

Gerdean: (Laughing) I was able to tell lawyers what to do instead of them telling me what to do, which I loved! But that was not the only reason. Judge Allen was a truly great man. Everybody respected him. He was voted the top jurist in the District for ten years running. It was an honor to work for such a man. I was compelled to excel. And he gave me *carte blanche* authority over my desk. He trusted my work without hanging over my shoulder to check up on me. His faith in me encouraged me to be more than I might have been otherwise.

It was a position of authority and prestige. I managed the Judge's calendar, scheduled his trials and hearings. Plus it was a service position -- to serve the Judge, the Division, and the State of New Mexico -- and as an arm of the Court, I also served the press, the litigants, and the jurors. It was a very exciting and rewarding career.

With my interests in spiritual sociology and civilization, what I was able to gain behind the scenes, in terms of victims, perpetrators, frauds, dysfunction, etc., gave me more insight into the human condition than I could have gotten from college studies.

ALL: Why did you leave?

Gerdean: For the last five years I was with the Judge, he was the Grand Jury Judge and Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division, which put us knee deep into the criminal element. When my own home was broken into, I began to think there were no decent people left in the world. I started to become cynical and feel hopeless. I was lonely, drinking too much, and working too hard. I had to make some changes, somehow. In 1991 I got involved in both AA and the Teaching Mission. "Welcome to Change!" Two years later I found a Judicial Secretary to replace me and I bailed out.

ALL: What did you do? Where did you go? How did you live?

Gerdean: I sold my house and moved to Pocatello where I worked as a UCC Church secretary. After two years I moved back east and opened "Serendipity!" a used book store, which I operated for the four years I was there. As much as I loved working for the Judge, I loved working for myself even more. After I met Angus, we returned to the Great Southwest, and I returned to the legal field, from which I retired in 2006.

ALL: One of the questions I like to ask is "What was your religious background?"

Gerdean: I really didn't have any. I was not raised with religious convictions. My mom became a Jehovah's Witnesses and took a perverse delight in disassociating herself from Christianity. Through their ministry school, I learned scripture and went proselytizing from door-to-door, but I never could relate to Jehovah. God was off in heaven somewhere and Jesus never visited our house. I don't remember our family ever saying prayers.

I might not have had any sense of religiosity at all but for the hymns my Grandmother sang as we walked to and from the mailbox, half a mile away. My personal religion was wrapped up in my invisible friends "Shoe and Sock" from the time I was four or five years old. It was very easy then for me to embrace the Teacher Corps because I was already quite impressed by invisible helpers.

ALL: What about the UB?

Gerdean: Well, when I left the Witnesses, at 14, I searched for ten years for something to believe in. When I was 24, the UB found me in a village on the North Shore of Oahu, Hawaii. An old hippie friend introduced me

to the book and to my neighbor, Alan Smith, whom I eventually married.

ALL: Are you married now? Any kids?

Gerdean: I *am* married to a wonderful man. Many of you know Angus. He is a prince. We are very compatible and have made “intelligent wedlock” an actuality.



In fact, Angus is on the ALL Council. He was interviewed by ALL a couple of months ago, and his UB story is in HIFTUB.

The UB and celestial correspondence have been things I have enjoyed in both of my marriages, but Angus is much easier to get along with than Alan was. No kids.

ALL: I can see where telling your life story could get extensive, and I would love to hear more, but ALL is an organization that likes to shine the light on service work, so let's focus on that.

Gerdean: Okay, but you know, this is a bit awkward. Being interviewed by a service-oriented organization could be seen to be a very self-serving endeavor. It does not seem very humble to sit around and say, “Oh, I've done this and I've done that, and I plan to whatever.”

ALL: Humor me.

Gerdean: Very well. Let's see. On my wall I have a plaque from the Second Judicial District Court of the State of New Mexico, an Award of Appreciation “In sincere and grateful appreciation of the exceptionally dedicated effort, invaluable service, and unstinted devotion to the betterment of the Judiciary.”

I have a certificate that was issued to me and Angus “For Outstanding Achievements in Brotherly Love in Action to family, friends, and strangers.” It was presented to us by the Brotherly Love in Action Committee, signed by Gerry Baker and Sue Allbritton. We all should have such a plaque.

ALL: Funny how we put such stock in what we can put our hands on, even though service is said to be done when the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing.

Gerdean: It's easier to say “I got a plaque” than to enumerate the things we did to be of service, as if we are gaining points somehow by serving others. The truth is, usually when we serve others we are also serving ourselves. It feels good to do good to others. Whether they know we are doing it or not, we know it, so there is a payback; there is a reward for being of service.

ALL: Let's move on to those service areas where you don't have a plaque on the wall or a product to show for it. What about those areas? You helped create ALL, didn't you?

Gerdean: I helped pull the Constitution together, yes. It took about six months. At the 2003 Stella Niagara Team Conference the idea was planted to create an umbrella organization that would support the personal service projects of those who had been inspired by the Urantia Book and/or the

Teaching Mission -- to write books, make music, create organizations or websites to further the cause of truth, beauty and goodness – and it grew from there.

The Constitutional Committee, led by Bobby Devine, included Allene Vick, Eugenia Bryan, Judy Langston, and myself. Except for a couple of loopholes that were left open on purpose to permit expansion, it was a tight knit document that enabled us to launch on January 1, 2004.

The terms of service were staggered so that, in time, everybody would serve three year terms. I volunteered for partial term of two years, and after that I stepped down for somebody else to have a turn.

I served then as a Liaison between the Council and the Membership and also produced a few issues of the newsletter. Now I'm back doing the newsletter again. There's a lot that could be done with this publication. We haven't begun to scratch the surface of its potential.

ALL: We'll take that up in another column, maybe another issue. But tell us about "The Zooid Mission." How did you intend to serve through the writing of that book? Or was that simply to get rich and famous?

Gerdean: I intended to encourage the idea of creating a new government, new politics if you will, a new civilization inspired by the UB, most notably Paper 72, Government on a Neighboring Planet. Figuratively speaking, it's probably the biggest plaque on my wall - - the most overt and concrete representation of what I consider to be my real service to Urantia. I consider it a tribute to teamwork, to community effort.

ALL: I'd like to read the sequel.

Gerdean: I would, too! But it might never get written. TZM was a huge undertaking, a monumental accomplishment. Most folks have no clue what goes into writing a book. It's not as easy as we might like to think. I have since enjoyed helping other aspiring young writers get their books published. I am skilled at editing, so I like to use that skill to help others – at a ridiculously low rate, and often for free.

I have edited a couple of Jim Cleveland's books; a couple of George Barnard's books; Mary Livingston's book, UB Basics; a selection of Teacher Welmek's T/R'd "Lessons on Prayer" for Donna D'Ingillo's book; and JOYce Mary Brenton's daily meditation book, "The Mind of Christ – Yesterday, Today and Forever" – which is planning another printing, by the way!

I put together a presentation of Jim Young's poetry on Theresa Logan's beautiful floral pictures, entitled "Unshadowland." Angus and I edited Teacher Tomas's lessons on "Fruits of the Spirit" that the Harp of God published. We were founding members of Harp. Recently I supplied the material for the Teaching Mission page of Harp's new website at www.harpofgod.org.

I facilitated two TeaM retreats here in New Mexico at the Canossian Spirituality Center. I produce the ALL Newsletter monthly. I do Light Line every so often. I've served on the board of www.lightandlife.com and am helping Jim edit the new TeaM book he is producing. I have accommodated Ron Besser's www.tmarchives.com as well as Rob Davis' efforts at www.daynal.com. I keep busy.

ALL: Here's an outside question for you. Where did you learn to do a newsletter?

Gerdean: Hmm. It seems like I have been doing newsletters since I was a kid. When I worked for Dodi's Department Store in Honolulu, I was in charge of their twice weekly, full page, newspaper ads for major appliances, and that got me started on "cut and paste" with attention to detail. At the Courthouse, I was asked to be the Editor of the Courthouse Gazette, which was devised to stir up communications between the various Divisions. I consider newsletters to be artsy-craftsy, rather like scrapbooking.

ALL: What are you working on now?

Gerdean: Right now I am working on a book about the Seven Chakra Vortices and the Seven Adjutant Mind-Spirits, hoping to enter it in the New Mexico 2010 Book Awards. It sets forth the theory that the Chakras and the Adjutants are one in the same thing. It compares and integrates the two energy circuit systems. In any case, the work will hopefully serve to introduce New Age people to the Urantia Books' teachings.

ALL: Tell us about your service as a T/R. Is that not your most obvious service?

Gerdean: I really don't understand what T/Ring is, so I am not sure if it is a service or a disservice. The jury is still out on that.

ALL: That is an astonishing thing to say, particularly in view of the fact that there are many people who laud your work. You have produced a huge body of transcripts!

Gerdean: The UB says "Life is not real to one who cannot do some one thing well, expertly." And I think T/R'ing is the one thing I have done well, but I have never considered it to be "mine" – not like my writing, or my painting. So while I derived great pleasure from it, the persecutions from debunkers and the stewardship issues were

unbelievably difficult for me. Of course, I still care what the transcripts look like and how they read, but the less attention I pay to how they are used when they leave my desk, the better off we all are. I can't afford to take them personally.

In the final analysis, I suspect I will have served in ways I was totally unaware of, and what I thought was my best service, was in fact trivia. The first shall be last and the last shall be first. We can't judge. We can only act; the consequences are God's.

ALL: I forgot to ask you about your art.

Gerdean: I enjoy painting. I started doing oil paintings in 1983, so I have been at it 27 years now. Of course, you get better as you practice, and I don't paint as much as I used to, but I'm still doing okay. You can see my work at Miss O'Dell's Studio, which is the last page on the <http://www.odellbowen.com> site. Or just Google: Miss O'Dell's Studio. It'll take you right to it. It isn't current, and it isn't complete, but it gives you an idea.

ALL: Now is a good time to ask you: What have I neglected to ask you about that you would like to tell me?

Gerdean: I think my greatest service is not in what I do but in who I am, and withal, to reveal myself as openly as possible, to be as transparent and as vulnerable as I dare. By baring my soul as I do, and by exposing my feelings -- my human failings and my flaws -- I do subject myself to derision and disrespect, but I also reveal myself as a woman without guile. I accept myself and I love myself, even with my imperfections, which means that I can also love other people "warts and all."

We are not saints; we are human, and we are only human once, so I am not going to

waste my life trying to be somebody I'm not. Or trying to master things that I simply cannot grasp, like creating a website.

ALL: Well, I know what you mean about computers. I'm not very good with technology either.

Alas, our time has come to an end, Gerdean. I want to thank you for taking the time to sit and chat with us. And best wishes on all your efforts and undertakings.

Gerdean: Thank you for having me. It's been my pleasure.

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N E W S FROM OUR ASSOCIATES

UBtheNEWS: It seems there is newly found information on the Shroud of Turin, and Halbert is eager to tell us all about it. http://www.ubthenews.com/Education_for_Outreach.htm



From the Foundation: The Expanded Board of Urantia Foundation sends their very best and advises that the March 2010 issue of "*Urantia Foundation's News Online*" is available at http://www.urantia.org/sites/default/files/docs/Urantia_Foundation_2010_March_Newsletter.pdf or simply click on March 2010 at <http://www.urantia.org/en/urantia-foundation/newsletter-archives> and click on You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader (or another pdf capable reader) to open the file.

UB FELLOWSHIP invites you to the Summer Study Session at Techny Towers

Conference Center in Chicago, July 22-25: The theme is: "God Consciousness & Cosmic Morality: Living the Gospel." For more information about the conference, go to: www.urantia-education.org

IC-11 coming to SLC

July 27-31, 2011

The Revelation in Action

Act Globally, Grow Cosmically

The IC 11 conference team is working on a dynamic, motivated, educational and loving conference for you. Costs have been lowered from IC-09 in Los Angeles. Mark your calendar. Watch for details.

Urantia University News

The Urantia University Teachers Conference was held on February 12th-15, and enjoyed by an enthusiastic crowd. The UU's goal is to provide an online, quality educational opportunity for the UB community. Visit UU at <http://uu.interactyx.com/login.aspx>. Click the image to register or sign in.

International UB Conference

Theme: Local Universe Mother Spirit
Location: Aquarium Mazatlan - Auditorium
Dates: May 7th -9th, 2010
<http://urantiaconferencemazatlan.seabornstrings.com/contactus.php>

Hot Off The Press

JJ Johnson's paperback book – "Up Close and Personal with The Urantia Book - Expanded Edition" is now available at http://www.amazon.com/Up-Close-Personal-Urantia-Book/dp/0979592623/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1267460719&sr=1-2 JJ warmly invites you to check out the reviews and peruse the book on site to discern if it is something you and your study group would like to have as a reference and study aid.

SPEAKING OF THE PRESS

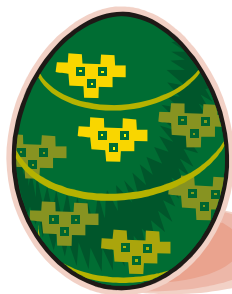
- “The Teaching Mission” continues to take shape under the guidance of Jim Cleveland, Editor in Chief.
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- Gerdean’s “Chakra/Adjutant” book is boiling over on the front burner.
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- JOYce Mary Brenton is ready to do a second printing of her **SOLD OUT** daily meditation book, “The Mind of Christ – Yesterday, Today and Forever” -- Way to go, JOYce!

Donna D’Ingillo’s Ministry is *on the air*. Check out the details at <http://www.ctrforchristcon.org/radio.asp>

Light Line: Thursday Evenings
6:00 PST; 7:00 MST; CST 8:00; EST 9:00.
Conference Dial-in Number: 712-432-0175
Participant Access Code: 547603#



<http://www.theartistsloft.com/news310.html>



Updates from the Council

The Council met on May 22, with ALL Council members in attendance: Angus Bowen, Eugenia Bryan, Rick Giles, Marty Greenhut, Judy Langston, Dolores Nice and Jael Regis.

Website Development: Jena Pittmon is working with Russ on this. If there are any inspirational suggestions or ideas for the ALL site, please post them to the members list so Russ can discuss them with Jena.

Membership: Spring equinox is the time to renew one’s membership.

Florida Conference: The program is developing and word is getting around about the ALL conference coming in May. Notice was in the Fellowship newsletter, on TML, and on Facebook. Here it is again:

The Association of Light and Life invites you to a **Spring Retreat** in Ellenton, Florida, at the Day Spring Conference Center near Tampa.
<http://www.dayspringfla.org/>

Dates: May 21-23, 2010

Theme: “Wholeness Through Healing”
"I would desire to see my children made whole."(p.1633)

The retreat will include presentations by Judy Langston, Donna D’Ingillo, Rabia Harris, Dolores Nice, and possibly Jo Ann Wiedman, as well as quiet reflection time, small group sharing, fellowship, music, and end with a Remembrance Supper /Worship Service on Sunday morning.

Cost: \$200 for a shared room (this includes all meals, Friday dinner thru Sunday lunch)

Space is limited and will be made on a first come, first serve basis. For your reservation Please send in your \$50 deposit made out to Association of Light and Life before April 15th to ALL Treasurer, Rick Giles
2582 E. Hudlow Rd., Hayden, Idaho, 83835

Facilitator - Dolores Nice <dlnice@att.net>

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Happy Easter to ALL!

When Jesus had thus established the supper of the remembrance, he said to the twelve: "And as often as you do this, do it in remembrance of me.

And when you do remember me, first look back upon my life in the flesh, recall that I was once with you, and then, by faith, discern that you shall all sometime sup with me in the Father's eternal kingdom. This is the new Passover which I leave with you, even the memory of my bestowal life, the word of eternal truth; and of my love for you, and the outpouring of my Spirit of Truth upon all flesh."

[The Urantia Book 179.5.9]



First ...

there were the Bibliophiles,
and then came the Typophiles!

<http://www.typophiles.org/>

Words to Live By

"Man should be proud of his great achievements and he should be tremendously thankful to God who provides the wherewithal and the ability for man to achieve such. Within your own souls, have you kept your part of the bargain? To those who give, much will be given and to those who take, all will be taken away. There is much truth in old sayings on Urantia, for the problems which beset Biblical times beset you now. You will learn as a body united, to come together to solve the great condition of life. This is also the way it is designed and good luck on your journey." -- Monjoronson

AND to ALL our FRIENDS

Have you heard of Battlestar Urantia?

<http://trekbbs.com/showthread.php?t=11360>



How about Urantia Galactica? This is cool. It looks like something our Gal Fed fans would like to check out at <http://startrek-urantia.blogspot.com/search?updated-min=2008-01-01T00:00:00-08:00&updated-max=2009-01-01T00:00:00-08:00&max-results=1>

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More Good Words

No matter what you pursue in life, you can still express your own unique artistic vision. And that is the most important thing to do.

It doesn't matter what those around you think or say about your art, what matters is to just go through the process of creating.

It's only within that process that you can understand. – Viggo Mortensen

Parting Shot

Next month's issue will feature the service projects of ALL. Ask not what ALL can do for you! Ask what you can do for ALL! Editor Gerdean O'Dell will be contacting you for input on how various members have benefitted from this Association, and what we can look forward to in the future.

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