

# URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



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# TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

*By the trustees of Urantia Foundation*

Imagine your life without *The Urantia Book*. Would you know how much our heavenly Father loves you? How lonely would you feel without knowing about your Thought Adjuster? How different would your outlook on life be without knowing you live in a friendly universe? What if you didn't know about the mansion worlds and the ascension career? Would you be on the "path" if you never read the life and teachings of Jesus in Part IV?

Few people around the world have experienced the transformative power of the Urantia Revelation. Together we can advance global dissemination. But it requires

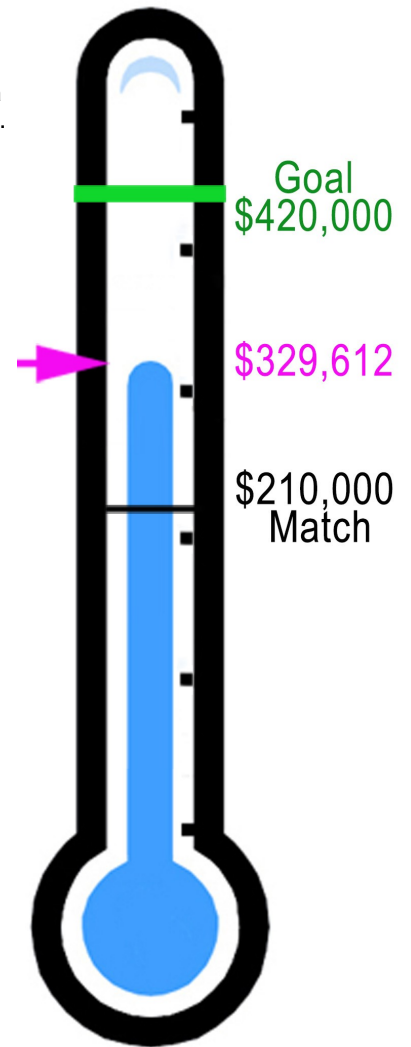
money getting the book into the world. That is why five devoted donors have promised **\$210,000** toward a matching year-end fundraiser. They pledge that for every dollar you give, they will match it, dollar for dollar.

If the matching donation goal is met, Urantia Foundation will have the needed funds to advance its mission. This includes enhancing global book distribution, gifting books to the those who can't afford them, creating high-quality translations and revisions, continuing the upkeep of the historic birthplace of the revelation, sponsoring educational programs such as seminars and Urantia Book Internet School, and expanding global outreach.

Please, we need your donations now. This generous offer expires on December 31, 2019. Thank you!

[Click here to donate.](#)

May peace and joy bless this holiday season for you and your loved ones.



The trustees: Mo Siegel, Marilyn Kulieke, Gard Jameson, Judy Van Cleave, Georges Michelson-Dupont

Said Jesus, "Freely you have received, freely give."

# NOTEWORTHY DECISIONS FROM THE OCTOBER 2019 TRUSTEES MEETING



By Judy Van Cleave, secretary, Urantia Foundation, Idaho, United States

trustees, and executive director have begun the process of planning for the next five years. At the October meeting, we spent a day deciding on the seven most important goals to accomplish during the next five years. Plans for achieving these goals will be decided upon over the next nine months.

In broad terms, here are the objectives:

## 1. 2020 Budget

The Board of Trustees adopted a proposed budget for 2020. At this moment, the budget shows a loss between income and expenses. In the next few months, we'll find a way to reduce costs and increase revenue. Urantia Foundation operates with a balanced budget because we have limited resources, and we feel an obligation to our donors to live within our means.

## 2. Five-Year Planning

The trustees, associate

- **Books:** First and foremost, increase global sales and distribution of *The Urantia Book* every year by 7%. Our number one duty is distributing the book in as many languages and as many places as reasonable. This goal includes distribution through bookstores, online stores, digital downloads, audiobooks, e-books, and apps.

- **Funding:** Without adequate funding, none of the critical work of Urantia Foundation will be accomplished. We've set a goal of increasing our assets from about \$6.5M to \$12M by the end of 2025. That money goes into annual operating budgets, grant giving to individuals and organizations, and into the Revelation Bridge Fund for future generations.

children. That is why the Revelation Bridge Fund was established in 2017. This fund is designed to financially bridge from the baby boomer generation to the upcoming millennial and Gen Y generations. So please, give until it hurts. You won't miss the money in the next world. Here and now, the Foundation needs your support to put a safety net under the revelation.

Please include Urantia Foundation in your will. *The Urantia Book* is one of five epochal revelations in the one million-year history of people living on earth. We are blessed to be the early pioneers of a new revelation, forging the way for spiritual transformation on our world.

Giving to the Foundation is giving to your children and your children's



- **Globalization:** In many ways, Urantia Foundation looks more like a North American and European organization. We're going to



Back: Víctor García-Bory, Mark Hutchings, Gard Jameson, Gary Deinstadt  
 Middle: Marilyn Kulieke, Geri Johnson, Guy Perron, Gaétan Charland, Mo Siegel, Marta Elders, Georges Michelson-Dupont  
 Front: Tamara Strumfeld, Mino Treichler, Sherry Cathcart Chavis, Judy Van Cleave

change how we operate to reflect the global community. Considering that the revelation is spreading throughout the world and especially in Latin America, our obligation is a fair representation of the worldwide community. Between now and July, the globalization team will create plans establishing a global identity, creating educational programs that promote understanding and acceptance of the Urantia Book's teachings, and increasing global representation in the work of Urantia Foundation.

- **Translations:** During the next five years, several translations and revisions will be completed.

Likewise, the initiation of new translations will likely happen. Once finished, Urantia Foundation will collaboratively work with individuals and organizations to spread these translations around the world.

- **Education:** Our focus between now and 2025 falls into two categories: Inner Education—prayer, worship, soul work, and unity—and Outer Education—UBIS, collaborative work with other educational institutions, support of study groups, and providing grants to foster educational efforts.

- **Succession:** Today, Urantia Foundation has five trustees and seven associate trustees. By 2025 our objective is seven-nine trustees and seven-nine associate trustees. We are planning for the board to have an increasingly balanced representation of age, gender, race, and cultural diversity.



2019 Cusco International Book Fair

- **Outreach:** Our objective is empowering multiple generations of truthseekers, both online and offline, and to promote activities that spread *The Urantia Book* and its teachings. To accomplish this goal, we need believer unity, volunteers, good educational programs, book distribution, grass roots-level mobilization, and tools to achieve this objective. The watchword in reaching this objective is meeting people where they are—spiritually, intellectually, and culturally. Decentralization is the key to success in reaching new people throughout the world.

### 3. Supporting Book Fairs in Latin America

Last quarter individuals donated enough grant money to sponsor members of Latin American UAI Associations to attend 12 book fairs in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru. Attending book

fairs is vital in spreading *The Urantia Book* in Latin America.

### 4. Executive Director's Report

Tamara Strumfeld's office highlights for the third quarter included: 1) completing the staffing transition with Joanne Strobel working from Georgia and the hiring of Ashley Parratore, 2) reducing the property tax increase on 533 Diversey toward a favorable and fair assessment, 3) drafting the 2020 budget, 4) publishing the Japanese translation and launching the Japanese website, 5) publishing the new Russian revision online, 6) publishing the updated Polish translation online, 7) releasing the new search engine in the top four languages at [urantia.org](http://urantia.org), 8) taking steps on building a new Urantia Book Android app, and 9) making progress creating the enhanced e-book that contains *The Urantia Book*, a comprehensive index, a term list, a pronunciation guide, and a list of all adopted corrections approved by the trustees. The enhanced e-book will be available on Amazon sometime in the next few months.

### 5. Books

Sales of *The Urantia Book* were up worldwide by 3%. While Spanish books were down 42% and Russian books down 58%, English books were up 8%, Portuguese books were up 44%, and European sales were up 61%! Polish and German sales were very encouraging when you think about spreading the book throughout the world. Spanish sales appear to be down because of the extensive gift book program in Latin America. If you add the sales from our imprint label, Urantia Press, the numbers get even better. *The Untold Story of Jesus—A Modern Biography from The Urantia Book* and *The Parables of Jesus* increased our 2019 volume by 17%. Downloads are also up 10%.

We continue to report details about sales and downloads because our mission is to spread the book and its teachings. While we can't control the book industry, we do our best to get this mighty revelation into the far corners of the world.

# MY IMPRESSIONS OF THE SPANISH REVISION



By Gaéтан Charland, associate trustee, Québec, Canada

As a new associate trustee of Urantia Foundation, I was given the opportunity to choose a committee on which to serve. Because of my extensive travels in Latin American countries while serving as president of Urantia Association International, the committee that is planning the introduction of the new Spanish revision was the choice for me.

Before my appointment in 2018, I had been unaware of the extensive revision process of translations of *The Urantia Book*, and of the effort and commitment of those involved in those projects. What an enlightening discovery it was when I became acquainted with the work of the Spanish revision team!

This past September, I had the great privilege of meeting with the five team members—Olga López, Anibal Pacheco, Víctor García-Bory, Carmelo Martínez, and Raúl Pujol—at Urantia Foundation. Richard Jernigan came as well to make video recordings about each team member's experience with the revision process. During those

three days, I learned much about their experiences and saw them working together polishing certain parts of the revision that needed special attention.

It is hard to convey what I experienced during that time with such devoted individuals who have dedicated themselves to this work for nearly a decade. Of one thing I am certain: their goal was to produce a revision that would respect and express, to the highest possible level, the beauty, meanings, and truth of the many concepts in the original book.

Every team member has a good grasp and understanding of the English text as well as the Spanish one. They come from five different countries and two different continents. All have

been reading *The Urantia Book* for years in English and Spanish, and have participated in study groups, some in both languages. You could not put together a better team! Not only are they intellectually capable of this work, they have the ability to work as a team—and they have something more that is of the greatest value: love for the Urantia Revelation.

During my flight back home, I felt a renewed sense of duty toward the Urantia Book project. I found myself praying for every Spanish-speaking reader to embrace this new revision with as much love as the revision team has put into it. If you are part of a study group, you will understand what I mean when I compare their dedication to a long-standing

study group where each member contributes to the enhancement of perception of all the other members. This new revision will open the door to a new and better understanding of the truth and concepts in *El libro de Urantia* for all its students.



Richard Jernigan



Carmelo Martínez, Anibal Pacheco, Olga López, Víctor García-Bory, Raúl Pujol

# SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM 2019



By Joanne Strobel, *Urantia Foundation, Georgia, United States*

Urantia Foundation's recent Science Symposium was the brainchild of Dr. Ralph Zehr. It was the second event of its kind and took place in Chicago during the weekend of November 1-3. I know that many of you are aware of this because the presentations were viewed 685 times by different viewers from 23 different countries around the world, all in the three days that the symposium was streamed.

Ralph received his inspiration from the June 2018 issue of *Scientific American* which included a special report entitled "The Biggest Questions in Science." The report was also published concurrently in *Nature*. Ralph declared it a fortunate coincidence that both editors of the two leading English-language scientific journals should choose to publish a

list of the most pressing questions facing the scientific community just in time to be incorporated into a program for Science Symposium 2019.

You need only peruse the list of topics to know that most of the questions facing scientists today are addressed within the pages of *The Urantia Book*, and contemplated in the minds of readers like Marjorie Ray, Ralph Zehr, Bruce Johnson, Neal Kendall, David Neuffer, Nigel Nunn, Phil Calabrese, Joshua Wilson, Tom Allen, Gard Jameson, and George Park.

Here is the list of their research papers and related live presentations: <https://www.urantia.org/study/seminar-presentations>

Connecticut viewer Dave Elders (see next article) emailed me that he had been watching Nigel's presentation when he happened to glance

There will be another Science Symposium. If you would like to participate, please reach out.

at his phone. An article from the *Washington Post* entitled "Scientists are baffled: What's up with the universe?" appeared in his news feed. He said the article took him right back into Nigel's discussion of the Hubble Constant! What a coincidence—and such a validation.

The *Scientific American* article says, "We know what life is but not where the first spark came from." *The Urantia Book* tells us, "When, in accordance with approved formulas, the physical patterns have been provided, then do the Life Carriers catalyze this lifeless material, imparting through their persons the vital spirit spark; and forthwith do the inert patterns become living matter." 36:3.3 (399.5)

Through these symposiums, Urantia Foundation is cultivating a commitment to the exploration and study of scientific discoveries that validate what is revealed in *The Urantia Book*. They present a tremendous opportunity for outreach to an untapped population of scientifically minded agnostics and even atheists.

There will be another Science Symposium and hopefully we won't have to wait three more years to enjoy it. The baton has been passed from Ralph to Marjorie Ray, who is already teeming with ideas for the next theme. If you would like to participate, please reach out.



Back: Neal Kendall, Gard Jameson, David Neuffer, Tom Allen, Joshua Wilson, George Park, Nigel Nunn  
Front: Bruce Johnson, Ralph Zehr, Marjorie Ray, Phil Calabrese

# A CELEBRATION OF SOULS

By Joanne Strobel, *Urantia Foundation, Georgia, United States*

The Education Committee recently lost two beloved and respected members. Charles Olivea, 76, passed away Sunday, November 17, at his Santa Fe home. Dave Elders, 78, passed away Sunday, December 1, at Westchester Medical Center in Connecticut. Each is survived by his wife and two sons.

Both men were intellectual giants and many of you have had the privilege of working or studying beside them over the decades. I will leave it to others to extol their accomplishments within the Urantia community. Instead, I would like to celebrate the fruits of their spirits.



Charles Olivea

Charles was one of those rare and gifted teachers we all wish we had more of, one whose influence carries on well into adulthood. Comments left on his legacy site reveal a gentleman and scholar in the truest sense of the words. An Atticus Finch-like persona dressed in a suit and tie, he was remembered as “dignity mixed with humor” with his warm, welcoming smile and great laugh. Class discussions were lively, captivating, and enriching. No student ever felt left out or inferior. Each was important, and Charles

touched their mind and their soul, igniting a lifelong love of learning. He brought history to life and fostered intellectual curiosity.

One revealing comment came from a woman who worked at his school but barely knew him. “I will just simply never forget this man of deep integrity. He lived in some different light than all of us.”

I first met Charles in 1971. I believe he is the most sincere person I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. And his faith was just as honest and sincere as his whole personality.

~ George Park



Dave Elders

It will come as no surprise to anyone who had the privilege of working with Dave Elders that he was the consummate team player. A “hall of famer” with a lifelong love of sports, including baseball, hockey, football, boating, skiing, and golf, Dave found great joy and passion in working with youth. He helped found a local youth hockey association and spent many years coaching his sons and countless other kids in hockey and baseball. As a coach, Dave was positive, enthusiastic, supportive, trusting, focused, goal-

oriented, knowledgeable, observant, respectful, patient, and a clear communicator.

He co-founded and was active in Saferides, a program that provides a free and confidential ride to students who are not in a condition to drive safely or who want to avoid being a passenger in such a situation. He helped change students’ attitudes about driving under the influence, and fostered concern for each other’s safety.

Dave also spent many years working with, and was a former chair of, the board of directors of Kids In Crisis, a nonprofit organization that provides crisis counseling, intervention, emergency shelter, and community education programs for children and teens.

Urantia Foundation is indebted to Dave for the enduring legacy he leaves to students, fellow facilitators, and board members of Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS). He served on its board of directors and co-chaired the Course Review Committee (CRC), working selflessly behind the scenes to help new facilitators develop classes. Never one to shy away from difficult topics like the Supreme, Dave created and facilitated courses year after year. He remained steadfastly devoted to self-revealed truth and was always patient, kind, and encouraging.

He excelled at crafting challenging questions such as, “Does the bestowal of unique personality by our Father make our destiny pathway to and experience of him actually unique; or, does it instead make our shared, common journey to him *appear* unique as we seek to unify it in the Supreme? Either way, does it matter?”

CRC co-chair Judy Cosky recalls how Dave seamlessly coped with missed deadlines, continuing his review work while on a family reunion in Europe last summer. Said Judy, “What an example Dave was to me in spiritual patience! That was honestly a great demonstration of true cooperation with his Adjuster!”

Our UBIS team is a family that loves, supports, and uplifts one another. We are each feeling the loss of Dave’s presence, as are his many students. Guy Perron spoke for many of us when he said, “It was a joy and a privilege to serve with Dave on this special and confused world. And it will be a renewed spiritual joy when we are reunited again in the mansion worlds for more service—purposeful service, not slavery—which we know produces the highest satisfaction as we express the divine dignity that is indwelling each of us.”

Fellow director Dennis Sword observed, “We feel a sense of certain joy to know that our brother Dave has begun the transition into the next phase of his eternal life. What an adventure he’s about to begin, in the loving care of his angels and indwelling spirit of the Father.

“We also feel sadness at the loss of a true friend and fellow teacher. Be at peace, good brother!”

Both of these remarkable men may now be experiencing the glory of the mansion worlds, where they will continue to do great work, possibly together, no doubt enthralling an entourage of Morontia Companions while expounding about the Supreme.

# THE PRESENCE OF URANTIA PERU AT THE CUSCO INTERNATIONAL BOOK FAIR 2019



By Vanessa Ruiz Gamero,  
Lima, Peru

Our participation in sharing the teachings of *The Urantia Book* at the Cusco Book Fair took place in the Gallery of the Benemérita Sociedad de Artesanos de Cusco (Distinguished Society of Artisans of Cusco) from August 30 to September 8, right on the Plaza de Armas, the main square of this ancient, historical, and touristic city.

In this splendid space we not only shared information about

the book, but we truly lived an experience of building bonds of brotherhood, as well as cultural and spiritually driven exchanges. We discussed the content of the book and its interpretations with artisans from the gallery, with exhibitors at the book fair, and with local, Latin American, and other international visitors who were curious. For this purpose, we not only had samples of the book in the Spanish language, but also in English, Portuguese, French, German, and Dutch.

We gathered a team of people that, besides speaking Spanish, also spoke English, Portuguese, and some German: Fanny Chuquilín from Trujillo; Rita Barreda and Alonso Gonzales from Arequipa; Rubén Rodríguez from Lima; Lourdes Burga-Cisneros (President of the Perú Urantia Association), who currently lives in Cusco;

Gustavo Quispe, also from Cusco; and the writer of this report, Vanessa Ruiz, from Lima.

Throughout the event, the people that approached our booth were from a variety of countries, including the United States, Canada, Spain, Portugal, Colombia, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, South Africa, China, and Japan. We also had contact with Peruvians from different provinces such as Huánuco, Huancayo, Puno, Ayacucho, and Lima, among others. Cusco is a cosmopolitan place that attracts people from different parts of the world in search of spiritual growth.

This opportunity allowed us to accomplish several things: distributing leaflets with information about *The Urantia Book*; making contact with foreign and Peruvian tourists

as well as with local residents, some of whom were teachers and students on field trips to the book fair; introducing the book and its teachings; and promoting the next Urantia Association International Conference, to be held in the Sacred Valley of the Incas near Cusco, Peru, in April of 2021.

Of course, we also took time to walk around and enjoy the sun and the beautiful Andean sky, as well as to get to know this captivating and magical city—the capital of the ancient Inca Empire, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

This experience has motivated us to persevere in the dissemination of the priceless teachings of *The Urantia Book*, and moreover, to seek to put into practice the book's teachings of respect and love for our fellow men and the experience of living its ideals of brotherhood and sisterhood.



# THE WORD, THE LANGUAGE, THE DICTIONARY



By Peter Walker, Florida,  
United States

Early last year I read an article in *News Online* about the new library in the basement of Urantia Foundation, which contains books and materials assumed to have been used by the revelators in the formation of certain Urantia Papers. Like many readers, I often wondered about the human origins of such material, occasionally reviewing websites like Square Circles where Matthew Block correlates certain sections in *The Urantia Book* with human sources. The library at Urantia Foundation preserves the works of these "source authors" in their original form, and is an invaluable collection, especially for future generations.

Having studied *The Urantia Book* for years, I continue to marvel at the quality of the English language. The book is a masterpiece of prose literature that has its own poetic cadence, with each author representing their thoughts through precisely written words. Even the style of each author is unique—from a Divine Counselor to a Mighty Messenger to the Midwayer Commission.

It was 30 years ago, in the summer of 1989, I introduced *The Urantia Book* to a friend who owned a vintage English dictionary. Curious about the meaning of the word "Urantia," and realizing that such a word is not defined, we searched through similar words, and determined that Urantia means "of or belonging to the Heavens."

The word "Urantia" can be broken into two separate parts: *Uran* and *tia*. I found two similar words whose specific definitions are no longer used in the English language today, even having been removed from the current Webster's dictionary. These words are "Urania" and "Uranian," which are related to the root word *Uran*. The definitions in particular are as follows.

**Urania** (Latin fr. Greek) "heavenly, heaven" (Greek) Ourania, Ouranios "heavenly" Ouranos - "heaven"

**Uranian** "Of, pertaining to, or concerned with the heavens, or the science of astronomy; astronomical"

Looking at the definition for *tia*, it comes from the original word "cy" which means:

**-cy (-tia** [Latin, Greek]) "signifying state, quality, office, rank"

I am not an etymologist, but looking at the context of the word "Urantia" I think it would have its origin as an adjective forming the actual use as a proper noun. Therefore, I postulated the meanings as follows:

**uran'tia** \yu-rān'shə\, adj. 1a: [L., fr. Gr.] of or belonging to the Heavens; b: having a heavenly status or quality

**Uran'tia** \yu-rān'shə\, n. (cosmology) 1a: a name designating the planet Earth; b: the Earth within the Heavens

The final definition for **Urantia**, "the Earth within the Heavens," has the words "Earth" and "Heavens" in proper case designating specific reference and location. Choosing the word "within" took some liberty of thought, but it anticipates what the revelators envisioned in formulating a meaning, that the future of Earth will evolve into a status of light and life. As such, Urantia would embody a state of "heaven on earth," and in essence be a member of the Heavens in the eternal future of the grand universe.

A vintage dictionary is also invaluable for referencing changes in language. Even now, 84 years after the Papers were indicted, the English language is altering the meanings of certain words. For example, the word "universe," which still includes the definition of "a galaxy or group of galaxies" as relevant to the Urantia Papers, is now different from the common definition used today that represents the millions of

galaxies in their entirety, thanks in part to advances in astronomy.

Realizing the importance of a dictionary from the same period as the Urantia Papers, and knowing of the new library at the Foundation, I thought to donate one to their collection. After reviewing various options, I decided that *Webster's New International Dictionary: Second Edition* was the ideal choice, having been first published in 1934, just one year prior to when the Urantia Papers were indicted.

But where would this oversized dictionary reside? I decided it needed a suitable stand as well, so I had one made by a craftsman in Oregon. The next time you visit Urantia Foundation, I hope you will enjoy perusing this dictionary and perhaps even think of me.

Given the evolution of language and the progress of our planet, it is inevitable that a unification of languages will occur. In Paper 55, discussing the golden ages of light and life, it states.

During this age of light and life the world increasingly prospers under the fatherly rule of the Planetary Sovereign. By this time the worlds are progressing under the momentum of one language, one religion, and, on normal spheres, one race. 55:3.1 (624.7)

Although the sun now sets on the British Empire, its legacy of spreading the English language throughout the world remains. Most likely, the English language will become the one language of Urantia, while continuing to be influenced by other languages and cultures. In time, standardization of the English



language will bring about further unification and direction.

In the eras to come, avid students of *The Urantia Book* will reference the English language as it was used during the times of the creation of the Urantia Papers. Eventually, vintage dictionaries, such as the one now in the Foundation's library, will be available online so that definitions of the English language from the twentieth century will be accessible to everyone.

Ultimately the revelation

contained in *The Urantia Book* is not just about the words, but the insights they represent that transform concepts into spiritual meanings and values. Like music, it is not just the notes, but the changes between the notes, that constitute the unforgettable melody.



## DANCING WITH GOD ~ OUR SUPREME CALLING RETREAT

*By Line St-Pierre, associate trustee emeritus, Québec, Canada*

Today many women are feeling the call to make a difference in creative ways. The Dancing with God Retreat this past September—this time entitled “Our Supreme Calling”—was an educational and transformative weekend for a group of 13 women ages 51 to 82 who gathered at Urantia Foundation in Chicago to nourish both the body and soul. The three days of the spiritual retreat circle with the Daughters of God enabled them to open themselves to new possibilities.

At the end of the retreat, the participants spoke of the joy of getting out of their heads and into their hearts and experiencing the support of other women to claim their space and to speak up. They appreciated being able to share their inner lives with God and others in this intimate atmosphere, and to celebrate their unique feminine spiritual experiences.

The women trusted this safe environment to share their

innermost lives without shame, guilt, or judgment. We all were positively touched by the love, comfort, and healing we experienced as a spiritual family. One woman generously offered to set up a web page for us so others would become aware of our work.

Through this retreat ministry, now in their sixth season, the four facilitators, Carolyn Prentice, Doreen Heyne, Katharina Becker, and Line St-Pierre, have consistently created a safe and comfortable milieu in which spirits can lead and souls can be touched. In these gatherings, women share their inner lives with others and experience something beautiful together, a connection which we will carry throughout eternity.

The Daughters of God group would love to offer this retreat to other groups to encourage more women to appreciate their value and to embrace their own calling to ministry. If you would like to host a retreat locally, we would be happy to travel to your retreat site to work with your group. If you plan a date, gather 8 to 10

women, and reserve a venue, we will come to conduct the retreat. We look forward to empowering more women to follow their spiritual longings for sisterhood and outreach.

Please contact Line St-Pierre for more information at

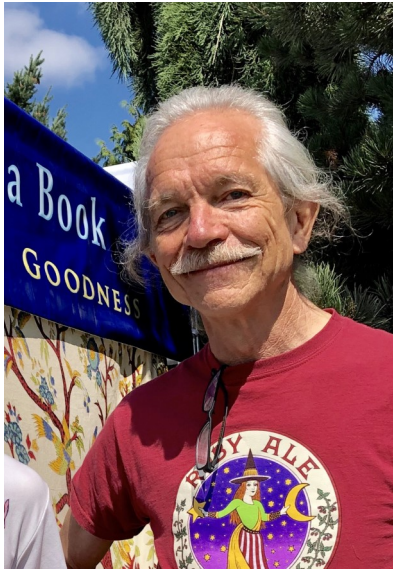
[line.stpierre@gmail.com](mailto:line.stpierre@gmail.com).



*Back:* Mary Fedus, Teresa Mathias, Jane Ploetz, Carrie Prentice, Melinda Watson

*Middle:* Sue Frogg, Peggy Brown, Katharina Becker, Geri Posner  
*Front:* Angela Lippi, Doreen Heyne, Jennifer Martin, Line St-Pierre

# SEATTLE HEMPFEST REPORT



By Thomas Orjala, Idaho, United States

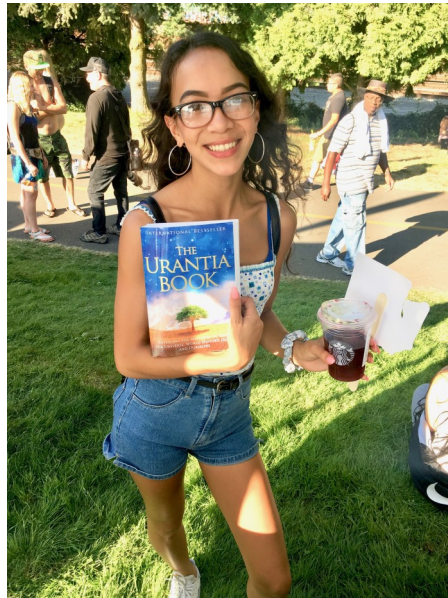
For the fourth year running I attended the Seattle Hempfest with my partner, Aurora Hill, and sister, Janet Orjala. Urantia Foundation donated books to this effort. This festival, which celebrated its 28th year in 2019, took place August 16-18 at Myrtle Edwards Park on the city's waterfront. It is the largest of its kind in the world and draws tens of thousands of attendees.

What stands out about this event is the openness of the young people who stop by the booth. Many are thrilled to hear such a book exists. When I was 20 years old, I discovered *The Urantia Book* while exploring my inner hippie in San Francisco. The combination of being truth hungry and having my mind expand with herbal helpers prepared me to recognize the spiritual value of the book when I first laid eyes on it. It turns out there are still many young people just like me who are seeking answers for how to live a

positive, more spiritual life on this confused planet.

This year we placed 71 books, most going to people under 30. Our goal is to place 500 books in the Seattle area. To date we have placed almost 300 books in the first four years thanks to help from Urantia Foundation, the Fellowship, and private donors. We hope to go back next year.

May Seattle once again become a shining light of Urantia Revelation activities, as it was not so long ago.



# AN ESSAY ON FINDING TRUTH



By Nancy Votrain, Oregon,  
United States

*Editor's Note: Nancy Votrain and her husband, Douglas Parker, are longtime residents of Corvallis, Oregon, and have been students of The Urantia Book for more than 45 years. This article originally appeared in the weekly "Interfaith Focus" column in the Corvallis Gazette-Times. We were so impressed with Nancy's portrayal of the book that we wanted to share it with all of you.*

While religion is a matter of personal experience, we can derive much from becoming familiar with many religious and spiritual paths. All faiths contain truth, and we benefit from studying and assimilating those truths.

As a young child, I began a personal relationship with a loving God that was palpable to me. However, I had many questions and yearned to know more about all things divine. In my early 20s I found *The Urantia Book*, a spiritual guide for navigating life, unified by science, religion, and philosophy, rooted in history, clarified by facts, and illuminated by spiritual wisdom.

Although *The Urantia Book* itself is not a religion, it defines true religion as a matter of personal spiritual experience. Each one of us is personally and intimately in an authentic, experiential relationship with our own individual fragment of the Source of All. But because we are all unique it is inevitable that no two human beings can interpret the leadings of the divine spirit in exactly the same way.

The indwelling divine presence gives origin to our human desire to serve humankind, each a member of one worldwide family. It is this divine gift that creates that unquenchable thirst to be our best selves! This beloved partner is our infallible cosmic

compass, always available to help us make the highest moral decisions. The religion of the spirit, personal spiritual experience, draws us together and causes us to become increasingly more understanding and sympathetic with one another.

It is the experience of traversing the rocky landscape of life that pushes us to actively use our mind and soul to determine the moral choice of the highest possible value. When our mind freely chooses the most ethical resolution, such a decision will become a religious experience.

New religious insights arise out of conflicts. Conflict acts as a stimulus to growth and initiates the possibility for choosing new and better reaction habits. We become courageous when we face something difficult or deal with disappointment. The seeds of empathy germinate and grow when we personally recognize social inequality and make the decision to take a stand. When we find ourselves in predicaments where we know less than we can believe, we learn the value of faith.

There are numerous examples in Corvallis where conflict led to solutions that benefit the good of the whole. For example, the United Church of Christ exemplifies courage, empathy, and faith by taking action and creating a safe camp for those without homes. The West Hills neighborhood, including the residents of Safe Camp, confronted with insecurity and uncertainty, value trust and hope in the systems that are in place to keep everyone safe. The Interfaith Climate Justice Committee represents truth, idealism and loyalty by leading our community to make much-needed changes on behalf of the environment.

We appreciate the value of truth when we experience error and dishonesty. We come to embrace idealism when we experience the irrepressible desire to do better. We learn to cherish the value of loyalty when we experience deception or betrayal.

This article reflects my interpretations of *The Urantia Book* as well as my own personal opinions and spiritual experience.

## Announcements

### Czech Translation Now Available Online

We are excited to announce that a Czech translation of *The Urantia Book* is now available online at <https://www.urantia.org/cs>. We would love to hear feedback on this work. Please help spread the word to any readers you know, encourage them to visit the site, and send any comments to Tamara Strumfeld at [tamara@urantia.org](mailto:tamara@urantia.org). Thank you!



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## Latin American Readers Asked for Support and You Responded!

In August of this year, we asked for readers to support the Latin American reader community by sponsoring booths at book fairs. The response was heartwarming and generous! We are happy to announce that the goal of \$12,000 was met by September 30.

The trustees of Urantia Foundation thank you for helping to support local Latin American communities of Urantia Book readers as they spread the Urantia Revelation.

"Go into all the world proclaiming this gospel to all nations, to every man, woman, and child."  
~ *Jesus, The Urantia Book*, 165:6.3 (1824.6)

## *The Untold Story of Jesus* ~ The newest title from Urantia Press

With 106 paintings from 35 renowned artists, including 42 originally commissioned works, *The Untold Story of Jesus* is an exquisitely rendered biography excerpted from *The Urantia Book*.

A perfect gift for the holidays!

[Click here to purchase on Amazon.com.](https://www.amazon.com)

