

July 2006

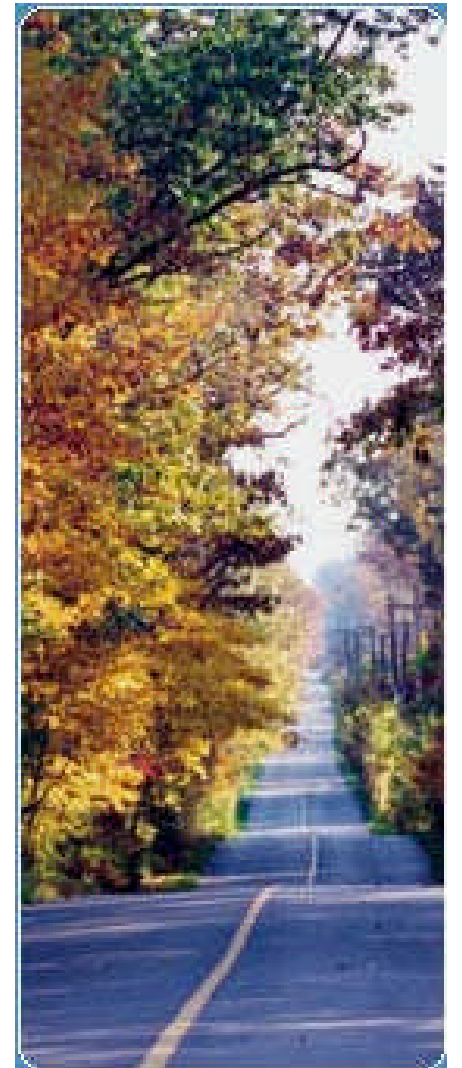
CIRCLE SEEKER

NEWSLETTER OF THE

**GREATER LAKE MICHIGAN
URANTIA ASSOCIATION**

GLMUA ANNUAL PICNIC
INDIANA DUNES STATE PARK
AUGUST 20TH

Photo of park entrance
Details inside



URANTIA.

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Greater Lake Michigan Urantia
Association
105 Woodlawn Drive
Goshen, IN., 46526-5435



URANTIA.

Message From The President

By Benet Rutenberg



Dear Members and Friends of GLMUA,

I am just packing my bags for the journey to Sydney, Australia for the U2006 Conference sponsored by ANZURA. I have been looking forward to this since my travel arrangements were made. It is a blessing to be able to attend such a far away conference and yet know that so many of our friends will be there.

In April of 2006 we welcomed our new Treasurer, Tamara Wood, to the Governing Board. She replaces Bill Martin who served for four years and was our mainstay in developing the 2004 UAI Conference. We wish Bill well and know he will continue to work with GLMUA and UAI in the service of this Revelation. Sheila Schneider continues as our Secretary and I was asked to serve a second term as President. Rick Lyon is our Vice President and Chair of the Publications/Communications Committee. I would like to extend a hearty round of Thank Yous to Rick for his longstanding and truly committed service. He has, among so many other things, produced Circle Seeker for the last 6 years. It has come from a four page brief to a quality newsletter which is appreciated by many beyond the local association. With the next Circle Seeker edition, we welcome the return of Susan Grzeskowiak as editor. Susan was the original editor of Circle Seeker.

The annual Jesus Birthday Celebration will again be held at Indiana Dunes S.P. near Chesterton, IN. on Sunday, August 20th. There will be a picnic, games, the beach at Lake Michigan and a commemorative discussion. Invitations will be sent with details.

September 16-17, 2006, GLMUA will host the UAUS CLP meeting at Urantia Foundation. After the business meeting on Saturday there will be a group dinner on Saturday Night. This event will conclude with a three hour study session on Sunday. Anyone wishing to volunteer their time and efforts for this should contact Tamara Wood, tamara@urantia.org.

GLMUA is planning an Educational Study Session at the end of October or early November to include a social event followed by a full day session with presentations and discussion groups. Our intent is to enhance the experience of our members and friends by introducing what we hope will become a tradition of having an educational gathering each fall. This year we may also welcome the Strategic Planning meeting of the International Service Board as they plan UAI goals and objectives. This December we will continue the long standing tradition of co-sponsoring a Holiday Celebration with First Society of Chicago.

We look forward to seeing you at these times of gathering. We are still a young organization and encourage everyone with good ideas and a will to serve to come forward and participate. As you continue enjoying a wonderful summer, wherever that takes you, please take a few moments to think about becoming more involved in the work of GLMUA. We have excellent resources to help members who wish to start a study group. Most important though is that your individual involvement in group activities is what makes them a success. Thank You most kindly and looking forward to seeing you this year.

Warmest Regards,
Benet Rutenberg, GLMUA President

UAI NEWS

Jean Annet of Belgium requested approval to create a new national organization. They have already chosen the president, secretary and treasurer.

In April, the national Association of Cono del Sur was replaced by two new local associations, one in Argentina, Urantia Asociacion Argentina (UAA), the other in Chile, Association Urantia Chile (AUCH). Carlos Rubinsky is the president of the Urantia Asociacion Argentina and Rene Eduardo Roman Retamal is the president of Association Urantia Chile until formal elections are held. This change of organization is due to the challenges of growth, leadership and culture.

The Representative Council has voted to officially change the name of our organization to Urantia Association International or UAI. There is no dba as IUA. It proved unnecessary and may have been confusing or useless in some of those languages. The ISB has passed the necessary resolutions to modify the Charter and Bylaws to reflect the name change.

GLMUA MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual membership dues were due on March 6, 2006. The dues are \$40 per person per year. Dues for members under 16 years of age or for Associate Members (those who have not completed reading the entire Urantia Book) are \$20.

Membership dues may be sent to: The Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association, Inc.
105 Woodlawn Drive
Goshen, IN., 46526-5435

The Circle Seeker

Newsletter of the Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association. Rick Lyon, editor.
Submission of original Urantia related material is always welcomed for publication consideration.

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PIRT RESPONSES

*“This afternoon, The Urantia Book briefly passed through my hands, long enough to read the back cover/inside flaps, as well as the table of contents. I knew right away I have to have my own copy!”
From Washington.*

“I just received The Urantia Book and I thank you for having sent it out so quickly. I have already read the Foreword (17 pages! and definitely something not to be rushed!) and also the first paper, “The Universal Father.” I am really excited about this book and look forward to the second paper. I plan to try and read a paper every day, or every other day, which should take about a year.” From Arizona.

“This letter is concerning one of your books I came in contact with in the chapel library at my institution. The Urantia Book really caught my attention. I am very interested in the concepts that it teaches. I have been studying and searching for the universal truth. I think that the information I was reading in your book coincided with my beliefs...” From Florida.

“I received my book in November last year and I’m into my second reading of it. I’m almost half way through with it and I have to say, I’m totally blown away! I’ve been searching for the last 20 years for answers and never have I found anything I could stay with and believe as being the real or whole truth until now. If you can find me someone or a group to write to about all of this I would greatly appreciate it. I feel after all these years of searching I’ve finally found something that makes sense out of everything. I’m probably one out of a billion or so people fortunate enough to know the real truth. I feel most honored.” From Florida.

*“I received my Urantia Book last week and it’s all I expected and some. I haven’t gotten much sleep in the last few days because I haven’t been able to put it down. I have so many questions I don’t know where to begin.”
From Louisiana.*

*“I am a prisoner. I bought a copy of The Urantia Book at a garage sale last year. However, before I got the first hundred pages read I was arrested and came here. Had I read this book I probably would have taken a different course. Please help me if you can. I am in desperate need of my Urantia Book!”
From Ohio.*

“The Life and Teachings of Jesus was one of my favorite sections of papers because of the insight from prebirth to post death. I enjoyed getting to know the teacher instead of just knowing about him.” From Wisconsin.

“I have started my second reading and I’m at the Dawn of Civilization. I’ll have read it cover to cover again before I get out (of prison) in the end of March, and I find it so fascinating I’ll start all over again. It is indeed the best book I have ever read! I do believe a book of this caliber can only be divinely inspired. I ask the Father to assist me in my understanding as I read. I don’t expect miracles or some kind of religious experience but I do believe my spiritual growth is making progress. And yes, I do ask the Father for guidance and help in understanding in the hopes that my future will not be a repeat of my past, when I was a thinker of good thoughts but a doer of bad deeds. From California.

GLMUA NEWS

Saturday, March 3, 2006, Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association held its annual membership meeting. The meeting began with a study of Paper 170, “The Kingdom of Heaven”. This study period set the tone for the meeting and reminds us of our real purpose as a local organization of UAI and students of *The Urantia Book*.

President Benet told the members that there will be a meeting of the UAUS Council of Local Presidents at the Urantia Foundation in September of 2006. He asked that GLMUA act as hosts for this meeting. The members eagerly agreed to this. We further agreed to host a study session during this weekend for those leaders from around the United States that attend the meeting. Benet also reported that he and Rick Lyon (VP) needed to vote for the UAUS candidates for Vice President and Secretary. [Benet and Rick have since voted in the UAUS election according to the GLMUA wishes.]

Secretary Sheila Schneider submitted the meeting minutes from the last meeting for approval. They were approved as written.

Treasurer Bill Martin gave the financial report. Bill expressed that while we are still financially sound as a result of the 2004 conference, we should begin thinking about ways to raise funds to replace the money used to finance our various events and projects. Since Bill has reached the end of his term as Treasurer, and Tamara Wood was elected to the Treasurer position.

Committee reports were next. James Woodward as Membership Chair reported on his contact with a new reader recently but expressed the need for help with this committee due to his expanding responsibilities in other Urantia areas. James was recently selected to replace retiring Cathy Jones as UAI Administrator. The membership congratulated James on this new opportunity and expressed our support for him in this important position. The membership decided that everyone will be part of the Membership Committee and that the member closest to a new contact will be responsible for contacting that person.

Michael Tanesky, Study Group Chair, was unable to attend but shared that he was working on the study group directory and has been contacting study groups in the GLMUA area. Michael has been granted access to the UAI database for this purpose.

Publications Chair, Rick Lyon, reported that he was gathering material for the next Circle Seeker newsletter due out in July. He encouraged members to submit material for this edition of the newsletter. Rick also reported that the UAUS website committee is offering all UAUS local a one page website as part of the UAUS website. Therefore, GLMUA now has a website at www.urantiausa.com/GLMUA/index.htm. The GLMUA site is still under development and contributions to it are welcome also.

Benet thanked the committee chairs for their reports and then gave an update on the UAI 2006 conference in Australia this July. Several members are planning or hoping to attend. Mark Kurtz addressed the group and reminded us that Kathleen Swadling has requested donations for the 2006 Conference Scholarship Fund. Discussion about contributing to the conference funding produced a motion to contribute \$500 to the conference scholarship fund to help pay the expenses of those requesting assistance to attend. This was unanimously approved. As a group that has sponsored a conference, we know how difficult it is to provide assistance to those in need. There were also several individual members that opened their checkbooks and immediately wrote contribution checks to assist in this effort. Sheila Schneider thanked GLMUA members for stepping up to the plate and giving to this worthy cause.

Planning for our annual picnic began with a message from First Society by Barb Newsom that they would like to jointly sponsor the event as we have done in the past. Last year our annual picnic and the First Society birthday celebration were combined into a weekend retreat because both events were scheduled for the same day. So, rather than have two separate events, we chose to have a joint weekend retreat. For 2006, we will return to the popular picnic event that has been tradition for many years. The date of the picnic will be August 20, 2006, at the Indiana Dunes State park. The same shelter that we used the last two picnics has already been reserved. The members also discussed and began planning for a Fall Educational and Social Gathering. More information on these events will be available on the GLMUA website as plans become more fully developed.

This year, the positions of President and Treasurer were open for election. We are pleased to report that Benet Rutenberg was re-elected as President and Tamara Wood was selected for Treasurer. We thank Benet for his continuing leadership and service and we warmly welcome Tamara to the GLMUA governing board. We look forward to her input and leadership. We also thank Bill for his dedication to this position and the work he has done especially during the 2004 conference.

The meeting was adjourned about 5 p.m. mostly because the smell of delicious foods that Bill Martin was cooking began to fill the room. Bill cooked up a fine meal for everyone and we certainly appreciated that.

A few days after our meeting, we received this message from our member, Mark Kurtz, who is also Chief Financial Officer for the Urantia Association International. Mark wrote, "There is impressive high quality creativity in GLMUA and I am pleased for it. You had a very good meeting; everyone should be pleased. This is an example of cooperation and dialog that should serve as a model for all. The positive emphasis on mission and the attention given to the importance of study groups is in great harmony with the mandate and mission of UAI. You show a very good tendency for teamwork and unity." "The positive style and mission emphasis you show in your service lives is far more attractive and desirable. From my point of view on the ISB, GLMUA style is a substantial boost to my hope for a high quality UAI. Thank you!!!!!!"

Thank you Mark for your kind words and support.

The GLMUA governing board met in Champaign, Illinois, on June 24th. Issues discussed included broadcasting study group to members via the internet, the annual picnic at Dunes State park, hosting the September UAUS Council of Local Presidents meeting, planning for a fall educational conference combined with the ISB meeting in Chicago. Many exciting events that need volunteers to produce. Please contact anyone on the GLMUA governing board to be part of these events.

GLMUA will serve as host to the Urantia Association of the United States annual meeting of the Council of Local Presidents this fall. The date is set for September 24 and 25th. GLMUA members will assist with set up, refreshments, and clean up. If you would like to help please contact any governing board member listed on the last page of this newsletter.

The International Service Board of the UAI will be meeting in Chicago this fall. No date or location has been selected yet. This meeting will be held in conjunction with a fall educational event produced by GLMUA. Please keep your calendar open and watch for further details on the UAUS website, www.urantiausa.com or the GLMUA website at www.urantiausa.com/glmua.

URANTIA ASSOCIATION of the UNITED STATES NEWS

In April of 2006, the Governing Board of Florida announced their resignations in order to form a new Urantia reader organization. All members of UAF have been contacted and invited to participate in filling the positions of the new governing board. The Urantia Association of Florida was rededicated to the original purposes of all UAI Associations: the fostering of study groups, the dissemination of the teachings of UB and interdependent support of Urantia Foundation.

Mindy Williams has been appointed by UAUS GB to assume the role of acting President of UAF. The UAUS GB voted unanimously to confirm Mindy's appointment. She will hold this post until a proper election can be held. Please join UAUS GB in welcoming Mindy Williams to service as President of UAF.

The UAUS Council of Local President will have a meeting at the Urantia Foundation in Chicago, September 23 and 24, 2006.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE BOARD NEWS

Cathy Jones has retired as executive administrator of UAI. With the recommendation of Cathy Jones, James Woodward was hired as her replacement. The members of ISB are excited about this and extend a warm welcome to James as UAI Administrator. James has extensive knowledge of UAI and the Foundation. He has worked many years in Reader Services at the Urantia Foundation. His experience will undoubtedly be an asset to UAI as administrator and resource person. We wish to send our most profound gratitude to Cathy Jones for her ongoing work with this revelation and the organization that supports it. UAI owes very much to Cathy. She is an outstanding example of leadership and grace.

As a result of the departure of Cathy Jones and the hiring of James Woodward as Executive Administrator, the address and phone numbers of UAI have changed. All donations of funds and inquiries should now go to:

Urantia Association International
559 West Diversey Parkway #351
Chicago, IL 60614 USA

The new International Executive Office telephone and FAX numbers are:

Phone 773-572-1180
FAX 773-572-1181
James' email is tbandg@comcast.net

The International Service Board of the UAI met to begin the creation of a strategic plan for the accomplishment of our goals and objectives. This meeting was for preliminary planning only and will be followed up by another meeting in the fall of 2006.

PIRT, the program to place Urantia Books in prisons for inmates handled a total of 354 inquiries in 2005 and placed 140 books in prison libraries. This program is receiving about one inquiry per day. On the next page are examples of replies PIRT receives from inmates.

can find all the organizational information about UAUS but also there is Urantia Art, Urantia Music, Study groups, a Marketplace and several other sources of information. If you have any Urantia related presentations, speeches, study aids, etc. that you would like to submit for consideration to the library, send it to rlicklyon@tctc.com. The website is www.urantiausa.com. Here is what it looks like:



The Foundation is the first and largest tool for the study and growth of this revelation. The Foundation needs the financial support of the readership to do all the things we want them to do. We want the Foundation to preserve and protect the original text of *The Urantia Book*. This requires money to hire lawyers to do that. We want them to set up new distributors or offer books at lower costs to the less fortunate countries. We want them to produce quality translations which requires hiring (paying for) quality translators and printing. We want them to maintain the staff needed to meet the increasing inquiries from new readers. How can we expect the Foundation to do all the great things we want them to do without our support? The Foundations only source of income is us. The same can be said for UAI. How can the UAI do all the reader service related duties without our support both in time and money? Now more than ever the Foundation and the UAI needs all of us.

Again, thank you GLMUA members for allowing me to serve as Circle Seeker Editor. Please welcome Susan Grzeskowiak as the new CS editor. I know you will give Susan a warm welcome and your continuing support.

To contribute to the Foundation, contact Tamara Wood at tamara@urantia.org or go to www.urantia.org. To contribute to UAI contact James Woodward at tbandg@comcast.net or go to www.urantia-uai.com.



The Greater Lake Michigan Urantia Association and
The First Society for Readers of *The Urantia Book* (Chicago),
in celebration of the birth of Jesus,
invite all readers of *The Urantia Book* and their families
to our annual joint picnic

Sunday, August 20, 2006, starting at 11:00 A.M. (Chicago time)

Duneside Shelter, Indiana Dunes State Park



\$5 per person payable at the picnic
defrays cost of main dish and shelter fee.

Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share,
and your own tableware and beverages.



There will be volleyball, badminton, frisbee, hiking trails, and a beach
within walking distance of the shelter. A birthday commemoration will
follow the meal.



Please join us for a fun, enlightening day at the park!



Indiana Dunes State Park is located on the shores of Lake Michigan north of
Chesterton, IN on State Rte 49. Go to www.duneland.com/parks/idsp.htm

There will be an entrance fee payable at the park gate (\$5 per Indiana vehicle, \$10 out
of state). Park maps are available at the gate. Look for concentric circles signs
leading to the Duneside Shelter. For more information contact Michael Tanesky at
tanesky@comcast.net or call 765-366-7203.

Further details will be sent shortly. All readers of *The Urantia Book* and family and
friends are welcome to attend.

TOOLS FOR STUDY AND GROWTH

By Rick Lyon

There are a lot of exciting things going on in the Urantia community from new translations, new members, new associations, increased book sales (meaning new readers), wider distribution, and to me a sense of growing optimism about the near future. Yes, there are trials and tribulations that afflict this movement the same as any other worthwhile project but there are also many positive things going on in the world. To me, being able to say “the world” is an indication of the progress and growth of this revelation in the last ten years. As I write this, people from many countries are heading to Australia for what is sure to be an exciting and wonderful time of study and renewal. The echoes of Urantia 2004 in Chicago are still ringing and the conference in Sydney will have its own positive impact upon this revelation as well for years to come.

Read the last report from the Urantia Foundation and you will see that there has been more progress in the last 10 years as the previous 40 years combined. The UAI is growing. We now have our own identity and our own mission. We had a major reorganization two years ago and we are beginning to complete that transition. We have readers on every continent and most countries. UAI has organizations in several countries so, thanks largely to the internet, for the first time in history we are connected to our fellow UB students around the world. For the first time in history the UB movement is truly an international happening. For the first time in history we have a movement, a Foundation, and an organization that embraces the worldwide community of the children of God.

Since this is my last issue as editor of the Circle Seeker I would like to use this opportunity to point out some useful tools for study and growth of the Fifth Epochal Revelation.

Study and growth of this revelation begins with the individual. We should read a bit of the book every day along with prayer and worship and our efforts at constant communion with our Father. Personal growth comes from living the teachings by applying what you read to what you do. Demonstrating the teachings to others by living them and sharing them with those around you is the best and most important tool for the growth of this revelation. Too often I think we want something big to change the world which usually means we want someone else to do something big to change the world. We want someone else to bring up a subject related to the Urantia teachings, someone else to host a study group, hold a conference, or do something spectacular to introduce the world to the Urantia teachings. What we each individually can do is introduce the teachings into our conversations about our daily life or current events on the nightly news at home and at work. We can indirectly and easily introduce the teachings to new people by applying the teachings to our daily chit chat with others we meet. We can introduce the teachings into our church or Sunday school by simply asking questions that lead others to discover the truths contained in the book (without ever mentioning the book or criticizing another person’s religion). We must first have a positive influence on the way people around us think before we can introduce them to the book. Teach them the teachings before telling them you got it from a “book” and I believe that you will be a great tool for the success of this revelation. All of us can make very small but very important contributions to the fabric of this revelation.

The greatest tool for study of this revelation is of course study groups. Study groups have been a priority since the very first days of receiving this revelation beginning with the group that met at 533 Diversey Parkway, which is now the Urantia Foundation. A regular Tuesday night study group still meets there today along with all the other important work of the Foundation. Having a study group of your own or attending a study group will enhance your knowledge and understanding of the teachings more than you can realize until you do it. The UAI offers a study group starter kit with a requested but not required contribution of \$20 to cover printing and mailing costs. The kit is available by calling

James Woodward at 773-572-1180 or email at tbandg@comcast.net. Those who gave us the book also instructed us to form thousands of study groups worldwide. All each of us needs to do though is start one study group.

The Urantia Book Internet School is a worldwide website classroom that offers courses three times a year. The method of study is to facilitate the discussion of various related papers concerning a topic. The group discussion leads the students to discover the truth contained within *The Urantia Book* for themselves. The classes are eight weeks long with one week devoted to reading the assigned paper and the next week being discussion of that paper. Students are given six questions and asked to choose three to answer. This stimulates the beginning of the discussion which is the most important part of the course. The person conducting the class is called a “teacher” but actually the teacher is often as much a student of the course as anyone. Being a teacher doesn’t mean that you know it all. A person who thinks they know it all is a terrible teacher. Our best teachers are those who consider themselves to be students and are learning right along with everyone else. Some people feel that they are not qualified to be a teacher but we can never be qualified to do anything unless we first do it. As a Teacher/Facilitator for UBIS, I can tell you that the value of this Urantia Foundation program is huge. Students love the format and the interaction and for the T/F, conducting a course is one of the most spiritually satisfying things you will ever do. I know of nothing else that allows us as individuals to reach so far around this planet as UBIS. You can find UBIS at www.urantia.org/ubis or contact our Administrator Dorothy Elder at delder03@sprynet.com.

The purpose of any organization is to empower the individual. Organizations may seem to accomplish goals and objectives but in reality, it is the individual within the organization that does the “work” necessary to accomplish anything. The Urantia Association International (UAI) was created as a readership organization by the Urantia Foundation to be a “grassroots” organization. The UAI now has it’s own administration separate from the Foundation but we are still closely affiliated and supportive of the Urantia Foundation. The local UAI organizations, such as GLMUA, are responsible for the material and spiritual work of the UAI. However, it is the individual, whether a UAI member or not, that does the real work of the Urantia revelation. By participating in these activities, you will share experiences with like minded individuals who are working to share the teachings with others in our communities. GLMUA has become one of the most active UAI local organizations so there are many opportunities for serving in this important tool for study and growth. If you would like to become a member, please complete the membership form at www.urantia-uai.com/membership. If you would like to serve on a committee, contact any governing board member listed on the last page of this newsletter.

The UAI is not just about serving our members. The UAI is not about generating more UAI members. It is about serving all students of this revelation worldwide and bringing this revelation to those who have yet to discover it in the manner we were instructed to do so, that is, person to person. The success of UAI is not judged by the number of members we have but by how our members serve the children of God on this planet.

P.1593 - §5 The Master sought to impress upon all teachers of the gospel of the kingdom that their only business was to reveal God to the individual man as his Father--to lead this individual man to become son-conscious; then to present this same man to God as his faith son.”

Another useful too is the UAUS website that was redesigned last year by a staff that is all GLMUA members. A Urantia Library is the most unique aspect of this new website. The goal of the website committee is to make it the most complete library of Urantia related writings in the world. You