



URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

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SEPPO KANERVA ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT



By The Board of Trustees and Associates Trustees

The Board of Trustees of Urantia Foundation informs you that Seppo Kanerva will resign from his trusteeship as well as his position as President. His decision takes effect after November 9, 2008. Seppo will continue his duties

as Manager of Translations for the time being.

His words of resignation were, "I feel that I have given all that I was able to give to the revelation and the Foundation, and it is time now to retire into privacy. I have been involved since 1984 when I settled to translate the revelation into my native Finnish language. I have since then enjoyed no, or very little, private life. I will very soon reach the age of retirement (which is 65 years in my country). I want to enjoy the remaining years free from any duties and responsibilities."

The board is greatly appreciative of the

work Seppo did as a Trustee. All the people who have worked with him have a memory of a man loyal, bright, humble, hard-working and gentle. His balanced leadership greatly helped Urantia Foundation in its task to promote the teachings of *The Urantia Book* all over the world and to improve relationships within *The Urantia Book* community.



THE FUTURE OF THE URANTIA MOVEMENT



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

The room was packed. The audience was responsive, interested, and concerned about the future of the Urantia Movement.

The presenters on the panel were Robert Burns (President of the Urantia Book Fellowship), Gaétan Charland (President of the Urantia Association International [UAI]), Marvin Gawryn (the moderator of the panel), Seppo Kanerva (Trustee and President of Urantia Foundation), Mo Siegel (Trustee and Secretary of Urantia Foundation), Paula Thompson (Executive Director of the Urantia Book Fellowship), and James Woodward (former Executive Administrator of the UAI).

The meeting was one of the afternoon sessions at IC'08, the Los Angeles conference sponsored by the Fellowship.

The meeting was about ways that Urantia Foundation, the Urantia Book Fellowship, and the UAI could co-operate to disseminate *The Urantia Book* and its teachings.

Each member of the panel made a presentation about their vision for the future of the Urantia Revelation. Following these presentations, members of the audience were asked to submit questions on index cards.

The questions reflected concerns about duplication of efforts, such as: "Why do we need multiple publishers and more than one outreach organization?"

Paula Thompson gave an emotional description of the split between the Fellowship and the Foundation, comparing it to a family which has suffered a divorce.

Seppo Kanerva said that Urantia Foundation focuses on the publication, translation, and dissemination of the book and has a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of social organizations.

Gaétan Charland highlighted the need to understand the origins and purpose of the UAI.

The opportunity for leaders of the Fellowship, the Foundation, and the UAI to speak to each other in an open forum about their hopes and dreams for the Urantia Revelation continues a healing process that began years ago. Clearly, those who attended the workshop revere the book and its teachings. They want love and service to dominate our efforts.

“Christ Michael presented for the fourth time to Urantia the concept of God as the Universal Father, and this teaching has generally persisted

ever since. The essence of his teaching was love and service, the loving worship which a creature son voluntarily gives in recognition of, and response to, the loving ministry of God his Father; the freewill service which such creature sons bestow upon their brethren in the joyous realization that in this service they are likewise serving God the Father.” (Paper 92)



Left to Right: Robert Burns, Seppo Kanerva, Paula Thompson, Mo Siegel, James Woodward, Marvin Gawryn, and Gaétan Charland.

NEWSWORTHY DECISIONS MADE BY URANTIA FOUNDATION’S BOARD OF TRUSTEES



By Mo Siegel, Secretary of Urantia Foundation, Colorado, USA

The Expanded Board of Urantia Foundation met in Los Angeles for the July 2008 quarterly board meeting. Some of the areas of discussion and decision making included:

1. Policy on Multiple Translations into a Given Language

Due to the decision to print a second Spanish translation specifically for the European market, the Board approved the following policy regarding multiple translations: *Urantia Foundation strongly prefers*

sponsoring and publishing a single translation for each language. If special circumstances arise that cause the Board to determine, after thorough consideration, that an additional translation is advisable, an exception can be made.

2. Branch Offices

Due to the rapidly changing needs of the global book industry, Urantia Foundation is assessing our worldwide book-distribution system. Within the next 12 months some of the branch offices may be closed and replaced by commercial book distributors.

3. Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS)

The Expanded Board discussed the loving service and unselfish devotion that have gone into the building of UBIS. Members expressed their deep appreciation to, and respect for, everyone involved in this project — especially Dorothy Elder, who conceived, initiated, and con-

tinues to nurture UBIS.

4. Quotation and Trademark “Safe Harbor” Policies of 1998

The Board asked the Governance Committee to review the “Safe Harbor” Quotation and Trademark Policies and, if necessary, to submit a recommendation for further action. The “Safe Harbor” policies are:

- The Policy Regarding Use of “Urantia,” “Urantian,” and the Three-Concentric Circles Symbol.
- The Internet Downloading and Printing Policy.
- The Permission-to-Quote Policy for Labors-of-Love.
- The Permission-to-Copy Policy for Educational Purposes.
- The Permission-to-Copy Policy for Commercial Works.

5. Funding the Estonian, Hungarian, and Swedish Translations

The Board discussed the inventories of *The Urantia Book* and its translations to determine which ones need to be printed or reprinted. Urantia Foundation will reprint the German, Lithuanian and Russian translations and print the Estonian translation before year’s end. The Board also anticipates publishing the Swedish translation in the first half of 2009 and the Hungarian in 2009 or 2010. The printing of all these translations requires funding.

“Urantia Foundation is assessing our worldwide book-distribution system”

PRINTING OF *EL LIBRO DE URANTIA* EUROPEAN EDITION



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

Editor's Note: The revision of *El libro de Urantia* has been a high priority for Urantia Foundation. Dissemination efforts in Mexico, Central and South America, Spain, and other Spanish-speaking countries throughout the world have created an unprecedented interest in the Spanish translation. This interest has occasioned a pressing need to revise, update, and correct the 1993 text.

Three "teams" have been charged with making revisions to the 1993 text. One team, consisting of L.P. (Mexico) and Alejandra Escudero (Mexico) have been making corrections to the text. A second team, consisting of Víctor García Bory (United States) and Carmelo Martínez (Spain) have been making revisions to the text. A third team, led by Antonio Moya, has completed a correction and revision of the text which will be printed as a "European edition" and will be marketed for readers in Spain.

The Board of Trustees of the Urantia Foundation decided to print a European edition of *El libro de Urantia* and to limit sales to Spain. This European edition is the culmination of eight years of work done by Antonio Moya of Seville, Spain, and supported by the Seville study group, the first and still-going (for almost 25 years) study group in Spain.

Antonio Moya and the Seville study group started reading the French translation of *The Urantia Book* in the 1980s because the Spanish translation was not yet published. For years the Sevillian readers kept the *Urantia* fires burning in Spain. They communicated with Urantia Foundation regularly and answered Spanish readers' requests. The readers in Spain will always be grateful to them for laying the foundations for a healthy and spirited *Urantia* movement in Spain.

Many of us in Spain believe that the Foundation's decision to print the European edition



of *El libro de Urantia* will help to disseminate the book and its teachings in Spain.

A TRIBUTE TO PAT MUNDELIUS

By Richard Keeler, Trustee, Urantia Foundation, Wyoming, USA

Death is not the end, but it is the end ... of the beginning when our Thought Adjusters take wing and start their long flight home.

Pat Mundelius was born on March 17, 1938. She was the granddaughter of Doctor William S. Sadler and was a former Trustee and president of Urantia Foundation. Pat graduated from Urantia on May 2, 2008. She died of pancreatic cancer.

On May 31, 2008, about thirty-five of Pat's friends and

family gathered at the Mundelius residence in Danville, California, to celebrate Pat. For at least two hours the persons present spoke about Pat and their relationship with her. The memorial service was truly a celebration and was the most moving and meaningful service I have ever attended.

When everyone had spoken, Manfred, Pat's husband, read what appears below. Before reading it, he said that, about a week before Pat died, she asked him to bring her "that pad of yellow paper over there." She wrote the following:

Darlings — for that is what you all are — my darlings, my family.

The Urantia Book talks about all the wonderful gifts that God bestows on us, among which are three that I'd like to talk about.

The first and foremost is free will, without which we really wouldn't be human beings.

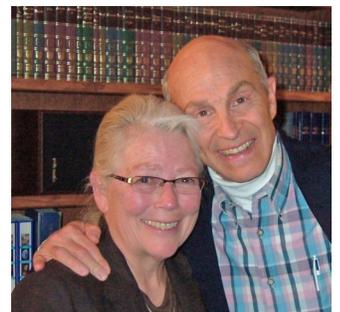
The second is a piece of Himself, which acts as a beacon to lead us in the right direction.

The third is the gift of all our brothers and sisters to share this great adventure.

When I think of the first two gifts, I hear Beethoven. When I think of the third, I hear Mozart.

The Urantia Book says that most experiences are means to an end, but relationships with our fellows are ends in and of themselves.

My first friendship was with Barbara Sacks. We have



Pat Mundelius and Richard Keeler

been through almost all life experiences together: weddings, baby showers, memorial services. I love her dearly.

Then there are the famous Cronies — Marcia, Barbara Ageno, and Lynne. I don't know if I could have gotten through this without them. They are true sisters.

My sister-in-law, Judy, has been like an angel — always supportive.

My Urantia Foundation is very special to me. They are loving, kind, and supportive. I love them all dearly. One lady in particular, Tamara, I have adopted as an unofficial daughter. She is so sweet.

Another of my special families is my medical support team. Everyone knows how much I admire Margo Estrin. She is an angel. Also I particularly appreciate Mindy, who has such a compassionate heart. I have unofficially adopted her too.

Auf wiedersehen for a while.

Not that I had to go looking for daughters, for I have four fabulous daughters. They are all a mother-in-law could want. They are strong women with a soft and compassionate side. My sons chose wisely.

My sons are fabulous. All dif-

ferent but share their sincere interest in their fellow man. I can't tell you how happy they make me. Each one of them is my most favorite son. They all know this, for I tell them often.

Then there is my best friend, who has been my best friend for over 50 years. He has always been admired by me. He is the love of my life. But it is in the last segment of my life that he has grown in a way I didn't think possible. I so appreciate that I got to see this side of him. I will be waiting on the shores of the mansion worlds for you.

Now I wish you to share your relationships with each other.



Pat Mundelius and Tamara Wood

And be of good cheer. Auf wiedersehen for a while. Go spin the web of relationships and laugh at all our good times. I love you all.

Editors Note: Readers are sometimes asked: "Is The Urantia Book a religion?" Two responses to this question appear below.

WHY IS *THE URANTIA BOOK* RELIGIOUS BUT NOT A RELIGION?



By Claire Mylanus, Associate Trustee, Urantia Foundation, Brittany, France

When you encounter *The Urantia Book*, you have to put

aside many of your ideas about religion. *The Urantia Book* presents a new approach to belief, faith, and religion.

When we think about religion, we think of institutions, religious systems, dogmas, priesthoods, places of worship, and ways of differentiating ourselves from non-believers or believers in other religions. The word "religion" or "religious" has a different meaning in *The Urantia Book*.

First of all, *The Urantia Book* does not separate religion from science and philosophy. *The Urantia Book* unites science, philosophy, and religion and views them from a cosmic perspective.

To be religious is to attempt to

reach God, to attempt the understanding of universal meanings and values, and to integrate them into our daily lives. Jesus frequently referred to "the kingdom of God within you." *The Urantia Book* emphasizes going into "partnership with God." The personal contact with the divine fragment within us is contact with God the Father. It is fraternizing with God and constitutes having personal religious experience based on faith. Spiritual growth, ever-increasing God consciousness, is a process between ourselves and our divine monitor. It is individual and expresses itself in our daily life by our decisions and choices. It is a living truth-experience having its origin at the level of the spirit with consequent effects, first, at the level of the mind and, thereafter, at the

level of the flesh.

That is why I believe that *The Urantia Book* presents a new and refreshing concept that each of us can experience in our lives. This concept and the resulting experience is religious but does not constitute a religion.

"You have to put aside many of your ideas about religion"

ARE YOU A NEW RELIGION OR A CULT?



By Neal Waldrop, Trustee Emeritus, Urantia Foundation, Maryland, USA

The authors of *The Urantia Book* explain how important it is for each human being to develop a personal philosophy of religion, so that the individual's awareness of religious and spiritual values will benefit from living personal experience. In other words, the authors stress that each man and woman has a right to participate in the most inspiring of all possible pursuits — the personal quest for truth, the exhilaration of intellectual discovery, and the determination to explore the realities of personal religious experience.

Therefore it is obvious that *The Urantia Book* has nothing in common with cult, radical, or fanatical movements that subordinate individuals to intense ideologies or some assortment of domineering doctrines. In addition, it is equally clear that the teachings of *The Urantia Book* have nothing to do with establishing, propounding, or promoting an institutional religion. As previously implied, the authors call on each reader to create his or her own personal religion by interweaving the awareness and understanding that arise from inner experience.

The authors of *The Urantia*

Book affirm that every religion contains truth, and they agree that there is a real purpose in the socialization of religion. Therefore an active interest in *The Urantia Book* does not conflict with observance of the essential requirements of any prominent institutional religion. Many readers of *The Urantia Book* continue to participate in activities of a church or another organization that has been their framework for traditional belief.

The authors tell us quite frankly that in seeking to coordinate spiritual values and universe meanings, they are drawing on the

“The authors call on each reader to create his or her own personal religion”

highest existing human concepts. On the other hand, the authors do not stop there, for they also supplement and enhance prior understanding in intriguing and innovative ways. For example:

- The authors of *The Urantia Book* contribute many original insights into the essential unity of matter, mind, and spirit. Further, they identify the multiple interactions that pervade science, philosophy, and religion and that resonate in individ-

ual experience as causation, duty, and worship.

- The authors portray God's active presence in the human mind, while also explaining his plans for the progressive growth and evolution of individuals, human society, and the universe as a whole.

These aspects are integral elements of the authors' intensive efforts “to expand cosmic consciousness and enhance spiritual perception” (Forward), a goal that Urantia Foundation emphasizes. In these and all other endeavors, however, the Foundation has no connection with a church, a clerical hierarchy, or any other system that savors of philosophic or spiritual subordination. There is no official interpretation of *The Urantia Book*, and Urantia Foundation does not claim or exercise any form of authority over understanding or belief.

The Foundation pursues objectives that are identified in The Declaration of Trust Creating Urantia Foundation (January 11, 1950), a document that also describes the duties of the Trustees. From a practical perspective, Urantia Foundation is a non-profit organization that depends on donations to achieve its purposes. Individuals and groups may choose to support its work by providing financial assistance or by serving as volunteers.

A number of readers of *The Urantia Book* have formed social organizations or other independent groupings that enable them to associate with and inspire each other, or perhaps to take other steps that are linked with

“Every religion contains truth”

spiritual, philosophic, or social ideals that the authors proclaim. In many cases, the organizations and groups mainly focus on fostering study and dissemination of the teachings.

Urantia Foundation is aware of these activities in a broad and general sense, but it certainly does not seek to manage or direct them. To the contrary, the Foundation has a firm policy of not intervening in the affairs of a social organization.

“The individual's awareness of religious and spiritual values will benefit from living personal experience”

UBIS... CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE URANTIA BOOK COMMUNITY



by Georges Michelson-Dupont, Vice President of Urantia Foundation, Recloses, France

With the following words of congratulations, The Expanded Board of Urantia Foundation would like to express its profound and sincere gratitude to Dorothy Elder, Director of UBIS, and to her dedicated team for their service to the Revelation. Under Dorothy's wise leadership, UBIS is celebrating its 10th anniversary. What an accomplishment!

Besides the study group, UBIS is the first organized means for educating and training teachers and readers in the history of the Revelation. I believe that this is part of the plan for a wise and benign dissemination of the teachings that the revelators want to see developing worldwide.

By clicking on the following link, the reader will familiarize him/herself with the goals, purposes and pedagogies of the school:
<http://www.urantia.org/ubis/#Purpose%20and>

UBIS provides readers worldwide access to a friendly-to-use, free of charge service that delivers courses and

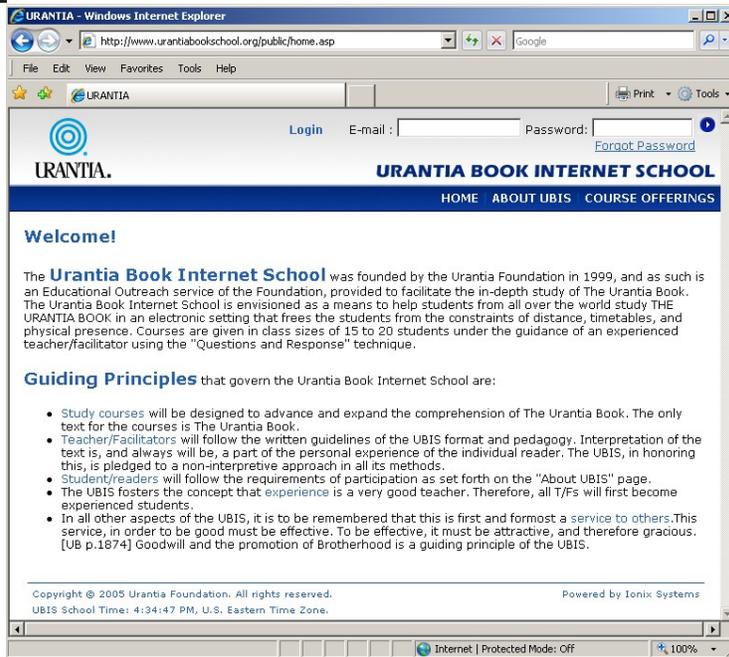
training in four languages.

The great number of acknowledgment letters received is the best recognition of the quality and usefulness of this service. All it takes is an internet connection and the course or training are at hand regardless of your location on the planet, what time it is in your country or how much time you have. The flexibility of the format is the key. This is particularly true for isolated

“The experience of dynamic religious living transforms the mediocre individual into a personality of idealistic power. Religion ministers to the progress of all through fostering the progress of each individual, and the progress of each is augmented through the achievement of all. Spiritual growth is mutually stimulated by intimate association with other religionists.” (Paper 100)

entire career is based on progressive education and goodwill. The last is personal and depends only upon the living spiritual relationship with our Thought Adjuster, but progressive education is a loving and intelligent service rendered by an experienced brother to one less so. On Urantia, devastated by egoism and poverty, it is crucial to expose the teachings of *The Urantia Book* to the different nations and cultures of the world in order to expand cosmic consciousness, enhance spiritual perception and present a broader perspective for the lives of individuals.

Therefore, in 1998, Urantia Foundation launched the idea of UBIS. Since then, more than 1100 individuals have benefited from its service, and UBIS has offered 81 English courses. Courses in Finnish are also presented; courses in French and Spanish too, as teachers are available. Thanks to the format, the success of UBIS is expanding around the world. The need for volunteer



individuals who can discover new readers, enjoy friendly discussions and benefit from sharing ideas and experiences with others.

UBIS is also a perfect place to train efficient and experienced teachers and leaders. Becoming a teacher/facilitator for UBIS will give firsthand experience for developing teaching skills, preparing creative courses, introducing thought-provoking questions, studying topics, managing classes, inspiring interest and fostering spiritual dynamics.

A loving, efficient teacher is not one who gives a ready-made answer to all questions. When a man is searching for an appropriate answer to his spiritual needs, his relationship with God is the path. The teacher can help dig the bed of the spiritual river, but the river must flow from God to man. This experience is personal and individual, and it constitutes real religion.

Education is everything in this world and future ones. Up to Paradise the progress of our

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“Progressive education is a loving and intelligent service rendered by an experienced brother to one less so”

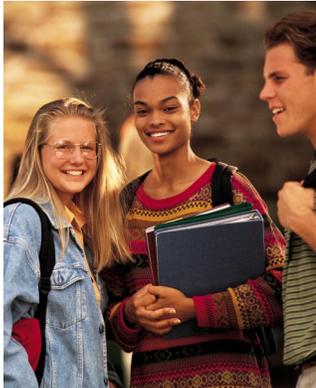
teachers and funds is also growing. In order to gently and efficiently accommodate this foreseeable expansion, UBIS is making improvements to the website and exploring new curriculum.

Should you have any questions or interest, please feel free to contact Dorothy Elder delder03@sprynet.com



Dorothy Elder

We encourage the reader to link to <http://www.urantia.org/ubis/> and see the program of UBIS for the next semester.



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“UBIS is a perfect place to train efficient and experienced teachers and leaders.”



“Education is the business of living; it must continue throughout a lifetime so that mankind may gradually experience the ascending levels of mortal wisdom.”

The Urantia Book, Page 806 (71:7.5)

On the web at
www.urantia.org