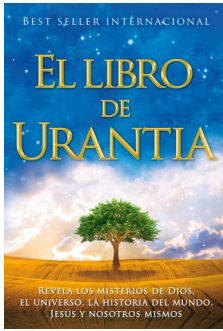




# URANTIA FOUNDATION'S NEWS ONLINE



## THE SPANISH REVISION IS ALMOST FINISHED

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By Mo Siegel, president, Urantia Foundation, Colorado, United States

After nine years in the making, the newly revised Spanish Urantia Book will launch in early 2021. That's why the revision team gathered in Chicago in early September. The team consists of Víctor García-Bory from Mexico, Carmelo Martínez and Olga López from Spain, Anibal Pacheco from Chile, and Raúl Pujol from Puerto Rico. They met to finish up some remaining work and to celebrate the upcoming book.

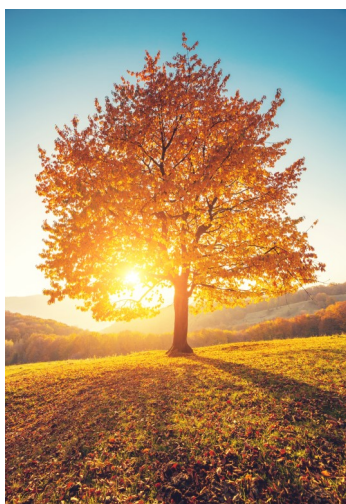
Over time, translations need improving, and the current Spanish books are no exception. This new revision is faithful to the English original, linguistically accurate, and stylistically beautiful. The team

preserved as much as possible of the 1993 Latin American translation, while using the European translation as a reference tool.

Regardless of the life challenges each member faced over such an extended period, everyone remained committed to the project. Sickness, job changes, and family obligations didn't deter this selfless volunteer team. They spent thousands of hours tediously making, word by word, needed improvements. We all feel

deep gratitude for the tremendous accomplishment of seeing this project through!

The final stages of the Spanish revision project remain. Over the next several months, we will be providing you with updates. For now, please join me in thanking our revision team for the amazing gift of love they've created for Spanish-speaking people around the world.



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

# NOTEWORTHY BOARD DECISIONS FROM THE JULY 2019 TRUSTEES MEETING



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

## 1. Urantia Book Internet School

Having recently completed its 20th year, the Urantia Book Internet School (UBIS) has been the longest-lasting school for readers. Registration for the September trimester opened on September 9, and enrollment was robust. Volunteer-led classes in English (6), Spanish (4), French (3), and Portuguese (1) began on Monday, the 23rd. [Click here](#) for more information.

To give you a feel for the curriculum, here are some examples of the classes offered:

1. A Journey to Paradise and an Exploration of the Universe of Universes
2. Ministering Spirits of the Local Universe
3. The Final Hours of the Life of Jesus
4. The Infinite One

5. The Nature and Reality of Religion

6. The Thought Adjuster—Our Passport for Eternity



## 2. Arabic Translation under Revision

The Foundation's Arabic translation of *The Urantia Book* was first completed in the late 1990s. The board voted to proceed with a light revision.

## 3. Partnership with the Pipeline of Light

The Urantia Book Fellowship and Urantia Foundation have agreed to a five-year Latin American book placement program. *El libro de Urantia* will be provided at no cost to the Pipeline of Light.

## 4. Property Tax Update for 533 Diversey

Since the last president's report, we made progress fixing the 300% tax increase



levied on 533 Diversey. We are optimistic that there will be a positive outcome.

## 5. Board Reports

The board reviewed a) a report from the president and the executive director, b) a financial and an investments report from the treasurer, and c) reports from the Book, Education, Fundraising, Outreach, and Translations Committees.

## 6. Community Relations

Urantia Foundation desires goodwill within the readership community. To that end, leaders from Urantia Association International (UAI), the Urantia Book Fellowship, and Urantia University attended Urantia Foundation's July board meeting via Zoom. Invited and presenting were Chris Wood, president of UAI; Lara Amyx, finance chair and Emilio Coppola, treasurer, of

the Fellowship; and Elisabeth Callahan, executive director of UrantiaUniversity.

Each group, including Urantia Foundation, presented their programs and hopes for the future. There was ample time for Q&A by the attendees. As stated in *The Urantia Book*, you can't help but love someone once you understand them. This first exchange was productive and opened the door for future conversations.

## 7. Seminars and Events at 533

The following events will be hosted at 533 Diversey this fall:

- October 11–13: Annual UBIS Administrative Board Meeting
- November 2019: Science Symposium II (live-streamed)

Leaders from Urantia Association International (UAI), the Urantia Book Fellowship, and UrantiaUniversity attended Urantia Foundation's July board meeting via Zoom.

# STUDY GROUPS AND TRANSLATIONS



By Gaétan Charland, associate trustee, Québec, Canada

When I found *The Urantia Book* in 1979, I was shown a French version of the fourth part of the book “La Vie et les Enseignements de Jésus.” At that time, I had no interest in reading the story of the life of Jesus as I had read his story in the Bible; it was the other parts of the book that were of interest to me.

Unbeknownst to me at the time, the French version of *The Urantia Book* was not available due to some problems with the printing. Fortunately, knowing English as a second language, I was able to read the original version.

It took me a year and a half to complete a first reading. In 1987 I attended my first study group, and the host of that group was reading from the English text. It was only in 1999, when I started my own study group, that I became acquainted with the French translation of *The Urantia Book*, as all the other readers in the group were reading it.

It was a bit disconcerting because some of the words in the French did not convey the correct meaning of the English. For example, *la pensée* was used for “the mind.” *Le mental* would have been a better choice. Interestingly, this word—along with many other words and phrases—did not bother the other readers in the

group because they had not read the English.

Fortunately, the French translation has been revised twice since its publication in 1962. Work on the first revision began in 1978 and was completed in 1994. The second revision began in 2012 and was published in 2014.

When the latest revision was published, the members of my study group and I would compare it to the previous French version and to the original English text. I remember one reader who was profoundly attached to his first book, and he waited a few years before switching to the new revision. As the study group host, I never put pressure on him to acquire the newest revision, but through study and comparisons with the original text, he finally made the transition. When asked why, he said the new version made more sense in better understanding the meaning of spiritual, philosophical, and religious concepts.

I realized that the sentimental attachment we have to our first *Urantia Book* might become a hindrance to the desire to expand our cosmic consciousness and enhance our spiritual perception. That goal might be eclipsed by a lack of understanding if the words—such as Thought Adjuster, fusion, and many others—do not carry the exact meaning of the original words. There is always room for improvement regarding our human efforts to translate a book of such immensity and profound teachings and concepts. This handicap in translation, while inevitable, is a key reason for the ongoing revision process.

After getting acquainted with

how translations and revisions are done at Urantia Foundation, I have gained the utmost respect for those loving and tireless workers who devote so much of their time to make *The Urantia Book* available to people of different languages and cultures.

I am astounded by the number of readers and the amount of time in years that was devoted to the latest revision of the Spanish text. In my opinion, the quality process and efforts involved in this revision surpass by far any revision process done to date by Urantia Foundation. No one individual can achieve this quality of work; teamwork is essential in the process of translation and revision.

numerous appellations. Because of this conceptual poverty associated with so much ideational confusion, I have been directed to formulate this introductory statement in explanation of the meanings which should be attached to certain word symbols as they may be hereinafter used in those papers which the Orvonton corps of truth revealers have been authorized to translate into the English language of Urantia. 0:0.1 (1.1)

First, can we just take a moment to appreciate the work of those celestial translators? Now imagine the work involved in translating



The revelators of *The Urantia Book* explain this better than I can, so I take the liberty of sharing with you this passage from the Foreword:

IN THE MINDS of the mortals of Urantia—that being the name of your world—there exists great confusion respecting the meaning of such terms as God, divinity, and deity. Human beings are still more confused and uncertain about the relationships of the divine personalities designated by these

the English text into another language, the difficulty of finding the right words, of expressing the right meaning for a difficult spiritual concept, the long hours spent revising, consulting with others, and praying for enlightenment when in doubt.

Let us be thankful to, and appreciative of, those loving souls who have dedicated so much of their time to make the revelation accessible to us in the language that we speak. Let our reading be guided by the Spirit of Truth and the love of the Father.

# THE SECOND UAI EUROPEAN CONFERENCE IN TALLINN

By Sebastian Nozzi, UAI European Continental Coordinator, Germany; Karmo Kalda, conference chair, Estonia; and Peep Sõber, translator, Estonia

*Editor's Note: The second European Urantia Conference (not counting the global international conference held in Amsterdam in 2018) took place July 11–14, at the Tallink City Hotel in Tallinn, Estonia. It was co-sponsored by Urantia Association International (UAI), Urantia Foundation, and Truthbook, and was hosted by the Estonian Urantia Association. In this article, three readers closely associated with the conference share their thoughts on what made the conference a success.*



## Perspectives on the Tallinn Conference from Sebastian Nozzi

This past July the second European conference organized by UAI took place in Tallinn, Estonia. It welcomed 87 readers coming from 15 different countries. The talks and group activities were translated into five different languages—Estonian, Finnish, French, Lithuanian, and Spanish.



Tallinn, Estonia

The conference was a huge success and received positive feedback from participants and speakers alike. It marks an important milestone in the history of European events.

**Sparks Ignited:** The first European conference sponsored by UAI was in 2016 in Hungary, Budapest. It was successful and attracted visitors from other parts of the world, in particular North America. Indeed, it felt like an international conference. It served to infuse us Europeans with energy and embolden us to start holding regular European conferences in the future.

At the end of 2017 many European leaders got together to make plans for the next European conference. Many cities were proposed, but most of them lacked a local organization with the potential to carry the idea to fruition. I was present when Karmo Kalda, representing the Estonian Association, boldly stepped forward and stated, “We can host the next European conference.” This made such an impression on

me that I cast my vote for the project.

**Made in Europe:** The Tallinn conference was the collaboration between people from different associations. Jaap Terra, the main organizer of the 2018 Amsterdam conference, offered his help and expertise to Karmo. The Dutch acted as coaches and helped set up the groundwork to get things started.

Equally positive was the natural collaboration between the Estonian and the Finnish associations. Risto Mäntynen, the president of the Finnish Association, participated in key aspects such as website and logo design, program, choice of speakers, and more. The Finns also took responsibility in organizing the post-conference.

Our Urantia Young Adults International committee chair, Anna Zeven, who is Dutch, organized the pre-conference. I did not attend it, but when I met the group who did, many reported about life-changing events and moments.

And finally, the UAI's conference chair, Antonio Schefer, made sure that the process went smoothly, guiding the organization and taking care of many other aspects surrounding the conference.

For the most part, this event was “made in Europe.” But in all fairness it should be said that it would not have been possible, and only half as fun, without the support of our co-sponsoring international organizations (such as UAI and Urantia Foundation) and without the help, support, participation, and presence of our international brothers as sisters.

**The Tallinn Effect:** The conference's theme was “Sowing Seeds.” The theme is generic enough that many different perspectives can be presented upon it (as was indeed the case when looking at the program). Also, it is something that the movement in Europe desperately needs in order to grow. It is certainly thought-provoking: how to sow seeds in Europe?

The conference in Tallinn was a good example of “sowing seeds.” It goes to show that a small but dedicated team can sow seeds and turn an idea into a real event. With time, patience, dedication, planning, and execution, things that start as an idea (the seed) can grow into a vision which finally materializes into reality.

But impressive as the work done by the Estonian team was, it was *not* what I call the “Tallinn effect.” Many wonderful things transpired during this conference and afterwards. The stories are many, and each of them as unique as the people involved in them. Old friends were reunited, new friendships were formed, people were inspired, and new energy and enthusiasm were given to us to start new projects or resurrect abandoned ones. To keep the fire in our hearts alive and do something positive with it—this is what I call the “Tallinn effect.”

**Conclusion:** The Tallinn conference marked another important milestone in the history of the Urantia movement in Europe. This level of success and cooperation shows that, despite our challenges, we are moving in the right direction towards a more dynamic, integrated, and synergetic Urantia movement in Europe.

My gratitude goes out to all who served in making this possible.



### Thoughts on Principles of Conference Planning from Karmo Kalda

People who have organized events such as our conference usually say that they require a lot of work and problem solving. Yes, there were problems and difficulties, but not at the concept stage. After the 2017 meeting in Sitges, Catalonia, Antonio Schefer asked me to prepare an overview of our vision for the conference, and I had in my mind a full picture of what it should be. When I introduced it to other Estonian readers, they didn't have anything to add. I do not think that I came up with the concept on my own. Someone—perhaps the angels—must have put it into my head.

**Attitude:** I believe that everything starts with your attitude. A duty that you have undertaken should be seen not so much as a duty but as an opportunity to do something better in this world, and that is the attitude you should bring to the project. When we had our first conference meeting with the Estonian organizing team, I emphasized that the people who will come to Tallinn are not just attendees of the conference, but our brothers and sisters who must feel that they are in good

hands. We should see ourselves as a mother hen gathering her chicks under her wing.

**Cultural Aspects:** Whenever I speak with someone who has attended a conference, they usually don't remember the topics of the presentations, but they do remember the people, the emotions, and the joy. Also, we don't always have time to arrive early or stay late and become acquainted with the city or country we are visiting. So, we offered opportunities during the conference for sightseeing and spending time getting to know one another.

**Finances:** Simply put, the budget must always be either in balance or with a surplus.

**Gratitude:** Thank you, Antonio, for trusting us! Thank you to all of the presenters! Thank you, attendees! And thank you to all who supported us in so many ways!



### Reflections on Sowing Seeds from Peep Söber

In the early 1970s, some unknown Finnish readers gifted a book to the leader of a spiritualist group of which I was a member. Bringing that kind of book—a religious one—across the Soviet border into Tallinn could have been criminal. But the Finns were lucky because the border guards didn't notice the book. These readers didn't know our leader but had somehow obtained his home address,

and they planted a seed in the right soil.

People here at that time were spiritually more hungry than they are now, living in a free country. Nevertheless, after we had translated the whole book in order to read it, I was the only one who appreciated its great value. But sometimes even one man in the right time and place is enough to begin the process of growth into the next stage. During the preparations for this conference I was amazed at how a little seed planted about 50 years ago could mobilize people today to come here from so many countries to attend a conference.

There are few readers here, and our local association is small compared to others. So we wanted our concept for this conference to be practical: qualitative inner growth and quantitative outer growth. We wanted to hear how our brothers and sisters have achieved what they have and to share with everyone what we have done.

Can we grow from the present stage in both ways? Yes. But one thing is obvious: new quality can arise from our inner world, and to accelerate this process we need relationships—with God through the inner spirit (the vertical direction) and with other readers (the horizontal direction). Therefore, conferences are a basic need.

Once in Chicago at an international conference I remarked to my roommate from Germany how odd it was that European readers could meet together only in America. Now this has changed, and we are hopeful that the practice of holding European conferences will continue.

For many European readers it was their first time at a conference, and I can only imagine how inspiring they found it.



Antonio Schefer, Georges Michelson-Dupont, Tamara Strumfeld

# PHOTOS FROM THE CONFERENCE IN ESTONIA



Marcel Peereboom



Michael Maclsaac



Agnès Lazar



Olga López



Tamila Ragimova, Danielle La Scala-Martinet

## REMEMBERING MARK BLOOMFIELD



*By Kathleen Swadling, Sydney, Australia*

Mark Bloomfield was a former field representative of Urantia Foundation. He volunteered from the late 1990s to the early 2000s. He was highly successful in placing Urantia Books in public libraries, seminaries, colleges, universities, and other places of learning all over the world. He personally hand-seeded around 9,000 Urantia Books!

He was particularly inspired to seed the revelation in developing countries where he had lived and worked for many years as a humanitarian missionary. He worked with Mother Teresa in India for some years before devoting himself to seeding Urantia Books. Having experienced firsthand the heart-wrenching and atrocious plight of women and children, he decided to devote his life to treating the cause of the world's problems rather than the symptoms. He was truly driven to get the Urantia Revelation seeded into the hands of educated people who lived among the innocent millions who were caught up in the cycle of ignorance and poverty.

During much of that time I served as Urantia Foundation's Representative Manager, where I had the pleasure of assisting with the coordination of Mark's many seeding projects out in the field. I attended three bookfairs in

India when Mark was living there. He took care of all the arrangements for the booth including the importing and delivery of the books. He also acted as a chaperone and educator of Indian culture for us western visitors who were not familiar with the complexities of life in India. Mark's ability to engage with interested people who visited our booth was impressive to say the least. He was eloquent, gracious, and able to adapt the Urantia Book teachings to literally hundreds of people hailing from the many different faiths practiced in India.

Mark was truly selfless and amazingly courageous in the manner in which he undertook this amazing work of seeding thousands of books. He could live on a shoestring and stay in incredibly substandard accommodations that many of us in the west would never dream of staying in. He left a significant trail of revelation behind in India, Latin America, Africa, Europe, Asia, and the United States. The stories he wrote in his regular reports of his journey, as he traveled from city to city and country to country placing books, make for fascinating reading. You can view summaries of some of his stories on the Foundation's website at: <https://www.urantia.org/search/node/mark%20bloomfield>



Mark has been called the "Johnny Appleseed" and the "Indiana Jones" of the Urantia movement, but he liked to call himself the "chore boy," saying his favorite historical role-model was the young lad John Mark who spent a whole day in the hills alone with Jesus. At the end of one of his field reports, Mark wrote:

And all this goes a long way to explain why this particular fieldworker has been doing what he's been doing these years, for the chore boy of Jesus'

day [John Mark] has long been the nearest he has ever had to a role model.

Mark died recently after a tragic incident in Swansea, Wales. He was just 54 years old. Our heartfelt sympathy and prayers go to Mark's family and to all those who knew him. May his resurrection on the Mansion Worlds be joyous and compensate for the tragic manner of his premature departure from this world. Farewell Mark, until we meet again.



Mark organizing eye camps in Calcutta, India.

# Announcements

## SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM 2019—RESPONDING TO THE BIGGEST QUESTIONS IN SCIENCE

The June 2018 issue of *Scientific American* included a special report entitled "The Biggest Questions in Science," which was also published concurrently in *Nature*. What a fortunate coincidence that the editors of the two leading English-language scientific journals published a list of the most pressing questions facing the scientific community in time to be incorporated into the program for Urantia Foundation's upcoming Science Symposium 2019.

This list of questions includes: What is spacetime? What is dark matter? How did life begin? What are the limits of manipulating nature? How much can we know? What is consciousness?

Urantia Foundation is hosting its second Science Symposium at 533 Diversey over the first weekend in November. Presentations and discussions will be addressing many of these questions in relationship with Urantia Book concepts.

All presentations and discussions will be live-streamed to the public. The broadcasts will also be recorded for future viewing.

Watch for an email in late October containing a link to the program.

### SCHEDULE OF PRESENTATIONS

#### Friday, November 1

- 9:00 AM Marjorie Ray: Water: Truth, Beauty, and Goodness
- 11:00 AM Ralph Zehr: The Origin of Life, Another Step Forward
- 2:00 PM Bruce Johnson: The Renaissance of Consciousness
- 4:00 PM Neal Kendall: Is Free Will an Illusion?
- 7:30 PM David Neuffer: Master Universe Model: A 3-D View

#### Saturday, November 2

- 9:00 AM Nigel Nunn: Ancient Orvonton and a Young Cosmic Web
- 11:00 AM Phil Calabrese: Paradise and the New Cosmology of *The Urantia Book*
- 2:00 PM Joshua Wilson: Linear Gravity: The Dance of Space Force and Matter
- 4:00 PM Tom Allen: The Intergalactic Wanderer—A Hypothesis on the Location of Uversa
- 7:30 PM Panel Discussion: The Present Ideological Struggle: How Can It Be Successfully Resolved? (Based on Paper 195, sections 6, 7, 8)

#### Sunday, November 3

- 9:00 AM Gard Jameson: Ontogeny Recapitulates Phylogeny, or Something Like It!
- 11:00 AM George Park: The Law of Absolute Gravity

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[www.urantia.org](http://www.urantia.org)

## JAPANESE TRANSLATION NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

We are excited to announce that a Japanese translation of *The Urantia Book* is now available online at [urantia.org/ja](http://urantia.org/ja). 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!

## NEW ONLINE SEARCH ENGINES FOR *THE URANTIA BOOK*

The new search engine for *The Urantia Book* is now up and running on the [Spanish](#), [Portuguese](#), and [French](#) websites. You can customize your search results based on the order of appearance in the book, or by relevance. You may also select “any search words” or “exact match”—no need for Boolean instructions anymore. For more helpful hints just click the icon to the right of the search box. We hope this new engine helps you with your study of the book!

Please spend time using the search engines and tell us what you think. If you find any errors, please let us know so that we can fix them. You can email Ashley at [ashleyt@urantia.org](mailto:ashleyt@urantia.org).

## POLISH TRANSLATION UPDATE

The Polish translation of *The Urantia Book*, currently in its third printing, contains many corrections in the text. We are pleased to announce that this version is now available online for reading and downloading. Please [click here](#).

## FIRST URANTIA BOOK CONFERENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Readers of *The Urantia Book* in the Philippines will be having their first national conference from November 22 to 24, 2019. The conference theme is, “Introducing the Fifth Epochal Revelation,” and will include topics such as the history of the book, God’s plan, life after death, and Jesus and his teachings.

The conference will be held at the Gems Hotel and Conference Center on Circumferential Road, Barangay Dalig, Antipolo City.

For more information, please contact Nestor Seda, [nestorseda2@gmail.com](mailto:nestorseda2@gmail.com); Calvin Penaco, [cpenaco2000@yahoo.com](mailto:cpenaco2000@yahoo.com); or Eugene Asidao, [elaugene@gmail.com](mailto:elaugene@gmail.com).