

## The Urantia Book Historical Society Overview, 2008

For many years there has been concern about the proper archiving of Urantian historical documents so that they may be preserved for future studies. At least two important collections have been destroyed by fire in recent years. Many important documents have been scattered in unknown locations as parts of private collections. Huge steps toward resolving this problem have been made with the forming of The Urantia Book Historical Society.

The scope of the collection of The Urantia Book Historical Society exclusively covers The Urantia Book's historical legacy and the individual expressions and actions of its readers. A large part of the collection contains documents relating to the formation and development of fraternal groups and non-profit foundations devoted to its teachings.

The Urantia Book Historical Society chose the Special Collections Department of University of California Santa Barbara, Davidson Library, as the repository for the physical archive. The "American Religions Collection" contains over 30,000 books and 2,000 magazines, newsletters, and newspapers in its serial collection. It is the largest collection of its kind in the world. The Special Collections Reading Room makes accessible to the public and scholars valuable, rare, and unique materials which are non-circulating but are available for research during posted hours. The university offers stipends for scholars who wish to study the collection.

The digital library of The Urantia Book Historical Society spans over 100 years and contains over 60,000 pages of data and over 6,000 items covering the History of The Urantia Book movement. Archivists are interested in any items that relate to The Urantia Book. It will be available for public viewing May 1, 2007.

The Urantia Book Historical Society serves readers and organizations wishing to donate historical items and serves as a liaison to the university; recording, documenting, and digitally scanning the items prior to donation.

### **Mission Statement**

It is the purpose of The Urantia Book Historical Society:

To promote and foster an awareness and appreciation of The Urantia Book through its religious heritage, origins, background, development, and general history;

To preserve and protect buildings, sites, and artifacts of value to Urantia Book history;

To gather and maintain archives and libraries and to serve as a collective memory of Urantia Book history;

To encourage and support educational programs on the history of The Urantia Book which may mobilize and empower dynamic spiritual leaders and teachers;

To sponsor and facilitate educational activities about The Urantia Book history such as lecture series, library collections, articles, electronic media, documentaries, museum tours, educational gatherings, and historical celebrations;

To minister to and serve the general public and people of all faith expressions such as historians, researchers, religious clergy, and those, who for reasons both personal and/or spiritual, wish to learn more about Urantia Book history;

To conduct and carry out its mission with the highest level of professional and ethical standards;

To serve and work as an agency of proclamation; we cherish the teachings of The Urantia Book and share its vision of unity among all people of faiths.

Our mission, then, is to insure that this revelation which was delivered to humanity—an open and welcoming message for all humanity—and its history, will remain an inspiration for generations to come.

The Urantia Book Historical Society was incorporated on July 26, 2006 in the State of Florida. The new officers are President, John Callahan, Santa Paula, California; Vice-President, Donald Shea Green, Boulder, Colorado; Secretary/Treasurer, Victoria L J Clark, Tustin, California; and Director of Technology, Larry Watkins, Lakewood, Colorado. Other directors include Scott Forsythe, Forest Park, Illinois; Mark Kulieke, Green Bay, Wisconsin; Barbara Newsom, Glen Ellyn, Illinois; Dr Maggie Pyle, Mobile, Alabama; and Ken Raveill, Independence, Missouri.

For further information or to consider a permanent home for historical materials which might be in your possession, please contact:

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