

# ***THE MESSENGER***

Official Organ of the Swedenborgian Church

MAY 1971



Swedenborgian Church in Urbana, Ohio,  
at Main Street, and Street to Urbana College

## REPRESENTATION AT CONVENTION

Associations, Etc.	ORDAINED MINISTERS	MEMBERS	DELEGATES
California	7	278	11
Canada	1	194	8
Connecticut	0	10	2
Illinois*			
Kansas	2	224	9
Maine*			
Massachusetts	9	575	21
Michigan*			
Mid-Atlantic	3	368	14
New York*			
Ohio*			
Western Canada Conference*			
Southeast*			
Gulfport, Miss. Society	0	27	2

\*Not reporting for this year.

No totals are possible.

*Ethel V. Rice*  
Recording Secretary

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Whole Number 4942

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The Treasurer, Swedenborgian Church

Chester T. Cook, Box 215, Deer Isle, Maine 04627

**Officers of Convention:** Rev. Ernest O. Martin, President, 48 Sargent St., Box 66, Newton, Mass. 02158; Stewart E. Poole, Vice-President, 2024 DuPont Building, Wilmington, Del. 19898; Chester T. Cook, Treasurer, Pressey Village Road, P. O. Box 215, Deer Isle, Maine; Mrs. Ethel Rice, Recording Secretary, 31 Poole St., Brockton, Mass. 02401.

**Department of Publication:** Rev. Richard H. Tafel, Sr., Chairman, Dr. Robert H. Kirven, Miss Cecile Werben, Rev. Paul Zacharias, Mrs. Jan Seibert, Mrs. Leonore Spiers, Mrs. Corinne Tafel, Rafael Guiu, Ernest Martin, Tomas Spiers.

**Robert H. Kirven, Editor**

Mrs. Perry Martin, Editorial Assistant

Miss Margaret Kirven, Lay-out Assistant

**Address all editorial correspondence and manuscripts to the Editor, *The Messenger*, P. O. Box E, Newton, Mass. 02158.** The opinions of contributors do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or the Department of Publication, or represent the position of the church.

## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### NOMINATIONS

Your Nominating Committee presents the following slate in which it has endeavored to introduce new faces, young faces, persons from geographical locations not presently represented, maintain continuity where essential and have nominees not only qualified but also interested in serving:

**PRESIDENT:** Ernest O. Martin

**VICE-PRESIDENT:** Adolph T. Liebert

**SECRETARY:** Mrs. Ethel Rice

**TREASURER:** Chester T. Cook

#### GENERAL COUNCIL

(One minister, two laymen—Four year term)  
(One layman to fill unexpired term of John M. Smailier, deceased—Two year term 1973)

**MINISTER:** Rev. Harvey A. Tafel

**LAYMAN:** Roger D. Paulson

**LAYMAN:** Carl Heck

**UNEX. TM.** Ernest Ekberg

#### DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

(Board of Education)

One person—Three year term: Mrs. Perry Martin

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICATION

One person—Four year term: Edward Bohlander

#### BOARD OF HOME & FOREIGN MISSIONS

(Two ministers, two laymen)

(Two year term)

**MINISTER:** Rev. Dr. George Dole

**MINISTER:** Rev. Galen Unruh

**LAYMAN:** Miss Margaret Sampson

**LAYMAN:** Robert W. Tafel

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF PENSION FUND

(One minister, one woman NOT  
a minister's wife or widow,  
one layman. Four year term.)

**MINISTER:** Rev. Galen Unruh

**LAYMAN:** Capt. August Ebel

**WOMAN:** Mrs. Doris Tafel

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

(One to be elected—5 year term. Ineligible:  
Middle Atlantic, New York, Michigan, Canada  
and California Associations.)

Herbert Young—Southeast Association

Roger Paulson—Illinois Association

#### AUGMENTATION FUND

One person—Five year term: Stewart E. Poole

#### BOARD OF MANAGERS, S.S. R.

(Four persons—three year term.)

Rev. Eric Zacharias

Page Conant

Rev. Horand Gutfeldt

Rev. Randall Laakko

Your attention is called to the following motion  
voted by General Council at their January meeting:

*"That in all cases of nomination from the floor in Convention Sessions, the Chair be required to ask the nominator if the nominee has consented to have his name placed in nomination; and that all nominations from the floor be accompanied by a written biographical sketch limited to 200 words, comparable to those published in The Messenger by the Nominating Committee. These biographical sketches will be distributed to the delegates as soon as they can be duplicated, together with biographical sketches of all nominees."*

Respectfully submitted,  
Nominating Committee

Robert W. Tafel, Chairman  
Miss Margaret Sampson  
Rev. Erwin Reddekopp  
Rev. F. Robert Tafel  
Rev. Paul Zacharias





Eckberg



Heck



Liebert



Martin



Poole



Unruh



Zacharias

## BIOGRAPHIES OF NOMINEES

### ED. BOHLANDER

As a neophyte to Swedenborgianism in 1963, I was fortunate enough to take advantage of two very valuable assets of the church: LEI and Urbana College. I am able to state without hesitation that until I came into contact with Carolyn Blackmer, Bjorn Johansson, Roger Paulson, and other Swedenborgians at Urbana, I was unmoved and unenthusiastic over my contact with the church. Admittedly, I have shown little enthusiasm since leaving Urbana over six years ago; however, the Urbana experience (prior to its inevitable descent to the mediocre middle ground of American education) left me with a sense of self and purpose which I am fortunate to enjoy.

As for more substantial credentials, I hold an M.A. in Sociology and I am now completing work toward the Ph.D. For two years I taught sociology and economics in the public schools; and more recently, I am teaching criminology and doing research in urban ecology at the Ohio State University.

### PAGE CONANT

Moderator of the Bridgewater, Mass. Church, President of NCTS corporation, former member of General Council.

### CHESTER THOMAS COOK

January 16, 1898

Life member—Cambridge Society, Church of the New Jerusalem

Bentley College of Accounting and Finance  
Graduated 1922

Massachusetts Certified Public Accountants  
Examination 1923

### REV. DR. GEORGE F. DOLE

The Rev. Dr. George F. Dole, son of the late Louis A. Dole, and his wife, Anita, is the pastor of the Cambridge, Mass. Society. He was born in Fryeburg, Maine. As a Rhodes scholar, he went to Oxford, England, where he distinguished himself, both for scholastic and athletic activities. He graduated from the New Church Theological School and was ordained into the ministry in 1960. He has served as vice-president of the Alumni Association of the New Church Theological School, and is now a member of the Board of Missions, the General Council, and is completing four years' service as President of the Massachusetts Association. He received his PhD from Harvard in 1965. He is Director of the Fryeburg New Church Assembly. His wife is the former Lois Seekamp, and they are the parents of five lively youngsters: Stuart, Alicia, Sara, Andrew, and Bruce.

### AUGUST A. EBEL

August A. (Gus) Ebel is a member of the Washington, D. C. Society and is just completing his first term as a member of the Pension Fund. Since joining the Washington Church in 1956, he has been very active in local church affairs serving as congregation president from 1960 to 1962 and again from 1968 to 1971. He has also served as vice president from 1959 to 1960 and as treasurer from 1956 to 1959 and again from 1966 to 1968.

In recent years Gus has also been devoted to the broader level of church work. Since 1968 he has been vice president of the Middle Atlantic Association and in 1969 he was elected to General Council. In August 1970 he participated in the Laymen's Study Group to consider the future course of the New Church.

Captain Ebel is a career naval officer on active completing his 29th year of service. He is present-

ly assigned to the Deep Submergence Systems Project as Technical Director. In this capacity he is responsible for the technical aspects of the development of deep submersible vehicles, Man-in-the-Sea programs and the development of deep diving SCUBA equipment.

His education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Northern Iowa and a Doctor of Philosophy degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, both with majors in physics.

Married to the former Mary Hammond Calby of Boston, Massachusetts, Captain and Mrs. Ebel have two children, Eric and Sara, both now university students. The family resides at 7211 Arrowwood Road, Bethesda, Maryland.

#### ERNEST EKBERG

I have held office in the league, local and national, for the past 7 years. I started out with the Elmwood Church being elected secretary, president and vice president of the league in my first few years with the church.

In 1966 in Urbana I was elected Pres. of ANCL and have held that position being re-elected for 3 successive terms. Through the church providing funds for travel I helped plan the Windsor, Kitchener, California, and presently the Urbana Convention. I have also visited leagues throughout the country.

When my term expired as Pres. of ANCL I was elected to a new position—that of adviser to the executive committee of ANCL.

I have had numerous meetings with many of the boards and committees in the church to discuss league affairs and to seek this help.

I feel that I could bring into General Council if I am elected a young person's point of view from my past experience and perhaps to present some new ideas and also to learn more of how our church operates.

#### REV. HORAND K. GUTFELDT, PH. D.

I grew up in Latvia, one of the three Baltic States that were independent republics during the time between the two world wars. After the outbreak of World War II, Russia occupied bases in Latvia, and we fled to Germany, anticipating Russian occupation.

I was soon drafted to the German airforce, and served a number of different functions in Yugoslavia, Italy, Hungary, Holland, Belgium. As a prisoner of war, I worked in the ill-famed Belgian coal mines and later on a farm. My conviction of the call to the ministry matured here, and after my release I resumed my study of theology at the University of Marburg, Germany, where Professors Benz, Bultmann and Tillich were outstanding. At the same time I enrolled in a full course of psychology, participating in series of experiments in parapsychology. After obtaining a scholarship at the Theological School in Cambridge, I also enrolled at Harvard and obtained my master's degree along with my graduation from NCTS in 1955. My internship with Rev. Reissner in West Berlin led later to an assistant pastorate in the divided city, and later I was for 10 years missionary minister in Vienna, Austria. During this time, I made a number of visits behind the Iron Curtain to Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia and East Berlin. Another highlight of my activity was the international young people's camp each summer in the High Alps, where also friends from England and America participated. I continued my studies at the University of Vienna, where I obtained the degree of doctor of philosophy. Since 1968 I am Assistant Professor of Psychology and Sociology at Urbana College, where I also teach a course in "Swedenborg's Religious Thought." At the Urbana New Church, which is the College Chapel, I am a part-time minister, and also take services in neighboring churches.

#### CARL L. HECK

I am entering this election as a nominee for General Council because I feel my youth, experience and background can be used to good advantage for the benefit of the General Convention of the New Jerusalem.

I am 31 years of age, married and with a family of a girl, age 6, and a boy, age 4. I am a descendent of the Pennsylvania Deutsch—"Trail of the Conestoga" and a life-time resident of the Kitchener area.

I am a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Kitchener, and presently completing my third term as Chairman of the Church Board. My term as Chairman of the Board has been preceded by two years as a Church Board member.

I have been a member of the Boy Scouts of Canada during which time I represented Canada at a World Jamboree held in England. I have been a member

of the Junior Chamber of Commerce ("J. C.'s) involved in civic events organized for the benefit of our community. I am an avid golfer and skier with a smattering of all other sports thrown in for variety.

I am a professional electrical engineer and associate partner in a consulting engineering firm in the city of Kitchener.

In my profession as a consulting engineer, I am constantly aware of people's needs and feel this experience is a great asset in all forms of elected office.

Religion has traditionally been a cause for the very young and the elderly. The in-between generation is neither for, nor against the church, they are just not with it. It is my hope, that being a member of the in-between generation, I can help to bridge this gap.

#### ADOLPH LIEBERT

Adolph (Ad) Liebert was born, raised and educated in Philadelphia before moving to Pittsburgh where he now resides with his wife Anne.

He asked for early retirement last year from his position of Research Engineer in the United Engineering and Foundry Company Research and Development Department, designers and manufacturers of steel rolling mills, equipment and allied products, to pursue activities for the church and for other interests.

His association with Swedenborgian church activities include membership on the General Council of the General Convention of the New Jerusalem, Board of Managers of the Swedenborg School of Religion, past President of the Swedenborgian Churches in both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, trustee of the Council of the Church of the New Jerusalem in Pittsburgh, trustee of the executive committee of the Ohio Association of the New Church and a member of the board of directors of the Swedenborg Foundation.

He married the former Anne Louise Tafel, a daughter of Rev. Louis H. Tafel, minister and translator of Emanuel Swedenborg. They are the parents of two children, Doris Anne and A. Theodore, and six grandchildren.

For relaxation, Ad enjoys reading, music and all phases of photography.

#### ERNEST O. MARTIN

President of Convention since July 1968. Graduate of Boston University (AB), Harvard (STB), and the New Church Theological School (Swedenborg School of Religion). Served as minister of the Wilmington church from 1952 to 1959 and the Washington, D. C. church from 1959 to 1968.

Convention and Association responsibilities have included the Board of Education, the Board of Managers of the Swedenborg School of Religion, the Board of Publication, the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers, and the Presidency and General Pastorsip of the Middle Atlantic Association.

Special interests include the mystical dimension to life; relating the gospel and church teachings to economic, social and political concerns; and participating in the meetings of the National Council of Churches. Hobbies include tennis, sailing, and landscape gardening.

Married to Perry Van Rensselaer Skinner since 1949. Our six children (David, Paul, Ruth, Rachel, Ben and Jenny) range in age from 10 to 20.

#### PERRY S. MARTIN

I was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and I attended Sunday School at the Church of the New Jerusalem every Sunday, except summer, receiving a number of silver spoons as prizes for perfect attendance. When I was 15, I went to Chapel Hill, in Waltham, Mass., and afterwards attended Radcliffe College.

At a 4th of July weekend houseparty of young people in Duxbury, Mass., I met a young theological student named Ernest Martin. We became better acquainted at our church camp in Fryeburg, Maine, and in July, 1949, we were married.

I worked as an editorial assistant in the textbook department of Houghton Mifflin before entering a new career as mother of six children. We moved from Cambridge, Mass. to Wilmington, Delaware, and then to Washington, D. C. In Washington, besides being active in the League of Women Voters, I became interested in working with children in our church community. We developed an arts and crafts program, a tutoring service, and a Head Start program. In 1968 we moved to Weston, Mass.

I have been elected to the Board of Education for

one term, and during this term have served as Secretary. I have also been a member of the Adult Education Committee.

This spring I have applied for admission to the Masters Degree Program in Counseling at Northeastern University, where I am taking a course in Vocational Guidance. Since mid-winter I have served as assistant to the editor of *The Messenger*.

#### ROGER D. PAULSON

Roger Dean Paulson was born in St. Paul, Minnesota and attended the St. Paul Swedenborgian Church since the age of five. He grew up in the Sunday School and was active in the Junior and Senior Leagues. As an adult, he was president of his congregation for five years and served as Sunday School Superintendent for three. He is currently secretary of the Illinois Association and maintains membership in the St. Paul Swedenborgian Church.

He has served General Convention's Public Relations Bureau (now defunct), Board of Education's Leadership Education sub-committee and was director of Leadership Training Institutes for a number of years. He served four years on General Council and is currently a member of Council's Research Committee and is an elected member of the Board of Managers of the Swedenborg School of Religion.

Paulson has served Urbana College as Business Manager for eight years and is currently Assistant to the President for Field Operations. He is presently General Chairman of Convention's Planning Committee for the 1971 Convention at Urbana College. He is a life member of the Swedenborg Foundation.

#### STEWART E. POOLE

Vice President of Convention since 1957.

Chairman of the Augmentation Fund, Trustee of Urbana College and a member of the Board of the Wayfarers' Chapel.

President of the Wilmington, Delaware, Church of the Holy City.

Chairman of the Board of Atlantic Aviation Corporation, Consultant to Henry B. dePont and a director of the Bank of Delaware.

#### ETHEL RICE

Born in Chicago, Mrs. Rice's earliest Church associations were with the Humboldt Park Parish, a society established by her grandfather, the Rev. Adolph J. Bartels. While still in her teens she was employed at the Book Rooms of the Western New-Church Union in downtown Chicago, and served as secretary to the Rev. Hiram Vrooman during his tenure as broadcasting minister for the Union.

With her husband, minister of the Brockton Society, Mrs. Rice has worked energetically in such widely separated pastorates as Chicago; Fryeburg, Maine; St. Paul, Minnesota; and Elmwood, Massachusetts. Her chief interests are music and Sunday School work.

Since the summer of 1966 she has been employed by the Massachusetts New-Church Union in Boston, presently serving as manager of the attractive Book Rooms located at 175 Newbury Street.

She is President of the Alliance of New-Church Women, and Vice-President and Chaplain of the Massachusetts Association Women's Alliance.

Mrs. Rice was elected to the post of Recording Secretary at the 1968 Convention held in Windsor, Ontario.

#### MARGARET S. SAMPSON

I was born and brought up a Swedenborgian and learned the doctrines in the Newtonville Church. At present I am active in the New York Society and besides being on committees there I am a delegate to the General Assembly of the New York City Council of Churches and a member of two of their committees. In Convention I served some years ago as chairman of the Lay Leadership Study Committee. My most serious work in Convention is as chairman of the Projects Committee of the Board of Missions of which I have long been a member. Last year I finished my term of office as secretary of the 1970 New Church World Assembly Convention Planning Committee. Now retired, I am devoting more time to my many Church interests.

#### DORIS TAFEL

Minister's secretary and office manager of the Philadelphia Church, and incumbent trustee of the Pension Fund.



## HARVEY A. TAFEL

I was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, growing up in the Church there, where my father was the minister. I was active in the young people's league, being President of the ANCL for one year.

I decided to make the ministry my life's work, and entered our theological school in 1963 after graduating from Dickinson College. I received a certificate of graduation from the Swedenborg School of Religion and a B. D. from Andover Newton Theological School in 1967. I came to Edmonton, Alberta four years ago as minister of the Church of the Holy City (Swedenborgian) after my ordination in June, 1967.

I have been active in work among the churches in Edmonton, being secretary of the North East Area Clergy Association last year. I have been taking courses at the University of Alberta the last two years in the field of counseling. For the past three years, I have served the Western Canada Conference as its secretary. My wife, Judy, and I have three children, David, Christopher, and Sandra.

## MR. ROBERT W. TAFEL

Mr. Tafel grew up and went to school in Philadelphia. He received his B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from the Drexel Institute of Technology. He is a registered professional engineer in the state of Pennsylvania and has been employed by the Navy Department for the past 25 years as a research engineer in the field of airborne photographic equipment.

Mr. Tafel was baptized, confirmed and attended Sunday School in the Philadelphia church where he has served on the Church Committee with a 6-year term as its chairman. He served for 3 years as chairman of the Stewardship Committee of the Philadelphia Society and is now President of the Society. He is a member of the Board of Home and Foreign Missions and has served as President of the American New Church Tract and Publication Society. He is also a member of the Convention Nominating Committee.

## GALEN UNRUH

Nominated for Board of Home and Foreign Missions and Board of Trustees, Pension Fund. Mr. Unruh is a native Kansan and has been serving as minister of the Pawnee Rock church since ordination in 1962. He has held a number of offices in the Kansas Association and General Convention, including membership on the General Council of

Convention. He is a familiar figure at Convention sessions. At present Mr. Unruh is attending Barton County Community Junior College and plans to enroll at Fort Hays State College at Hays, Kansas in the Fall.

## HERBERT YOUNG

Born and raised in New England—member of the Boston Society in my youth and married a wonderful New Church girl in the Boston Church on November 1, 1941.

We moved to Florida in 1943 and for many years had no direct New Church affiliations.

When contacted by the Rev. E. L. Frederick of the Board of Missions became again involved and assisted in the organization of the Miami Society. Have served as its President since its founding and later as Secretary of the SEA of the church.

Have one son still in college and two married daughters (3 grandchildren). Have been employed by Eastern Air Lines in Miami for twenty eight (28) years and am presently Administrator of Labor Relations for one of its major maintenance departments in Miami, Florida.

## ERIC ZACHARIAS

I have completed twenty years in the New Church ministry. All of this period has been spent in Kansas with the exception of four years which were with the San Francisco Parish in California. Currently, I am serving as President of the Kansas Association.

For the past seven years, I have been employed full time also in the secular field. Five years of this time were with the Reno County Dept. of Social Welfare and now for about two years as a staff member of the Kingman-Reno County Mental Health Center. This last, particularly, has been a tremendously rewarding experience in that it has offered an opportunity to work with a psychiatrist who is quite appreciative of Swedenborg's treatment of human nature and the whole field of the interrelationship between nature and spirit. Working in this field, too, has helped to keep abreast of what is taking place today in the church at large and in the general area of the ministry. The Mental Health Center is closely involved with the ministers of our community and has in the past planned and conducted workshops of various kinds with them.

Betty and I are the parents of five children—one of whom will be a student at Urbana University in the fall of this year. Two of our children are in the home—two are married.



## CONVENTION INTEREST SEMINARS

Full descriptions of courses in April Messenger, pages 67-69.

### A Greater Vision of the New Church for the Future

Leader: *Rev. Horand Gutfeldt*

### Area Conference Retreat Centers

Limit: 18 Leaders: *Rev. Richard Tafel, Jr. and Rev. Robert Tafel*

### Change and the Swedenborgian Church

Leader: *Rev. Paul Zacharias*

### Concerns of College Students

Leader: *Marq Stankowski, Ph. D.*

### Current Social Problems

Leaders: *Edward Bohlander, Jr. and Jonathan Tafel*

### Gospel Parables

Two groups, each limited to 25. Leaders: *Rev. George Dole and Rev. George McCurdy*

### Leadership Education Institute, a program for the new Swedenborgian

Leader: *Rev. Jerome A. Poole*

### Meditation and Personal Religion

Limit: 20 Leader: *Dorothea Harvey, B.D., Ph. D.*

### Pastoral Skills for Laymen

Leader: *Rev. David Johnson*

### Personal Growth

Limit: 15 Leader: *Elizabeth Gutfeldt, M. S.*

### Prayer Laboratory

Limit: 20 Leaders: *Rev. Brian Kingslake and Jill Kingslake*

### Swedenborg's Psychology for Present Day Use

Leader: *Carolyn Blackmer, M. A.*

### The Bible in a Secular World

Leader: *Rev. Richard H. Tafel*

### The Church and Society

Limit: 20 Leader: *Rev. Jaikoo Lee*

### The New Morality and Personal Growth

Leader: *Rev. Calvin Turley*

### What is it to be a Swedenborgian?

Leader: *Rev. Owen Turley*

### Working Out Bible and Original Drama for and with Children

Leader: *Emilie Bateman, Lay Worker*

## NOTE TO PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS:

Welcome. Each course will meet for four sessions; Thursday afternoon, Thursday evening, Friday morning, and Friday afternoon, with such coffee and other breaks as the leaders and group may determine. Please register for one course, as your first choice, and list an alternate course as your second choice. Please register as soon as you are reasonably sure what course you want, especially for any course with limited enrollment.

Mail form for each registrant by May 15th to: Mr. Roger D. Paulson, Urbana College, Urbana, Ohio 43078.

### ADVANCE SEMINAR REGISTRATION

#### 1971 CONVENTION INTEREST SEMINARS

June 24-26, 1971

Urbana College  
Urbana, Ohio 43078

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Seminar Title (*first choice*) \_\_\_\_\_

Seminar Title (*second choice*) \_\_\_\_\_

All seminars will begin at 1:30 P.M. on Thursday, June 24th. Locations of seminar meetings will be announced at the time of registration in Urbana. Regular attendance at all seminar sessions is expected, and no course transfers will be permitted after the opening of the second session. First choice registrations will be honored wherever possible, but in courses with enrollment limitations, the first preference will go to earliest advance registrations.

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Cut Here and Mail to: Mr. Roger D. Paulson, Urbana College, Urbana, Ohio, 43078

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## June 24-27, 1971

Urbana College  
Urbana, Ohio 43078

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I expect to arrive at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_  
*place* *date*  
 at \_\_\_\_\_  
*time*

I will need transportation from (circle one) Urbana Bus Depot, Springfield Bus Depot, Dayton Airport

Names of persons in my party: *(include your own name)*

Mark ANCL after names of young people who will be staying with Leaguers at special rates.

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Room Preference (circle one)    Single, Double, Downstairs, Upstairs

**RATES:**

\$8.00 per person per day for board and room (double occupancy). \$11.75 per day for single room. \$6.50 per person per day for young people rooming with ANCL. *All rooms except for Leaguers air conditioned.* Children under 10, \$6.38 per day room and board.

I will need my room from \_\_\_\_\_ through \_\_\_\_\_  
*date date*

Mail this form to Mr. Roger D. Paulson, Urbana College, Urbana, Ohio 43078

Olympic pool available daily—bring swim suit!

Handball courts, tennis courts, baseball diamond, Track available

**Baby sitting service available June 21-26**

**Ask for information on farm vacations before or after Convention**

On the campus, visit the library built with Convention contributions, and other buildings new since last Urbana Convention. Expect to sleep well: housing will be in air-conditioned suite-type new dormitories.



# Preliminary Program

Sunday, June 10, 6:00 P. M. Ministers' institute begins

(Lunch available at 12:00 Noon)

Monday, June 21, 9:00 A. M. Ministers' wives program begins

Tuesday, June 22, 1:30 P. M. Council of Ministers begins

Wednesday, June 23, 1:30 P. M. General Council begins

4:00 P. M. Sunday School Association

7:30 P. M. National Alliance meeting

9:00 P. M. ANCL Coffee House with musical talent

10:00 P. M. Alliance Social Hour

Thursday, June 24, 9:00 A. M. Opening of convention and first business session

9:00 A. M. ANCL Business meeting

11:00 A. M. Rev. Paul V. Vickers, President of General Conference

1:30 P. M. Interest seminars begin

8:00 P. M. Reception by Convention President and Mrs. Ernest O. Martin

Friday, June 25, 5:30 P. M. ANCL Pre-dinner Gathering (*for everybody*)

8:00 P. M. Reception by the President of Urbana College and  
Mrs. Paul A. Zehner

Saturday, June 26, 9:00 A. M. Convention business session and annual elections

1:30 P. M. ANCL Picnic at Clifton Gorge

5:00 P. M. Luau

8:00 P. M. ANCL Dance (Music by "The Sailcat" Group)

8:00 P. M. Dance for older swingers

Sunday, June 27, 10:30 A. M. Convention Worship Service

2:00 P. M. General Council

# Mid-West Lay Institute

## A 3 DAY COMMUNITY

Marydale lies just south of Cincinnati on 400 plus acres of rolling Kentucky land. It is a Catholic retreat center to which 20 mid-west Swedenborgian laymen came to discuss, among other things, the retreat of their own church in numbers and strength.

The institute was staffed by 3 men from the Swedenborg School of Religion (Edwin Capon, George Dole, and Robert Kirven) and two men from the local Kemper Road Community Church (Robert Tafel and Richard Tafel, Jr.). The program was experimental in nature, a trial venture with only a broad outline of events.

All laymen attending had previously sent in registration forms listing their concerns. A majority listed (1) sharing of problems, ideas, and solutions and (2) where is our church going? These were tentatively the main topics of the institute.

We first met at 9:30 on Friday evening and began with name and group consciousness exercises. These helped us discover who we and others were according to name, sex, age, time in the church, and geographical location. We found males and those less than 50 years old to be in the majority.

Saturday began with an introduction of the week-end program. Various groups were formed and these groups became our vehicle for the remaining week-end.

1. **Interest Groups.** These were voluntary. We signed up for our special interest the night before. They were how to plan and conduct a worship service, how to carry on without a minister, getting publicity for your church, and developing specific programs for your home church.

2. **Original Group.** A, B, C, & D These assigned groups were made up of people previously unknown to each other, achieving a mixture of ideas.

3. **Task Forces.** A & B made one and C & D the other task force.

4. **Triads.** These were voluntary groups of 2 or 3 that met briefly throughout the week-end for an



24 of the 25 staff and members of Mid-West Lay Institute

intermix of feedback on how the institute was progressing and what each group was doing.

### 5. Everyone.

Early Saturday, with everyone present, the main areas of concern surfaced. Diminishing numbers. Financial problems. What to do with what seems to be a dying church. It was mentioned that, at our present rate of numerical decline, 100 years from now our church will be non-existent. Bob Kirven commented that in the future perhaps we would be meeting in only very small groups, but coming together frequently for large celebrations. He also stated that the church seemed split into "traditionalists" and "innovators" and each should respect and help the other. Problems. Problems.

This thread of serious concern wound through the entire week-end and was brought out with the most force and action in the Task Forces (A&B/C&D). These groups focused on problems, ideas, and solutions. The discussion of these topics continued to the end of the day interspersed with Interest Group discussions, Triads, coffee breaks, and excellent meals.

Late in the evening the staff had a half-hour for a special presentation. They had been asked for input on personnel problems due to diminishing numbers. They responded with an idea for establishing regional centers, under a church corporation for groups of ministers to locate in. Each congregation would then be without a full-time minister and would have to obtain a lay minister.

The regional centers would then better serve all

congregations and isolated groups. Also, for every minister in the field there would be one minister writing or translating and ministers would be freer to focus on their specialties under this system. It was emphasized that this was an undeveloped idea and not a definite proposal. There were five different concepts from five different staff members.

Saturday eased to a close with entertainment by a contemporary singer from the local church's coffee house. Sunday opened with thirty minutes of silent meditation in preparation for worship. The worship service was planned and participated in by the Interest Group on how to plan and conduct a worship service. One Scripture reading was from Revelation 19 where we see the armies of heaven following Christ. This thought remained throughout the worship.

George Dole and Bob Tafel delivered brief sermons on their thoughts of the institute. George commented that the center of the church is not Love or Truth but the conjunction of these and this conjunction cannot be judged by numbers but by intensity. Bob also spoke concerning the size of the church. "We are chosen," he said, and "this moment is the culmination of all our past life." "We are just right," was his repeated emphasis.

Sunday afternoon the Task Groups again met and reported back to the entire assemblage on their findings. A&B, the group in which I was a participant, reported being unable to reach a consensus on any one problem, idea, or solution, although many were discussed. There were many differences in the group. One member described it as a "verbal hodgepodge" and nothing but "word games." Several stressed the importance and strength of the Word while others thought this was "unnecessary," social and community action being a means to the same end. I commented that the concerns and problems were so weighty that we seemed to be conducting a funeral service instead of celebrating our church. This was definitely not felt by all.

C&D, however, reported back with very definite problems, ideas and solutions. Some of the problems were smallness, lack of instruction for children and adults, financial insolvency, where to put our resources, lack of unity and enthusiasm, hard to understand writings, and lack of communication. The ideas and solutions will follow.

At the conclusion of the Task Force reports, the four Original Groups (A, B, C & D) met separately



Gloria Toot of Kemper Road Community Church during break in the institute.



Participants returning to remodeled barn in which the institute was held



Institute staff, l. r.: George Dole, Edwin Capon, Dick Tafel, Bob Kirven, Bob Tafel



to return with critiques of the week-end. What the laymen returned with were not just critiques but concrete proposals. Group C proposed that we re-report five recommendations to the national body of Swedenborgians. The emphasis of this proposal was that the recommendations be taken quite seriously as representative of the desires of the church and should be acted upon with enthusiasm and dedication.

They are:

1. Establishment of a cassette library.
2. Publishing of a catalog listing all Swedenborgian related material that is available, whatever the form or organization making it available.
3. Revising of Swedenborg's writings into modern English as soon as humanly possible, with emphasis on condensing wherever possible.
4. Establishment of a committee for retreat planning made up of one layman from each association. The committee is to insure more frequent and varied retreats and is to be responsible for the nuts and bolts planning. Each association should send the name of their representative to the secretary of the Ohio Association no later than the last week of September.

5. Establishment of task planning with the idea of generating enthusiasm. Implementation of specific programs, incentives, and shortened tasks were mentioned as methods of achieving this.

These recommendations were eagerly accepted by the institute. This brought us close to departure time and the staff quickly summarized their thoughts on the week-end. These were very positive remarks centering on the attainment of a sense of accomplishment and on-goingness.

As an afterthought, I have listed a few remarks of others that stayed with me, though I didn't bring them out in this report.

Our smallness is good for adaptability, we have the advantage of being able to change easily.

It is worthwhile just to get together and mingle.

Our fellowship and brotherhood was outstanding.

We are chosen for use, not for status.

It is possible to boil Swedenborg down without watering him down.

Let's have work retreats where we can do some physical labor as well as mental labor.



Lew Small and Edwin Capon confer beneath poster: *Caution—human beings here—handle with care.*

The regional center idea is akin to brain tanks and personnel reserve banks popular in business and government today.

25 people is just about the right size group.

The church's business is to be going out of business.

The diversity of the church is one of its strengths.

To determine what your church can realistically do, list the people and what they will, might and won't do.

*Paul Maring*

A member of the St. Louis Church, Paul participated in MWLI with his wife Becky, who gave birth to Heather Maring within the week after returning home.

## THE CARE AND FEEDING OF ADULTS

by Perry Martin

When the Spring sun begins to shine, the snow is melting from our New England woods, and the wind feels warm and pleasant. I start thinking about my garden. I've already pored through the seed catalogs during cold February evenings. I'm waiting impatiently for the soil to warm up and for that magic date "when danger of frost is over."

This year I just can't wait any longer. I've planted lettuce and carrots and bachelor's buttons where last week there was snow. And I'm planting seeds indoors, though I've never successfully raised and transplanted those tender seedlings in other years. During those long weeks they've always dried up, damped off, or just never made their way in the big outside world. But I keep trying: this year I've got handi-wrap and peat pots, and maybe together we'll make it.

The development of the Adult Work Committee has been equally beset with uncertainty, impatience—and the excitement of the growing process. The seeds were planted by the Board of Education. Requests had been heard for "LEI for Adults." For many years now our youth have returned from the Leadership Education Institute excited about the kind of religion and relationships that have emerged from the time they spent together. Adults began to say, "We want to experience some of this too."

So, in the beginning, an Adult Leadership Education Committee was appointed. ALE we called it. Ellsworth Seibert and Randall Laakko were co-chairmen. A meeting in Newton brought together a big roomful of people representing many geographical areas and various viewpoints in the church. Nobody knew what would happen at that meeting. Ells and Randy, restraining their own impatience, but sharing their anxiety and need to produce a plan of action, let the committee take over.

This is what happened.

"The atmosphere of 'mutuality in diversity' that pervaded the meeting at the school was gratifying. The experience of emotional support was a hint that people can show their weaknesses and strengths while remaining cohesive." *T. Keiser*

Questions were asked. "Naming the goal of the church is not as important as helping the individual find *his* goal in the church. Why is he a member of the church? What does he want from the church? What can he offer the church? What does he want his church to be? What effect does the church have on his life?" *J. Billet*

"The realization grew that we were not the 'experts,' with a plan of salvation for the church, but were truly representatives of the church in its very need for fresh understanding and fuller devotion. We were not just a cross-section of points of view, but a gathering of the inadequacies that beset us and the strengths that encourage us." *G. Dole*

"This 'shift of gears'—from focusing our insights on the needs of others to seeing those needs through the light of our own shortcomings—may have been the most effective thing that happened in the meeting." *Margaret Briggs*

"A tremendous experience for me and shall forever be one of the high points in my New Church membership." *Margery Jester*

As we struggled with our task, group members began to risk themselves by offering their own feelings and needs. The struggle and the risk began a process of involvement and discovery which was so meaningful to us that we felt the need to share it. Thus we began to hope that we might provide a framework and climate and leadership to enable others to take part in such a process of discovery. In the sense of unity that pervaded the group, we found hope that in the search for meaning and relatedness the church might also find wholeness and healing of the divisions that are hurting us so deeply.

The achievement of this meeting was perhaps greater than any of us had hoped. But we did not take seriously enough the frustration felt by our co-leaders. As Ells wrote, "Finally, I expressed my frustration but was unable to convey to the group what it was that I wanted them to do." Randy said, "I feel that the meeting was good and in a certain sense productive. However, another part of me wanted something more concrete in the way of a program."

It was nearly a year before Randy called together a small working committee, gleaned from the original roomful. In an atmosphere of openness, we

looked for a way of offering to others the kind of experience we had found among ourselves. We were aware that any program had to be designed by those who would be taking part, an expression of their needs. We made the decision to offer to the Massachusetts Association (because most of us were located in this area) a pilot project, which we hoped would encourage other groups to ask for similar experiences.

The Massachusetts Executive Committee approved the idea and appointed three local people to work with our committee. Here—in retrospect—communications broke down. Our committee had had an experience which we wanted to share. But the new joint committee was not ever involved in a similar kind of experience. We met only to plan, to discuss program, staff, location, cooks. In other words, the “joint” committee never experienced the kind of unity which we hoped to convey. Although two weekend retreats were planned, neither ever materialized—not enough people registered to participate.

This past March we met again. We asked some of the Massachusetts Association members to meet with us to help us pinpoint where we had made mistakes, where communications failed. Meanwhile we realized things were happening all over the country. These happenings made us feel at first as if we might as well dissolve the committee as unneeded, but secondly as if we might serve a new purpose. We were assured that Massachusetts Association members are interested in holding some kind of retreat of their own making. Retreats of various kinds have been held in the Mid-Atlantic Association, in Los Angeles, and in Ohio. We began to see ourselves as a resource committee with new possibilities. Some of those we visualized working toward are:

1. Leadership training for retreat leaders.
2. Helping to set up on-going programs in local churches.
3. A national Adult Institute.
4. Looking into various kinds of retreats; personal growth, devotional, meditation, study, leadership training, work groups, problems-or task-centered workshops.
5. Searching for further kinds of services to the church.

One of the first steps toward this new task is to find out just what is being done in the field of adult education in the church, outside of Sunday School and study groups. We are sending out a questionnaire to Convention members to find out what is being done, what needs are being met, and what needs are still to be filled. How many have taken part in retreats, what kinds of programs have been most effective? With this kind of information, those who are planning retreats, institutes, workshops, and other adult education programs can plan for more effective experiences.

Somewhere along the line, we changed our name to the Adult Work Committee, feeling that our work was not only with leaders, but with all those who are interested in growth, religious experience, learning within the church. We still hassle sometimes over emphasizing “content” vs. “process,” but we have learned that without content, there is no process, and without attention to process, to what’s going on, not much learning takes place.

The Adult Work Committee feels that its work has not yet come to fruition. The seeds have been planted. Many have contributed to its growth and development. We hope that our work will bear fruit, and that we may contribute to the spiritual discovery in which the church is engaged.



#### IN MEMORIAM

**The Rev. Leonard  
Immanuel Tafel**

Feb. 6, 1888—Apr. 14, 1971

#### NOTICE OF CORPORATION MEETING

The ANNUAL MEETING of the Corporation of the New Church Theological School to elect officers and to transact such other business as may properly come before it will be held at the Swedenborg School of Religion at 48 Sargent Street, in Newton on Friday evening, June 4, at seven thirty p. m.

A catered supper will be served to all members beforehand, at 6:30 p.m.

*Harvey M. Johnson  
Clerk*



# SUMMER THINGS

## LEADERSHIP EDUCATION INSTITUTE

Plans for L.E.I. '71 are beginning to take shape! The Institute will be held at the New Church Assembly in Fryeburg, Maine, from August 29 through September 6. In addition to continuing the three-year program, there is definite planning being done for a special "graduate" program provocative enough for returning fourth phase students.

Still not sure exactly what the Leadership Education Institute is? Here are some random thoughts and reactions from past students:

"L.E.I. is a good chance to find out more about myself as an individual. . . relating to other people . . . it has an indescribable quality of something I don't have words for. . . there's something there, but I don't know what it is.

*Gene Shaw*

"I don't know. . . it's GREAT . . . but even that is a poor word . . ."

*Lyn Ashbridge*

"I guess you know I speak well of it! I don't know what to say except the usual. What can I say? It got me interested in psychology."

*Paul Martin*

"L.E.I. is people . . . together . . . living . . . eating . . . circle of hands . . . eyes . . . open faces toward each other . . . open arms . . . open ears . . . open hearts. . . feelings only expressable through touch . . . no fear of touch . . . touching people . . . a feel-

## THE ALMONT PLAN

During last summer's Session of the Almont Summer School, a New Church Center was envisioned where groups could meet together year around, continuing to learn, and learning to apply knowledges to uses.

Enthusiasm for the project became contagious! Everyone attending the Summer School became interested and contributed ideas. The Rev. Franklin Blackmer, working long hours, soon had a building plan on paper—a new addition, to include conference room, kitchen, sleeping accommodations and

ing of closeness and communication throughout the year with friends throughout the country."

*Wendy Geis*

"There are all sorts of cliches I could use, but they're no good. L.E.I. is really a great experience for our age group—just what I need. I met a lot of new people from all over the country—a good cross section of thoughts. The environment was perfect . . . the surrounding countryside conducive to good thoughts. Of course, I can't wait to come back."

*Teddy Bosley*

"L.E.I. was really something else! A way of finding myself, a way of sharing . . . it was so different!

*Karen Fox*

Fill out the coupon below; or write, giving the same information, to:

Leadership Education Committee  
c/o Jerome A. Poole  
1114 Bank of Delaware Building  
300 Delaware Avenue  
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

I wish to apply for admission to the 1971 Leadership Education Institute to be held at Fryeburg, Maine, from August 29 to September 6. Please send complete application forms to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

School Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Now in Progress \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to correspond with a past LEI'er

adequate, modern bath-rooms, all electrically heated for year-round use.

Little did we think that within a period of six months we would see those plans becoming a reality! As of now, the shell of the building and part of the interior are completed. While we cannot hope to have this new facility entirely complete for the 1971 Session of the Summer School, it will be useable, and as funds become available, the entire structure will be finished.

For those of you who are unfamiliar with the Almont program, the following introduction will give

you an idea of the unique experience that has long been the secret of its success:

#### A FAMILY CAMP. . . .

Where parents and children can learn together how to live together.

Where the generation gap can be closed with new understanding and deeper love.

#### LIVING TOGETHER. . . .

Through a community of thinking and experiencing together.

Through worshipping together daily.

#### LEARNING TOGETHER. . . .

Studying in the setting of warm, close human relations.

Continued dialogue, lectures and informal group discussions.

### HOLIDAY CENTRE IN BRITTANY

A lovely mansion set in a beautiful park which is bordered by a river and only a few kilometers from the sea. Can you imagine a more delightful place for New Church people together during the summer? Located in Brittany, the address is Kerhir, Treguier-Tredarec, Cotes du Nord. (Directions will be sent when you register.)

The house includes 14 bedrooms, 2 baths, a large dining room, 2 large drawing-rooms, kitchen and several annexes. The house is entirely furnished—you need bring only your sheets, or if this is impractical, you can rent them. Please send this information at the time of registration. The cost per day for room and three delicious home-cooked meals is 23 Francs (less than \$5.00!) There will be a reduction for children under 10. The house is available from July 1 to August 30. You may stay

The religious theme for the 1971 Session will be "The Ten Commandments." Classes and lectures will be under the direction of our Superintendent, the Rev. George McCurdy, assisted by the Rev. and Mrs. David Holm, the Rev. and Mrs. Franklin Blackmer, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Orthwein, and Mr. Rafael Guiu.

The 1971 Session will be held July 11 through July 25. We are looking forward to these two weeks with a great deal of enthusiasm and hope you will be able to join us. For a copy of the Bulletin and Registration Blanks, please write: Mrs. John W. Keith, Secretary, 34121 Burton Lane, Livonia, Mich. 48154. Reservations should be made as early as possible.

*Ruth Brandau  
Helen Keith*

for one week or several.

Activities include excursions, picnics, games on the beach, social evenings, music, talk and games. Every morning there will be a short worship service including readings from Swedenborg. Nearby is the lovely old town of Treguier, where you may go to market, watch the weaver at work, or visit the Cathedral.

If you plan to attend, please register as soon as possible, stating the exact dates of intended arrival and departure. A deposit of 25% of the cost should be sent with the registration. Send registration to, or contact for further information:

Rev. Claude Bruley  
14 Sentier Des Theux  
Bellevue-Meudon 92  
Haute Seine, France

### CAMP BLAIRHAVEN

Camp sessions for two age groups will be held at Blairhaven, South Duxbury, Mass., on the shores of Kingston Bay. Camp for ages 9-12 will be from July 4-17, and for ages 13-16 will be from July 17-31. For information or reservations, write:

Mr. Rafael Guiu  
175 Newbury St.  
Boston, Mass., 02116

### SPLIT MOUNTAIN CAMP

Split Mountain Camp will be held during the last two weeks of August—beginning Saturday, Aug. 14 and ending Sunday, Aug. 29—in Sequoia National Forest in the High Sierra Nevada mountain range in California. For information or reservations, write Dr. Horand Gutfeldt, Director,

507 N. Main St.,  
Urbana, Ohio, 43078

## PAULHAVEN

The Children's New-Church Summer Camp will be held at Camp Paulhaven near Ashmont, Alberta, from July 11th to the 18th inclusive. For further details, please write to the Rev. Harvey Tafel, 7112 136 Avenue, Edmonton 31, Alberta, Canada.

## FRYEBURG

The camp at Fryeburg will be open from August 7-29. The theme will be Swedenborg's Life and Thought. For details, contact Mrs. George Dole, 77 Otis Street, Newtonville, Mass. 02160.

### OPEN LETTER TO THE LEAGUE

Dear A.N.C.L. member:

As you well know for the last year there was relative silence from your national body. There were many reasons for this but now we must look to the future and a re-activated A.N.C.L. The executive committee met on Feb. 26th and 27th in Wilmington Delaware. At this meeting things were done which we felt you should know about, hence this letter.

One of our main purposes is that of planning Convention for the youth. Here is the basic schedule we arrived at (subject to change):

1. Wednesday. In the afternoon everyone is expected to arrive and register. That evening the Hub, our social center, will be set up like a coffee house. This informal gathering is intended to let us get to know each other.

2. Thursday. The morning will be set aside for our business meeting. Rules and nominations will be taken care of at this time. We, the executive committee, have made some suggestions for people to fill our posts. Additional nominations may be given to you from the floor, so our suggestions are not the final words on who is to be elected.

President—Gene Shaw, Cynthia Turley  
Vice-President—Sherry Fekete, Marjie Smith  
Secretary—Mike Calhoun, Mary Chivers  
Treasurer—Ted Bosley, Ruth Martin  
Executive Member—David Fekete, Matthew Zacharias

Also, both our chaplains, Rev. Randy Laakko and Rev. George McCurdy, are stepping down. George due to an excess of work (his church is host for Convention next year) and Randy to let some

"new blood" in. Some suggestions for replacements are Rev. George Dole, Rev. Horand Gutfeldt, Rev. Robert Tafel, and Rev. Calvin Turley.

The afternoon will be spent with "interest groups." These are groups of people, both young and old alike, who will discuss various topics. In the April issue of *The Messenger*, topics and leaders are listed. When you send in your registration form, register also for the group you wish to join. Size of groups is limited, and placements will be made in the order they are received. If these topics do not appeal to you, and sufficient interest is indicated in another subject, an effort will be made to find a teacher.

3. Friday. The "interest groups" will meet today. In the evening the pool will be open for our use.

4. Saturday. Our final business meeting will take place this morning where we will elect new officers. For the afternoon the possibility of having a picnic lunch at scenic Clifton Gorge is being looked into. A dance will conclude the day.

5. Sunday. The morning service ends the session.

We hope you will be able to attend this convention. This convention offers social interaction with other leagues—the chance to find out what your fellow leaguers are thinking and doing. It will offer intellectual stimulation, a chance to express your views on subjects and discover what other Convention people are thinking. In addition to this it affords you the opportunity to see Urbana College. In deciding which college to attend, Urbana should not be excluded. This convention offers much for everyone and we hope you enjoy it.

*The Executive Committee, ANCL*

# SWEDENBORG STUDIES

*As promised last month in this department, here is a summary review of one more doctoral dissertation on Swedenborg. The thesis is written in German; this review was written by the late Dr. Howard D. Spoerl, formerly of the SSR faculty, and is reprinted here from the Summer 1954 issue of The New Christianity.*

*Friedemann Horn, Schelling und Swedenborg, Lorch-Stetten: Karl Schahl, 1954.*

This doctoral dissertation, written for the theological faculty of Marburg University and dedicated to Dr. Ernst Benz, has the following subtitle: "A contribution to the history of the significance of German idealism and to the history of Swedenborg's influence in Germany, with an appendix on K.C.F. Krause and Swedenborg and some amplifications of R. Schneider's investigations." Dr. Horn, who before and after the war of 1939-1945 studied at Jena, Breslau, Halle, Basel, and Marburg, is an ordained New Church minister and at present works with the Rev. Adolph Goerwitz in Zurich.

*(Editor's note: Dr. Horn now is sole minister in Zurich. His work is described in the March Messenger, p. 75.*

Students of intellectual relationships between Swedenborg and such thinkers as Kant, Lavater, Goethe, Heine, Herder, Oken, Novalis, Carus, Fechner, etc. have long had reason to suspect that the mind of Frederick Wilhelm von Schelling (1775-1854) might provide a key to the question of how the representatives of the German romantic-idealist movement, who often reflected views with which readers of Swedenborg feel at home, were stimulated to develop their philosophies of life. As far as is known, Dr. Horn is the first person to undertake a direct, full-scale investigation.

He has no difficulty in showing that Schelling "thought along Swedenborgian lines," and that there was evidently some direct influence, although Schelling's express references to Swedenborg were few and were not made in his principal philosophical works. The Swedenborgian content of Schelling's thought centered in his interest in immortality and his concern with eschatology, both problems falling outside the scope of accepted "professional" philosophical topics. Yet it seems clear that his general philosophical structure was subtly inspired either by Swedenborg or by Schelling's having arrived at a similar position, and at the very points that Swedenborg himself seemingly disavowed.

Like other German thinkers, Schelling was very willing to accept Swedenborg's account of the spiritual world on the basis of his seership, but perhaps deplored the latter's insistence on narrowing ultimate destiny down to a specifically and traditionally Christian moral dualism. For more than a century, discerning minds that have taken Swedenborg at all seriously have tended to conclude that Swedenborg's own system logically implies a *universalism* an outcome transcending an ultimate heaven and an ultimate hell. The feeling is that Swedenborg himself demonstrated that there is something beyond good and evil; if so, he balked at following his own lucid thought to such a conclusion. And philosophers like Schelling who do not disdain theology find difficulty with a scheme that seems to be tied exclusively to a minority tradition—that of Judaeo-Christian thought in western culture alone.

The great weakness of idealistic systems, from Plato to the present, is that in freeing man (in theory) from subservience to a rigid material order, they tend to abolish individuality by ascribing sole reality to a cosmic mind, self, ego, or other subjectivity that supposedly has but one form for all the separate and lesser mentalities that participate in it. Thus slavery to matter becomes exchanged, on paper, for conformity to one master-principle of mind. Like other German idealists, Schelling undertook to rescue genuine individuality and freedom. The only metaphysical system that can logically do this is of the type of Swedenborg's universe of states with levels of correspondence. It seems likely that Schelling hit upon this type of arrangement, as other philosophers did to varying degrees before and after Swedenborg, more or less independently of his known interest in Swedenborg himself developed his metaphysics independently of revelation as to the regeneration of the spiritual life. In that case, Swedenborg's philosophical influence on Schelling would have been suggestive rather than didactic, and this could well account for Schelling's failure to cite Swedenborg on specifically metaphysical issues.

Dr. Horn's appendix describes and reproduces the introduction to a rare book by K.C.F. Krause, first published in 1832. This consisted chiefly of an abridgment of *The New Jerusalem and Its Heavenly Doctrine*. The fact that it was published outside



SWEDENBORG UND SCHELLING—cont'd, from p. 101  
the New Church and the orbit of Tafel's work attests to a general interest in Swedenborg and seems also to refute the supposition that Kant's earlier strictures prevented subsequent thinkers from taking Swedenborg's views seriously. Certainly Kant could not have deterred a generally unorthodox mind like Schelling's. Krause, by the way, is not mentioned in Tafel's *Documents*, nor is Franz Von Baader, who was acquainted with Schelling, Oetinger, and the Swedish poet Atterbom. The express references to Swedenborg in Schelling's personal papers have to do chiefly with conversations with Baader; there is also strong presumptive evidence that Schelling discussed Swedenborg with Goethe on more than one occasion. We are indebted to Dr. Horn for bringing to light information which is no part of New Church annals, at least in the United States. It is hoped that suitable portions of his work will soon be published in English.

### THE MITE BOX TO NIGERIA

During the Assembly in London mention was made of the damage and loss suffered by the New Church in Nigeria and particularly in Biafra. As Nigeria is under the jurisdiction of the General Conference of Great Britain, they have authorized the Overseas Missions Committee to make a world wide appeal for funds to help in reconstruction work and bolster the efforts of local New Church members.

Our own Board of Missions considered this appeal and recommended to the Women's Alliance that Mite Box contributions in 1971 be allocated to this cause. Alliance members will shortly receive a letter from Miss Mildred Billings, Mite Box Chairman, outlining the many particular needs and we hope that donations will be generous. Our members will not refuse donations from the male contingent of Convention.

It will be remembered that some years ago the Mite Box was given to the OMC to help repair the damage done in Mauritius by a severe typhoon that nearly wrecked the whole island. This, to-day, is another opportunity to cooperate with our English cousins in alleviating most devastating conditions among our New Church brethren.

Margaret S. Sampson  
Ch. BOM Projects Com.

### URBANA COLLEGE NEARS ACCREDITATION

Urbana College has received Recognized Candidate Status toward full accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, it was announced today by Dr. Paul A. Zehner, President of the college.

Advancement to the new status was announced during a recent meeting of the North Central Association's examining committee in Chicago. The meeting was attended by Dr. Zehner, Dr. Thomas E. Bellavance, the dean of the faculty, and Dr. W. Marq Stankowski, dean of student affairs.

Dr. Zehner explained that the college may apply for full accreditation by the North Central Association in one, two or three years. The North Central Association is one of five regional accrediting agencies concerned with academic standards in the nation's educational institutions.

Until 1968 Urbana College operated as a two-year school. The college's first four-year class graduated in 1969 and the third four-year class will graduate in June.

In the past 10 years Urbana College has grown from an institution of less than 100 students to a thriving college of nearly 700 students. The B. S. and B. A. degrees are awarded in 10 major areas.

Urbana College is a member of the Ohio College Association, the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio and the Council for Advancement of Small Colleges, among others.

Now Available

#### SWEDENBORG'S CONCEPT OF LOVE IN ACTION

#### A STUDY OF THE ETHICS OF EMANUEL SWEDENBORG

By

William Ross Woofenden

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Massachusetts New Church Union  
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New York, New York 10010

## URBANA COLLEGE COURSE IN SWEDENBORG

The Urbana College course in Swedenborg, team taught by Horand Gutfeldt and Dorothea Harvey, is a course its instructors look forward to with pleasure. The course description is fairly imposing but broad enough to allow for different approaches.

### *Religion 302 Swedenborg's Religious Thought*

Readings in Swedenborg, illustrating some of the main aspects of his thought as seen in the light of religious questions of his time and of current issues. Consideration of such topics as the nature of God, reason and religious belief, marriage and the nature of person.

Last spring, with a class that included two professors, one of mathematics and one of biology, we began with a panel of scientists and historians from the Urbana College faculty giving the historical setting for Swedenborg's thought. Then we moved into the personal and religious issues important for Swedenborg and for the modern understanding of religion.

This spring, after Dr. Wilson Van Dusen's excellent presentation of Swedenborg the thinker and bringer of new insights into the area where religion, science, and psychology meet, and after the experience of the year before, we plan a different beginning point. We want to start from Swedenborg the man, his spiritual experience, his scientific development, his religious insights, then bring in some of the critical issues of his day, and then move to more detail in his religious thought and its implications for today. Last year we found *Divine Love and Wisdom* valuable as a basic source for Swedenborg's thought in its overall orientation. This year we plan to use this book again, together with *Heaven and Hell*, various works on Swedenborg, and selections from others by him.

One major pleasure for us in teaching the course has been to see what questions arise from students, and to attempt to look at things from new perspectives, to try to meet these questions and points in discussion as honestly and sensitively as we can. The class last spring was a pleasure. I mentioned the faculty members in it. They, other adults, and a wide range of students of many different backgrounds and interests, a few New Churchmen, more becoming acquainted with Swedenborg for the first time, made an interesting group. This spring again we have some adults, as well as students of the usual college age, and we look forward to a challenging time.

In teaching Swedenborg to questioning adults today, there are no easy, cut-and-dried answers. For many students a rethinking of the nature of religion is involved. From others we had the response that Swedenborg had put into words what they had been thinking themselves as they worked through current and personal intellectual issues. The discussion of the spiritual world, the creative interaction between religion, poetry or symbol, and science, the realistic and crucial analysis of the nature of love, all seemed to be important to our students.

The team teaching was also fun for us, combining Dr. Gutfeldt's thorough background in Swedenborg and in the psychological and philosophical issues involved in understanding him, and my radical willingness to break into his fitting together of theories with questions from all angles, demands for explanations in simple language, or coffee breaks. We enjoyed the combination. We enjoyed the guest speakers we persuaded to come. We have a feeling that anyone who elects to take or to teach such a course has something interesting about him, and we are looking forward to our second teaching of the course in 1971.

Dorothea Harvey

### REMEMBER!

Convention meets at Urbana College, Urbana, Ohio — June 24–27, 1971

RATES: \$8.00 per person per day for board and room (double occupancy). \$11.75 per day for single room. \$6.50 per person per day for young people rooming with ANCL. Children under 10, \$6.38 per day.

(All rooms air-conditioned, except rooms for ANCL)

# THE MESSENGER

MAY 1971

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