



# URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE

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*You must go forward from where you find yourselves.*



## TENSION – THE PREREQUISITE OF GROWTH

Seppo Kanerva, President  
Urantia Foundation

From the human viewpoint, reality exists because of tension. The primary tension is the differentiation of the I AM into the Infinite One and the Infinitude. This tension gives rise to many other tensions: the tension between the Qualified (Deity) Absolute and the Unqualified Absolute, unified in the Universal Absolute; there is tension between deified and undeified realities. There are many equally crucial tensions: tensions between the potential and the actual, between personal and non-personal; between unity and diversity; between spiritual and non-spiritual; between perfection and imperfection. Tension is what makes reality possible and keeps it alive, moving, always progressing, always in search of a solution.

Absence of tension is the same as stasis, stagnation, inertia, and immobility. There is no growth in a static situation. Tension is the prerequisite of all growth. *The intersociation of the Original, the Actual, and the Potential yields the tensions within infinity which result in the possibility for all universe growth* (1262:6; 115:3.9). Without tension there would be no progress, yet progress is what the universe is all about: the watchword of the universe is progress (54:4; 4:1.2). We cannot stand still, we either progress – go forward – or alternatively we

retrogress – slide back (1736:3; 156:2.6).

We humans yearn for peace and harmony. We abhor tension because we usually view its consequences exclusively as disagreements, friction, altercation, fight, strife, and quarrelsome competition. We equate tension with all those abhorred phenomena. The effects of tension, thus, can be either constructive or destructive. Tension is the cause of growth and progress, but its effects can also be detrimental and horrible.



The existence of Urantia Foundation is derived from the tension between the treasure that the Foundation is to guard, disseminate, and make known and available, and on the other hand, the ignorance of the world about the revelation. The *raison d'être* of the social organisations is derived from the same tension. The organisations are to dispel the ignorance of the general public and educate people in the revelatory teachings.

But there have been, and continue to be, tensions also between these organisations. Tensions have run high within

the Urantia community, and the ways to settle these tensions have not always been conducive to progress and harmonious joint efforts in order to settle and solve the tension that is the justification of this community's existence. The community has for some twenty years been suffering from the ramifications of the unwise ways of settling inter-organisational tensions, but has lately been endeavouring to understand it.

However, apart from the many and deplorable detrimental and destructive consequences of the community's internal tensions, we have witnessed also some positive developments. Awareness of the necessity to settle tensions in a peaceful manner is now firm. Many of the self-evidences of the past have been re-evaluated and revised. The inevitable competition between the various components of the community has resulted in an unprecedented activation of the involved organisations. The availability of the revelation has been made manifold.

Even if we cannot be blind to the positive outcomes of the difficulties of the last twenty years, it would, in my mind, be wiser to focus and concentrate the community's efforts and resources on the primary tension, which is the very justification of the existence of the community: the need to disseminate the revelation to the peoples of the world.

# URANTIA FOUNDATION LAUNCHES MATCHING FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN IN DECEMBER, 2007

By Mo Siegel and Gard Jameson, Trustees

Six donors have agreed to match every dollar (up to \$100,000) contributed to Urantia Foundation by December 31, 2007. *The Urantia Book* is the most important spiritual project on this planet in 2000 years and Urantia Foundation plays a central role in safely furthering this Epochal Revelation around the world. It takes human capital and financial resources to accomplish this important work. The following projects have been designated as high priority during 2008:

- The Chinese and Japanese Translations need more

遍 在的父是所有受  
次，他是一個管  
領悟，發端於先知的斷  
了上天，並諸天之天，

funds. The Spanish Translation needs improvement. Approximate cost: \$150,000.

- The German, Lithuanian, and Spanish Hardcover translations need reprinting. Approximate cost: \$55,000.00

- The Carriage House (book storage) behind Urantia Foundation's Chicago Headquarters leans to one side and needs immediate repairs before it sinks. Approximate cost \$48,000.

- Urantia Foundation's web site needs to be updated to be more user friendly, and education based. Approximate cost: \$56,000.

The spiritually hungry people in our world cry out for the transformative truths contained within our beloved *Urantia Book*.



The leaning Carriage House

Please contact Urantia Foundation for more information about the matching fundraising campaign at :

773-525-3319 or [jperegrine@urantia.org](mailto:jperegrine@urantia.org).

*“Six donors have agreed to immediately match up to \$100,000 contributed to Urantia Foundation”*



*“The Chinese and Japanese Translations need more funds.”*



# NEWSWORTHY DECISIONS FROM URANTIA FOUNDATION'S OCTOBER TRUSTEES MEETING



By Mo Siegel, Secretary Urantia Foundation

The Extended Board of Urantia Foundation met in Chicago for the October Quarterly meeting of 2007. Some of the areas of discussion and decision making included:

## Europe

After reviewing pending matters from the European team, the Board authorized the European members of the Expanded Board to explore alternative organizational structures for our European operations. The Urantia Foundation Board hopes to empower the Europeans so they may publish, dis-

tribute, and create translations for Europe. The Board affirmed its interest, in principle, to let form an organization that cooperatively yet independently handles the European book business. The European Board members have been asked to bring a recommendation to the Expanded Board as soon as they can construct a system that

will legally and logistically provide the best alternative to service the European book business.

**Committee on Translations**

The Board appointed six members to the Committee on Translations. The Committee is chaired by Seppo Kangerva and the other members are Gábor Cseh (Budapest, Hungary), Michael Maclsaac (Stockholm, Sweden), Georges Michelson-Dupont (Recloses, France), David Kantor (Colorado, USA) and Neal Waldrop (Maryland, USA). The major task of this committee will be to provide the Board with recommendations on the costs and timetables for in-progress and future translations. The major task of this committee will be to provide the Board with recommendations on the costs and timetables for in-progress and future translations.

**New Urantia Book Dust Covers for the U.S. Book Market**

In April, 2007, the Board hired three world-class book cover design firms to redesign Urantia Foundation's English book cover for the U.S. bookstore and internet market. After extensive design work from all three teams, the most appropriate and beautiful designs were selected for research and refinement.

During the October meeting, the Board reviewed testing results from an independently conducted, spiritual book shopper opinion poll, commissioned by Urantia Foundation. The study interviewed 700 spiritual book shoppers and received their reactions to five Urantia Book covers including Urantia Foundation and Uversa Press current book covers. After carefully reviewing the data and book cover designs, the board approved

two new Urantia Book covers for sale in the U.S. book market. One cover will be used for the English hard cover and the other for the soft cover. The next printing will use the new dust covers. The Board also agreed to allow the use of the new covers for translations, if appropriate. Stay tuned, the new covers will be available in the first half of next year.

**Testimonials on The Urantia Book Cover**

During the meeting our expanded Board held an extensive and lively discussion about using testimonials on the cover of *The Urantia Book*. Testimonials are a time-tested

“...loneliness, darkness, and fear disappeared like shadows from the sunrise.”

and proven method for selling books. After it was all said and done, the Board decided to hold off using testimonials at this time. This decision was extremely difficult to make since over 80 readers had answered our appeal for their testimonial about how the book had changed their lives. While everyone was deeply moved by the profound expressions of faith and inspiration that *The Urantia Book* has generated in reader's lives, uncertainty remained about placing an individual's name on the back cover of the book. We found ourselves torn between two publishing positions. *The Bible* and other great religious books never use testimonials, but virtually all other books—be they religious, spiritual, educational, fiction, and non-fiction—do use testimonials on the back cover.

Special thanks to all of you who sent in your exceptional testimonials. Even though we felt it right not to use testimonials for now, it was painful to write you explaining we'd revised our thinking. We appreciate you giving us permission to use your testimonials on our website. We really appreciate your love and efforts toward the revelation.

A few testimonials:

“As a child I would look up at the stars and wonder, Who am I, Why am I here? Is there other life out there? What happens when we die? I hoped that perhaps when I died, my questions would be answered. Finding *The Urantia Book* showed me that answers are already here.”

*Brigitte Mars*, author, university professor  
Boulder, Colorado

“When I finally grasped the enormity of what *The Urantia Book* reveals, loneliness, darkness, and fear disappeared like shadows from the sunrise.”

*Jeff Cox*  
Kenwood, California

“*The Urantia Book* has forever changed my life for the better. It has helped me transform fear to faith, hate to love, anger to forgiveness, and over all negativity to over all positivity. I now know that peace will prevail. What a blessing!”

*Debralee Williams*  
Black Mountain, NC

“After being shot 7 times during a convenience store burglary, robbed and left dying, I thought of the teachings of *The Urantia Book*. In that moment I felt within myself a complete

*“Finding the Urantia Book showed me that answers are already here.”*



Brigitte Mars



*“I now know that peace will prevail. What a blessing!”*



'peace of mind' and 'certainty of destiny'. And, though I did not die, these same feelings continue to this day, making me the happiest man alive."

Mitch Austin  
Taos, New Mexico

"The attempt to understand, believe, and practice the truths of the Urantia revelation has positively shifted the fulcrum and focus of my life, and the Spirit of God has literally uplifted and transformed me by this effort! "

Jacob Dix, student  
Stockholm, Sweden

**Book publishing decisions**

A. Printing of *O Livro de Urantia*, the "as is" Portuguese Translation - Since the Portuguese translation now stands ready to publish, the Board approved the management team's plan to print in Canada. The Portuguese book will soon be available.

B. Publishing the Hungarian Translation - The Board decided that as soon as the team working on a Hungarian translation, *Könyv Urantia*, consider their work completed, the translation will be made public on a CD and then placed on the Founda-

tion website.

**The Concentric-Circles Symbol on Jewelry**

Because of a request by a reader-goldsmith to use the trademarked Concentric-Circles Symbol on jewelry, the Board made a slight modification to the 2001 Policy Regarding Religious and Personal Use of "Urantia," "Urantian," and the Concentric-Circles Symbol. The modification allows any and all jewellers the commercial rights to use the symbol on jewellery, provided that their production is marginal, small-scale (maximally 100 pieces a year), and sold to *Urantia Book* readers.

**Permission to Display the Foundation's Translations on the Fellowship Website**

The Board decided to grant the Fellowship permission to reproduce the full text of each of the Foundation translations on the Fellowship's website with the respective copyright notices. Currently the Fellowship links their site to Urantia Foundation's translations.

**The Foundation Office in Russia**

The Board decided to close

the Foundation office in St. Petersburg and to cease all activities to re-activate the office. The Russian book business will continue to be managed by our Chicago office and our current partners in Russia.

**Associate Trustees**

The Board of Trustees renewed the one-year terms of the current Associate Trustees for 2008. The Associate Trustees are Irmeli Ivalo-Sjölie, Marilyn Kulieke, Claire Mylanus, and Judy van Cleave. On an editorial note, the Associate Trustees add a great deal to the Board. The Associates fully participate in our meetings and their wisdom and insight have been a wonderful blessing for the Trustees.

**Urantia Foundation's News Online**

The Board decided that we needed to clarify a couple of matters. When you read an article in this online newsletter, the voice of the article is the writer's voice, not the voice of the "Foundation". Additionally, the primary purpose of the newsletter is to provide information about the Foundation's mission to bring *The Urantia Book* to the world.

*"After being shot 7 times during a convenience store burglary, robbed and left dying, I thought of the teachings of the Urantia Book. In that moment I felt within myself a complete 'peace of mind' and 'certainty of destiny'."*



Mitch Austin

**THE GERMAN TRANSLATION BRINGS READERS TOGETHER**

By Irmeli Sjölie, Associate Trustee, Finland

The first meeting of German speaking readers was held in Frankfurt, Germany the second week-end of November. Thirty-six readers got together from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, England and Finland. It was the first time that German readers met and most of them did not know

each other. Notwithstanding there was immediately a feeling of warm kinship.

Since the German translation of *The Urantia Book* only has been available for the past two years, many readers were new ones and therefore the program, for the most part, consisted of questions and answers. On the panel answering questions were:



Urs Ruchti (the translator) Werner Sutter, Irmeli Sjölie, Christian Ruch, Seppo Kanerva (from Finland)



The new German reader community.

Seppo Kanerva (Helsinki, Finland), Urs Ruchti (Paris, France), Werner Sutter (Freiburg, Germany) and Christian Ruch (Chur, Switzerland). The presence of Seppo, the president of the Urantia Foundation, really meant a lot to the success of the meeting. In his calm and competent way he explained the structure of the Urantia movement,

answered questions, and straightened out misunderstandings.

There have been many individuals who have laid the groundwork for this meeting. Urs Ruchti translated *The Urantia Book* into German. Werner Sutter has promoted the book to German speaking people. Christian Ruch has organized the readers in

Germany by maintaining files and sending out newsletters.

After the meeting was over, many new friendships were formed and new study groups were started. The week-end was a great experience! The date for the next meeting was set and we are all looking forward to seeing each other again.

***“Many new friendships were formed and new study groups were started.”***

## NEAL WALDROP CONCLUDES FOUR YEARS OF ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

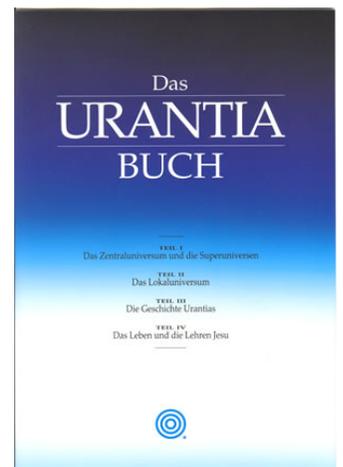
By Carolyn Kendall  
Illinois, USA

*Note: The previous issue of Urantia Online chronicled the contributions of Patricia Mundelius. The August 2007 meeting at which Foundation Trustees bid farewell to*

*Patricia, also marked the end of Neal Waldrop's active participation.*

Neal Waldrop encountered *The Urantia Book* in 1973 and read it cover to cover in just four weeks. He served as a Trustee from 1989 to

1992, when practical circumstances made it necessary for him to resign. As a career Foreign Service Officer employed by the U.S. Department of State, he was transferred from Washington, D.C. to the U.S. Embassy in Canberra, Australia. At that distance he could not have done justice to



his duties as a Trustee.

Neal Waldrop was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1947. He was valedictorian of his high school class, then attended Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. His junior year in college was spent in Paris, studying at the Sorbonne and at the Institute of Political Studies. After graduating from Yale with a B.A. in history, he was commissioned as an Ensign in the U.S. Navy (1971). While serving at a communications station in Morocco, he maintained security control of communications equipment and other classified material. Later, while serving in Washington, he rewrote the U.S. Navy's manual on that subject.

Neal was released from active duty with the Navy in 1975 with the rank of Lieutenant, and in 1976 he began his 27-year career with the U.S. Department of State. His service included postings in Geneva, Switzerland; Taipei, Taiwan; Hong Kong; Canberra, Australia; New York City; and Washington, D.C. His most notable overseas assignment was as a Senior Political Officer on the staff of the U.S. Ambassador to the Conference on Disarmament, Geneva, Switzerland (1998-2002) — a period during which he also served on U.S. delegations to disarmament bodies that met at UN headquarters in New York. Other notable service included his role as the chief U.S. delegate on protecting the atmosphere at the UN

Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (July 1992), and three years at the U.S. Mission to UN Headquarters in New York during which he worked on human rights topics and sought to promote respect for the principle of free and fair elections (1988-1991).

Along the way, Neal was trained in Mandarin Chinese (1978-1980). He is currently employed as a translator from French to English and English to French. Based on my personal association with Neal during the three years that I served as an Associate Trustee, I can attest to his command of the English language and outstanding ability to express complex concepts

and precise meanings.

Neal lives with his wife, the former Vanessa Wong, in a Maryland suburb of Washington, DC. They have a daughter, Charmaine, who is 23 and a son, Kirk, who is 19.

*"The non-interference policy of 2004 is the achievement that I am the most proud of."*

## MILLENNIAL REFLECTIONS

By Neal Waldrop  
Maryland, USA

Note: Neal Waldrop shares some of his thoughts and hopes for the future.

I am delighted that a great many readers of *The Urantia Book* have finally set aside the frictions that arose in North America in the 1980s and 1990s, so we can all love and respect each other and cooperate for common purposes. We will never have exactly the same viewpoints and should treasure pluralism and diversity. In effect this is what Jesus told the apostle James: "James, James, when did I teach you that you should all see alike? I have come into the world to proclaim spiritual liberty ..." (*The Midwayer Commission*, 1591:6; 141:5.1).

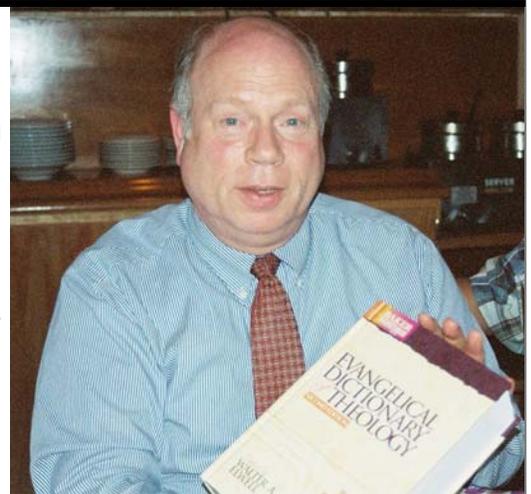
Of all the decisions and actions that I promoted during these four years, the non-interference policy of 2004 is

the achievement that I am the most proud of. This is a recommendation that was adopted as the standing policy of Urantia Foundation. By its wording the Foundation "affirms that the members of any social or fraternal organization ... are entitled to manage their own internal affairs." The Foundation "will respect these rights, in part by refraining from counseling, proposing, or promoting actions or undertakings" by any social or fraternal organization. I regret that such a policy of mutual self-restraint was not in effect in the 1980s, for it might have averted some of the more serious difficulties that arose during that troubled period.

I am convinced that the inspiring truths enshrined in *The Urantia Book* are a turning point in human history, both for the world as a whole and for every human being who will inhabit our planet for centuries to come. Just as God ministers to each individual,

promoting personal growth and self-realization, so also does he show his love for the world at large by actively and unceasingly promoting higher levels of human civilization, our mutual quest for the ages of light and life.

Since January 2004, I have been working with a small committee to develop a plan for idealistic service to individuals and groups in society who wish to promote progressive growth and development in the fields they know and cherish. Our spiritual model is the twelve corps of master seraphim (1254-1256 ; 114:6). Readers who wish to serve their fellows from these perspectives will work modestly and quietly, staying well in the background. They will live the revelation, not preach it.



This new activity will be independent of Urantia Foundation and separate from the social organizations. It will grow slowly and will operate on a regional basis. The committee is currently sharing our ideas with individual readers, while seeking comments and suggestions. We hope to launch public discussion in spring 2008.

*"I am convinced that the inspiring truths enshrined in The Urantia Book are a turning point in human history."*



*"South Africa is thirsty for the rich blessing of the Urantia teachings."*



*Volume 1, Issue 3. Dec. 2007*

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](mailto:urantia@urantia.org)

**Credits for News Online**

Editor: Marilyn Kulieke

Writers: Seppo Kanerva, Mo Siegel,  
Gard Jameson, Irmeli Sjölie, Carolyn  
Kendall, Neal Waldrop, Simone Cox,  
Tamara Wood

Production: Truthbook.com

On the web at  
[www.urantia.org](http://www.urantia.org)

## SEEDING THE REVELATION IN SOUTH AFRICA

By Simone Cox, South Africa

*Note from Tamara Wood – Urantia Foundation Coordinator for the South African Initiative:*

*A project to place over 1000 Urantia Books across Southern Africa has been sponsored by many individuals within the reader community and carried out by Mark Bloomfield. The project began in June when the first shipment of 500 books was received by Mark in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. Since then 700 books have been gratefully accepted by public libraries, universities and religious institutions as indicated by the many thank you letters Urantia Foundation has received.*

*Mark has covered a lot of territory within South Africa and has also placed books in Namibia and Botswana. Currently, he is en route to Mombassa, Kenya where 300 books will be arriving for additional library placement. After this round, Mark will return to South Africa to receive one more shipment of 300 books in order to complete this phase of his mission.*

*The Trustees and Staff extend their thanks to the reader community for participating in this service of making our treasured text available to so many individuals across Southern Africa.*

On behalf of the budding Urantia community in South Africa, kindly allow me to express our gratitude and appreciation for the wonderful work you are doing in service of the fifth epochal revelation, our Christ Michael and our beloved planet, and for your generous contributions to our own efforts.

As a spiritually progressive country, South Africa is thirsty for the rich blessing of the Urantia teachings. Not only will we benefit greatly from the books seeded into our local libraries, but we also enjoy upliftment and encouragement from your loving prayers and kind support.

Our Urantia community is still embryonic (we now have almost 80 people on record) but is growing at the rate of four to six new (recorded) readers every month. Many more unknown readers are discovering the book in the home of a friend or in their local library and will no doubt find their way into the fold. Although these are new readers and would need at least four or five years to work their way through the book, nonetheless we are already receiving enthusiastic feedback and word-of-mouth recommendations from many who have received their own cherished copy of *The Urantia Book*.

As local readers' groups are forming organically, we con-

tinue to distribute every copy as it reaches our shores, as the demand for *The Urantia Book* has exploded in recent months, and we have a backlog of orders for every media: hard-covers, soft-covers, old editions, secondhand copies, audio sets, study-aids, posters, etc. Although our courage is bolstered by this overwhelming response, we continue to proceed at a sober pace and as funds allow. Thanks again to every sponsor who has so generously helped to empower this exciting project, your contributions are as much appreciated as those of our Mark who does indeed cover the globe in his worn-out boots and single backpack to seed the planet with this universal truth. We are able to use and distribute all and any plain-cover copies of *The Urantia Book* that may be lying around, even second-hand copies will be welcome, as there is a huge demand in South Africa especially amongst university students and pensioners.

As we pray earnestly that these wonderful papers will find their way into the homes, hearts and minds of our rich cultural society, we also pray that those who have reached out to Southern Africa, invested their hard-earned cash, their time, energy, and heartfelt intent in seeding South Africa and her sister countries, will receive ten-fold blessings in return. Praise to our Paradise Father for His never ending kindness.



*"You are of God" because "he who dwells in love dwells in God, and God in him."*

*The Urantia Book, Page 45 (3:1.5)*