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JOINT MEETING OF THE URANTIA BOOK FELLOWSHIP AND URANTIA FOUNDATION

By Lila Dogim, president, The Urantia Book Fellowship, Fort Lee, New Jersey, USA, and Mo Siegel, president, Urantia Foundation, Boulder, Colorado, USA

On Monday, October 22, 2012, representatives of The Urantia Book Fellowship and Urantia Foundation held a joint meeting designed to foster mutual appreciation and understanding and to explore possibilities for increased inter-organizational cooperative activities in the areas of Urantia Book sales and distribution. The gathering of fourteen individuals included the presidents, vice-presidents and executive directors of both organizations.

An atmosphere of goodwill pervaded the six-hour meeting during which the participants shared viewpoints and concerns on various matters connected with advancing the study and dissemination of The Urantia Book in the world. Those participating in the meeting held themselves to the high standards of understanding, love, and forgiveness.

Urantia Foundation and The Urantia Book Fellowship currently engage in a number of cooperative activities, including sponsoring the development of the Standard Reference Text and distributing translations of The Urantia Book through the Pipeline of Light program. As a result of this meeting, both organizations are actively exploring opportunities for joint service. Participants left the meeting encouraged that both human and organizational problems can be solved in the spirit of cooperation.

MO SIEGEL, LILA DOGIM, AND GAÉTAN CHARLAND

at the 3rd Urantia Book Information Technology (IT) Roundtable. (See page 8.)

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT URANTIA FOUNDATION!
Winter Fundraising Match of $160,000 Launches Now

A group of generous donors have offered us $160,000 if readers will match their donation. This means that Urantia Foundation will have to raise, dollar for dollar, an additional $160,000 by December 31, to benefit from this offer.

The donations will go directly toward a number of important projects:

1. Creating or revising translations:
   - Chinese (revisions and proofing before the first printing);
   - Farsi (original translation);
   - Indonesian (original translation);
   - Japanese (revisions and proofing before the first printing);
   - Hebrew (original translation);
   - Czech (original translation);
   - Spanish (revision);
   - Portuguese (revision);
   - French (revision);
   - Russian (revision);
   - Hungarian (revision).

2. Keeping The Urantia Book on bookstore shelves in over 36 countries.

3. Publishing and printing The Urantia Book in 15 languages.

4. Renovating the office building at 533 W Diversey Parkway.


6. Creating and managing educational programs, such as the Urantia Book Internet School and seminars at Urantia Foundation’s office in Chicago.

Please consider making a contribution and help disseminate The Urantia Book and its teachings throughout the world.

Click here to donate: http://www.urantia.org/donate/online-donations

Editor’s Note: Urantia Foundation is pleased to announce that an audio version of O Livro de Urântia will soon be ready for download. The project is still a work in progress, but it is nearing completion. Following are two articles authored by the recorder and the audio engineer.

An Audio Version of The Urantia Book in Portuguese

By Eliana Valéria Ferrin, Araraquara, Brazil

The production of an audio version of O Livro de Urântia, the Portuguese translation of The Urantia Book, began when, in order to understand its teachings better, I started reading the book out loud. After a while, I asked myself, “Why not record it?” What a gift of service this would be to current and future readers and to the fifth epochal revelation! And also what a challenge! What did I know about producing an audio book? Where would I begin?

Alone, with strong dedication and a recording devise, I began the project, and after two and a half years, I finished recording through Paper 78. At that point, Urantia Foundation learned of my work and offered its support. New recording equipment and software were provided and an audio engineer joined the project. “The act is ours, the consequences God’s.”

At the present time, the Foreword and Parts I, II, and III are available for download on the Urantia Association of Brazil’s website, http://www.urantia.com.br/audiolivro.php. We are in the middle of recording Part IV.

With the support of my husband and daughter, I am committed to completing this project. May the angels assist all of us who are involved, so that the Portuguese-speaking people will be able to listen to the enlightening teachings of The Urantia Book.
ENGINEERING THE AUDIO O LIVRO DE URÂNTIA

By Dan Macias, Mount Prospect, Illinois, USA

The audio version of the Portuguese translation of The Urantia Book is being read by a talented Brazilian reader, Eliana Ferrin. This work in progress is a digital recording that will be available for download in an audio book format. It is my honor to be the audio engineer of this project, notwithstanding that I live near Chicago and Eliana lives near São Paulo, Brazil.

Thankfully, with today’s recording technology, Eliana is reading and recording from her home. Once she completes a section, she uploads it to a secure online server from which I retrieve it. After downloading it on my end, I back it up and catalogue it in preparation for processing. When enough files accumulate, I begin the mixing and mastering steps in a controlled studio environment.

This process has been humming along, as Eliana reads through the book, a majority of which has already been recorded and catalogued. We can already see the end of the tunnel when the audio version of the Portuguese translation will be available for download.

What a pleasure and privilege it is to work on this project with Eliana. I am so grateful to Marilynn Kulieke and Jay Peregrine for inviting me to participate in this project. I look forward to the announcement of its release!

By Marilynn Kulieke, secretary, Urantia Foundation, Lincolnshire, Illinois, USA

As always, finances and governance, education initiatives, translations and revisions, the executive director’s report, and book sales and distribution were discussed. What follows are some of the noteworthy decisions from the meeting.

Budget Passed for 2013

For the last three years, the budget has been basically the same, but due to financial needs for translations and revisions, education, and book distribution, the board raised the budget 4% for 2013.

Public Relations Seminar

The Education Committee and Public Relations Committee are planning a public relations media training seminar in March 2013. Representatives from Urantia Foundation, Urantia Association International, and The Urantia Book Fellowship are working together in this joint effort. The purpose is to become better prepared to respond to media inquiries as The Urantia Book becomes better known.

After a two year search for a book distributor in Hungary, Trustee Henk Mylanus and his wife Claire recently signed a contract. Book distribution for Az Urantia könyv began on November the 8th. Our thanks to both for their efforts in expanding the distribution of The Urantia Book in European book markets.

Translations and Revisions

Michael Hanian and Georges Michelson-Dupont are exploring new avenues of book distribution in Russia. Urantia Foundation is currently in the process of receiving printing bids after all the Russian books were destroyed in a warehouse fire.

Approximately 20,000 USD needs to be raised for this printing.

Table: 2012 Board of Trustees Meeting

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Update from the Book Committee

Book sales will likely exceed the board’s goal of a 7% increase by the end of 2012. Internet and digital book sales continue to outpace bookstore sales with a double digit increase expected during 2013.

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The French, Russian, Portuguese, and Spanish revisions are proceeding according to plan and budget. Within a few years, the French and Russian revisions will be completed. Ongoing translations such as the Chinese, Japanese, Czech, and Farsi are works-in-progress. The Chinese translation is projected for completion in 2017.
Two new translations are underway. The translation of The Urantia Book into Hebrew has commenced, and fundraising efforts for an Indonesian translation have begun. With over 248 million people, Indonesia ranks as the fourth most populated nation in the world. In addition, 90% of the Indonesian citizens are literate. The cost of the Indonesian translation is approximately 40,000 USD.

Special thanks to the Translation Committee, to the revision teams, to the translators, to Rogério Silva for his translator website, and to Georges Michelson-Dupont, manager of translations, for their excellent work during 2012.

Education Committee Updates

Thanks to the leadership of Gard Jameson and the Education Committee, Urantia Foundation has developed a curriculum with the two most recent seminars focused on worship and wisdom and on race. In June 2013, Dr. Jeffrey Wattles will present a seminar on spiritual perceptions. In August 2013, Ralph Zehr, associate trustee, will facilitate a seminar on cosmic consciousness. “Forgiveness and Understanding” will likely be a seminar in the near future.

Ralph Zehr is also an active teacher/facilitator for the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) and has been researching a new educational software system that works in many languages, offers capabilities beyond current needs, costs less than is currently being spent, and is used widely so that the software remains updated. Ralph plans to make his report about this software at the board’s January meeting.

Renovation of the Third Floor of 533 W Diversey Parkway

The board approved an ad hoc committee consisting of Jay Peregrine, Jennifer Siegel, Gard Jameson, Jay Bird, and Mo Siegel to prepare a plan to finance, renovate, and occupy the third floor of Urantia Foundation. The ad hoc committee will present this plan to the Board no later than July 2013.

The renovation is intended to increase Urantia Foundation’s capacity to provide classrooms and meeting spaces designed for educational purposes. The facilities would be opened up for use to Urantia Book organizations.

Noteworthy Events During the October Board Meeting

Urantia Foundation and Urantia Book Fellowship Meeting

For the first time in years, representatives of Urantia Foundation and The Urantia Book Fellowship met to discuss book issues with the goal of mutual understanding, spiritual unity, and global harmony. See article on page 1.

A Celebration of Carolyn Kendall’s 80th Birthday

On Friday night, October 19, approximately 60 people gathered at 533 W Diversey Parkway to celebrate Carolyn’s birthday. Carolyn is a long-time reader of The Urantia Book, a scholar, and a friend to many throughout the community of readers.

A Special Thanks to Olga López

After five years of tireless service, Olga López from Barcelona, Spain, retired from the board. During Olga’s tenure as an associate trustee, she inaugurated Spanish classes for UBIS; taught courses for UBIS; served on the Translation Committee; served on the Spanish translation revision team; translated newsletters and web pages; and authored two books. Thank you Olga! We look forward to working with you in the future.
Editor's Note: Trustees Gard Jameson and Richard Keeler attended this event that inaugurated the new Urantia Book Los Angeles Association of Urantia Association International.

They came from California, Illinois, Indiana, Nevada, Oregon, Quebec, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. It was a beautiful Friday evening in Santa Clarita, California, which is just north of Los Angeles, when some forty persons gathered for a community introduction to The Urantia Book, which was followed by a performance by Grammy-nominated, music sensation, and Urantia Book student, Pato Banton.

The primary purpose of the two-day gathering was to have a Urantia Book mini-conference and to install the latest association of the Urantia Association International. Attendees learned about the event from emails, Facebook postings, and flyers posted at the local community college and businesses in the area.

On Friday evening I, Will Sherwood, began by presenting a PowerPoint introduction to The Urantia Book based on a presentation made several times by Andrea Barnes, who lives in the San Diego area.

My PowerPoint presentation, based on Andrea's outline, included the following:

1. A personal introduction and a brief overview of my religious upbringing.
2. How I found the book and what my initial reactions were to it.
3. My history of trying to tell people about the book.

4. A brief overview of the four parts of the book.

5. How the book came into being, why the origins are a mystery, and why the revelators wanted it that way.

6. Why the book has not been publicized or commercialized.

7. Why no one is making money off the book and how people have heard about it.

8. Details that the only formal meetings are study groups and that the book is not a “bible” for a new church or religion.

9. Who wrote it.

10. Some of the basic concepts in the book:
   a. Thought Adjusters.
   b. Evolution.
   c. Ascending and descending Sons of God.
   d. What happens when you die.
   e. Whatever else that comes to mind.

11. What the book has done with me and for me.

12. Opportunities for attendees to talk.

Though all of us were surely enthralled with *The Urantia Book*, perhaps the greatest draw for the evening was the “rock the house” musical performance from Pato Banton, who got everyone dancing.

After his performance, Pato encouraged the group to form a circle for a closing prayer.

Everyone was encouraged to prayerfully or worshipfully express him or herself. It was a wonderful evening!

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**A SEMINAR ON THE TRUTHS OF SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE**

![Image of a seminar on the truths of spiritual experience](image.png)

**By Jeff Wattles, Stow, Ohio, USA**

A seminar on the truths of spiritual experience will be conducted by Jeff Wattles and held at Urantia Foundation headquarters in Chicago, beginning on Thursday evening, May 30, and ending at noon on Sunday, June 2, 2013.

Participants will be presented with an approach to education based on two statements from *The Urantia Book*:

"On the mansion worlds...schools are organized in three general groups...the schools of thinking, the schools of feeling, and the schools of doing." (551.1) 48:5.6

"The religious challenge of this age is to those farseeing and forward-looking men and women of spiritual insight who will dare to construct a new and appealing philosophy of living out of the enlarged and exquisitely integrated modern concepts of cosmic truth, universe beauty, and divine goodness." (43.3) 2:7.10

This "new and appealing philosophy of living" provides a pattern for education that fits the pattern for education in the schools on the mansion worlds. Thinking strives for truth; feeling rejoices in beauty; and doing can actualize goodness. The truths of spiritual experience include the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, the joy and liberty of the sons and daughters of God, and the truths of the golden rule.

If you are interested in attending the seminar, contact Jeff at [jwattles@kent.edu](mailto:jwattles@kent.edu).

Participants will:

1. select one or more truths of spiritual experience;
2. study these truths in *The Urantia Book*;
3. savor and internalize them for at least six weeks;
4. design a five-minute, presentation to express a bite-sized “something” of that truth.

During the seminar we will study *The Urantia Book*, hear presentations from each other, address difficulties, and support our growing effectiveness.

If you cannot attend the seminar, you can listen to podcasts of a two-month course on the philosophy of living, a course that Jeff will be giving at Kent State University, beginning March 7. For additional information, visit [https://sites.google.com/a/kent.edu/study-grow-construct-proclaim-share/](https://sites.google.com/a/kent.edu/study-grow-construct-proclaim-share/).
Editor's Note: In the last issue, a timeline for The Urantia Book and its translations was presented. Here is a graph showing the numbers of Urantia Books printed by translation.

The Number of Urantia Books Printed between 1955 and 2012

Dutch
English
Estonian
Finnish
French
German
Hungarian
Italian
Korean
Lithuanian
Polish
Portuguese
Russian
Spanish '93
Spanish EE
Swedish

0 10,000 20,000 30,000 40,000 50,000 60,000 70,000 80,000 90,000
The Third Urantia Book Information Technology (IT) Roundtable

By Barry Clark, Ft Lee, New Jersey, USA, and Mo Siegel, Boulder, Colorado, USA, IT Roundtable co-chairs

On the weekend of October 20-21, 2012, a group of highly tech-savvy Urantia Book readers, along with the presidents of The Urantia Book Fellowship, Urantia Association International, and Urantia Foundation, met at 533 W Diversey Parkway in Chicago for the purpose of exploring technological cooperation across a wide variety of existing and potential services.

The discussions focused on technology-based dissemination and reader service opportunities in the social media realm (for example, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube), videography, eText publication, and other technology-based reader services - all of which were considered within the global context of a highly diverse and multi-lingual readership.

The camaraderie, the mutual respect, and the loving spirit of peace and goodwill among all of the group members cannot go unmentioned. It was palpable and directly experiencible and was expressed in honest communication and a spirit of cooperation and with a sincere interest in collaboration towards the goals we share.

And it is in this spirit of cooperation that the Urantia Book IT Roundtable will continue to pursue its mission, which is: Leveraging technology to further the Urantia Revelation and continually improving global reader services.

IT Roundtable Attendees

Back row: Georges Michelson-Dupont, Barry Clark, Rob Reno, Mo Siegel, Jay Peregrine, Larry Watkins

Middle row: Andrew Rux, Scott Brooks, Lila Dogim, Andrea Barnes

Front row: MaryJo Garascia, Richard Jernigan, Gaétan Charland, Teuvo Orjala, David Kantor
Impressions of the Information Technology Roundtable

By Mary Jo Garascia, Denver, Colorado, USA

It was a privilege—and a heck of a lot of fun—to meet, brainstorm, and plan with some of the best and brightest information technology (IT) experts in the Urantia Book community. In an intensive two-day meeting, we came together at Urantia Foundation for the purpose of assessing what we had done since the last roundtable and to plan new avenues of service and outreach in the virtual world.

Urantia Foundation, TruthBook.com, The Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia Association International sent representatives, making the meeting a true community affair.

We enjoyed discussion of Skype study groups through a Skype presentation from France by Michael Hanian, the chief translator of Urantia Foundation’s Russian translation. He is the pioneer of online study groups, and he shared with us the evolution of his group and how they made it better through trial and error. He presented ideas that work and proudly showed us how they have spanned the European continent through the use of Skype technology. Good news, indeed!

One interesting highlight for me was Georges Michelson-Dupont’s explanation and visual tour through the intricate and demanding procedures of translating The Urantia Book. It was an eye-opener to me to acquire a better understanding of the methods used, and I was impressed with the level of programming presently in place—programming that facilitates the challenging interactive system used by the translation team of each language. I know that it has taken years to arrive at this level of expertise, yet Georges made it look quite effortless! There are several new translations in progress, and Georges’s presentation enhanced my appreciation of the intensive efforts of these tireless and dedicated servers of the Urantia Revelation.

It was a pleasure to see some of our younger brothers in the room those two days. Teuvo Orjala gave us a peek into the virtual interests of the under-thirty readers, highlighting the best ways to attract young people in ways that will capture their interest. Todd, who surprised us all at the first IT Roundtable by unveiling the first Urantia Book app called “Big Blue Book,” gave us insights into his newest forays into making The Urantia Book easily accessible over the many and varied digital platforms that people use today.

Andrea Barnes, chairwoman of the Fellowship’s Outreach Committee, presented a new concept in managing online information about The Urantia Book. She calls it Online Reputation Management (ORM). She reminded us that those of us who treasure The Urantia Book have an obligation to develop and protect the good reputation of the book. Presenting a strong, united voice in defense of the book now and in the future is a sobering task. Andrea gave us useful tools for monitoring online information, and she gave us practical suggestions for implementing this idea.

On the second day of the meeting, we broke up into three small groups for the purpose of hammering out action items to be addressed as a result of the ideas presented in day one, namely, social media, ePublishing, and IT collaboration. After that, the spokesperson for each smaller group gave the group’s recommendations to the entire group. Our meeting concluded with the setting of priorities for 2013 and discussing the next best steps for us to take.

Urantia Foundation has been transformed into a place of grace, beauty, and hospitality. We dined in high style through the superb culinary skills of Jennifer Siegel. Some of us were delighted to be overnight guests, and it was a real pleasure to use the facilities that have been recently renovated. There was a warm and friendly feeling not only among the roundtable attendees but also among those who served and helped behind the scenes. All things—and all persons—definitely worked together for good!

One can’t help but feel blessed to have been part of this, our third IT Roundtable. I know that we all look forward to next year’s IT Roundtable, as we begin to implement some of the wonderful ideas brought forth during the meeting. We’ll be watching with wonder to see how our rapidly changing internet technology presents even more opportunities for growth in the future!
**READER COMMENTS**

departed from Tallinn en route to Vastseliina, my father spent half the night fixing the gear box with used parts given to him by some friends. We had no other parts to fix anything if something broke down on the trip.

So, you may ask, how is this connected to my first experience with God? Not wanting the car to break down in the middle of nowhere, and not wanting to sit in the car and to wait for my father to find help, I sat in the back seat with my eyes closed, and I prayed for the first time, “Dear God, please make sure that the car does not break down, so that we can drive to Vastseliina and back home without any problems!” A selfish prayer perhaps, but it did get the snowball rolling.

My relatives were not religious, but a few of them claimed to believe in "something", but what that "something" was, they could not say, as they did not know. One of my grandmothers was a member of a church. She did not eat rabbit, eel, or pork, which was something her church believed in and had learned from the Old Testament. I thought this practice and many other practices and beliefs of her church to be strange and childish. So, I decided to also believe in "something", and that is when my "search" for "something" began.

I read many mystic books to broaden my knowledge. I started taking karate. Now it seems amusing, but at the time, the philosophy of karate was like honey for my soul. The movie *Star Wars*, believe it or not, gave me a sense of what "something" was. And I'm not the only one because there is a Jedi sect in the USA.

In 1996, while a student at a university, I saw *The Urantia Book* on a friend's bookshelf. Unfortunately, at that time the book was in English only, and neither of us could read English well enough to understand the contents of the book. But I knew that the book was something very important. I had to wait several years until I heard Peep Sõber, the head of the Estonian translation team, on the radio. It was a spiritual broadcast, and he mentioned *The Urantia Book*. After that, I saw *Urantia Raamat* in spiritual bookstores in Tallinn. It was not one book yet; it was 16 fascicles of 10 papers each. I read them, devouring the teachings like a hungry animal.

Now I know what "something" is. I know that it is God but not a primitive one that regulates what we eat but rather a loving God that is our Father. *The Urantia Book* gave me the feeling that I had arrived home. The search had ended, and the journey could begin. My possibilities are limitless, my life is endless, and life on Paradise is timeless.

Thank you, celestial beings and midwayers, for giving us this revelation!

The *Urantia Book* gave me the feeling that I had arrived home.

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**What *The Urantia Book* Means to Me**

*By Karmo Kalda, Estonia*

In circa 1980, when I was seven or eight years old, I remember having my first experience with God. My family and I were driving from Tallinn to Vastseliina [Tallinn is in the north and Vastseliina is in the south] to visit my grandparents, who lived on a farm. These were the times of the Soviet domination of Estonia. We were lucky to have a car, but this car, a Zaporozhets, was not much more than a metal box with an engine and wheels. It had more broken parts than working parts, and before we departed from Tallinn en route to Vastseliina, my father spent half the night fixing the gear box with used parts given to him by some friends. We had no other parts to fix anything if something broke down on the trip.

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Thank you, celestial beings and midwayers, for giving us this revelation!
Over many years, without much success, I have encouraged family, friends, and people I have met to read The Urantia Book. This has raised many questions in my mind, such as: Are they not interested? Are they unwilling to search for more? Do they think I am a casualty of fraud? Am I using the wrong methods? Is my motivation insincere?

In honest reflection, the answer to all these questions is yes. Discouraging? A little, but I have learned to share in other ways what I believe and what I hope for. Now I no longer mention The Urantia Book unless someone specifically asks about it.

Sometimes at work and in social circumstances there are opportunities to foster discussions about God and religious beliefs with small groups of people who display spiritual interest and people who have sincere questions, comments, and doubts. The result always seems to be positive. We all come to a better understanding of one another and come to experience that "cohesiveness [that exists] among spiritual and spiritized personalities of any world, race, nation, or believing group of individuals." (82.5) 7:1.6

At home and at work I find that encouraging others to value the tasks at hand and to do them well appears to lift the spirits of my fellows. Wise praise and a sincere smile have much the same effect. We all have an inner understanding of the pleasure in striving for higher values and the striving for them is contagious and motivating to our work-place associates.

The more I study The Urantia Book, the more sure I am of the importance of showing unselfish love to anyone with whom we share our lives or to anyone we encounter "as we pass by."

Sharing the Good Word

By Conrad Wood, Bowen Island, BC, Canada

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English LeatherSoft™
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