besides having to deal with the recession, has to face its own series of setbacks as used book sales increase, internet book stores gain increasing market share, and the digital age expands into the book business. In the future, Urantia Foundation will change the traditional way of measuring books sales and outreach efforts and will start including internet downloads for MP3 players, digital readers, and physical downloads.

6. Translation Committee



Georges Michelson-Dupont presented the Translation Quarterly Report #41. In spite of a deep economic recession, 2009 may become the most prolific publishing year for new translations in the history of *The Urantia Book*. The Foundation is almost ready to publish the Arabic, Estonian, Hungarian, Polish, and Swedish translations, and the European edition of the Spanish translation. Other translations are in progress, or, if they have already been

published, are being revised and updated.

7. Governance Committee



The Governance Committee, chaired by Judy Van Cleave, proposed that each standing committee of Urantia Foundation draft a charter clearly stating the duties and responsibilities of the committee. The Board approved the proposal.

After years of searching for a simple way to organize Urantia Foundation's European operations, the Governance Committee recommended, and the Board approved, that Urantia Foundation establish a European Advisory Committee chaired by Georges Michelson-Dupont. This committee reports directly to the Board and will provide recommendations and strategies for book marketing and distribution, reader services, and dissemination of the teachings in the European Union.

*2009 may become
the most prolific
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new translations in
the history of The
Urantia Book*

8. Public Relations Committee



Richard Keeler gave an update on the work of the Frequently-Asked-Questions Project Committee. Knowing that the Foundation's website is the number one way people learn about Urantia Foundation and often times the book, this committee has been preparing answers to the most asked questions which will appear on the website.

In the area of public relations, updating and modernizing the Foundation's website is the Board's highest priority.

9. Planning Committee

Jan Bernard, Marta Elders, and Judy Van Cleave led a strategic planning session. See Marta Elders' article, *Vision of the Future*, for further details.

10. Standardized Reference Text Ad-hoc Committee

Merritt Horn presented the work and recommendations of the committee to the Expanded Board. The Board took the following actions regarding these recommendations:

- The Expanded Board will review the standardized reference text and the proposed referencing system. Feedback

will be given to the committee by May 1, 2009.

- The Standardized Reference Text Committee will provide a final report to Urantia Foundation and Uversa Press by July 1, 2009.

- The Board will decide whether to adopt the recommendations of the committee at the July 2009 Board meeting.

See Marilyn Kulieke's article for further details.

11. Education Committee

The Education Initiative meets for the second time in June, 2009. The committee plans to videotape discussions with John Causland on Astronomy and Sheila Keene-Lund on cosmic consciousness and spiritual perception. The videotapes will be made available for distribution. By the end of 2009 the Education Initiative will provide a plan for the training of teachers.

The Board voted again to express their confidence in and appreciation of Dorothy Elder and the UBIS team. Thanks to a generous donation, we can improve the website functions for the internet school. To learn more about the school visit <http://www.urantia.org/ubis/>. If you are interested in teaching classes or helping with UBIS, please contact Dorothy Elder at delder03@sprynet.com.

12. Next meeting: April 16-17, 2009 in Malaga, Spain

A VISION OF THE FUTURE



By Marta Elders, Associate Trustee, Planning Committee Chairwoman, Urantia Foundation, Connecticut, USA

During the January 2009 meeting of the Board of Trustees, Jan Bernard led a strategic planning session. With the support of the Planning Committee members, Judy Van Cleave and Marta Elders, Jan offered a power point presentation that helped visualize direction, relationships, and objectives of the organization. The Board agreed to the following goals and strategic priorities for 2009, 2010 and beyond:

1. Book Distribution Strategy:

During the last twenty years, Urantia Foundation has made significant progress in translating *The Urantia Book* into multiple languages. In the coming years distributing these translations to book stores and libraries, on the internet, and through unforeseen channels, will play an increasingly important role.

Goal:

Wisely distribute the inviolate text and its translations through every viable economic, cultural, and appropriate point of distribution. Break even financially on our sales. Using this strategy, Urantia Foundation needs supportive activities such as testing book distributors, de-

veloping effective book covers for the diverse markets, seeding books and offices into countries where we launch new translations, experimenting with internet dissemination and distribution, creating and selling an index, and more.

Regarding translations, Urantia Foundation shall continue translating *The Urantia Book* into many languages. The Foundation will continue improving published translations.

2. Protecting the Inviolable Text:

If Urantia Foundation adopts the "Standard Reference English Text", we shall promote it as the inviolable text of *The Urantia Book*. Future printings of the English edition will clearly identify Urantia Foundation as the original publisher of the inviolable text. As always, we shall legally protect the copyrights of our translations.

3. Treasury:

Protect the Foundation's current savings and investments, live within our means, operate within a safe cash flow and balance sheet, grow the treasury by increasing the number of small and large donors, and implement long term, planned-giving programs.

Goal:

Double our treasury within the next decade.

4. Urantia Foundation Organizational Development:

A. Continue building Urantia Foundation into one of the most dignified and trust wor-

thy non-profit organizations in the world. Do our best to live, as an organization and as individuals, the principles taught in *The Urantia Book*.

B. Expand the administrative infrastructure of global book sales to distribute books economically and effectively around the world. Simultaneously support the growth of Continental Committees and ensure their financial and organizational success using the model of Urantia Foundation Europe as the first functioning Continental Board Committee outside the United States. Ensure these committees maintain the values and principles as guided by the Declaration of Trust and the Board of Trustees.

C. Continue growing the Foundation's infrastructure to support book sales, translations, global growth needs, fund raising, web activities, education, and reader services.

D. Provide support services, networking, and jobs for the voluntary workforce dedicated to the Urantia Revelation.

E. Provide an orderly Board and management succession plan. Developing the next generation of leaders ranks near the top of our priorities.

F. Continue modernization of the organizational structure, processes, computer systems, and policies at Urantia Foundation.

5. Public relations:

A. Prepare for the discovery of *The Urantia Book* by the outside world. Modernize the Foundation's website, as it will increasingly be the introduction and preview to the book for new readers. Train spokespeople capable of

Book Distribution Strategy:

* Translations

* Internet

* Bookstores

* Audio

* Digital

* Libraries

For
the future,
education
will play
an increasingly
important
role.

interacting with the media if necessary.

B. Promote and maintain good relations with readers and readership organizations: publish *Urantia Foundation's News Online*, provide reader services, attend conferences, and maintain amiable relations with organizations dedicated to the study of *The Urantia Book* and the dissemination of its teachings.

6. Education:

As Urantia Foundation builds for the future, education will play an increasingly important role. Today we primarily sponsor the Education Initiative and UBIS. In the future we would like to become more supportive of the training of teachers and leaders.

7. Together We Stand:

Encourage co-operation and good will among readers and reader organizations. Provide support for readers, study groups, and organizations dedicated to the study of *The Urantia Book* and the dissemination of its teachings.

The Planning Committee of Urantia Foundation looks forward

to the ongoing dialogue and organic development that we believe will emerge from this process.

THE HISTORY OF THE POLISH TRANSLATION



By Paul and Gosia Jaworski, Adelaide, Australia

Editor's Note: Urantia Foundation has recently agreed to print a translation of The Urantia Book into Polish. Gosia and Paul Jaworski provide some background about their efforts to translate the book and their phenomenal efforts to share their translation with the Polish speaking world.

Our names are Gosia and Paul Jaworski. We were born in Poland. In 1985 we migrated to Australia with our two sons. We are a married couple living in Adelaide.

We discovered *The Urantia Book* in 1995 when reading the Encyclopedia of Paranormal and Mystical Experience. A short time later we checked out the book from the library

and started reading from the papers about physics and astronomy. We learned that "vast quantities of tiny particles devoid of electric potential" can be only neutrinos, the existence of which was experimentally proved in 1956, a year after first publication of *The Urantia Book*. Very soon after, we bought two copies of *The Urantia Book*, and from that day, our lives changed profoundly — so much so that in 1996 we began to translate *The Urantia Book* into Polish, a few papers at a time for our Polish friends who could not read English.

We started the Polish translation of *The Urantia Book* with Urantia Foundation in 1998 as a three-person team. One member of the team resigned after translating three papers. We, Gosia and Paul, continued translating *The Urantia Book* into Polish.

During our visits to Poland, we sent many reference books to Australia covering almost every subject of *The Urantia Book*—dictionaries, encyclopaedias, and atlases. We knew we would not be able to find such reference books in Australia. Wikipedia didn't exist at that time, and internet sites in Polish were rare.

In 1999 and 2000, when in Poland, we placed ten books in

various university libraries. This method of placement was greatly expanded in 2001, when we arranged to have books sent to Poland from Urantia Foundation's Finnish and French offices. All together, 78 copies of *The Urantia Book* were placed in 67 Polish libraries.

For the first draft of the Polish translation, Paul translated Part I, II, and III, and Gosia translated Part IV. This work was edited five times. Sometimes our discussions about which Polish word best expressed particular English meanings would become very passionate. Some parts of the text we regarded as difficult, some relatively easy. During the first editing we found that some of the "easy" parts did not look as good as some of the "difficult" parts. We corrected the not-as-good parts in subsequent edits, and we realized that nothing is easy in this translation. All parts must be considered equally difficult.

Quality and accuracy were given preference over quantity as we edited the first draft five times. When some Polish terminology didn't exactly match English meaning, we first checked dictionaries, then reference books, then literature, and then the

internet. If something still was inconclusive, we would consult a university professor, and an elaborate answer usually came in a few days.

In 2000 we started a website in Polish about *The Urantia Book*. This helped Paul become proficient in website design. To date this site (<http://members.optusnet.com.au/~pmjaworski/>) has had about 106,000 visitors. Mr. Wojciech Chudziński, a well-known Polish journalist, found this website and wrote his first article (2 pages) in 2003 about *Księga Urantii*. This article was published in a Polish weekly, *Express Bydgoskia*. In 2004, Mr. Chudziński wrote a six-page, very positive article about *Księga Urantii*, which was published in a Polish monthly, *Nieznany Świat*. Despite writing about various channeling issues in this article, *The Urantia Book* was the leading topic. He also mentioned Martin Gardner and his critical book. With this, Chudziński included Paul's severe criticism of Gardner's opinion. We think that Polish readers won't regard Martin Gardner's criticism seriously. We provided many materials for those articles and were interviewed via email.

Wojciech Chudziński is now working on a book about many new age issues, and he plans to include a few pages of information about *The Urantia Book*. (It is favourable, we already checked.)

On March 7th, 2004, there was a new age program on the Polish national TV channel, and *The Urantia Book* was introduced to a wider Polish audience. TV presenter, Ms. Cecylia Wielogradesz, presented the book using information we provided.

In 2006 a web designer from Poland, whom we know only by his email and company name (Solar design), sent us,

for free, a complete website with our Polish translation and beautiful graphics. We put it online right away.

In 2005 we began another website placing one new paper every month of the Polish translation, *Księga Urantii*. Since that time our email correspondence with readers has become intense, and we answer many varying questions almost every week. Whenever there was a delay placing a paper on the website, we were flooded with emails asking us what had happened.

In December 2006 a full text of the Polish translation was placed on the following website with the option to

download it: <http://members.optusnet.com.au/~mpjaworski/>. The average number of visitors jumped from 16 to 76 visits per day. Today the total number of people to visit this site stands at 64,000; 38,000 of them downloaded the full text of *Księga Urantii*. At present we receive one or two emails a week from Polish readers.

There are scores of discussion lists in Poland where *Księga Urantii* has been mentioned at least once. Usually we do not participate in such discussions, even if somebody says that he or she doesn't like the book. But we always post on a discussion list if somebody distorts the teachings of the book, exalts the Lucifer Manifesto, or says

that the Universal Father is cruel. In such circumstances we respond with a friendly but detailed refutation of their misrepresentation of information in the book.

In February 2009 we assigned the copyright of the Polish translation to Urantia Foundation, and *Księga Urantii* will be printed soon.

We are eager to see many more translations in print and to see the Urantia Revelation spreading to all the nations, races, and religions of Urantia.

STANDARD REFERENCE TEXT COMMITTEE REPORT

By Marilyn Kulieke, Trustee, Urantia Foundation, Illinois, USA

Editors Note: The inviolate text has been an issue of concern by many readers of The Urantia Book. This led to the creation of a committee to evaluate changes and recommend a "Standard Reference Text" and referencing system.

The committee's appraisal will be completed by July 1, 2009.

In the winter of 2007, a joint committee was formed by Urantia Foundation and The Urantia Book Fellowship to review the text of *The Urantia Book* based on the 1955 edition. The committee was chaired by Seppo Kanerva (Uusikaupunki, Finland). Committee members from Urantia Foundation are Marilyn Kulieke (Illinois, USA) and Jay Peregrine (Illinois, USA). Members from The Urantia Book Fellowship are Marvin Gawryn (Nevada, USA), Merritt Horn (Colorado, USA), and Nancy Johnson (Texas, USA).

Since the first edition of *The Urantia Book* was published in 1955, there have been a number of changes to the following:

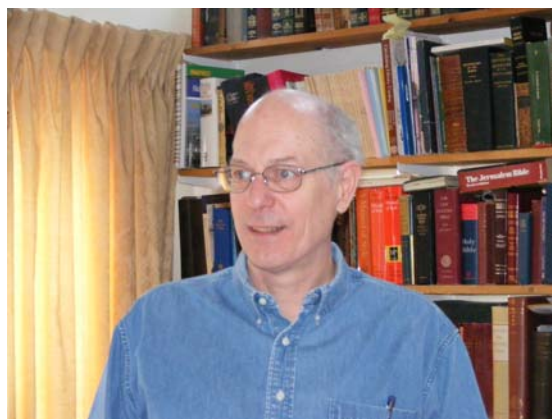
1. The text.
2. The formatting.
3. The table of contents.
4. The referencing system.

The committee reviewed over 300 changes or inconsistencies in the different editions and has made a recommendation on their validity. Each edition of *The Urantia Book* was assessed, and the findings were placed in a spreadsheet. The committee has also made a recommendation on the referencing system which will be useful for internet formatting.

If you are interested in studying the work of the committee, please contact Jay Peregrine at jperegrine@urantia.org. All feedback received by May 1

will be examined by the committee in order to create a standard reference text to be

considered by those who publish or translate the text of *The Urantia Book*.



Merritt Horn



Nancy Johnson and Marvin Gawryn

MILLENNIAL REFLECTIONS



By Olga Lopez, Associate Trustee, Urantia Foundation, Barcelona, Spain

Editors Note: The July 2008 quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in Los Angeles at the same time the International Conference of the Urantia Book Fellowship was held. The April quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held in conjunction with the Urantia Association International (UAI) conference in Malaga, Spain.

The following is a report from Olga Lopez on the conference planned for April, 2009.

The 2009 UAI Conference is going to be held from the 17th to the 21st of April in Malaga, Spain. The UAI holds an international conference every 3 years, and readers from around the world will have the occasion to meet and share their insights concerning the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. The last UAI conference was held in Sydney, Australia in the summer 2006.

We chose Malaga because of its privileged location in Southern Spain, a beautiful area with millions of visitors each year. It is quite close to Seville, Granada, and Cordoba. The international airport makes connections to other cities in Spain and Europe very convenient.

This conference will be special for several reasons. The

most important one is that, for the first time, an international conference for Urantia Book readers will be held in a Spanish speaking country. This shows appreciation and support for the Urantia movement in Spanish speaking countries, where readership is increasing every year. In addition, Spain is in Europe, where the Urantia movement is growing steadily and many translations of *The Urantia Book* exist: the French, Finnish, German, Italian, Lithuanian, Portuguese, and Rumanian. It will be easier for European readers to attend this international conference. We Spaniards would like to play the role of "bridge", a role that the Iberian Peninsula has played for centuries—a bridge between peoples and cultures. This is why we chose the theme for this conference: "Bridging the Gap from Disharmony to Universal Unity".

I encourage you to come to this international conference. We set the price as inexpen-

sive as possible to offer you quality lodging (400 Euros per person, 4 nights including all meals). Conference activities will be conducted in Spanish and English.

With my experience attending and hosting meetings for Urantia Book readers, there is always a special atmosphere when the groups meet. Anyone who has ever attended a meeting for readers knows what the harmony among human beings must be like on the spheres of Light and Life. So, come to Spain in April to savor this wonderful experience!

For more conference information visit <http://www.urantia.es/uai2009> (in English and Spanish).

THE URANTIA BOOK INDEX PROJECT



By Jay Peregrine, Executive Director, Urantia Foundation, Chicago, USA

Work on an index of *The Urantia Book* began before the book was published, as early

as the mid 1940s. In the basement of 533 W. Diversey Parkway in Chicago are stored index cards going back to the mid 20th Century, including early work on *The Urantia Book* index by Wilfred Kellogg and others. But completing an exhaustive index of *The Urantia Book* in their spare time proved an impossible task for the early custodians of the book.

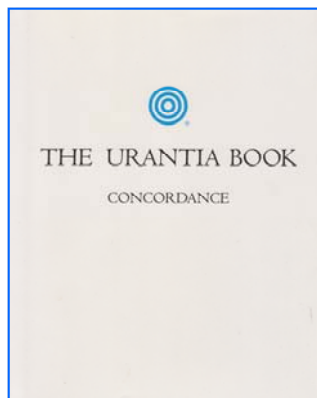
By the early 1960s Anna Rawson and Edith Cook were involved in an earnest effort to complete a comprehensive index of the book. They worked in the basement of 533 Diversey Parkway. Notes from their work indicate that

they confronted many issues. They suggested that "an IBM machine" would be helpful. In particular, they struggled with the nature of an index as compared to a concordance. Put simply, a concordance is a list of the location of all key words in a text, listed in the context of the phrase in which they occur. An index is an outline of information contained in the work—a list of key facts, concepts, themes, and main points.

An internal memo, dated 1973, indicated that the index project was taking much longer to complete than anyone had originally anticipated. During the early 1970s, Clyde Bedell inde-

pendently produced and printed his *Concordex of The Urantia Book*. By *Concordex*, he meant that it was a cross between an index and a concordance. There were several printings of the *Concordex*, but it is currently out of print. In 1987-88 a professional indexer, who was not a reader, was hired to review the work which Edith and Anna had done. Examples of how *The Urantia Book* should be indexed were submitted. This critique identified a new issue: Anna and Edith were not professional indexers, and their approach was, from a professional point of view, too wordy and extensive. But in the

opinion of Urantia Book readers, the professional's work missed too many key topics and points. How could the two extremes be reconciled?



The index project came to a halt during the troubled times of 1989-90. In the mid 1990s Urantia Foundation published a Concordance, which was created using a computer program and the new electronic version of *The Urantia Book*. Uversa Press published a short index at the back of their edition of *The Urantia Book*. But Edith and Anna's grand typewritten work, plus notes and commentary, sat in file cabinets in the basement at 533, mostly forgotten.

In 2007, Marilyn Kulieke, then Associate Trustee, and I decided to give the work of Edith and Anna another look to see if it could be preserved. A major difference between 1964 and 2007 was the materialization of the impossible dream- the availability of an "IBM Machine" (although we used a "Dell Machine"). We determined that the work that had been done by Edith, Anna, Marian Rowley and others, could be preserved by entering it into an electronic database from their last typewritten draft. Their work was not edited, but simply transferred into an electronic format. This was accomplished in late 2007 and early 2008. A formatted print edition was then created from the database.

The first round of proof-reading the print edition was completed by the end of 2008. We are currently one third into the second round. As is normal in the process of printed text creation, keying and database errors which were missed in the first round have been discovered.

We are in need of a few detail-oriented volunteers to help us complete the proof-reading. Our plan is to make the corrected text available in electronic (PDF) and print-on-demand formats as an historical document for students of the book. This version of the index is simply presented as Edith and Anna's work. Urantia Foundation is not trying to edit or improve it.

A short introduction with an explanation of the origin, history, and nature of the index (and perhaps an essay on its imagined destiny) will be provided.

After interested readers have had a chance to look at the index and comment on its accuracy and clarity, Urantia Foundation will be in a position to work on an edited and revised version. This new version, intended for the book market, will have a reduced number of entries, simplified language, and added entries for subjects which review indicates are lacking. The use of an on-line "wiki" environment, using the Cook-Rawson-Rowley index as a starting place, will help create

an online "Index and Encyclopaedia of *The Urantia Book*".



1964: IBM System/360 main-frame computer



Dell Personal Computer

UBIS IS HOT!



Tom Brachna and Kristi Pielstick
(Photo by Julia Nagolnik, Ukraine)

By Tom Brachna, Ohio, USA

As a loyal, many-time participant in UBIS courses, I have been asked to write a student's perspective of the *Urantia Book* Internet School. UBIS can be summed up in one sentence: It is a unique learning experience, unmatched by any other format.

We are told, and I think wisely, to form small study groups for very personal learning experiences of the principles and wisdom shared in *The Urantia Book*. That to me reveals a stirring trust in the inherent goodness of all seekers. It

embodies a godly faith in the worth of each individual to contribute to the learning of others.

As a firm believer in the book's emphasis on balanced living, I think it is a good idea to mix individual study with group study, and to mix physical/verbal group study with correspondence group study, whether internet or snail mail based.

UBIS is a good way to "meet" people from all over the world. I'm currently participating in a class of students from England, Zambia, Brazil, Spain, and a random collec-

tion of U.S. states including Alaska. It's a great way to experience a rich variety of perspectives that help enhance our understanding, not only of the material, but of our fellow man.

With this format, there are no preconceptions based on physical appearance, no inferences through body language or tone of voice. As the class proceeds, personalities are revealed through their thoughts and perceptions. In a way, it is a more spiritual meeting of minds than meeting physically.

*"Entertainment was
provided by pianist
extraordinaire Bob
Solone"*



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Urantia Foundation
533 Diversey Parkway
Chicago, IL 60614
USA

Telephone:
(toll-free within the US and Canada)
1-888-URANTIA

Telephone:
(from outside the US and Canada)
+1 (773) 525 3319

E-mail: urantia@urantia.org

Credits for News Online

Editor: Marilyn Kulieke, Tamara Strumfeld

Writers: Mo Siegel, Marta Elders,
Marilynn Kulieke, Olga Lopez, Jay Peregrine,
Tom Brachna, Cece Forrester, Paul
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The Teacher/Facilitators (TFs) first participate as students in several courses and then attend the artfully designed UBIS Teacher Training class. This all serves as preparation for designing and participating in their nine week courses. The TFs are "one of us" throughout the course, sharing our common love for the teachings of *The Urantia Book*.

There is a comfortable amount of time to respond to the questions about the assigned reading, and the format offers the convenience of being able to post as often as you have access to the internet.

With up to eighteen students in a class, it is desirable to distill one's thoughts into brief, precise kernels of truth so as not to bore or overwhelm one's fellow students with text. That

very process helps define and sharpen one's understanding and grasp of the material. UBIS lives as an unmatched and rewarding sharing experience. It is "Happiness On Theinternet!"

I hope you found reading about UBIS to be enlightening. May we all find the wisdom to fully appreciate God's eternally existent blessings.

HOLIDAY PARTY AT 533 DIVERSEY



By Cece Forrester, Chicago,
USA

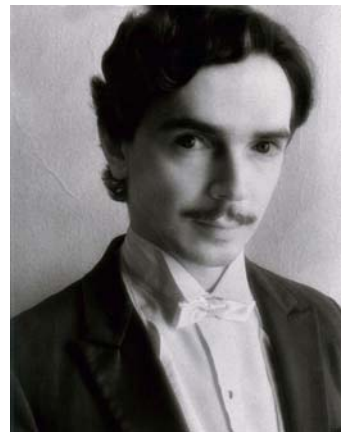
A local tradition of the holiday open house continued in December 2008 with a party co-sponsored by Urantia Foundation, First Society for Readers of *The Urantia Book*, and the Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association. Several dozen readers and friends gathered

on December 8 at 533 Diversey, Chicago for this annual event. Volunteers helped decorate the second floor meeting rooms and set up food and beverages.

After an opening social hour, David and Marilyn Kulieke presented a program, on behalf of First Society, entitled "The Christmas Analogy, or Avoiding Urantia Book Christmas Guilt, or You Can Have Your Tree and Eat It, Too." It featured a brief review of the "olden cultural watersheds" that feed our winter solstice holiday, segued into thoughts on how evolutionary religion is up stepped by revelation, and mentioned the great religious leaders and higher celebrations described in *The Urantia Book*.

Following the program, guests enjoyed a potluck buffet din-

ner. Entertainment was provided by pianist extraordinaire Bob Solone, featuring musical favorites, dancing, and carol-singing. It was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, to meet new people, and to kick off the holiday season.



Bob Solone



"If my words abide in
you and you are minded
to do the will of
my Father, then are you
truly my disciples."

Jesus, *The Urantia Book* (162:7.2)